Chapter-VI

SRI.MALLIKARJUN M.KHARGE’S CONTRIBUTION TO KARNATAKA AS A UNION MINISTER

6.1. The Labour and Employment Minister

Sri Mallikarjun.M.Kharge is a leader of the masses who served genuinely in the interest of the poor people of the nation, with the commitment of devotion and dedication. In different capacities in Karnataka Government, he served from 1972 to 2009. This work evaluated him the highest position in his life. He became the National Leader and appointed as a Labour and Employment Minister in Manmohan Singh Government from 2009 to 2013.

Sri.Mallikarjun.M.Kharge was aware of the labour and their toil, pain and their family conditions, when he took the charge as a Labour Minister. He gave new a dimension to the department.

By his devotion and dedication the labour department became an Important port polio in the Union Government. His policies and plans for the labour welfare got recognition at the national and international level. By his efforts the Labour Ministry got proportional share in the budget, “he increased the labor ministry budget in the 2010. It got 1080 crore in 2011, 2500 crore in 2012 got 3020 and in 2013 it got 3,400 crore. Sri.Mallikarjun.M.Kharge not only success to increase the budget for the Labour Ministry he also introduced numerous reforms bill to provide new shape to them in order to protect the interest of the Labour”1.
The existing laws which were favour the interest of industrialists and capitalist. The abuse of Labour strength, Labour exploitation and hierarchy is on rampant. By knowing the problems of the workers of unorganized sector to provide social security to them, he introduced the following legislations and Amendments.

**The employees compensation act, 1923 (earlier called ‘The workmen’s compensation Act, 1923) amended w.e.f 18.01.2010 to, interalia:**

1. Increase the wage ceiling limit from Rs.4,000/- to Rs.8,000/- per month for the purpose of calculating compensation;
2. Enhance the compensation for death, disablement, funeral expenses;
3. Allow reimbursement of the actual medical expenses on treatment of injuries caused during work without any ceiling;
4. Make compensation gender neutral;
5. Dispose cases of compensation within a period of three months from the date of reference.

**The Payment of Gratuity Act; 1972 amended through notification dated 31.12.2009 to:**

1. Cover teachers in educational institutions w.e.f. 04.04.1997;
2. Enhance the ceiling on gratuity from Rs.3.5 lakh to Rs.10 lakh w.e.f. 24.05.2010.
The Employees’ State Insurance Act. 1948 amended w.e.f. 01.06.2010 to:

1. Improve the quality of service under the scheme;
2. Enable ESI infrastructure to be used to provide health care to workers in the unorganized sector.

The Plantations Labour Act, 1951 amended w.e.f. 01.06.2010 to:

Provide safety and occupational health care to plantations workers.

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 amended w.e.f. 15.09.2010 to:

1. Amplify the term ‘appropriate government’ defined under section 2(a) of the Act;
2. Enhance the wage ceiling from Rs.1,600/- to Rs.10,000/- per month to cover workmen working in supervising capacity;
3. Provide direct access for the workman to the Labour Court or Tribunal in case of disputes arising out of Section 2(A) of the Act;
4. Expand the scope of qualifications of Presiding Officers of Labour Courts or Tribunals;
5. Establish Grievance Redressal Machinery;
6. Empower the Labour Court or Tribunal to execute awards

The scope of the Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976 was expanded w.e.f. 01.02.2011 to include 10 additional industries, i.e., Cosmetics, soaps, household cleaners etc.; Readymade garments, etc.; Soft drinks manufacturing industries; Biscuits and confectioneries; Ayurvedic,
Unani, etc.; Automobiles including accessories, etc.; Surgical equipments, etc.; Electronics, computers, etc.; Electrical appliances; Paints and varnishes.

After realizing the contribution of Tea, Coffee and Rubber etc in the economic field of nation. He thought there should be a special due those who are working in this sector from government. So he amended Labour Plantation Act thorough this amendment Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge made an provision to avail all those facilities which are avail by other organized and unorganized sector workers.

Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge’s efforts to minimize wage disparity.

In order to have uniform wage structure and to reduce the disparity in minimum wages across the country. The National Level Floor Minimum Wage has been revised from time to time primarily taking into account the increase in the consumer price index for Industrial Workers. “The NFLMW which was fixed at Rs. 80/- on 01-01-2007 was revised to Rs 100/- on 1-11 2009 and Rs115/- on 1-4-2011. The National Floor Level Minimum Wage applies to all employments including agriculture”. This method has helped in reducing disparity among different rates of minimum wages to great extent.

His efforts to ensure Health Specialty.

It is evident from his different schemes that he was keen always to provide health specialty to workers.

He extends the health specialty in rural area under the MGNREGA under which every worker of village got 100 work assurances to boost the economic morality among the people of rural areas. By extending his concern
about the health of this worker through his department he made an arrangement to provide health specialty at the spot of working. He believed that without health the development of the country is impossible, he also considered that “Health is also one of the Fundamental Rights of the citizen”

Before Kharge The Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) is in economic dilapidated situation which is providing health, care and cash benefit payment in case of sickness, maternity and employment injury. It achieved major achievements under Sri Mallikhajun Kharge’s leadership.

Sri. Kharge takes lot of measures and steps for upgradation of facilities, expansion of Scope and Coverage, measures to improve efficiency, training Courses and IT related initiatives for ESIC to provide new impetus with following steps.

**Upgradation of Facilities**

1. Modernization and upgradation of 24 ESIC hospitals is in progress.
2. Four new hospitals in Gurgaon, Manesar, Bhiwadi and Super Specialty Hospital, Hyderabad have been commissioned.
3. ESIC Dental College, Rohini has also been commissioned.
4. Infrastructure facilities in 50 branch offices are being upgraded to provide better work environment.
Expansion of Scope and Coverage

1. The scheme has been extended to 53 new areas into during 2009-10 and 68 new areas in 2010-11 covering 1.14 lakh additional employees.

2. The threshold limit for coverage of shops and other establishments has been reduced from 20 to 10 and notified in seven States (Delhi, Bihar, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Karnataka and West Bengal).

3. The eligibility conditions for availing the unemployment allowance under Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana has been relaxed from 5 years to 3 years under duration of benefit enhanced from 6 months to 12 months.

4. The age limit of dependant children for eligibility has been enhanced from 18 years to 25 years.

5. Medical benefit to insured persons retiring under VRS scheme or taking premature retirement is to continue.

6. Underutilized ESI hospitals can extend medical care to BPL families covered under RSBY and other schemes framed by the Government. They can also extend medical care to other beneficiaries against payment of user charges.
Measures to improve efficiency

1. Recruitment of 94 teaching faculty, 239 specialists and 866 medical officers during the last 2 years.

2. Revenue manual prepared and circulated among field functionaries and branch office to increase efficiency in revenue management and delivery.

3. Recruitment of part-time specialists till the recruitment of specialists by the State Government.

4. Autonomous Corporation can be set up by State Governments for greater autonomy and efficiency in administration of medical benefits.

5. Appellate Authorities established to reduce litigation and to give one opportunity for representation to employer.

Training Courses

1. A Skill upgradation scheme introduced for the unemployed insured persons who undergo Vocational Training in centres run by Government to upgrade their skills.

2. Started Post graduate Medical courses in 6 Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Science & Research with 57 seats.

IT related initiatives by ESIC

1. Employees’ State Insurance Corporation’s institutions are being upgraded under Employees’ State Insurance Corporation’s IT Project
“Panchdeep” and all ESI institutions are being networked under this Project.

2. “Pehchan” cards are being issued to the ensured person and the family to avail anywhere any time medical benefits.

3. 74 lakh insured persons already issued Pehchan cards with biometric details.

4. Online facilities for registration of establishment and employees.

5. Online submission of challans, payment of contribution, etc.

6. Online facility of determining entitlements, tracking contribution payment and action against defaulters.

7. Availability of medical history of patients, MIS, etc.

8. Decision and payment of permanent disablement benefit in Medical Board cases to be reduced to 3 days.

9. Delegation of powers in revenue and benefit matters for quick delivery of services.

10. Permanent disablement and dependants benefits being credited to the bank account of the beneficiaries through Electronic Clearing Services (ECS).

A part from this Sri.Mallikharjun Kharge’s with a major initiatives soon after assuming the Port Polio he started new modernized ESIC hospitals in major cities like Mumbai, Kolkatta, Chennai, Mysore, Gulbarga in the country, along with this he takes a step to start 28 super specialties hospitals in 27 states. Thus by his effort with in 3 year he established 150 ESIC hospitals. 1402 treatment centers, 93 Indian traditional treatment centers and 42 big complex model hospitals.

