



Government of Rajasthan

56th Meeting of the National Development Council

Speech of
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**Hon'ble Prime Minister, Deputy Chairman of the
Planning Commission, Union Ministers,
Chief Ministers, Dignitaries and Friends.**

I am extremely pleased to participate in this important meeting of the National Development Council (NDC). At the outset, I would like to thank the Planning Commission for preparing "Approach Paper" to 12th Five Year Plan 2012-17, in which all important issues required to give impetus to developmental activities in the country have been included. This document needs serious consideration by all of us gathered here, for developing the 12th Plan in pragmatic manner to ensure greater synergy & coordination between national and state developmental goals.

Rajasthan has made notable progress in all sectors. As far as overall economic growth is concerned, the increase in State Gross Domestic Product has been satisfactory in recent years. The increase in State Gross Domestic Product at constant prices of 2004-05 was 9.69 percent in the year 2010-11 against 4.3 percent in 2009-10 and 7.09 percent in 2008-09. The major factor for the slow growth in 2009-10 as compared to 2008-09 was low production in agriculture sector due to drought. The agriculture and allied sector achieved 27 percent growth during the year 2010-11 as compared to 2009-10.

The agriculture and allied sectors contributed 21.57 percent in state income during the year 2010-11, which was 18.63 percent & 22.18 percent in 2009-10 and 2008-09 respectively. The contribution of industrial sector in state income was 29.83 percent during the year 2010-11 which was 32.20 percent & 30.57 percent during 2009-10 and 2008-09 respectively. Likewise the contribution of service sector in state income was 48.60 percent during the year 2010-11 which was 49.17 percent & 47.25 percent during 2009-10 and 2008-09 respectively.

I would like to apprise you all that the State Government has abolished VAT on essential food items like Wheat, Paddy Rice, Sugar, Pulses, Flour, *Besan*, *Maida*, *Suji* and Kerosene in order to Control Prices. The State Government is also providing subsidy at the rate of Rs. 25 per cylinder on domestic LPG Cylinders.

The large size of 11th Plan (2007-12) has given a new direction to development of the State. The principal objective of the 11th Plan has been speedy and more inclusive growth that consolidates the steps taken to reduce poverty & augments employment opportunities and comprehensive extension of education & health services in the state. Sustained attempts have been made during the plan period to enhance investment in infrastructure development and social & community service sectors. The State Planning Board has identified the following major challenges before the State for 12th Plan period:

Balancing the increasing demand for water and its availability;

Agriculture development in the conditions of scanty, uncertain and fluctuating rainfall;

Improvement in quality of land and water;

Extension of Cash Crops;

Infrastructure development;

Industrial development and creation of employment opportunities;

Optimal utilization of mineral resources;

Educational development;

Access to health facilities in remote and distant areas;

Planned urban development;

Equal opportunities to less privileged sections of the society;

Enhancing participatory planning by empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions;

Improvement in delivery systems;

I would like to point out that, while estimating different sources of the states resources for financing the 12th Five Year Plan, the norms assumed for various components of resources pertaining to Centre should not be applied to developing States, like Rajasthan. For example, Tax-GDP ratio in case of Centre is assumed as 12 percent whereas in Rajasthan it has never been above 7 percent in the last 5 years. Similarly, increase @7 percent is assumed for pension liability of Centre whereas in Rajasthan it is likely to be around 12 percent in 2014-15 to 2016-17 on account of large number of retirements. More

so, due to increase in pay and allowances, the growth is estimated @7 percent for Centre whereas this component is estimated to increase @13 percent in Rajasthan. Therefore, different rates/norms should be applied for developed States, developing States and under developed States.

For the years 2012-13 and 2013-14, fiscal deficits of 4.1 percent and 3.5 percent respectively have been assumed for the Central Government. As per recommendations of 13th Finance Commission, State Governments are required to limit fiscal deficit at the level of 3.0 percent. If we look at the current situation of the global economy and its consequential impact on the Indian Economy the Centre should permit State Governments to raise their public expenditure to combat adverse effects of the depression, and raise their fiscal deficit above 3 percent by relaxing the norms fixed by 13th Finance Commission.

Incremental borrowings of the Centre have been assumed at 8.7 percent. The GSDP growth rate of 11.5 percent in the projections of 13th Finance Commission has been assumed for Rajasthan and as such the net borrowings of the State will also rise by 11.5 percent. If any cap like 8.7 percent or below 11.5 percent is applied to State, it would amount to lesser expenditure for Plan and the size of Plan will be smaller.

Now I will like to express my views on various important issues raised in the Approach Paper.

Energy

Increase in Power Generation is of importance for social and economic development of the State. During the 11th Five Year Plan period, emphasis was laid on increasing power generation. Growth of about 10percent has also been registered in energy consumption.

Rajasthan is one of the few States which has exceeded targets set for power generation capacity. During the 10th Five Year Plan period, 755 MW capacity was added against the target of 660 MW. We are confident to exceed the 11th plan targets also. 1290 MW capacity has already been added in state sector against the target of 1790 MW and another 960 MW is expected to be commissioned by March 2012. Additional increase of 1080 MW capacity in private sector is also expected by March 2012. In this way additional increase of 3330 MW capacity will be achieved by March 2012.

Work has already been started for establishing power generation projects of 7750 MW in the State Sector and 3840 MW in the Private Sector during the 12th Five Year Plan period. All these coal based power projects are based on supercritical technology. Government of India is requested to allocate coal and gas for timely execution of these projects. Implementation of these has already been delayed. Consequent to delay in allocation of coal and gas for these projects.

