

**SPEECH OF SHRI NARENDRA MODI,  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat  
55<sup>th</sup> NDC meeting  
New Delhi  
On 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2010**

**Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman Planning  
Commission, Hon'ble Members of the Union Cabinet and Planning  
Commission, Hon'ble Chief Ministers, Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am happy to inform you that Gujarat has overcome the effects of the global meltdown and achieved double digit growth in the last financial year. The economy grew at 10.5 % during 2009-10. For the first three years of the Eleventh Plan, the State's GSDP has grown at 10.07 %. With a buoyant service sector and significant pick-up of manufacturing, we are confident of achieving the targets set for the Eleventh Plan.

In the Tenth Plan the Indian economy grew at 7.8 % against the target of 8.0%, whereas, Gujarat's economy achieved a growth rate of 10.86 % as against target of 10.2 % set by the Planning Commission. During the Eleventh Plan, the Planning Commission has set a target of 9.0 % for India as a whole and 11.2 % for Gujarat.

The global recession, in fact, should have been seen as an opportunity by India. The manufacturing sector is plagued by a plethora of regulations. There has been an urgent need for some time to review these regulations and increase flexibility in labour laws. In fact, Labour should be made a State subject. The global recession was an opportunity to have carried out institutional and policy reforms which would have attracted manufacturing activity including labour intensive manufacturing from across the globe. Improving credit flows, skills, access to raw materials and markets and rationalizing the multiplicity of regulations would have provided an impetus to the MSME sector. This would have laid the foundations for future growth of the manufacturing sector as a whole. Carrying out reforms in the Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector would have encouraged domestic entrepreneurship and innovation.

The global recession was also an opportunity for making investments in infrastructure, especially in energy and transportation. If these opportunities had been taken, the nation would have emerged stronger.

## **Inflation and Price Rise**

Inflation poses a great threat to the country's development. In fact, there is a real danger that inflation, if not effectively tackled, could derail the entire growth process itself.

Rising prices have made life very difficult for people across the country. There is a need to understand the constant agony that millions of people are forced to undergo on a daily basis. The overwhelming response to the recent Bharat Bandh is a timely warning which cannot be ignored.

There is a lack of vision in tackling this serious problem as the steps initiated by the Government of India have proved to be inadequate in taking a coordinated approach and devising an appropriate strategy to tackle the problem. This reflects the lack of good governance and political will to combat a situation which has assumed crisis proportions.

Government of India should develop a system for constant monitoring of the availability and prices of essential commodities in an appropriate price band and in the event of such price band being exceeded, Government of India should start maintaining minimum stocks of such essential commodities for their release through the public distribution system at affordable prices.

## **Gujarat and the Eleventh Plan**

As compared to the Tenth Plan allocation of Rs 47,000 crore, developmental expenditure of Rs 60,500 crore has already been achieved in the first three years of the Eleventh Plan. The total allocation for 2010-2011 is Rs 30,000 crore. The total Eleventh Plan size is likely to be around Rs 1,21,111 crore which is close to three times the size of the Tenth Plan.

The strategy of Gujarat for the Eleventh Plan includes faster and more inclusive growth through:

- ◆ Improvement of the Human Development Index (HDI)
- ◆ Investment in Human Capital
- ◆ Skill Development and Employment
- ◆ Empowerment through Education
- ◆ Comprehensive strategy for better Health
- ◆ Rural infrastructure
- ◆ Focus on the unorganized sector
- ◆ Doubling real income in less than 7 years

While making allocations, priority has been given to "social services" keeping in mind the overall objective of improving the Human Development Index of the State, which allocation has consistently risen from 41.73 % in 2007-08 to 43.70 % in 2010-11.

The State Government has established **Gujarat Social Infrastructure Development Board Society** (GSIDBS) in 2007 which undertakes concurrent evaluation and impact assessment studies of ongoing schemes and programmes related to the social sectors through empanelled experts. This has proved to be of benefit in carrying out mid term corrections of important social sector programmes. This is in addition to the Directorate of Evaluation which deals with ex post facto evaluation.