**Recruitment in ESIC**

Sri Kharge realized the necessity of staff for the smooth functioning of ESIC. Never before him, no minister and the government took steps to recruit required staff. It was suffering from staff gap. With a major initiative the ministry of Labour recruited 1,517 Medical Professionals and 800 paramedical staff by ESIC during his 3 year minister ship.

Sri Kharge gave special care to the health of workers who worked in reorganized sector that constitute about 93% of the total work force in the country. Though the Government implemented some social security measures for certain occupational groups, the coverage is miniscule. Recognizing the need for providing social security to these workers, the Central Government introduced Bill in the parliament with objectives of recognition the diversity with regard to public health infrastructure, socio-economic conditions and the administrative network. Sri Kharge removed all the barriers which kept away the workers to get this specialty. He provided new shape to this scheme by
introducing new steps which covers the Below Poverty Line families who worked in unorganized sector.

RSBY is flagship programme of the Government providing health insurance facilities worth up to Rs 30,000/-

Sri Mallikharjun Kharge extended this programme to more than 3.41 crore people and Smart Cards issued to these families in 28 states / Union Territories (UT) and about 49.8426 lakh persons have availed benefits under the scheme as on 28-2-2013.

Under three years of his ministership the programmes were extended to the following workers.

1. Street Vendors.
2. Lincensed Railway porters and vendors.
3. MGNREGA workers (working more than 15 days during the preceding financial year)
4. Beedi workers.
5. Domestic Workers.
7. Ragamuffin workers
8. Drivers of Auto Riksha & cycle Riksha

This effort by Sri Mallikharjun Kharge led the improvement in access to healthcare. Health infrastructure being set up in remote areas. Public sector hospital competing and improving performance to gain access to flexible funds
and incentives provide under RSBY. Penetration in the areas affected by extremist activities. Unremarkable improvement in utilization by women.

This Scheme also applauded at international level. This is selected for publication in a document “Innovative Experiences: Social Protection Floor Success Stories” being brought out by United Nation Development Programme (UNDP).

It also appreciated by World Bank it observe this scheme as” The experience with the design and implementation of Rashtriya Swastya Bimma Yojana (RSBY) in particular, is one of the most promising efforts in India to bridge this gap by providing health insurance to millions of poor households.

Skill development programmes

Sri Mallikarjun Kharge has initiated a skill development scheme in order to provide knowledge and training to the workers and the youth to enhance their production capacity and to have employment opportunity anywhere in country easily. Under his minister-ship the ministry of Labour and Employment was making all-out efforts to equipped the youth with talent through various skill development programmes with following measures.

The number of seating capacity has been doubled during the last five years. Increased from 5,114 (1,896 Govt. ms and 3218 Pvt. ITCs) with seating capacity of 7,42,330 (3,99,988 Govt. and 3,42,342 Pvt.) during 1945 to 2007 to 10,344 (2,271 Govt. ITIs and 8,073 Pvt. ITCs) with seating capacity of 14,66,032 (4,87,490 Govt. and 9,78,542 Pvt, as on date11.
Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge Initiate Modular Employee Skills

To meet the skill requirement of early school leavers in the unorganized sector, based on Modular Employable Skills. 1,422 modules (from 60 to 1100 hours duration and covering 73 sectors of the economy) have been developed according to the requirement of industries and employers. The training programmes are conducted by more than 7,000 Vocational Training Providers across the country.

Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge took measure steps to start new ITI Centres

upgrading and modernizing of existed ITIs Centres

Under the scheme a total of 1,727 Government ITI are being modernized/upgraded. This has resulted in improved infrastructure/tools and machinery, computer facilities, better linkage with the local labour market and industry, higher enrolment ratio, decline in drop-out ratio, improvement enrolment of female trainees, improvement in participation of students from socially disadvantaged groups, increase in teaching staff in ITI.

Placement of students in these ITIs has increased to 80 to 99 percent. In all, 60 government ITIs located in minority concentration districts with more than 14 per cent enrollment of students from the minority community, have been upgraded under the Prime Minister’s 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities.

The National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) is issuing nationally and internationally recognized certificates.
“In order to improve the quality of assessment, NIMI has developed question banks for 83 trades and terminal competencies for 50 courses”\textsuperscript{15}.

**Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped**

1. 20 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped (VRCs) across the country to cater to the economic rehabilitation of different categories of handicapped persons.

2. The main objective of these Centres is to evaluate the residual capacities of persons with disabilities, impart vocational training and extend them vocational rehabilitation assistance.

3. Out of total intake of more than 60,000 candidates during 2009-10 and 2010-11, around 23,000 have been rehabilitated.

**Coaching-cum-Guidance Centres for SCs/STs**

1. 23 Coaching-cum-Guidance Centres for SCs/STs in the country, set up in the country for the benefit of schedule castes and scheduled tribes.

2. These centres provide Vocational Guidance/Career Counseling services/training to the educated SC/ST job seekers in order to enhance their employability.

3. About 1 lakh persons benefited during 2009-10 and 2010-11\textsuperscript{16}.

4. Sri Mallikhajun Kharge effort to impart the knowledge of Labour Value at global level:
5. Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)

The EPFO administers the employees provident funds and miscellaneous provisions act 1952, which provide social security and timely monetary assistance to industrial employees and chair families when they are in distress.

In the initial stage which covers only industrial workers, since from its initiations, whenever Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge assumes the port polio of union labour and employment he takes milestone changes by extending of the coverage, enhancement of benefits (including interests rate), expansion of office network, it related initiatives by employment provident fund organizational social security agreements with other countries.

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**Achievement of EPFO upto 2010-2011**

(Figures are provisional)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Progress achieved</th>
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<tr>
<td>Establishments covered</td>
<td>6.61 lakhs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
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<tr>
<td>All members claims settled</td>
<td>72.48 lakh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts slips updated</td>
<td>606.65 lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery of all dues</td>
<td>1650.52 crore</td>
</tr>
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**Widening the Coverage**

1. On 15.01.2011, the EPF has been extended to contract workers in Municipalities / Municipal corporations. This is expected to benefit 6 lakh additional workers\(^{18}\).

**Enhancement of Benefits (including interest rate)**

1. On 17.03.2011, the Government notified the rate of interest for the year 2010-11 at 9.5\% based on surplus identified. This interest is highest ever during the last five financial years.

2. On 08.01.2011, the Government notified, assurance benefits payable to family of deceased employees equal 20 times the monthly average wages drawn in preceding 12 months subject to a maximum of Rs.1.30 lakh\(^{19}\).

**Expansion of Office Network**

1. A new Regional Office was opened at Gulbarga in 2009-10 thereby creating the 40th region of EPFO.

2. A new Sub-Regional Office was opened at Bharuch, Gujarat in August, 2010\(^{20}\).

**IT related initiatives by Employees Provident Fund Organization**

1. As on 31.03.2011, 119 offices stand computerized out of total 120 EPFO offices.

2. National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) was launched in June, 2010 for refund of EPF claims in all EPF offices and credit of benefit amount. Since then all offices of EPFO have been made NFT enabled.
3. With effect from July, 2010, SMS services have been launched for sending alerts to EPF subscribers on the status of their claims and alert services for remittances of contributions to employers.

4. With effect from February 2011, “know your claim status” on internet has been introduced to allow members to know the status of claims deposited in the office.

5. An improved dynamic MIS system has been put in place for daily updation and number of receipts of claims, rejections, approvals, NEFT payments, cheque payments etc.

6. New banking arrangement has been entered with State Bank of India on 29 September, 2010 which provides for collection of contribution from employers through e-challan. This would facilitate automatic reconciliation of dues and electronic transfer of fund\(^2\).

Kharge not only extensively efforts to provide provident funds at domestic level but also his efforts to extend PF Indian origin workers by making agreements with other countries.

**Social Security agreements with other countries**

1. Bilateral Social Security Agreements (SSAs) have been signed with Kingdom of Belgium in September, 2009, Germany in October, 2009 and Switzerland in January, 2011.

2. SSAs have also been signed with 8 more countries namely Hungry, Denmark, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, France, Norway, Korea and the Netherlands. However, they are still to come into effect.
3. 3706 certificates have been issued to international workers covered during 2010-11\textsuperscript{22}.

**Bonded Labour**

India, even after passing its 68 years of independence still it is reeling the problems of bonded labour is still alive. Before Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge number of Governments and ministers come and went but their efforts to remove the abolition of bonded labour was not fulfilled because of their quasi will attitude, failure to pointout a concrete solution and way to reachout. But Shri. Mallikarjun Kharge is a person of tremendous experience gave a satisfactory solutions to the problems.

