According to the main project components of the Social Safety Nets Project implemented under the Ministry of Finance, one of the Major objectives is to develop graduation and exit strategy for the Samurdhi beneficiaries and lift them out of poverty uplifting their livelihood. For that your ministry have already appointed a Consultant with the financial support of the SSNP under the Ministry of Samurdhi and conducted a comprehensive study on graduating poor out of poverty. According to the above study, a strategy should be developed and submitted to the Ministry for this purpose. This study has been completed and approved and field testing are being carried out to formulate strategies.

At the first meeting with the Secretary to the Ministry of Samurdhi and representatives of the World Bank, it was agreed to pilot this strategy in a selected family sample. It was agreed that the Department of Samurdhi Development should implement the strategies put forward by the Consultant.

Accordingly, the progress achieved so far and the future plan were presented to the final project steering committee. Accordingly, it has been estimated that Rs. 30 million is required for the 600 family’s model program. It is proposed to provide loans to selected beneficiaries for various economic activities which have been identified more sustainable.

It is proposed to provide the above estimated amount as a loan to the beneficiaries using the existing formal banking system and community-based organizations and will also be done in accordance with the formal institutions and financial management system in operation at present. It was informed that there is no provision in the existing loan agreement to allocate funds for the Social Safety Nets Project for this purpose.

As proposed in the Project Steering Committee, I request you to allocate Rs. 30 million from the current which has been allocated (Empower sumurdhi beneficiaries as per the Government Manifesto) budget to your Ministry for the above Pilot project and complete it on time.

Therefore, I request you to take steps to complete this program, which is a project of your Ministry, as it will help to uplift the living standards of the 1.8 million Samurdhi beneficiaries who are currently benefiting from it.