## **Strategy for balanced development of Gujarat**

### **Taluka-Centric Outcome-Based Approach**

In order to have effective grassroot planning and balanced regional development, the decision making process needs to be decentralized. In the current five year plan, the focus has been to move towards a taluka-centric approach, where achievements are measured in terms of outcomes. Four **Flagship Programmes** have been launched keeping this strategy in mind.

#### *Developing Talukas for Balanced Regional Growth*

The State Government had set up a Committee for studying backwardness in talukas. The Committee identified 30 talukas as least developed talukas in the State. In addition 11 talukas weak in human development have been identified and officers of the rank of Secretary and above have been placed in-charge of one taluka. A perspective plan is prepared for development of these talukas. A discretionary allocation of Rs 2 crore per annum is provided for the development of each taluka, in addition to the regular provision of various schemes under different departments and PRIs.

#### *Sagarkhedu Sarvangi Vikas Yojana for Coastal Areas*

A unique twelve point flagship program amounting to Rs. 11,000 crore for Eleventh Five Year Plan focuses attention in an integrated manner on the developmental issues of 60 lakh population living in 3000 villages of 38 coastal talukas in 13 districts. This program addresses special problems to improve quality of life and HDI in coastal areas, especially fishermen population. It takes a holistic and integrated view that people living in the coastal area play a distinctive role not only in the economy but in the preservation of the ecosystem. The focus areas include capacity building and training, upgradation of technology in traditional professions, specific and time bound action plan for improving wage and self-employment, educational facilities, health infrastructure, drinking water, housing, salinity ingress, electrification and water conservation, creation of infrastructure and coastal security.

#### *Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana for Tribal Development*

Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana was launched in 2007 with an Eleventh Plan allocation of Rs 15,000 crore for speedy development of tribal areas of the State. The new package envisages re-engineering the processes of existing interventions which focus on livelihood development, provision of quality education and development of infrastructure in these areas.

### *Garib Samruddhi Yojana for Urban Areas*

The Rs.13,000 crore programme in the Eleventh Five Year Plan period is a holistic endeavor to translate dreams of urban poor into realities and to ensure slum free towns and cities. This multiple result-oriented programme focuses on permanent employment, health, education, housing, roads, power and other services. It also includes vocational training for skill formation to equip urban youth to find employment and envisages extending basic health facilities in urban areas with focus on the urban poor.

## **Strategy for Inclusive Growth and Human Development**

### **Mission Mangalam**

The State Government has initiated a unique mission mode programme to ensure sustainable livelihoods for the poorest citizens of the State. Mission Mangalam is an effort to integrate and converge all anti poverty, bankable livelihood schemes of various departments of the State and Central Governments. The Mission will work with Sakhimandals, self help groups and producers group and cover 40 lakh rural families over a period of four years. The Mission has been designed as a unique public private partnership model.

### **Gujarat State Skill Mission**

Gujarat State Skill Mission has been set up to converge schemes of various departments, to avoid duplication or overlap and to strengthen quality of skill training. In addition, **Gujarat Knowledge Society** has a major programme of conducting skill trainings for enhancing employability in the existing buildings of schools and colleges. The Society has a target of training one lakh youth per year.

### **Initiatives to increase enrolment and reduce drop out**

#### *Kanya Kelvani Rathayatra and Pravesh Mahotsav*

Since last 7 years, attempts have been made to ensure enrolment of all children from 6 to 14 age-group in schools and ensure their regular attendance and retention in schools. Led by the Chief Minister himself, Ministers, Secretaries and top officers join the programme every year to achieve 100% enrolment in every village. As a result of this programme, enrolment has gone up to almost 100% and drop-out is reduced to 2.29% in 2008-09.