**Bonded labour and migrant workers**

Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge after assuming the Portfolio of the labour and employment he implemented a “Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme” namely, Abolition of Bonded Labour on 50:50 fund sharing basis with the state Government for rehabilitation of bonded labourers. Assistance of Rs. 20,000/- per bonded was provided to the State Governments. Union Territories for conducting survey of bonded labourers, awareness generation activities and impact evaluation.

Sri.Mallikarjun Kharge during his three years, under rehabilitation assistance, amounting of Rs.597.27 lakh was provided to the State Governments for rehabilitation of 6,059 freed bonded labourers\textsuperscript{23}.
Under the convergence-based approach developed with ILO to prevent bonded labour Ministry, Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha signed an MoU in June 2012 to facilitate strengthening of inter-state coordination mechanism for smooth implementation of activities of migrant workers. Similar MoUs are being contemplated with Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge under the implementation of Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996, 34 States/UTs have notified Rules, 33 have constituted Welfare Boards, 32 have notified Cess Collecting Authorities and 28 have constituted State Advisory Committees as against 24, 21, 22 and 22 respectively, three years before.

88.10 lakh workers are registered with the Welfare Boards and Rs, 7,057 crore has been collected as cess. Rs. 1,009 crore has been spent on the welfare of workers so far. In the last three years Rs. 5000 crore has been collected as cess and Rs. 650 crore have been spent on welfare of workers during the last three years.

Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge not became a model ministry in Domestic level he also model at international level through attending conferences sessions seminars labour issues by forwarding the techniques knowledge and measurements taken by government of India to the countries of world in order
to achieve, the betterment of labour of other countries. Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge attended the following sessions conferences at international level.

**G-20 Meetings**

1. A delegation led by the Minister for Labour & Employment visited Washington DC to attend the meeting of the Labour Ministers of G-20 countries during 20-22 April, 2010.


**Other Important Visits/Delegations Abroad**

1. A delegation led by the Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge, Minister for Labour & Employment attended the XIX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in Istanbul, Turkey during 11-15 September 2011.

**Labour Conferences / Foreign visits**

2. The 98th Session of International Labour Conference was held in Geneva from 2-19th June, 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland.


4. The 100 Session of International Labour Conference was held in Geneva from 31st May-17th June, 2011. An Indian Tripartite
delegation led by Hon’ble Labour & Employment Minister Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge attended the same.

5. Tripartite delegation led by Hon’ble Minister of Labour & Employment Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge visited Brussels to attend 4th India-EU Seminar on the ‘Skills and Jobs” with a particular focus on the impact of the global crisis and recovery from 5th to 6th July, 2010.

6. Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Union Labour & Employment Minister, Shri S. Knishnan, Special Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment and Shri B.N. Shetty, OSD to LEM attended the Meeting of the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee at Ministerial Level from 28-29 September, 2009 in Paris organised by the organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development.

THE MESSAGE OF SRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE ON OCCASION OF LABOUR DAY

“The 1st of May is celebrated all over the World as International Labour Day to honour the contribution and sacrifice made by the working class. On this occasion, I extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to workers all over the country. This day reminds us that only with the mutual cooperation of workers, employers, Governments and the Civil Society, we can lay a solid foundation in building our Nation, I take this opportunity to recapitulate that in the recent past the Government of India has undertaken several important
measures for improving the working conditions and welfare of the working class.

A Health Insurance Scheme for the poor titled ‘Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana’ (RSBY) has become operational from 01.04.2008. The scheme envisages provision of health insurance to unorganized workers with smart card based cashless hospitalization facilities worth up to Rs.30,000/-. As on 31.03.2013, more than 3.44 crore cards have been issued, more than 11.00 crore members are expected to be benefited from this Scheme and 51.68 lakh people have availed the hospitalization benefits. The coverage of RSBY has been extended to street vendors, construction workers, Beedi workers, domestic workers, MGNREGA workers and licensed Railway porters. Impact of RSBY is visible in improvement in access to healthcare, health infrastructure being set up in remote areas by the private sector, Public Sector hospitals competing and improving performance to gain access to flexible funds and incentives provide under RSBY, penetration in the areas affected by extremist activities and marked improvement in utilization of services by women in the scheme.

In pursuance of Government’s commitment to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations and processes, the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme is being implemented in 271 districts. As a result, 8.52 lakh children from special schools of NCLPs have been mainstreamed into the formal education system. Due to various initiatives taken by the Ministry of Labour & Employment, there has been significant drop in the number of child labour from an estimated 90.75 lakh during 2004-05 to 49.85 lakh in 2009-10.
as revealed in the recent fourth round of NSSO Survey. A Bill has also been introduced in Parliament to amend the Child Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1986. The Bill, when passed, will make the provisions of Child Labour Act more stringent and also link the age of the prohibition with the age of children under Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act. The proposed amendment would also enable India to ratify ILO Convention No.138 and 182.

Emphasis is being given to upgrade training skills. With a view to creating a world-class skilled labour force, training courses are being offered through a network of 2271 Government and 8073 Private Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). These institutes cumulatively offer 14.66 lakh training seats. Under the schemes of modernization of ITIs, a total of 1727 Government ITIs are being modernized / upgraded including 400 ITIs with World Bank assistance.

Under the Scheme of “Skill Development Initiative”, demand driven short-term training courses based on Modular Employable Skill framework have been developed for skill development of the school leavers and workers especially in the informal sector. 14.81 lakh persons have been trained since inception.

The Ministry has proposed a new scheme namely, “Kaushal Vikas Yojana” to set up 3000 ITIs & 5000 Skill Development Centres (SDCs) in PPP mode across the country. The Ministry also proposes to constitute a National Board of Trade Testing and Certification (NBTTC) to conduct trade examination for various schemes of DGE&T / NCVT. It will have independent
functioning and will have no interferences from the Government in conducting the tests. Ministry of Labour and Employment has moved a proposal for making NCVT a statutory body.

A Mission Mode Project to upgrade and modernize all employment exchanges has been taken up and a National Web Portal is being developed to serve as a virtual job market.

The Employees’ State Insurance Corporation has taken up new initiatives to improve the quality of service delivery. These include coverage of new geographical areas, implementation of an IT rollout plan and medical education projects.

As part of the effort towards the automation of work processes to achieve efficiency and improve service delivery, all offices of EPFO have been computerized, with facility for electronic submission of statutory EPF returns with effect from 2012-13.

The members can now get their PF balances, status of claims and payments online as well as receive SMS alerts on their mobile phones after registering on “http://www.epfindia.gov.in”.

The Government has been playing a key role not only in identifying the areas that needed changes in legislations but also in formulating the regulations keeping in view the changing needs of the working class. During the last year, the amendment Bills in respect of following Acts has been introduced in the Parliament: -

The Child Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1986
1. The Building and Other Constructions Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996.

2. The Building and Other Constructions Workers Cess Act, 1996. During the period, the Government has also approved to approach the Parliament to amend

3. The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959

The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 The amendment in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, inter-alia, provide statutory status to the National Floor Level Minimum Wage (NFLMW), will make the Act applicable to all employments, provide for the revision of NFLMW every five year on the basis of NSSO Consumer Expenditure Survey, link NFLMW with variable dearness allowance (VDA) to be notified atleast once in a year on the basis of Consumer Price Index and provide for issue of employment cards to the employees which would be Aadhaar compliant, etc.

I am happy to inform that a Newsletter is being brought out every quarter to provide information on various labour related initiatives for the welfare of the working class and it is providing an effective channel of communication between the Government and the social partners. While reiterating that we would continuously pursue our efforts to promote the welfare of workers, I once again convey my best wishes on this auspicious day.”

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6.2 Contributions of Sri Mallikarjun M.Kharge as Railway Minister

During UPA rule Sri. Kharge served various ministries such as the Labour and Employment Ministry, the Social Justice and Empowerment and also as the Railway Minister.

Railway the influence of all aspects of our lives is significant uniformly carry people and materials to every nook and corner of the country. Its role in national integration by providing low cost connectivity from Kashmir to Kanyakumari on one hand and arunachal, Mizoram and Tripura to Gujrat on the other is unparalleled. The Organisation needs careful nurturing to help it better serve the people and play its role in building the nation, which has been given by Sri. Kharge as a Railway Minister.

As a Railway Minister he started a number of projects across the country and especially in Karnataka and earned a lot of appreciation from the people. He sincerely tried to fulfill the long standing demands of the people of the state and this region. “He started a new service for booking railway tickets through SMS. By sending an SMS to 139 and 5675714 customers can book railway tickets”.26 This service has helped those customers who have neither internet facility nor smartphone. “He sanctioned additional 600 crores for the state.”27 In order to complete the pending railway projects of the state.