Rajasthan being a water deficient state is not endowed with cheap hydel power. Besides the State is situated far away from the coal fields resulting in high transportation cost of coal which adversely affects the cost of power supply to the consumers. It would, therefore be appropriate that Government of India should consider higher allocation of power to State from Ultra Mega Power Projects and other Central Power Generating Stations so that the average cost of power supply does not become exorbitantly high.

I would like to extend my thanks for undertaking the work of RAPP units 7 & 8 (2X700 MW) and grant of in-principle approval to 4X700 MW capacity nuclear power plant at Banswara in the State. The allocation

of 50 percent power from these power generating stations to home States would help in meeting the growing demand of power. I would like to request for early commencement of work of Banswara Atomic Power Project.

Rajasthan has immense lignite potential. The State has set up 250 MW lignite based power plant in state sector. Another project of 1080 MW capacity is being setup in the Private Sector. A project of 250 MW capacity has been set up and another project of 500 MW capacity is proposed to set up by Neyveli Lignite Corporation. Government of India is requested to expedite early sanction for execution of the proposed projects during the 12th Five Year Plan period.

Emphasis has been laid in Approach Paper on renewable sources of energy. The State has immense potential for power generation through non-conventional energy sources particularly wind and solar energy in western part of the State. The State Government has issued progressive policy for harnessing sources of renewal energy. Till now, wind energy projects of 1747 MW capacity has been set up and this is expected to reach 2000 MW capacity by March 2012. Rajasthan Solar Energy Policy, 2011 has been issued by the State Government for promoting power generation through solar energy. We are grateful to the Government of India for allocating projects of 583 MW capacity under Jawahar Lal Nehru National Solar Mission. This is the endeavour of the State Government that energy requirements of the State and other States could be met by the development of solar power plants.

Wind and Solar power plants of about 4000 MW capacity are expected to be commissioned in next 2-3 years in Western Rajasthan. The State has planned comprehensive power evacuation project of Rs. 2700

crore for carrying renewable energy to load centres. State Government has sent this project proposal to Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India for providing assistance from the Green Energy Fund created for promoting renewable energy generation. Sanction of this project will help in accelerating power generation from renewable energy sources in the 12th Five Year Plan period.

State has a robust transmission system, spread over in far-flung and remote areas of the State. Keeping in view the increasing demand of power and power generation from upcoming projects, transmission system is being developed. The work of 765 KV transmission system has been taken up for the first time to evacuate power from the Super Critical Power Generation Projects in the State.

Financial viability of power sector depends on cost based retail tariffs. The cost of supply of electricity in Rajasthan is high compared to other states because of higher transportation cost of coal from distant coal-fields, lesser percentage of hydel power in state's energy mix and higher transmission and distribution costs due to the large size of the State. The cost based retail tariff may lead to very high electricity tariff in Rajasthan compared to neighbouring states resulting in adverse impact on overall economic growth of the state. Government of India should evolve a mechanism so that the retail tariffs in all the states are comparable & more or less similar.

Energy conservation and efficiency measures are very important aspects of energy management. Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) has been made mandatory in the State for efficient use of energy in buildings. The State has also constituted State Energy

Conservation Fund for promoting energy efficiency and conservation activities. Incentive in the form of rebate in electricity charges is being provided for promoting use of solar water heating systems and energy efficient pump sets. Use of solar water heating systems has been made mandatory in hospitals, hotels, hostels and residential buildings of area more than 500 sq yards.

In Rajasthan, load is also dispersed due to scattered population. Consequently, Transmission and Distribution system is relatively large compared to other States leading to high T&D losses. Even in this adverse scenario, the AT&C losses in the State, which was 41.21 percent in the year 2005-06 has been brought to the level of 21.84 percent in the year 2010-11. We are striving to attain the target of bringing down AT&C losses to the level of 15 percent.

Government of India is committed to provide electricity access to all by 2012. Under “Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana”, our effort is to electrify all un-electrified villages and hamlets with population more than 300 by the end of 2012. Electrification of these hamlets during the 12th Five Year Plan period is a major challenge before the State Government. Schemes have already been sent to Government of India for electrification of hamlets having population between 100 and 300 for sanction. Proposals have also been submitted for sanction to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for installation of solar based domestic lighting system in hamlets having population less than 100. These proposals need to be sanctioned expeditiously.

The nationalized banks have recently started denying loans (both short and long term) to the power distribution companies (Discoms) of the State on the ground that they (the banks) have exhausted their

exposure limit to the power sector. Consequent to denial of loan by nationalized banks, the cash flow of the Discoms has been affected due to which there is an adverse effect on the implementation of power supply reform programs. Banks should continue to provide loans to distribution companies of the State as earlier. It would help in resolving issues identified for power sector in the Approach Paper at a faster pace.

Transport

In Rajasthan, density of National Highways is 1.67 km per 100 sq km which is less as compared to country's average of 2.15 km per 100 sq km. Therefore, new National Highways routes should be declared in Rajasthan.

In addition to this, adequate increase in fund allocation be made for strengthening & renovation of NH roads having less than two lanes.

In so far as the State Highways and Major District Roads are concerned, the State Government has already taken initiative to widen viable roads on BOT basis. However, there are large stretches where widening is not viable on BOT basis but their development is necessitated on security and strategic considerations, looking to Rajasthan's long international border. A Special Programme needs to be formulated by the Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to extend assistance for the widening of such parts of these roads which are not viable on BOT basis.