#### *Gunotsav*

The State Government has started the programme of Gunotsav last year to evaluate the educational quality of the teachers, students and schools, to bring the quality of education into focus and create awareness about the quality aspects of education in society at large. Schools were visited by the Chief Minister, all Ministers and about 3000 Officers of the State Government who stayed in the schools for the whole day to evaluate the academic as well as other aspects of the schools. At the end of the

programme, the remedial classes for students who were found to be poor in academics were started and necessary decisions were also taken to remove the infrastructural, policy level or administrative deficiencies found during the programme. **UNICEF** carried out an independent evaluation of Gunotsav and found that post coaching, 55% of poor quality category students moved from C category to B category and 30% students moved from D category to C category. We are greatly encouraged by this result and the fact that this programme has created a very high level of awareness among the teachers and parents which in itself will bring about a major change in the quality of teaching-learning.

### **Initiatives to reduce IMR, MMR and Improve Sex Ratio**

Health is central to well-being, being fundamental to the notion of enhanced human capabilities that lies at the crux of human development. Health is the key indicator of development and the poor remain at the center of our effort. We are strongly committed to reduce the Maternal and Infant Mortality and adverse Sex Ratio of the State. Various schemes are being implemented to address to the concerns of women, children and adolescents.

#### *Chiranjeevi Yojana*

Chiranjeevi Yojana is being implemented to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality by providing quality obstetric care. Services of private gynecologists are also being provided to poor and BPL families free of cost. The scheme is also linked up with **EMRI services** for transportation and **Bal-Sakha** scheme for infant survival. This scheme has been commended by **UNICEF** in its 'State of World Children 2009' report. **World Health Organization** and UNICEF have also cited this initiative in public private partnership.

#### *Bal Sakha Yojana*

The State aims to reduce the current Infant Mortality Rate from 50 to 30 by 2015. To achieve this goal the Bal Sakha Yojana has been implemented from 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2009. Under this scheme 286 private pediatricians have joined to provide service to BPL and tribals. More than 60000 newborns have been covered under this scheme so far.

#### *e-Mamta: Mother and Child tracking programme*

An integrated system to track the services provided to pregnant mothers and children aims to help service providers through case based tracking of all the pregnant mothers and children upto 19 years of age. It covers the entire continuum of services starting from ante natal care to post natal care of mother, child immunization, nutrition and family planning services. The system is UID compliant. Interface with programmes like school health, RSBY, etc is being developed and convergence with ICDS activities has been done. **The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI has recommended the model to all the States.**

### *Special School Health Programme*

The School health programme is operational in the state since 1997. From 2007-08 this programme has been extended to secondary and higher secondary students. In 2009-10, 1.38 crore children were screened and more than 15.03 lakh children provided with treatment on the spot. 59893 lakh children were provided with spectacles free of cost. 4460 children have been treated for heart ailments, 1158 children for kidney ailments and 229 children for cancer. 4 children were referred for treatment to super specialists outside the state.

### **Initiatives in Nutrition**

Malnutrition is a serious problem in the entire country. We have recently set up **Gujarat Nutrition Mission** under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister as an independent, autonomous body which will integrate, monitor and coordinate inter-sectoral efforts with the help of highly qualified professionals. Several initiatives have been taken to address the problem. Under the supplementary nutrition program, extruded fortified blended food is being distributed to children below 6 years, pregnant and lactating mothers, adolescent girls and severely malnourished children. Four ready to eat recipes-Bal bhog, upma, sheera and sukhadi are given in the form of pre mixes. A fixed day is celebrated as “**Annaprashan Day**” in each anganwadi. Locally available seasonal fruits are also distributed twice in a week.

Multiple initiatives in public partnership have been taken to distribute milk in partnership with local dairies, sukhadi through milk unions as well as community participation and donations. **Teethi Bhojans** are held at the time of religious and other festive celebrations.

We have also started supplying atta fortified with micro nutrients and soya proteins to all anganwadis and BPL card holders. This scheme is being extended to cover all mid day meal centres also.

Schemes like **Mamta Abhiyan**-a four-pronged health and nutrition service delivery strategy, **Women and Children Anemia Prevention and Control Program**, **Adolescent Girls Anemia Control Program (AGACP)** and **Child Development and Nutrition Centres (CDNCs)** are also in operation.