Rail Tariff Authority:

“Ushering in a new pricing regime through a transparent process, railway Minister Sri.Mallikarjun Kharge announced the constitution of an independent rail tariff authority to advise the govt. on fixing of fares and
freight. With the constitution of RTF, determination of rates will no longer be an exercise behind veils where the railways and users could only peep covertly at what was happening on the other side. The authority will not only consider requirements of railways but also engage with all stakeholders to usher in a new pricing regime through a transparent process. The RTA is expected to lead an era of rationalization of fares and freight structures for improving the fare freight ratio and gradually bringing down cross subsidization between different segments. This step would go a long way towards improving the financial health of the national transporter.”

**Additional passengers Amenities at Yelahanka:**

“Commencement of additional passenger amenities and station yard remodeling works of Yelahanka station at the cost of Rs.13.14 crore” planned to construct a new station building along with the development of circulating area, construction of additional platforms with platform shelters, providing additional foot over bridge, water booths and platform benches.

**Maintenance facilities shifted to Binny Mill**

“For constructing maintenance facilities at the Binny Mill, BBMP has already acquired 3.5 acres of land adjacent to the Bangalore city railway station. The ministry has earmarked about Rs.20 crore towards undertaking construction work. Once the work is completed, maintenance facilities around the city station would be shifted to the Binny Mill land.”

Sri. Kharge also flagged off the process of upgradation of Baippanahalli railway station and also for the construction of 60 rail over bridges.”
Bidar – Gulbarga Railway projects

The Bidar Gulbarga new railway line project, which was pending for more than a decade due to paucity of funds has now been started because the union government had allocated adequate grants as a result of Kharge’s effort. Sri. Kharge instructed the officials concerned to expedite the work. For any delay in completing the projects, officials would be held directly responsible and also said that he would personally monitor the progress. Rs.120 crore has been sanctioned for the project.

The salient features of the Bidar-Gulbarga New Railway Line project:

- New BG line project was sanctioned in 1998-99 with an estimated cost of 369.70 crores.
- Total length of railway track is 110.40 km between Khanapur – Gulbarga stations.
- 60 km track has been linked engine rolled by March 2013.
- The expenditure as on June 2013 is Rs.383 crores.
- Total land requirement: 768.57 hectares.
- No. of new railway stations: 12 nos (7 crossing, 5 halt stations).
- No. of total bridges – 256 nos.
- No. of major water way bridges – 12.
- No. of Major road ones bridges / roads under bridges (ROBs/ RUBs) for road traffic – 18.
- No of Minor water way bridges – 183 nos.
- No. of Minor RBOBs/ RUBS for road traffic – 43 nos.
Manned level crossing – 15 (11 Level crossing are planed for elimination through construction of RUBs).

Ruling gradient – 1 in 100

Max. Degree of curvature – 2.50 degree

Total length of margutti tunnel – 1.50 kms

Max. height of Bank – 24.40 m

Max height of cutting – 19.91 m

Rail Bridge Across Bennithora River:

The salient features of the railway bridge bennithora river as a part of Bidar – Gulbarga new railway line project is as follows:-

The new Bennithora river rail bridge is crossing the bennithora river about 2.00 km up stream side of existing road bridge at Kurkotta village.

The rail bridge is proposed at Km 76.560 in Bidar – Gulbarga new Railway line project between Kurkotta – nawadgi station as 1 x 17.15 M + 14 x 18.0M + 1 x 17.15 M PSC Girders.

The estimated cost for the construction of rail bridge is Rs.12.60 crores.

The bridge will have 16 spans, each with a length of 18.3 mtrs, spread over a total distance of 286 mtrs.

The targeted completion period is 18 months.
Railway Tunnel at Margutti

Construction of a Tunnel at Margutti is also a part of the project. The salient features of the Tunnel work as under:-

- The length of this ‘D’ shaped tunnel will be 1.5 km and the width will be 4.925 m.
- The tunnel will have sufficient height to have electrified traction on the section in future as per need.
- 25 mtrs long concrete portals (entry frames) will be provided on either end of the tunnel.
- Necessary geotechnical investigations (soil and rock testing) have been carried out by drilling 9 bore holes upto a maximum depth of 45m and ensured that no water table was encountered.
- Wenner configuration of electrical resistivity method was used to determine soil moisture levels, stratification and discontinuitieis in soil mass.
- The crown of the tunnel consists of fresh / jointed basalt.
- Design of the tunnel has been carried out based on Finite Element Analysis (FEA).
- Siesmo–tectonia maps of the tunnel site, provided by Geological survey of India, Hyderabad, have been verified and ensures that no folds and faults are found in the site.
- Further, the design of the tunnel was also proof-checked by Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai.
Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFX), Regional Centre, Nagpur is requested to provide necessary technical support for the blasting pattern design in order to avoid over breakage or damage to the parent rock while carrying out blasting operations for excavating the tunnel.

This tunnel will have ballastless track, plum concrete at formation level and pipe ducts for signal / telecommunication / electrical cables.

Drainage arrangement will be provided with 1 in 200 gradient inside the tunnel with adequate capacity to clear the flood water ingress and stagnation in the tunnel.

Trolley refuges will be provided at every 100m of the tunnel for the safety and inspecting officials and track maintaining staff.

Covered side drains will act as foot path.

The tunnel work is targeted to be completed with in a period of 18 months.

Also Rs. 4 crore has been sanctioned for the upgradation of Bidar Railway station construction of railway pit line at Khanapur of bhalki taluk in bidar District at a cost of Rs.10 crore. Bidar–Yeshwantpur tri–weekly express train was also flagged off34.
Railway works at Gulbarga:

Gulbarga – Hotgi Doubling

Gulbarga – Hotgi, a 98 km section, on Solapur Division of central railway is partly funded by Asian Development Bank. The estimated cost is Rs.350 crores the section spans in the states of Karnataka and Maharashtra to be completed on 50-50% cost sharing basis with state governments. The work is in progress and estimated to complete during the year 2014-15.

Escalators:

Escalators at Gulbarga, on each connecting PF No.1 and PF No.2/3. The work of installation of escalators has been completed and is awaiting extension of foot over bridge.

- Widening of Platform No.1
- Concreting of circulating area
- Cover over platform on 2 and 3.
- UTS counter at Tarfile side.
- New platform No.4 with foot over bridge at Wadi end–new platform No.4 for 24 coach trains and 12 m width is being constructed on Tarfile side of the Gulbarga station with 12 feet wide foot over bridge connecting PF Nos, 1 2/3 and 4 at wadi end is being completed.
- Rebuilding and widening of ROB near Mother Theresa School, Jewargi road, Gulbarga.
- Construction of ROB Afzalpur near Gulbarga – Rs. 14 crore.
➢ Frequency of Train No. 22133 / 22134 Yesvantpur–Solapur–Yesvantpur has been increased from 3 days a week to daily w.e.f 24-09-2013.

➢ The goods shed would be shifted to Taj Sultanpur, where a new shed would be constructed at a cost of Rs.4 crore.

➢ Another entrance to the railway station, facing the Tarfail area would be constructed, with a reservation counter.

➢ The ticket counter which functioned for only half day on Sunday will now be open for the full day.

➢ Shri. Mallikarjun Kharge also laid foundation stone for the Pit Line and Sick line which would be attached to the Gulbarga Bidar New line, which would enhance the capacity to start originating trains from Gulbarga Railway stations.

➢ Sick line for replacement and major repairs of sick coaches will also be constructed.

➢ The proposed Pit line and Sick line, project costing 41 crores are expected to be completed by March 201536.

**Gulbarga Railway Division:**

The demand for a railway division in Gulbarga, one of the major freight-intensive locations of the railways, had been pending for over four decades. Even the H.C.Sareen committee appointed by the Railway Ministry (1984) had recommended the creation of a new division as it is the most backward region in the state.
Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge proposed for the establishment of 3 new railway divisions in Gulbarga, Udhampur in J & K and silchar in Assam. The new railway division with Gulbarga as its headquarters will fall under the jurisdiction of south Western Railway Division. Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge went ahead with appointing an officer on special duty (Rank of Chief Engineer) to work out the formation of Gulbarga railway division. Even Rs.5 crore was sanctioned for the purpose and also got a land allotted for the division37.

Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge is 1st Railway Minister to Constitute the Railway Consultative Committee meeting for the first time outside Delhi, at Bangalore. The, then Minister of State for Railways Adhir Ranjan Choudhary and 16 members of parliament representing Karnataka, Punjab, UP, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, AP, WB and Assam, Railway Board Members and other senior officers, attended the meeting38.