We have decided to take more and more PPP Projects by using State Road Fund. I would like to suggest that Central Road Fund be provided as lump sum grant to States, as is done in case of the Finance

Commission Grants. This grant would be utilized for the PPP Projects like the State Road Fund.

Broad Gauge Railway Lines are necessary for fast economic development of the State. I would like to request that all meter gauge railway lines of the State be converted into the broad gauge lines during 12th Plan period.

Early completion of Dedicated Freight Corridor is very important for the industrial development of the State. Completion of this project during the 12th Plan will help the State in developing intensive industrial areas. I am also of the view that the Dedicated Passenger Corridor may play an important role in providing effective & fast transport services and more modernization of transport system.

I would like to apprise you that we have entered into a partnership with railways for linking the tribal dominated areas of Banswara-Dungarpur by railway lines for which 50% cost of the project and amount of compensation for the land to be acquired, a total of Rs. 1200 crores of share amount has been sanctioned.

Three districts of Rajasthan viz. Tonk, Karauli and Pratapgarh are still not connected by railway lines. Laying of railway lines in these areas is economically practicable and will enable to link people of these areas with the main stream of development. I would like to request to the Government of India to take up this work on priority basis. I would also like to point out that the Railway Department has conducted survey for laying down Railway lines in many places of the state which has raised the expectations of the people, but no scheme of laying down railway lines has been implemented in these places so far.

Construction of ROBs on railway crossing is also being taken up at large scale. It takes a long time for obtaining approval of Railways and sanction of its share for construction of ROBs. Simplification of this procedure is necessary. Railways get 12.5 percent of Central Road Fund for construction of ROBs and RUBs on National Highways & State Highway but State Government gets no fund for it. Therefore, it would be appropriate that entire construction cost of ROBs and RUBs be borne by Railways.

Natural Resources

Water

The water situation is very critical in Rajasthan. Out of 248 blocks in the State, 85 blocks are desert blocks. The situation has been aggravated because of uncertainty and insufficient rainfall during monsoons. The increasing population, livestock, demand for agriculture & industry has made water supply situation still more critical.

Quality of water is also a problem in the State. More than 20 percent villages and hamlets are facing the problem of quality of water. The number of such villages & hamlets is about 3/4th of the whole country. This has further made the situation of drinking water very severe.

It is evident that intensive efforts are required for achieving the basic objectives of equitable reach to normal water resources, providing safe drinking water to all, conservation of water from all sources, efficient and effective utilization of water, controlling the depleting water levels and deteriorating quality and bringing down the cost of water supply etc. It has been estimated that approximately Rs. 50 thousand crores are

required for making arrangements for providing safe drinking water to the people in the State. It is requested that looking to the critical situation of drinking water, Rajasthan should be kept in a special category and required funds be allocated during the 12th Five Year Plan.

Maintenance of inter-state canals is done by respective states under Inter State Agreements and arriving at consensus on different issues often becomes difficult. This leads to disputes between states. In order to protect the interest of the states all inter-state canals & rivers should be declared as National Canals & Rivers and maintained and managed accordingly. Even if a constitutional amendment is required for this, it may be considered.

The scope of Major Irrigation Projects in the State is very low. Thus it has become very important to optimally utilize the stored water by better management of developed water resources. Command area can be increased by adoption of new techniques such as sprinkler irrigation and drip irrigation. It will provide benefits equivalent to that of new Irrigation Projects. But presently funds are made available under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit programme (AIBP) for construction of new projects. This has created a great imbalance in funds made available to States. Therefore, under AIBP scheme, extension of command area by sprinkler and drip irrigation should also be included so that water scarce states are equally benefited.

There is a provision of 90 percent central assistance in DPAP areas under AIBP scheme, but areas under DDP are getting only 25 percent assistance. Availability of water in DDP area is worse than that of DPAP area. Therefore, for DDP areas, irrigation projects should also be provided 90 percent central assistance as in the case of DPAP area.

The sanctioning of large and medium irrigation projects by Central Water Commission and Forest Department takes a long time. In some cases, like the Indira Gandhi Lift Scheme and Dholpur Lift Scheme, it has taken a period of nearly 10-15 years. To reduce this delay, I suggest that the master plan be prepared for the water available in every river basin, after considering the environmental situation, effects of the proposed schemes etc. Therefore, projects proposed by the states be approved through a single window system.

Government of India is implementing Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) scheme for renovation of smaller tanks & canals. The procedure for sanction of these projects is lengthy. It is, therefore, proposed that Government of India may consider to form a State Level Committee, which includes representative of Ministry of Water Resources, for approval of projects on lines as existing for some other schemes of Government of India.

Mineral

After independence, most significant economic event in the state has been the discovery of abundant deposits of hydrocarbons which include oil and gas. The availability of crude oil in the state has been estimated at 900 million tonnes and its commercial production has started from 31st August, 2009. Very soon, the contribution of Rajasthan in the total domestic production of the crude oil will be 20 percent. I have requested to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Petroleum Minister on several occasions that refinery should be setup in Barmer. The State Government has given its consent for grant of all concessions as demanded by ONGC in this regard. The Engineers India Limited (EIL) has also given its consent for 5 percent participation

in Rajasthan Refinery. Along with this, the State Government has signed an agreement with the Bharat Petroleum Corporation for the marketing of the products of the proposed refinery. Now there is no reason, that refinery cannot be setup in the state, specially in a situation when refineries have been setup in states where there is no production of oil. The people of the State have high expectations from the refinery. Therefore, I once again request Hon'ble Prime Minister to use his good offices in this matter, so that refinery could be setup as soon as possible in the state and the state could get full benefit of the discovery of oil reserves.