The Mid Term Appraisal has highlighted the problem of malnutrition..... (para 1.59)  
*“Progress in reducing malnutrition among children has been particularly slow despite long years of effort. It is now recognized that malnutrition cannot be dealt with by a single instrument such as ICDS.”*

I would urge the Hon'ble Prime Minister to call a meeting of Chief Ministers to discuss the problem of malnutrition in depth and to **constitute an Expert Committee** to go into the issue of what is being done at present, what further needs to be done and to evolve a concrete policy with a time bound action plan to deal with the problem which has many fold implications.

## **Issues of Right to Education Act Implications**

The newly enacted Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 entails huge financial responsibility on the States. Under the Act, the State Government and their local authorities have been assigned certain duties and responsibilities which involve both capital and revenue expenditure. The Act casts the responsibility of compliance of various provisions on the State Governments in very certain terms. Whereas, the financial assistance to the State Government in the form of grant-in-aid of revenue under Section-7 of the Act has not been provided with the same certainty. The role of State Government in this regard is limited to mere consultation.

Preliminary estimate indicates that to fulfill the legal obligations under the Act, the State would need to recruit another 90,000 teachers and construct about 80,000 additional class-rooms. This would entail a capital expenditure of about Rs.3,000 crores and revenue expenditure of approximately Rs.1300 crores annually. For the next three years, we would need to spend about Rs.7,000 crores.

The State Government is not in a position to provide for such huge finances. In fact this problem would be common to most states and should be taken up as a **National Project** by the Union Government.

### *Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)*

Last year Government of India has introduced a new Centrally Sponsored scheme called “Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan” (RMSA). While the objectives of this scheme are praiseworthy, the way the scheme is designed has created inequity in allocation of funds. The scheme specifically excludes aided schools. In a State like Gujarat, where we have less than 10% secondary schools in the government sector and the rest 90% in the aided sector, a major chunk of schools are not covered under RMSA. As a result of this, in the year 2009-10, out of total projects worth Rs. 3418 crores approved by MHRD, the share of Gujarat was only Rs. 27 crores which is less than one per cent of the total for the country.

In view of this imbalance created by the existing guidelines of RMSA, the Planning Commission in its Mid Term Appraisal Report has suggested that RMSA needs equitable fund allocation criteria with two-third weightage to enrolment in upper primary schools and one-third to child population of the relevant age group. The Planning Commission has also suggested that Government aided schools should be covered in RMSA. We welcome this suggestion of Planning Commission and urge that this should be accepted at the earliest.

## **Urbanisation**

Gujarat is one of the rapidly urbanizing States of the country. The urban population of Gujarat is currently estimated to be over two crores accounting to about 40% of the entire population. By the end of the eleventh plan, close to a half of the population of

the State would be living in urban areas and by 2020, over half the population of the State will be residing in its urban areas.

### **Initiatives in Urban Development**

To help realize the vision of clean, green, liveable, vibrant and sustainable cities with all-round inclusive growth and development, the State Government has taken a host of initiatives since 2005 as the year of Urban Development.

### **Swarnim Jayanti Mukhya Mantri Shaheri Vikas Yojana**

The State Government has launched a Rs 7,000 crore holistic reform-linked scheme called “Swarnim Jayanti Mukhya Mantri Shaheri Vikas Yojana” under which planning and implementation of water supply & underground drainage projects for all 159 Municipalities over and above the infrastructure projects of Municipal Corporations have been taken up in a time-bound manner.

### **Integrated Mobility Plan in Cities**

The Government is duly facilitating integrated mobility in major cities. A Special Purpose Vehicle, namely, Metro-link Express for Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad (MEGA) Co. Ltd. has been recently incorporated for the Metro project.

### **Awards for BRTS**

Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has been conferred international and national awards for its successful BRTS project. So has been Surat Municipal Corporation at the national level for Energy Conservation, Financial Management, Urban Governance, etc. These awards and accolades bagged by the ULBs of Gujarat in recent times bear eloquent testimony to the relentless pursuit of excellence and new benchmarking in the field of providing amenities and services in the urban areas.