**Fiat Bogie Factory Yadgir**

Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge sanctioned a state of the art bogie frame manufacturing facility in Yadgir District at an anticipated cost of Rs.750 crore, with a capacity of manufacture 300 coach sets of FIAT bogie frames per annum. The factory is equipped with Robotic welding shot–blasting plant, paint booth, under water plasma cutting machine, 5–axis machining centre, jigs and fixture sets. The government of Karnataka has allotted 150 crore of land free of cost for this project in Yadgir district once the factory is commissioned, it will provide more than 500 jobs in addition to other ancillary activities in the region39.
Rail coach factory at Kolar district

Economic activity in the backward Kolar region is set to get a boost due to setting up of industrial units and this will help uplift the financial conditions of the people. Rail coach factory will come upon 1,118 acres of land in Srinivasapur taluk of Kolar district. The state government has provided 568 acres for the Rs.1,460 crore project. The unit will have capacity to produce 500 coaches annually in its initial years and stepped upto another Rs.500 coaches later. It will have a R & D unit, providing jobs to 5000 people. The auxiliary units that would come up around the factory would generate another 5000 jobs. It will also help in tackling water crisis in the region where the water table has gone down as low as 1400 feet. The state is sharing 50 pc cost.

Wadi Gadag Railway Line:

The century old dream of the people of Hyderabad – Karnataka of a shorter link to Mumbai Karnataka was flagged of by Mr. Mallikarjun Kharge. The 252 km Gadag – Wadi rail line costing Rs.1922 crore will be implemented with a 50:50 cost sharing between ministry of railways and Karnataka government. The state would also provide land free of cost.

The new line will provide connectivity between main lines of Hubli-Guntakal and Mumbai-Chennai routes. The line will passes through district of Gadag, Koppal, Raichur, yadgir and Gulbarga via Kuknur, Yelburga, Kushtagi, Lingsugur, Gurgunta, Devapur, Shorapur, Shahapur and Biral Buzurg.
Industries in these 5 districts will also get convenient and speedy rail connection with ports on the western coast and also other parts of the country, enhancing the socio-economic development in the backward areas of Hyderabad-Karnataka.

With this direct link, the distance between Gadag and Wadi stations will come down by about 14 km, in comparison to the existing routes via guntakal and hotgi. It is also mooted that this new line will also help in faster movement of goods and passengers between Wadi and Hubli.

6.3 Social Justice and Empowerment

If it is passed, physical disable people can get more facilities. In 1971 Indira Gandhi was established public corporation for the treatment of military casualties of 1971. India-Pakistan war. Now it is converted as Social justice and empowerment ministry.

Sri. Mallikarjun kharge as a Union Social Justice and empowerment Minister had entrusted social justice and empowerment minister in addition to union railway minister due to his prominence and efficiency and ability to manage any department through his knowledge. After assuming this port folio within one month he introduced various developmental programmes through this department.

Within 8 days of assuming of power Shri.Kharge draft the new programmes in the department and implemented them to native constituency Gulbarga, “under which he gifted 20 crore worth instruments to the 799 people belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, clear workers, backward class
people and handicapped people to earn their livelihood through this he made a sincere effort for the empowerment of scheduled caste, schedule tribes and other backward class people of the society”.43

“Through this programme he had provided 95 three wheel cycle to physical disabled candidates and financial assistance for 27 candidate to take self employment. Apart from this under this programme 100 people got job oriented training. For Safai Karmachari he provided financial assistance to 153 people. And he provided the provision for financial assistance to 17 candidates from scheduled caste corporation”.44

By organising this type of junctions in Bangalore he provided financial assistance for the physical and mental challenged people for their empowerment. In this function, the minister extends easy instruments for safai Karamchari to reduce their strain with minimum strength with efficiency. Kharge made an effort to provide more benefits through the department with in short period to the people of Hyderabad Karnataka.

Before Sri. Kharge, the facilities to the people considered to be welfare schemes. But his programmes converted them to be rights of scheduled casts, tribes and backward class people.

“For the first time Shri.Kharge introduced a bill in Rajyashabha. In this bill he categorized the physical disabled into 12 types. the earlier governments were identified only 7 types of physical disabilities. Sri. Kharge’s efforts helped physical disabled reservation quota to increase from 3% to 5% in all
services. This is the major contribution of Sri. Kharge and is evident for his concern for the weaker section of the society”.

But his bill was suggested some changes from Rajya Sabha members, some members express their fault pledge willingless to it however this bill could not passed due to Telangana hour in parliament.

6.4 Contributions of Sri Mallikarjun Kharge for the Educational Development to the Karnataka as a Union Minister 2009-2014

6.4.1 Educational contribution:

Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge has efficiently and consistently worked for the development of this region. This interest lies in social and welfare activities, one such in the introduction of several reforms in Education Department. His undaunted efforts led to the establishment of central university of Karnataka by an Act of the parliament (No.3 of 2009) at Gulbarga, Karnataka. It is one of the 16 new central universities established by the Government of India. 652 acres of land has been acquired near kadaganchi and Suntanur villages on the Gulbarga-Waghdhari inter state highway in Aland Taluka in Gulbarga. It would be one of the largest universities in South India once fully established.

The university is one of the 16 new central universities established by the Government of India during the UGC 12th Plan period to address to the concerns of “equity and access” and to increase the access to quality higher education by people in less educationally developed districts which have a graduate enrolment ratio of less than the national average of 11\%.
Resource Development Minister cost is Rs.1100 crore, with a construction area of 97,600 square meters (Phase I & II)\textsuperscript{47}.

**The construction of CUK goes on Phase I and II**

**Phase-I:**

The work consists of Administrative building, Central library, Guest House, Bank and Post Office, Health Centre, shopping centre, girls and boys hostels and residences for staff (64 members).

**Phase-II:**

Work consists of academic buildings (23 school buildings) along with bulk services such as water supply, external electrification, sewers etc.

Sri.Kharge continuous efforts led to the spreading up of the construction process and finally the university which was functioning from its temporary premises was shifted to its new campus at kadaganchi, after inauguration by the then HRD Minister Dr.M.M.Pallam Raju, on 30\textsuperscript{th} November 2013\textsuperscript{48}.

The CUK, with its territorial jurisdiction all over Karnataka has initiated its activities from the academic year beginning from August 2009 in keeping with the philosophy of achieving and maintain the highest levels of academic excellence, sensitivity to equity and access in enrolment and recruitment and emerging as a premier national educational and research institution in the country.

The university has completed its 5 years and entered into its 6\textsuperscript{th} year. University has students from every part of the country. There are 8 schools, 15 departments, 36 subjects\textsuperscript{49}. The university presently has more than 1300
students pursuing their degree, post graduation, M.Phil., Ph.D. to enable students to learn from the best faculty members from different parts of the country, the university had started using the National Knowledge Network (NKN) coupled with video conferencing. “It has initiated the process of linkage with central institutions including IITs, NITs, IIITs, IIMs, ISRO, DRDO at both regional and national level from the overall development of the university”

6.4.2 Establishment of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya

Along with the central university another contribution of Sri.Kharige is the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya. He played a very important role in establishment of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya. He inaugurated the newly constructed school building near Korwar village in Chittapur taluk spread over 20 acres and the project costing Rs.19 crores. According to regulations of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, every district in the country will have due Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya to provide quality education and residential facilities to children from the rural areas free of cost. The teachers posted in these schools will stay with the children throughout the academic year. Being aware of the need for such schools in educationally backward districts, he took special interest and got sanctioned one more “Jawahar navodaya Vidyalaya to Gulbarga district to be established at Hagarga in Gulbarga. 18 acres of land have been identified for the school at Hagarga. This effort of establishing such schools in backward regions would help bridge gaps of regional imbalance and try to increase literacy levels in these areas”.
6.4.3 Establishment of Ekalavya Model Residential School

Establishment of Ekalavya Model Residential School by M.Mallikarjun Kharge for the members of scheduled tribes was another step towards providing quality education free to the most neglected section of the society. “He laid the foundation stone for the Rs.12 crore project on the 15 acre plot set aside for the Ekalavya model residential school at Konchur in Chitapur taluka in Gulbarga district”53. The school would provide quality education in English medium to 350 students. The Union Government would spend Rs.40,000 on each student, taking care of all their needs throughout their stay in the school till they completed SSLC. The Union Government provided complete funding for running of the schools. The State Government provided the land for the project.

6.4.4 Establishment of Rashtriya Madhyamika Shiksha Abhiyan

Under Rashtriya Madhyamika Shiksha Abhiyan 7 Adarsha Vidyalayas (Model Schools) have been sanctioned 7 Morarji Desai Residential Schools have also been sanctioned by the Central Government Sri.Kharge who believes that drastic changes can be brought in society by educational revolution has made sincere efforts in brining more central funds for different project especially education.