Special emphasis has been given on Shale gas exploration in the approach paper. Availability of Shale gas is highly probable in petroleum basin in the State, but in absence of an exploration policy, allocation of areas is not possible. It is essential for the Petroleum & Natural Gas Ministry to frame a policy, in this regard.

Forest and Environment

Two third area of Rajasthan falls under the arid zone and is vulnerable to the climate change. Rajasthan Environment Mission has been set up in the State. State Government has prepared its own environment policy keeping in view the uniqueness of the eco-system. An action plan for Climate Change Adaptation has also been prepared along with the State Forest Policy wherein it has been envisaged to enhance the forest cover from 9.56 percent to 20 percent of the area of the State.

Eco task force is successfully carrying out plantation in desert areas. It is required that at least one new eco task force battalion be raised under the Green India Mission and the task of creating Mega Shelter belt is taken on higher priority.

The area alongside Chambal from Dholpur to Jhalawar is rich in Biodiversity. The Government has prepared a concept paper for developing this area as Biosphere Reserve. If Ministry of Environment & Forests extends adequate financial support, this program can be implemented in a time bound manner.

Rajasthan is a water scarce State with scanty rainfall and very little perennial resources. Dependence on ground water is also cause of concern as the water level is going down. Therefore, it has become essential that the availability of water is increased by recycling and using it more than once. The State Government envisages establishing Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for each industrial area for recycling the treated water. This requires priority support from the Central Government so that the entire State can be covered during this 12th Plan period.

Democratic Decentralization & Rural Development

According to the principle of Democratic Decentralization, funds, functions and functionaries of five major departments related to the common man i.e. Agriculture, Elementary Education, Medical & Health, Women & Child Development and Social Justice & Empowerment Department have been transferred to Panchayati Raj Institutions. Additional resources of Rs 1000 Crores have also been made available to the PRIs from the State budget. Along with this intensive efforts are also being made for capacity building of PRIs.

Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGA), 33000 water conservation works, 7000 drought works, 8000 small irrigation works, 1.28 lakhs works related to

individual beneficiary, 22000 works relating to rejuvenation of traditional sources of water, 6000 works of land development and more than 36000 rural road development works have been undertaken. The common man residing in difficult areas have been benefited a lot.

Based on the experiences of working of MNREGA in the 11th Five Year Plan, it is felt that, in order to make the programme more dynamic and responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people, States should be given greater flexibility in sanctioning works to be undertaken under the programme and necessary amendments for this may be made in the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, 2005. This scheme should also be implemented in urban areas. This would provide employment to urban poor on one hand while on other hand infrastructure facilities would be developed in urban areas.

Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, expenses admissible in material head should be raised from 40 percent to 50 percent. This will help create permanent assets in the rural areas. Arrangements for skill development of unskilled labour should be undertaken under the programme. Minimum wage rate for unskilled labour should be in accordance with the minimum wage rate of the State. In the Approach Paper it is mentioned that special efforts are required for remote tribes, who suffer from economic and educational backwardness. Therefore, it would be appropriate that in tribal area, per family employment limit of 100 days should be raised to 200 days.

It is felt at the State level that huge amount of resources under Plan are spent mostly on meeting the matching share requirements of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), thus leaving virtually no scope for taking up schemes which hold priority for the State Government. My proposal

is that the Central Government should also become a partner in the schemes being run by State Government with the own resources and Central Government should also contribute a prescribed share in the State Sponsored Schemes on the line of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

I am of the view that along with Right to Information (RTI), Right to Education (RTE) and Right to Guaranteed Employment (MGNREGA), now Right to Shelter may be granted to the people, for a holistic development. Rajasthan has already initiated the Mukhya Mantri Grameen BPL Awas Yojana. It is proposed to provide residential facility to 10 lakh rural BPL families, up to the year 2013-14, under Indira Aawas Yojana and Mukhya Mantri Grameen BPL Aawas Yojana. The State Government has taken a loan of Rs. 3400 crores from HUDCO for implementation of BPL Aawas Yojana. I request that the Central Government should formulate schemes for implementing Right to Shelter under the 12th Five Year Plan.

With the view to provide e-facility to the general public, the work of construction of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra have been completed in 230 panchayat samities out of the total 248 panchayat samities and more than 5500 gram panchayats in the State. Rajasthan is ahead of all other States in implementation of this programme. I believe that in order to develop transparent and effective information network through these centres, it is necessary to provide broadband facility at each panchayat headquarter.

I am pleased to inform you that the State Government has implemented the “Mukhya Mantri Ann Suraksha Yojana” in the State under which all BPL families are provided 25 kg. wheat every month at

the rate of Rs. 2 per kg. Over 38.83 lac families are being benefited under the scheme and the state government is bearing an expenditure of Rs. 350 crores for the implementation of the scheme.