### **JnNURM- Request to include Karamsad and Gandhinagar**

The State Government has actively participated under the JnNURM wherein over 80 projects at a cost of about Rs. 7000 crores have been taken up in the four Mission cities and almost as many projects worth over Rs. 750 crores in certain other towns and cities. Recently, under JnNURM, a fifth city, namely, Porbandar has been included. We have also been requesting the Government of India to include the capital city of Gujarat, that is, Gandhinagar and the birth place of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, that is, Karamsad under the Mission. We would once again reiterate our request for inclusion of the aforesaid two towns.

### **Proactive Governance**

The State Government is committed to meet the challenges of urbanization not only by being responsive to the contemporary needs and aspirations of its urban citizens but also by looking ahead in times and pro-actively building the cities for tomorrow. In the coming years, issues of the urban sector will become critical in several States. Government of India needs to adopt a holistic view to frame policies for the sector in consultation with the States as each city poses unique challenges and there is need for flexibility in applying solutions. To realize the aforesaid vision in the fullest



possible measure, the Government of India is requested to extend necessary financial assistance and support.

## **Agriculture**

### **Krush Mahotsav**

Krush Mahotsav is an intensive convergence and mass contact strategy held every year for one full month during May-June. Its critical components include Krush Mela, Exhibition and Seminars/Talks. Experts from agricultural universities directly interact with farmers at the village level and area specific and crop specific issues and concerns of farmers are attended to. As a result of this programme, State has achieved impressive growth. Value of Gujarat's total agricultural production (including animal husbandry and horticultural production) has risen from Rs.18,104 crore in 2002-03 to an estimated Rs.47,540 crore in the year 2008-09. Gujarat's agricultural growth rate during the last four years has been very high—of the order of nearly 12 percent per annum.

Krush Mahotsav has led to heightened awareness among farmers about advantages of scientific farming and animal husbandry, benefits of drip irrigation and built a bridge between agri-scientists and the farming community.

There has been a 20% increase in milk production.

Efforts in horticulture have shown impressive results with the area under food crops increasing from 1.98 lakh ha in 2001-02 to 3.39 lakh ha in 2008-09 with production rising from 25.6 lakh MT to 59.9 lakh MT.

Production levels in vegetables and spices have increased manifold and floriculture has become now popular among farmers with a flower production of 0.85 lakh MT in 2008-09.

### **Separate agri-feeders under Jyotigram**

Gujarat is the first state offering intelligent distribution of power supply – where villages get 3 phase power supply 24\*7, and farmers get 3-phase uninterrupted power supply for irrigation according to a pre-announced schedule. This has enhanced agricultural production and also helped in reducing power losses and ensuring quality power. Similarly, steps have been taken for improving the efficiency of the agricultural pump-sets.

### **Village road connectivity**

Village connectivity is one of the most critical components of agri-infrastructure. Gujarat is one of the leading states in the country in rural roads connectivity. 98% of all revenue villages have been connected by the rural road network. The State government has given great emphasis on upgradation and improvement of rural roads through its **Kisanpath Yojana** to improve quality of life and provide quick

movement of agricultural produce to the market. Almost 11000 km. of rural roads have been improved/upgraded during 2009-10.

### **Agricultural Marketing**

Agricultural Marketing is dominated by the private sector. Intermediaries and traders have access to agricultural information and financial resources. In this both the consumers and the farmers are at a disadvantageous position. The gap between, the price at farm gate and what the consumer pays is very high. This is leading to large scale discontentment among people in the country. The need for strong APMC Market Reforms which would allow direct marketing, contract farming and other measures to open up the market is the need of the hour. The country also needs a strong IT based information system on farm-produce-storage and stocks available in the agriculture sector. The information should also cover the major vegetable availability in major Godowns/Cold Storages both in private and public. Urgent steps are required to be taken in this regard.