6.4.5 Establishment of Pali Language Centre

Pali is believed to be the most influential language during the period of Gautham Buddha. Sri. kharge has worked hard for the establishment of Pali Language Centre. As a result a sum of Rs.10 crore has been allotted in the
Union budget for the establishment of Pali language research centre at the city based Siddhart Vihar trust\textsuperscript{54}. The trust is headed by Shri.Mallikarjun Kharge and has set up a Buddha Vihar and Buddhist Stupa in the Buddha Vihar complex adjacent to Gulbarga University. The research centre would help in taking up the study of the over 100 volumes of Gautam Buddha’s Preachings and over 300 volumes of other Buddhist literature in Pali language. Sri. Kharge was instrumental in constructing the Buddha Vihar which is rapidly becoming a major Buddhist study centre. The trust has plans to establish an international study centre of Buddhist literature and has established a library with a rich collection of books in different languages including Pali.

\textbf{6.4.6 Establishment of Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Study and Research Centre}

Three and half acre of plot at New Delhi and Rs.200 crore has also been sanctioned as a result of his efforts for the establishment of Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar study and Research Centre at Delhi.\textsuperscript{55}

\textbf{6.4.7. Mallikarjun Kharge’s other achievements as a Union Minister from 2009 to 2014}

As a result of Shri.Kharge’s effort an Agriculture Research centre has started working on a 52 acre land in Chitapur.\textsuperscript{56} The centre undertakes “Research and Development” activities in crop production and development. Research activities are going on related to new sides of food grain and oil seeds. The centre also aims to provide training in organic farming to the farmers in order to increase agricultural productivity\textsuperscript{57}. 

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“Further Gulbarga has got a second Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Ruddewadi of Jewargi taluka, started in collaboration with university of agricultural science, Raichur and “Bharatiya Krishi Anusandhan parishat”58. Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Raddewadi would be a boon to farmers of Jewargi, Sedam and Chittapur taluks. Research and development activities taken up by the Krishi vigyan Kendra funded entirely by the Union Government which would go a long way in improving the yield of red gram and other crops such as Bengal gram, black and green gram and jawar.

Central Government in November 2011 launched a scheme for which 200 backward districts of the country were selected whereby 35 kgs of food grains were to be distributed to each of the BPL families. “As an attempt of the implementation of the scheme Shri.Kharge included the district of Bidar, Davangere, Gulbarga, Chitradurga under the scheme, as a result each of the BPL families were getting 29 kgs of rice and 6 kgs of wheat at Rs.3 per kg, thus helping these BPL families”59.

The Ministry of Textiles sanctioned 21 textile parks in the country and the only one textile park in the state that was sanctioned is the one in Gulbarga. As a result of Kharge’s effort, the Gulbarga textile park is coming up on 50 acres of land allotted at KIADB’S Nandur Kesaratagi Industrial area, Gulbarga and will be of international standards developed with the state of art technology. The park is an approved Greenfield textiles park. The project which was sanctioned to Gulbarga under the scheme for Integrated Technology
The park is going to provide huge employment opportunities to skill and unskilled labour forces, particularly women. There will be adequate opportunity to develop, improve and upgrade the skills of the entrepreneur and their work force. The park will have hi-tech manufacturing facilities within it. Entrepreneurs will be guided in each and every aspect of their business activity right from the procurement of the raw material, manufacturing process, savings and efficiencies, packing to the marketing of the final product.

There will be established educational and vocational training centres like national Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) and apparel Training and Designer Centre (ATDC) to meet the manpower requirement of the industry. With more focus on the green space development, the park will be hygienic and pollution free one.

“As a part of industrial development Sri. Kharge got sanctioned an advanced utility Helicopter manufacturing plant at Bidar, the second largest helicopter manufacturing unit in Karnataka. Also a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) training centre and Aircraft Spare parts manufacturing unit is being setup on a 100 acre plot near by Yadgir-Gulbarga National Highway. These shall also increase employment opportunities in the region”

“Sri. Kharge was also instrumental in getting sanctioned huge amounts for new irrigation projects Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India has sanctioned the modernization of Narayanpur left Bank Canal network and
its improvement in water use efficiency at an estimated cost of Rs.3752 crore. The implementation of this project will facilitate the improvement in the socio-economic status of farmers coming under command of UKp in Gulbarga, Bijapur and Yadagiri District.

“Government of India has sanctioned for modernization of upper Tunga Project at an estimated cost of Rs.2477 crore. This project will benefit Shimoga, Haveri, Davangere districts of Karnataka. Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India have also sanctioned Rs.690.00 crore, of 489 works for Minor Irrigation Projects for Karnataka state”.

Sri. Kharge also got sanctioned projects related to National Highways. The Ministry of Road Transports and Highways has upgraded the following state highways to national Highways:-

- Kalburagi (Gulbarga) to Raichur as NH-150 Amount of Rs.306 crore sanctioned.
- Hagari to Jadcharle (Via Raichur) as NH-167 amount of Rs.280 crore sanctioned.
- The Ministry of Road Transports and highways has sanctioned following works under CRF.
- Sedam to Yadgir Rs.72 crore.
- Chandapur Cross to Hosur sanctioned under the Inter – State Connectivity project at a Cost of Rs.77 crore.
- Putpak (Narayanpet, AP) to Dandothi (Via Gurumitkal, Handarkri cross, Bhimanahalli – Chittapur) at a Cost of Rs.90 crores.
➢ Gulbarga – Solapur Highway.

➢ Gulbarga Aland – Wadi underground drainage system, amount sanctioned is Rs.682 crore$^{64}$.

### 6.4.8 High Court Permanent Bench:

Right from the period of unification of Karnataka, there was a demand for the establishment of a Karnataka High Court Bench in Gulbarga. However this demand was not fulfilled after decades of struggle only a circuit bench was established. The Karnataka High Court circuit bench was inaugurated by the then Chief Justice of India Just. Balakrishnan. Even after, the struggle for a permanent bench at Dharwad and Gulbarga continued.

Finally efforts of Sri.M.Mallikarjun Kharge and Shri. Dharam Singh Former chief Minister of Karnataka, and the then law Minister, Shri.M.Veerappa Moily were fruitful, and thus the central government decided to convert the circuit bench to a permanent one and established permanent benches at Dharwad and Gulbarga on 31st October 2013, Karnataka High Court Permanent Bench was inaugurated by Supreme Court Judge, Just.V. Gopalagowda and Karnataka Chief Justice, Just. D.H.Wagehla, Where Sri. Mallikarjun Kharge was also present.

Until now nearly 39,000 cases have been cleared, also nearly 15,000 cases are under trial. With the establishment of a permanent bench now, permanent judges and staff shall be deputed which shall help in clearing off the pending cases as early as possible$^{65}$. 
6.4.9 ESIC (Hospital)

Sri Mallikharjun Kharge after becoming minister of the Labour and Employment at centre extended all possible help to bring Karnataka in main hub of country. Through his ministry he provided lot of health programmes to Karnataka in general and of Hyderabad Karnataka in particular. By extending ESIC model hospital in Karnataka he takes steps to enshrine the ESIC model hospitals at Rajaji Nagar Bangalore, along with Dhodda Ballapur, Bhomma Sandhra, Nanjungud in Karnataka state.

“Sri Kharge offered a special gift to his constituency which is the most backward region in Karnataka state. The gift is the largest ESIC hospital to Gulbarga. It was enshrined in the Gulbarga university campus with in 50 acres land with Rs.1400 crore budget. This is the country’s largest insurance hospital and medical complex which is a boon to Gulbarga.”66

Honorable finance minister of that time and present president of India “Sri Pranab Mukharjee laid down the foundation for this project on 18th May 2010. This mammoth task, project was completed within 40 month.”67 It is the another best example of Kharge’s efficiency. He laid down the foundation stone himself for the establishment of ESIC Hospital at different parts of Karnataka. This is the witness about his affection towards his state.