Agriculture

The agriculture sector contributes 22 percent in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of State. Record Agriculture production & productivity was achieved during year 2010-11 due to adequate rains, efforts of farmers and development programmes initiated by State Government. Looking towards the great potential in production, processing & export of horticulture crops, the State has implemented Agro-Processing and Agri-Business Promotion Policy, 2010. Similarly in accordance to the needs of the State and to ensure time bound agricultural development, Government of Rajasthan is preparing a State Agriculture Policy. Short and long term strategy for agriculture development will be made through this policy.

During 12th Five Year Plan efficient use of water will be encouraged through, construction of 25 thousand diggies, 40 thousand farm ponds, establishment of Sprinkler System at all the wells and Tube wells and formulation of Drip irrigation in 1.25 lac ha. area.

It is my suggestion that Fodder Development Programme, Pulses Village Development Programme, Accelerated Pulse Production Programme and Nutri-Cereal Programme started this year under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana be continued during 12th Five Year Plan in order to give impetus to development of agriculture in state.

The State Government is providing financial assistance to the State Agriculture Universities to accelerate the pace of need based research

through special projects sanctioned under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. During 12th Five Year Plan, the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) should provide more funds to State Agricultural Universities for need based agriculture research.

Due to good rains this year, Rabi sowing will be undertaken in larger area. Timely availability of fertilizer is essential to achieve good production. Government of India has decontrolled the prices of phosphatic and potash containing fertilizers since 1st April, 2011. Due to this, the prices of these fertilizers have increased by 60 percent to 70 percent. Therefore, Central Government is requested to consider not decontrolling the price totally and the increase in the price may be permitted up to some limit.

Rajasthan State Warehousing Corporation Limited is providing modern scientific storage facility in State. Keeping in mind the Changing scenario of trade, importance of information technology, competition in trade and financial constraint, the State is running 38 warehouses on PPP mode for modernization of storage facilities, diversification, computerization etc., During 12th Five Year Plan, for giving impetus to safe and scientific storage of agricultural commodities in rural area, there is need to increase the level of subsidy limit and amount in Rural Warehousing Scheme. There is provision of loan at 6.55 percent interest rate for construction of storage houses under Rajasthan Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) Scheme. The subsidy provided under Rural Warehousing Scheme should also be made available in the RIDF Schemes. This will enhance the development of warehousing capacity in State.

Animal Husbandry

Animal Husbandry along with Agriculture has great importance for the economy of the State, especially in desert areas. This is the main source of income for landless labourers and small farmers. Animal husbandry contributes 8 percent to the GSDP. Rajasthan contributes for 10 percent of the country's total milk production and 30 percent of wool production.

Agriculture is continuously affected by scanty and uncertain rains in the State. Sale of Milk provides stability to farmers' income to some extent during such conditions. Agriculture is adversely affected by regular exploitation of ground water and most of the regions of state have fallen into dark zone of water availability. Dependency of small, marginal farmers and landless labourers on Animal Husbandry would gradually increase in future due to lack of rain and reducing groundwater. In this situation, I would like to suggest that a scheme at the National Level should be formulated to give impetus to fodder development and livestock conservation in the 12th Five Year Plan.

Livestock production is also adversely affected due to frequent droughts in the State. The gap between the availability and demand of green and dry fodder in the State is about 50 percent. Therefore, in order to get more income from Animal Husbandry, it is required to increase livestock production, better utilisation of fodder, improvement in livestock management, advanced technology management and exchange & extension of technology. It is need of the time to formulate intensive programs at National Level in the 12th Five Year Plan to give specific importance to the development of Animal Husbandry.

I would like to mention here that the Animal Husbandry Development Policy has been put to implementation in the State. Along with this, the first Veterinary and Animal Sciences University has already been setup at Bikaner.

The scheme of Livestock insurance is presently being implemented in 22 districts of the State. I request the Central Government to extend this scheme to entire State in the next Five Year Plan keeping in view the interests of Livestock breeders.

Industries

The contribution of industrial production to Gross State Domestic Product is 30 percent presently. Small and unorganized industrial units have an important place in the State economy. Presence of modern engineering based capital goods and consumer goods industries is not significant in the State.

Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy 2010 has been launched for overall industrial development in the State and Single Window Act has also been promulgated. Areas which require special emphasis for the industrial development in 12th Five Year Plan are Agro Processing, especially, latest and high technically realistic agriculture production, such as floriculture and horticulture processing are important. This would pave way for the expansion of processing units and excess agriculture labourers will get employment that would be reflected as high value addition.

It is my humble request that National Manufacturing Policy, which is pending from a long time, be released early and it should include incentives similar to units established in Special Economic Zones.

Land is the most critical input for an industry. Availability of Government lands for industrial purposes especially at locations desired by the investors is already becoming scarce. Therefore emphasis needs to be given on procuring lands at such locations and developing them suitably to make land parcels with requisite infrastructure such as water, power and good connectivity that could be made available to industries at reasonable costs.

Medical

Keeping in view the health care of the common man, most commonly used medicines are being provided free of cost in the State from 14900 distribution centres at all the Government health institutions under the “Mukhyamantri Nishulk Dawa Yojana” from 2nd October, 2011. The State has established 'Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation' to procure and monitor drug distribution and its quality.

According to SRS survey 2009, published in January, 2011, Rajasthan State's infant mortality rate declined 4 points and MMR declined 70 points in comparison of SRS survey 2008. But due to State's geographical and social disparities and large tribal population, improvements have not been seen uniformly in all the areas.

Keeping in view of these disparities, special provision is proposed to be kept for health services. Special scheme has been prepared for improving health related deficiencies, strengthening of infrastructure, human resource and skill up-gradation in 50 backward blocks of the State. Under this scheme, additional provision is being made for backward districts and blocks for development of need based infrastructure development.