### **Cotton**

Gujarat is a leading producer of cotton in the country with exports to several countries. Progressive farmers in the State have been quick to adapt modern practices and bt cotton seeds which have resulted in increasing production levels significantly. However adoption of scientific agri practices has led to high input costs. **The Central government took a unilateral and arbitrary decision to ban exports of cotton on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2010. This has resulted in Gujarat farmers losing more than Rs. 1800 crores.** On 22<sup>nd</sup> May partial lifting was announced with an assurance that total restriction would be lifted before the next season. It is the demand of the cotton farmers of Gujarat to know why the ban was put, at whose instance and to benefit whom?

### **Animal Husbandry**

Gujarat has highly enriched genetic resources of Cattle (Gir and Kankrej) and Buffalo (Mehsani, Surti, Jafrabadi and Banni), known for its production and potential of production. For improvement in production and productivity of these animals, State Government has 12 Intensive Cattle Development Blocks covering 2966 villages in addition to 513 Panchayat A.H. Institutions. Apart from this, Co-operative Dairy Unions, JK Trust and BAIF are also providing breeding services to the livestock owners. State has also established a Livestock Development Board as a State Implementing Agency to implement the National Programme on Cattle and Buffalo Breeding in the State, which has started a state-of-art Frozen Semen Station at Patan.

### **New Banni Breed in Kutch**

Recently, "Banni Buffalo" has got National recognition as the **11th buffalo breed** of the country. This breed is native of Banni Area of Kutch in Gujarat. Banni Buffalo, inspite of adverse climate in Kutch, is a good milk producer having very economical breeding characteristics. This is as a result of the initiatives taken by the State Government for genetic improvement and conservation of this breed.

## **Fisheries**

Gujarat is one of the important maritime states of the country with a 1600 Km. long coastline and leads in marine fish production and exports. As per the latest estimates the State is producing 765,902 M.T of fishes having a value of over Rs.3073 crore. In case of exports of fish and fish products, the value has more than doubled in the last five years from Rs 704.59 crore in 2004-05 to Rs 1485.72 crore in 2008-09.

**Ornamental fish** keeping is a new passion in cities and metros. To cater to this increasing demand the rural population needs to be motivated to establish low cost back yard hatcheries. The State Government has recently introduced promotional schemes to provide financial assistance to individuals or self help groups to establish back yard ornamental fish hatcheries in clusters.

## **Water Resources**

### **Water Conservation**

Gujarat has adopted an integrated approach for efficient and sustainable water resources development and management which is inclusive in scope and includes water conservation, micro irrigation system, strengthening of existing canal system, participatory irrigation management etc.

Gujarat being a water scarce State, has laid emphasis on conservation of water since the past several years. As of today, the State has constructed about 1,33,000 **check-dams** and 2,40,000 **farm ponds** (khet talavdis).The Government has deepened about 18,000 tanks to enhance their capacity.

A new initiative has been taken to construct **terrace talavdis** on degraded reserve forest areas where replantation is needed. A sustained campaign has been undertaken by constructing staggered contoured trenches over slope areas and higher terrains to increase moisture conservation and establish green cover. Around 45 lakh terrace talavadis and over 2500 hill-tops have been constructed to help flora and fauna, biodiversity and the environment. It is estimated that these initiatives will help conserve atleast 9.2 cubic meters of moisture.

### **Sujalam Suphalam Yojana**

The State has also made integrated plans like Sujalam Suphalam Yojana for addressing the groundwater issues in a comprehensive way which focus on improvement of water availability through extensive recharge works and inter-basin water transfer. These efforts of the State have resulted in easing the problems in over –exploited and dark zone blocks in the State significantly. Due to the extensive efforts of the State Government groundwater levels have increased significantly across the state.

## **Exclusion of forest areas from the Integrated Watershed Development Programme in Gujarat**

The primary principle of the Watershed Programme is to conserve water at the place from which it originates. The common guidelines of 2008 prescribed ridge to valley sequence of treatment. In other words, the higher reaches which are often forest areas and where the water sources originate should be given priority and suitable treatment measures. These guidelines were issued after reviewing the previous guidelines which were found unscientific and technically weak. However, recently the **Department of Land Resources has issued instructions to exclude forest areas from watershed** interventions contradicting para 9(IX) of the preamble of Common Guidelines 2008. As a result, the integrated concept of Watershed approach has been discarded and watershed will be treated in noncontiguous fragments leading to limited and flawed outcomes.