Gulbarga ESIC hospital consists of Nursing college, Dental College, Super specialty college and Paramedical college”. “The ESIC Hospital was inaugurated by the congress president Sonia Gandhi on February 1st 2013 (still work is going on in order to complete remaining work”).68
Medical College

During 2013-2014 academic year, Medical College was opened with 100 students. In the seat sharing in Karnataka state has 40% reservation quota. ESIC management has 45% quota 15% quota is provided to all India level students. It has 100 teaching staff. In this complex residential arrangement has also made for both the students and the staff. 69

Nursing College

The ESIC hospital has a Nursing college where 55 students have got admission. They are serving in government Hospitals. The work of the Dental College and Nursing College are at the final stage. It has 3000 books storage about the medical subject, this is another uniqueness of this Hospital.70

Super specialty Hospital

“Super Specialty Hospital got its structure in 89,580 Sq meters land in 10 floor with 500 bed capacity to provide the advanced medical services to the people of this region 893 crore rupees are sanctioned to the Hospital. The treatment for heart, cancer, lungs etc will also be provided at the hospital.” 71

Para Medical College

This is the National Institute of Applied Health Science. In this college free training has been offered to the children of ESIC-IP candidate along with free facility of food and residence Kharige made an effort to achieve independent life from Labours children’s by getting Medical education and training
**Uniqueness of ESIC Hospital**

“This medical complex is hub of Nursing, Medical, Dental and Paramedical colleges along with resident arrangement both for student and staffs. Central AC system has been established to this medical hub. It has modernized laboratory with 3000 thousand storage. This is the first ESIC Hospital with medical college and also for the first time in India quota of seats has fixed for the administration of Labour children and the quota of seats sharing is also given in paramedical colleges. ESIC has 12 modernized latest technologies laboratory”.72

Thus Sri Mallikarjun Kharge by providing ESIC hospital gave a great gift to the people and the labours and their children. These achievements prove that if a politician with political will wishes bring about any changes Shri. Kharge by achieving these, has set himself a model for future generation and politician, of this region.

Sri Kharge in order to create and provide more employment youths, he established Multi-Skill development Centre at Bangalore and Gulbarga with the co-operation of German Technology at the cost of 80 crore rupees. This scheme is undertaken by “Skill Development” training cooperation. The work of skill development centre is in 20 acre land at Gulbarga which is under progress.

“After becoming minister for Labour and Employment at centre, Shri. Kharge made an effort to get speedy benefit of provident fund to the Labour community of this area. He established Regional Provident Fund office
at Gulbarga by Sri Kharge’s efforts Karnataka state got more than 100 new ITI colleges that enabled the youths of this state to get job opportunity by under going the training. Above all Kharge provided 3,500 crore Economic aid from the central government to his state along with introducing various developmental work plan programmes and projects.  

6.5 Role Played By Shri Mallikarjun Kharge To Implement 371(J) To Hyderabad Karnataka Region

Introduction:

In a vast and diversified nation like India, natural diversity and historical legacy have caused disparities in the process of development. The issue of Regional Disparities in India have gained social, political, economic, cultural, and attitudinal over tones and have implications on various policy decisions of the governments. Due to uneven economic development regional disparities emerge and persist. The disparities arose due to the initial advantages enjoyed by some regions under kings and were compounded under the rule of the British. Thus, the disparities continued even after implementing several plans in different phases Regional imbalances involve non utilization of available resources to the optimum levels. “Regional disparity problem is a universal one. Even the developed countries like USA, UK and the under developed nations or the third world countries like Pakistan (East & West), Indonesia (Java & other islands) have faced this problem”. Thus glaring differences exist between the levels of development and standards of living. Feelings of sub nationalism, injustice
lead to regional imbalances. After independence, India lacked a balanced economic growth of all parts and regions. Instead of caring for the overall development the political leadership and the policy measures concentrated their attention towards the development of some regions. Thus one of the most critical problems facing India’s economy is the sharp and growing regional imbalance or variations among India’s different states and territories in terms of per capita income, poverty, availability of infrastructure and socio-economic development.

This being the scenario of India and the world at large, Karnataka state is not an exceptional to this acute problem of Regional Disparity. It is noticed during the recent years that the development process is not at all percolated uniformly throughout the state. “There are certain glaring differences in socio-economic, politico-cultural issues between the erstwhile princely state of Mysore and the North Karnataka It is noticed during recent years that the North Karnataka is neglected by the policy makers since the reorganization of states in the year 1956. The development experiences of North Karnataka is one of the painful process. Modern Karnataka has a long and distinguished history. Prior to Unification people of Karnataka had been living under five separate jurisdiction: the Bombay province, the Madras province, the chief Commissioner of province of Coorg, and the princely state of Mysore and Hyderabad. Under the States Reorganization Act of 1956, the new state of Mysore was born on 1st November 1956 with Bangalore as its capital”75.
The linguistic state of Mysore created in 1956 could not satisfy the hopes and aspirations of people of Northern Karnataka. Although the state of Karnataka is considered to be the one whole unit of administration, since the days of reorganization of states in 1956, there are certain inherent problems that have been cropping up, pushing the notion of unified Karnataka to the mark of suspicion. The merger of Bombay Karnataka and Hyderabad Karnataka with the erstwhile princely state of Mysore failed to show the signs of harmonious fusion as these areas were considered as backward and had distinct history which is visibly different from the experiences of southern Karnataka. The regional imbalances have grown over the period, leading to unequal levels of development.

Northern parts of Karnataka were under constant neglect right from the monarchs to the present day. As a matter of fact, this region always remained as the far end from the capital places. “Kings and Queens did not develop this region, during British rule this region was the southern most part of their domain, later as and when it was amalgamated with the princely state of Mysore it became the northern most area where in the development could not traverse uniformly. One can find the inter district disparities in terms of development variables such as Industries, Education, Health. Transport and Irrigation facilities etc. The continuous lopsided concentration of economic activities has further widened the degree of imbalances”.
In the backdrop of this the people of Hyderabad Karnataka raised their voice against the state and went to the extent of demanding for a separate state. The shrill voices became strong. After nearly four decades of unification the people of North Karnataka have sensed that the pace of development is much slower and lower than that in the southern parts. By mid 80’s the regional imbalance in development had become a major issue. Discontent in northern parts began to be expressed openly. Till 1980’s the leaders of Hyderabad Karnataka did not demand a separate state due to some of the following factors namely 1. After the end of communal and oppressive rule of Nizam. People could feel the importance of free atmosphere. 2. They were to participate in the newly introduced democratic institutions and felt sense of their relevance in the political process. These initial happy memories disappeared with the passage of time. The people in general and leaders in particular became conscious of the development of their region. Regional movements were emerging in various parts of India- Telangana in Andhra Pradesh, Vidharbha in Maharashtra, Jharkhand in Bihar etc. Demand for separate state became vocal late in 1990’s in

Hyderabad Karnataka consisted of three districts Gulburga, Raichur and Bidar which were under Nizam’s rule for more than 174 years (1794-1948). The Nizam’s state consisted of three Telagu speaking linguistic territories i.e. Telangana region, Maratha wada and Hyderabad regions respectively. Later on after 1956 Telangana region was amalgamated with Andhra Pradesh: Hyderabad Karnataka was merged with New Mysore and
Marathawada was merged with Maharashtra. The princely state of Hyderabad was one of the backward princely states before independence. There were no irrigation facilities while the princely state of Mysore had already provided irrigation facilities through K.R.S.

“People began to protest against the governments to correct the injustice caused to them by the subsequent governments. An action committee called Hyderabad Karnataka Abhivridhdhi Kriya Samiti which gave a call for black day on the 1st November 2000. (Which is celebrated as Rajyosthava Day- i.e. the Unification of Karnataka Day). From 2000 onwards people of Hyderabad Karnataka are observing this day as black day and have also hoisted separate state flag. The President of Hyderabad Karnataka Abhivradhi Horata Samiti (HKAHS) unveiled the map of the new state comprising Gulburga, Bidar, Bellary Raichur and Koppal. But the response to bandh was mixed. The agitations took place continuously demanding for correcting the injustice. Several leaders supported the cause for this but it is also to be noted here that the eminent veteran leaders like Shri Mallikarjun Khage who held several important positions in the state and union government also played significant role in getting the Special Status to Hyderabad Karnataka. People had hopes on him and he responded positively as soon as he became the union minister and consolidated the support across the party line and was successful. The local aspirations were well represented. This is how a strong political will amongst the leaders will
definitely bring about enormous change which in turn will benefit the larger population.

**Special Status to Hyderabad Karnataka**

A special status to the Hyderabad-Karnataka region under Article 371J of the Indian Constitution has provided much joy to the people of the six districts on the eve of Karnataka Rajyostava this year.

On October 23, 2013, President Pranab Mukherjee has given his assent to the notification— the State of Karnataka (Special Responsibility of Governor for Karnataka-Hyderabad Region) Order, 2013. Earlier, the Union Cabinet approved the notification. The notification signed by the President says:

“The Governor of Karnataka shall have the special responsibility for the establishment of a separate development board for the Hyderabad-Karnataka region and other matters referred to in clause (1) and clause (2) of the Article 371J of the Constitution in respect of the region”.

Now, the Governor will issue an order to set up a Development Board for the region; ensure equitable allocation of funds for development of the region; and provide for reservation in educational and vocational training institutions, and State government positions in the region for persons from six districts. Different political parties and industry and trade bodies have welcomed the Congress led United Progressive Alliance Government’s decision to provide the special status and congratulated the people of H-K region for getting special status under Article 371.
Karnataka had been urging the Centre for granting special status to the H-K region, the second largest arid region in the country, for the past few decades. The Bill (118th amendment) was introduced in the Parliament in 2012 and a new Article 371J was inserted in the Constitution. The Bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament.