ANMs, posted at Sub-centres, are required to traverse long distances, especially, in desert districts. It has been estimated that there is an additional requirement of 4055 sub-centres in the State on the basis of 25 sq km area per sub-centre. Besides this, residential buildings in adequate number in rural areas are required to be constructed for service providers. In addition to this, 69 Community Health Centres and 89 Primary Health Centres are also required to be established. Central Government should consider for providing financial assistance for the proposed strengthening of health services in remote and far-flung rural areas.

You will be happy to know that 'Rajasthan Janani Shishu Suraksha Yojana' has been launched in the State from 12th September, 2011 to improve the maternal and infant mortality rate. Under this programme, pregnant women and neonatal infants will be provided free of cost services, like, investigations, treatment, blood, food and transport. Referral Service System, required for pregnant women and neonatal children in emergency, is being strengthened in all divisions and villages of the state through more than 1 lac identified / designated vehicles under Ambulance Service and Rajasthan Janani Shishu Suraksha Yojana.

Mukhya Mantri BPL Jeevan Raksha Kosh Yojana has been implemented in the State to provide free medical checkup and treatment to BPL families including disabled, old age and widow pensioners etc. Under this scheme, completely free indoor and outdoor medical facilities are being provided in all government hospitals and health institutions. Till now, 96.48 lac patients have been provided assistance of Rs. 102.89 crores under this scheme.

Economic assistance is also being provided to poor families other than BPL for critical diseases under Mukhya Mantri Sahayata Kosh.

Emphasis will be laid on effective implementation for prevention of female foeticide in next five year plan. "Vision 2021" is being prepared to prevent declining sex ratio. The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act will be implemented effectively under this vision in the 12th Five Year Plan.

It has been proposed in the Approach Paper to use information technology for computerizing all health centers, inter-connecting them and for creating new interface. A scheme is being prepared to provide computer and internet facility at all Primary Health Centers in the State. "Rajiv Gandhi Population and Health Mission" has been constituted by the State Government for making rigorous efforts to improve health of the Citizens, especially for ensuring availability of women and children health services.

Women and Child Development

The supplementary nutrition is being provided at all Anganwadi Centres under Integrated Child Development Scheme and 'Sabala' scheme. 28.46 lac children and 16.24 lac girls and women are being benefited under this scheme. Increase in the prices of supplementary nutrition is a major hurdle in the successful implementation of the services. It will be more reasonable if cost of supplementary nutrition is linked with the price index. As a major part of Rajasthan State is desert and frequently affected by natural calamities, the central share in the program must be increased to 75 percent from 50 percent.

Availability of appropriate places for Anganwadi Centres in urban areas is a major problem. Therefore, financial provisions for hiring of the basic infrastructure on rent in the urban areas should be based on market prices. This will help us to achieve the objective enumerated in the Approach Paper in which it has been recommended that ICDS Centres should be commenced in all the slums.

It is essential to provide services based on life cycle on a continuous basis for reduction in maternal and infant mortality rate. Central Government has initiated the "Indira Gandhi Maternal Assistance Scheme" in few selected districts. Looking to the objectives and benefits from the scheme, it should be implemented in the all districts.

Pre-school education is an important service under Integrated Child Development Services. Anganwadi Centres are suitable places to provide pre-school education. The Government of India should provide financial assistance for appointment of a third worker at the Anganwadis for developing an integral link of primary school system with the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme.

Education

In a modern State, educated person is required to perform his responsibilities in the same manner as a skilled manpower is required for running an enterprise. Centre and State Governments are making consistent efforts in this direction for development in the education. High priority has been given to all issues related to education sector. A large scale programme viz. 'Sarva Siksha Abhiyan' is being implemented in the State for making education a basic right through 'Right to Education Act 2009'. To implement this, Rajasthan has

enacted 'Rajasthan Compulsory and Free Education Right Act 2011'. It has been made compulsory for non government schools to admit 25 percent students from poor and vulnerable sections. Through this Act, State Government will reimburse the expenditure incurred by schools. It is therefore requested that Central Government include this expenditure under allowable expenses of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and provide 65 percent as Grant in Aid to State Government during 12th Five Year Plan.

I feel that “Sakshar Bharat Mission” is very important in context of Rajasthan, but no provision has been made for remuneration to persons who take classes. It has been considered honorary in the Scheme. If we really want to make this programme a success, an amendment has to be made in the scheme to provide some remuneration to the persons who will be taking classes.

Thrust has been given in the Approach paper for teachers training to ensure quality education in the schools. Qualifications laid down for teachers in Rajasthan are the same as decided by National Teachers Education Council. State Government has started recruitment of 50,000 teachers for Elementary Schools and 29,000 teachers for Secondary Schools. I agree with the proposal mentioned in the Approach Paper for establishing secondary schools through Public Private Partnership. State Government has prepared a scheme "Gyanodaya School" to establish 50 schools on the basis of PPP model. During the 12th Five year Plan, this innovative scheme will be extended after evaluation of the success in the State.

It is envisaged in the Approach Paper of 12th Five year Plan that public and private investment be increased in the Higher and Technical

Education. In the last decade, private investment has been increased substantially in Higher & Technical Education. There are 15 Government, 9 Deemed and 25 Private Universities, 142 Government Colleges and 1329 Private Colleges in the State. About 15 lac students are getting education in these institutions. Apart from this, Rajasthan is becoming important centre for technical education. There are 124 Engineering Colleges, 177 Polytechnic Colleges, 38 MCA Institutes and 113 MBA Institutes in the State.

