

Hon'ble Members, urban transport infrastructure is being created to cater to present and future requirements. While developing infrastructure, attention is also being given to addressing the challenges posed by pollution. My Government is developing a transport system, which is not only fast and safe, but is also environment friendly. For this, special emphasis is given to Public transport. Metro rail network is being expanded rapidly in several cities. The facility of One Nation, One Card has been launched to realize <sup>80</sup>the dream of seamless mobility. Similarly, electric vehicles are being promoted to reduce vehicular pollution. The network of electric charging stations is also being expanded rapidly. Modern amenities like gas-grid and I-Ways are being developed at a rapid pace. PNG based domestic fuel and CNG based transportation systems are being developed. In modern India, we are according a special emphasis on production of biofuel. Prior to 2014, about 67 crore litres of ethanol was being blended. This year, we have <sup>160</sup>set a target of about 270 crore litres for ethanol blending. Enhancing the use of blended ethanol will not only benefit our farmers but also safeguard the environment. Further, it will reduce import of petroleum products thus saving foreign exchange.

My Government is fully devoted to make the flow of Ganga uninterrupted and pollution free. Recently, encouraging evidence of revival of aquatic life at several locations along Ganga have been reported. This year, during the Ardhakumbh in Prayagraj, the cleanliness <sup>240</sup>of Ganga and amenities provided to the devotees have made news throughout the world. My Government has enhanced the dignity and self-esteem of every person who contributed towards the successful organization of Ardhakumbh by honouring them. Under the Namami Gange scheme my Government will further accelerated the campaign for closure of drains releasing effluents in the river Ganga. On the lines of river Ganga, the Government will also endeavor to clean up other rivers such as Kaveri, Narmada, Yamuna and <sup>320</sup>Godavari. My Government is making earnest efforts for conservation of forests, wildlife and the environment. In recent years, forest and tree cover has increased by more than 1 per cent. During the last five years, protected areas in the country have also increased. In 2014, the number of protected areas in the country was 690 which has now gone up to 868. To address the challenges posed by air pollution, National Clean Air Programme has been started in 102 cities. <sup>400</sup>Solar energy plays an important role in reducing the adverse effects of Climate Change and Global Warming. Proactive efforts of India have resulted in the better future.

Madam Speaker, on this auspicious day of Vasant Panchami, I rise to present the Budget for 2017-18. Spring is a season of optimism. I extend my warm greetings to everyone on this occasion. Madam Speaker, our Government was elected amidst huge expectations of the people. The underlying theme of countless expectation was good governance. <sup>481</sup>