Leaders cutting across party lines and eminent Kannada litterateurs have been demanding for special attention for the development of the region on par with the rest of Karnataka, especially the Old Mysore region or Southern parts of the State. But a section of the more vocal leaders have been fighting for separate statehood. The special status to the H-K region will help in quelling such sentiments.

What is Article 371-J?

1. It confers special status to the six backward districts of Hyderabad-Karnataka region.

2. Establish of a separate Development Board.

3. The Board will see that sufficient funds are allocated for development of the region.

4. Reservation for locals in education and Government jobs (birth or domicile requirement.)

Objectives

Major objectives are to provide special provisions aiming to establish an institutional mechanism for equitable allocation of funds to meet development needs of the region and to enhance human resources and promote employment.
by providing for local cadres in service and reservation in educational and vocational training institutions.

**Why Special Status?**

Regions such as Marathwada and Vidarbha in Maharashtra and Telangana in Andhra Pradesh have already received a special status. The H-K region, which is located in the north-east of the State, is the second largest arid region in India. In all indicators of development, the H-K region remained backward compared to Mysore region and coastal region of the State.

The six districts forming part of the H-K region are among the most backward districts in the State. According to the Dr D.M. Nanjundappa Committee Report on regional imbalances in the State, the region contains 21 of the 39 Most Backward Taluks in the State.

**Resolution**

Earlier, a resolution to make special provisions for the H-K region was passed by both Houses of Karnataka Legislature in March 2012 for establishing an institutional mechanism to develop the region and promote inclusive growth. It aimed to reduce inter-region and inter-district disparity in Karnataka. This Bill was introduced in Parliament to give effect to this resolution.

**How special status is going to be useful for the people?**

Six districts will get special priority in allocating the State funds in development education and employment sectors. It will provide quota in public employment through local cadres and reservation in education and vocational training institutions for those who belong to the region by birth or by domicile.
The Constitutional special status will enable the establishment of a Development Board which will get more central and state budgetary funds for development. One of the first tasks of the Board is to identify disparities in development in different sectors in the region and suggest the quantum of grants required to bring the region on a par with the rest of the State.

**Composition of the Board**

According to draft rules prepared by the State Government, the Karnataka Governor will have supreme powers on deciding the powers and functions of the Development of the Board. One of the district in-charge ministers of the six districts will be the chairman of the Board. The chairman will be rotated once in two years. Other members of the Board will be eight MLAs, one MP, and one of the presidents of the six Zilla Panchayats whose electoral constituencies lie within the jurisdiction of the region, on rotation basis every year.

The Board will have an Advisory Council and its members will be District in-charge Ministers, MPs, Ministers, MLAs, MLCs, all ZP presidents and ZP Chief Executive Officers, Secretary of the Board and Mayors of the City Corporations of the region. The Council will draft the annual plan of the Board before September. Allowances to members will be drawn from the Board’s fund.

The Board will meet once in three months in the jurisdiction of six districts or state headquarters to chalk-out various activities in the region. The Board will be considering recommendations of the Council and suggest
policies to the Governor on various related to the region. The other functions of the Board will be coordinating activities of various departments. The Board will bear the responsibility of implementation of the schemes. A team of five experts, one each from the fields of planning, finance, irrigation and public works, agriculture and industry, education and employment, will assist the Board. The Board will have to assess the impact of various development efforts in clearing backlog and in achieving overall development within the region.

The other functions of the Board will be coordinating activities of various departments. The board will bear the responsibility of implementation of the schemes.

A team of five experts, one each from the fields of planning, finance, irrigation and public works, agriculture and industry, education and employment, will assist the Board. The Board will have to assess the impact of various development efforts in clearing backlog and in achieving overall development within the region.

The outlays specified by the Board (which will have to be forwarded to the Governor) will have to be reflected in the Annual Financial Statement (budget)80.

The government of Karnataka issued the notification on 23-07-2014 and nominated members to the board – they are:-
The Government of Karnataka Issued the Notifications on 23-01-2014 and Nominated members to the board – They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Nominated</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Sri. Qamar Ul Islam</td>
<td>Nominated President and Member</td>
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<td>Minister for Municipalities and Local bodies,</td>
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<td>Wakf and Minority Welfare</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Sri. Baburao Chinchinsur</td>
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<td>Minister for Textiles and Ports and Inland</td>
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<td>Transport</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Sri. Shivaraj Tangadagi</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Minister for Minor Irrigation</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil</td>
<td>Nominated Member</td>
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<td>Minister for Medical Education</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Sri. P.T. Parmeshwar Naik</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Minister for Labour</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Smt. Umashree</td>
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<td>Minister for Women &amp; Child Welfare and Kannada</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Sri. Allamha Prabhu Patil</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Member of Legislative Council</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Sri. K.B. Sharanappa</td>
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<td>Member of Legislative Council (Appointed)</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Sri. A. Venkatesh Naik</td>
<td>Devadurga</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Dr. A. B. Malkareddy</td>
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<td>Sri. Malikayya Guttedar</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Sri. Basavaraj Rayreddy</td>
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<td>Sri. Ishwar Kandre</td>
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<td>Sri. Anil Ladha</td>
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<td>Sri. Priyanka Kharge</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>Dr. Ajay Dharmsingh</td>
<td>Jewargi</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>Sri. B. R. Patil</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>Dr. Umesha B. Jadava</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>Sri. Rajshekar Patil</td>
<td>Humnabad</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Dr. Shivraj Patil S</td>
<td>Invited Member</td>
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<td>Member of Legislative Assembly Raichur</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Sri. Dharmsingh</td>
<td>Nominated Member</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Member of Parliament, Bidar</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Sri. Janardhan Hulgi</td>
<td>Nominated Member</td>
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<td>Zilla Panchayat President, Koppal Dist.</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Sri. Gesudaraj Kusro Huseni</td>
<td>Nominated Expert Member</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Sri. Bosaraj (Irrigation)</td>
<td>Nominated Expert Member</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Sri. V. R. Patil, IAS (Rtd)</td>
<td>Nominated Expert Member</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Sri. Sheshadri (Rtd Prof), Bellary</td>
<td>Nominated Expert Member</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Dr. Chandrashekar Buggi</td>
<td>Nominated Expert Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Dr. Chaya Devgonkar</td>
<td>Invited Expert</td>
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Sd/-

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Implementation Committee

An official-level Implementation Committee will be constituted to monitor the overall development activities in the region. The Secretary of the Board will be the chairman of the committee. CEOs of ZPs, Deputy Commissioners, Vice-Chancellor of Gulbarga University, will be its members.

A report of the working of the Board will be placed each year before the State Assembly. Once the Board is constituted, the present Hyderabad-Karnataka Development Board Act, 1991, will be repealed.

Jobs and Education Reservation:

The government has decided to reserve 70 per cent of seats in educational institutions to locals. The quota was fixed by a six-member Cabinet sub-committee headed by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Sri H K Patil. The subcommittee was constituted to frame rules for the implementation of Article 371(J) in the H-K region.

A total of 75 per cent and 80 per cent of posts will be earmarked, respectively, for the local population in Group ‘A’ and Group ‘B’ categories and 85 per cent in Group ‘C’ and ‘D’. There will be proportional reservation in promotions, too, Chief Minister Sri Siddaramaiah said. Eight per cent of the seats in the state pool in districts outside the Hyderabad- Karnataka zone will be reserved for people from the region. In all, the Cabinet sub-committee headed by Sri H K Patil had made several recommendations, including providing the special grants for educational institutions in the region, incentives for growth of industrial investment, sub-plan for welfare of the Scheduled
Castes and Tribes and special programmes for the welfare of women, among others.

The objective is to provide special provisions aiming to establish an institutional mechanism for equitable allocation of funds to meet development needs of this region and to enhance human resources and promote employment by providing for local cadres in service and reservation in educational and vocational training institutions. There is also a provision to establish a regional council under the special status.

Karnataka is the third state to have a special status in the country after Maharashtra (Marathwada and Vidarbha) and AP (Telangana). The districts of Gulbarga, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal, Bellary and Bidar are among the most backward regions of the country with Human Development Indices (HDI) below the sub-Saharan levels. The soil fertility in the region is extremely poor when compared with other districts of the state and consequently, agricultural productivity is less. In fact the peoples’ movement for regional development has really brought happiness amongst the people of Hyderabad Karnataka. The peoples movement has really strengthened the democratic set up.
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