High level technical education has also expanded in the last 3 years. IIT has been established in Jodhpur and IIM in Udaipur. Teaching work has started in both the institutions. It has been planned to establish IIIT in the Kota on Public Private Partnership model.

I support the suggestions given for skill development in the Approach Paper. It is rightly said that it is a challenging task to prepare demand based skills and for this, various courses have to be developed regularly, so that demand of employers are met. In this context, I would like to suggest that besides imparting training in the concerned skill, new technological inputs may also be provided so that employment opportunities may be available along with the skill development.

Social Security

The State Government has laid special emphasis on social justice, empowerment and welfare of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities, Disabled people, Destitute children, Aged & Destitute women. During the first four years of 11th Five year plan over Rs. 1450.66 crores has been spent for these segments of people.

State Government is managing 704 hostels for students of SC/ST/OBCs. Hostels have been opened for college going girls of SC/ST/OBC at all the Divisional Headquarters.

To promote self employment among the Disabled Persons eligible for disability pension, one Time Grant against disability pension scheme is being implemented. The State Government is providing facilities as admissible to BPL families i.e. concessional food grains, free medical treatment and other facilities to the families having two or more persons with disabilities. So far, 3669 families have been identified and Astha Cards have been issued to them. It is requested to Central Government that the assistance to disabled for equipments should be increased from Rs. 2000 to Rs. 5000.

Under Indira Gandhi National Pension Schemes people of BPL Category and under State Pension Schemes BPL and Non BPL Old aged persons, Widows and Disabled who are up to the age of 75 years are being sanctioned pension of Rs. 500 and above the age of 75 years are being sanctioned pension of Rs. 750 per month. The amount of Rs. 500 out of Rs. 750 pension to senior citizen of age above 80 years is contributed by central government. The pensioner in all categories in the age of below 80 years, Rs. 200 out of Rs. 500 is contributed by Central Government and rest of the amount is borne by State Government. During 12th Five Year Plan, the amount contributed by Central Government should be doubled, so that the objectives mentioned in the Approach Paper can be successfully achieved.

Special schemes for development of de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes are being prepared by the State. There is a need of Special CSS for social, educational and economic development of

these communities. Additionally, the Central Government should give a Special Package as financial assistance for construction of house and purchase of land for these communities.

The concept of special component plan is an important initiative to fill the gap between SC, ST and other segments of societies. During the financial year, the State has kept budget provision in proportion to the percentage of SCs and STs population. Actual provision of 16.66 percent & 13.02 percent under the budget head of various departments have been earmarked for Scheduled Castes Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan respectively. This has been done for the first time in the state and has been widely welcomed by the public.

In view of the adverse conditions in the Saharia areas, 207 Maa-Badi Centre are being run to provide education. Looking to the success of Maa-Badi approach to provide primary education in remote areas, 175 new Maa-Badi Centers have been initiated in Scheduled Area. During the year 2012-13, 175 Maa-Badi Centers will be opened.

During 12th Five Year Plan, along with educational development, emphasis will also be given to skills development of tribal people to provide them better employment opportunities. During this period 50000 tribal youth will be provided vocational training in various trades of their interest.

To accelerate the process of development amongst minorities, Department of Minority Affairs has been established in the state, which is the nodal agency for the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme and economic & social development of the minorities in the state. I welcome new 15 Point Programme initiated on the basis of Sachchar Committee.

Highest priority has been accorded to programmes of educational development of Minorities in the State. 3010 Madaras have been registered in the state where modern education is being imparted along with traditional education inputs. Hostels for girls are being opened at all the divisional headquarters and have already been operationalized in Jaipur, Ajmer and Kota in the current year. Minorities in the State are being benefitted by various scholarship schemes. 1.50 lac students have already been given scholarship in the current year, whereas in the year 2008, 18000 pre-metric scholarships were given. We have also initiated a new merit-cum-means scholarship in the state. Education loans are being disbursed at a low rate of 3 percent to girl students for higher and technical courses and the interest amount is waived of to those girls timely repay the loans.

In order to provide better opportunities for technical education to minority youths, 10 new ITIs have been sanctioned in the Minority dominated areas where study work has start from August, 2011.

The State Government has started employment oriented skill development training programmes, in which 8000 youths will be trained in computer education and English language training through the Rajasthan Knowledge Corporation in this year. To avail the benefits of increasing demand of skill workers in the Building and Construction industry, skill development courses in the Building and Construction industry, 1000 talented workers will be trained through the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC), New Delhi.

Scheme to provide loans at lower interest is being implemented in the State through Minority Finance and Development Corporation. To enhance the scope of this scheme in coming years, we have proposed

to Planning Commission for considering setting up a National Minority Development Fund of Rs. 1000 crores, which will be a major step towards economic development of minorities like Mahila Samridhhi Fund. State Governments may draw interest free advances from this fund and use as a revolving fund.

For Minority Sectoral Development Programme, there is a condition of 25% minority population in the respective districts. Since none of the districts of state comes under this category, I would like to request Central Government to reduce the condition of 25 percent to 15 percent for this programme, so that the minorities of the state may not be deprived of the benefits of this scheme. I would also like to suggest implementing this scheme not only at district level but also at the block and town level.

Urban Development

The increase in the population of urban areas due to migration from rural to urban areas and the poor financial condition of urban bodies is resulting in increasing pressure on basic amenities in the state. Now, it is necessary to prepare a special poverty alleviation programme addressing the issues relating to urban poor and implement it during the next Five Year Plan.

Presently, only Jaipur and Ajmer-Pushkar towns have been selected under JNNURM. It is necessary to include towns having population more than 2 lac under this scheme so that basic infrastructure and amenities may be available in these towns during the 12th Five Year Plan period. It should also be considered to provide 100 percent grant to the selected cities by Government of India.

I welcome the scheme Rajiv Awas Yojana of Central Government for slum development. The state government has completed the survey of 4 lac families of slums under this programme. I would like to request to increase the amount of central grant from 50 percent to 80 percent under Rajiv Awas Yojana, like in case of other schemes.

Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Programme (ILCS) is designed to provide qualitative toilet facilities to poor families in the urban areas. However, the implementation of the programme is hampered by many problems, like low unit cost, beneficiary contribution etc. This programme should be simplified and made more realistic, the amount and coverage should be increased to benefit the target groups during the 12th Five Year Plan period.

The ULBs are still following the traditional methods of cleaning and dumping the solid waste. There is an urgent need of solid waste management and its use in energy generation by using modern technology and international innovations. A programme in this regard at national level is the need of the hour.

Street lighting is another area which needs improvement, both in terms of technology and energy saving procedures. The Central government should come out with a scheme to promote energy saving and provide necessary funds.

As per the 74th amendment to the Constitution, water supply function needs to be taken over by the ULBs. It would be advisable to involve the private sector to take over these services in collaboration with the ULBs. A scheme in this regard may be initiated by the Central Government.

Traffic congestion has increased tremendously in urban areas. The infrastructure with regard to the public transport systems is highly inadequate. Therefore, on the lines of JNNURM, funding by the Central Government for developing and increasing the public transport facilities, not only in the urban areas but also for the inter city transport sector, should be given priority in all cities with population of 3 lac and more.

With the growth of urban areas and urban population, environmental and pollution related issues are also getting prominence. There is a need to promote green buildings, re-cycling of waste water, ground water re-charging and use of energy saving lighting systems. The Central Government should device a programme to give adequate financial support for such efforts.

Science & Technology

Special emphasis is being provided by the State for development & extension of Science & Technology in the State. Center of Excellence is being established by the State Government for promoting Nano Technology. A network would be created through this centre for research in the area of Nano Technology. State would require financial assistance during the 12th Five Year Plan for development of this centre so that the centre becomes a fully facilitated Nano Technology Centre in the Western India.

State is providing science education among rural students by interactive classes through Remote Sensing Satellite Network by eminent teachers. I would like to request Central Government for

making a comprehensive scheme for all States and provide financial assistance for development of the infrastructure for taking up this activity up to the level of Village Panchayats.

Tourism

Rajasthan is one of the most attractive tourist destinations in India and occupies a prominent place not only on the map of India but also on the world. Every 5th foreign tourist coming to India also visits to Rajasthan.

Looking at the greater possibilities of tourism and to further attract tourists, special efforts will be made during the 12th Five year Plan. Tourist specific trainings will be imparted to all tourism sector related personnel. Computerized & modern communication systems would be set up at important tourist places and areas around old Bawaries, Forts etc. will be developed. Central Government should provide financial assistance during the 12th Five Year Plan to implement these activities at large scale and to develop heritage assets as tourist places.

Keeping in view the historical perspective of Rajasthan, Folk artists & folk culture should be encouraged and preserved. A State level corpus fund would be created in the forthcoming years for providing financial assistance to the folk artists. A museum would also be established for conservation of folk musical instruments.

It is proposed to implement PPP Schemes on priority basis for development of important tourist places and tourism activities so that non-traditional tourism activities may also be promoted.

Governance and Innovation

The State Government has promulgated "Rajasthan Guaranteed Delivery of Public Services, Act 2011" to ensure the delivery of certain services by public officials within stipulated time. Over 108 services have been notified under the Act in the first phase. The State Government has provided for not only disciplinary action, but also monetary penalty to the officers who failed to provide services to the common man within the stipulated time frame.

Public grievances portal "E-SUGAM" has been launched for quick redressal of public grievances. Any citizen of state can register a complaint or a grievance directly from any district of the state on this portal.

The State Government is using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for improvement in administration, increase in investment and employment opportunities in the state. Citizen Centric Services are being provided through the medium of Information Technology and IT based infrastructure structure has been created and expanded. Three percent Plan budget of all government departments has been reserved to provide citizen centric e-services.

A program is being developed to provide different government services to common people in the state from one place through **State Service Delivery Gateway** under which a state portal would be developed on the line of Government of India's Central Portal.

It is planned to implement e-procurement system to establish transparency in purchase of various goods and services by

government departments. It is proposed to bring **Rajasthan Transparency Act** to increase transparency in Store Purchase Rules and Tender Procedures. This Act will enable implementation of e-procurement in a phased manner.

Sir, in the end I would like to mention that the states would certainly be benefitted by the deliberations of the meeting and exchange of views on various issues of national importance. I would like to assure you, Sir, that during the preparation of the 12th Five Year Plan for Rajasthan, schemes and programmes would be prepared with peoples' participation for ensuring planned development and inclusive growth in the State.

Jai Hind.