Development of watersheds requires an integrated approach and holistic view. Exclusion of forest areas not only vitiates integrated development but would also deprive people and animals in forest areas of the basic requirement of drinking water. In Gujarat, areas like Dangs, Dharampur and Kaprada witness heavy rainfall but there is also high run off and virtually no percolation. Areas of dispute, if any can be resolved on a case to case to case basis on merits.

In the case of Gujarat, we have used GIS-based scientific planning for prioritizing of watersheds and forest areas have been identified for treatment based on natural and socio economic criteria defined by the Department of Land Resources, Govt. of India. The key principles for effective treatment of watersheds are scientific prioritization, multi tier approach and contiguity of area. Watershed boundaries are delineated on the basis of natural features irrespective of land use. Therefore, the recent decision of DOLR is inexplicable. I would, urge the Govt. of India to reconsider and ensure scientific planning and implementation of watershed development in accordance with its own Common Guidelines of 2008 so as to ensure concrete and sustainable outcomes of the investments in watershed development.

## **Left Wing Extremism and Internal Security**

The Naxalite threat is essentially a result of crisis in governance, deterioration of administrative system, political ambivalence and occasional soft peddling by opportunistic political parties. The situation has reached a point where a strong political will is required to deal with the problem in a holistic manner as a threat to the country's internal security, rather than addressing it as a mere law and order and developmental problem.

I would like to highlight that some groups, in pursuance of the vote bank have been indulging in certain acts and encouraging such subversive organizations weakening the nation. Even certain gestures by the responsible people seating in the high places of government will hinder our battle against extremism.

The sentiment in the entire country is that the Naxalite problem should be resolved at the earliest. There is also a lot of discussion regarding how the Naxalite menace should be tackled. Government of India should clarify how these extreme elements get money, weapons and other resources to perpetuate atrocities on innocent citizens and what their communication networks are?

As per my information, a meeting was held of Chief Ministers of Naxalite affected States to discuss development of areas affected by Left Wing Extremism. I would suggest that the Planning Commission could study the **Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana** being implemented in Dangs and other tribal districts of Gujarat. With a five year plan allocation of Rs 15,000 crore, this programme focuses on better outcomes through effective conversion of ongoing schemes as well as improved delivery of services and has been successful in promoting development and creation of infrastructure. This flagship programme of the State has been instrumental in developing a high degree of confidence in the developmental process amongst the tribal population.

The present debate and action is focused on areas where Naxalites are active. But there are many other areas of the country which could be target of Left Wing Extremism in the future. The Central government needs to have a cogent strategy to limit the spread of Naxalism. I strongly feel that active and continuous consultation with State governments is necessary- how long will we do fire fighting?

### **Citizenship issue in National Population Register**

There is a very serious National issue regarding the proposed process of social vetting by gram sabhas and ward committees of citizenship “as declared” in the National Population Register. The method of authentication proposed is liable to be misused by many illegal migrants and foreign militants to become citizens of India. The National Population Register and the entire Census exercise is concerned with “**usual residency**”. Extending this to citizenship would not be in the national interest. In urban areas with large migrant population, it will not even be clear as to “who” is verifying “whom”. If at all, citizenship claims are sought to be verified, there should be an extremely rigorous process involving local revenue and police functionaries as **there are serious concerns of internal security involved in any process of social vetting.**

## **Tribal Development**

The scheduled areas in the country can be typically categorized by their remoteness which leads to lack of infrastructure, lack of qualified development professionals, wide spread illiteracy and mal-nutrition. The State Government has launched an ambitious program called **Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana** for the scheduled areas of the State. Under this 5 year program with a budget of Rs.15,000 crore, focused outcome based attention was given to the basic requirements of these areas through the mechanism

of conversion, ensuring proper delivery of services and reducing duplication and overlapping of activities.

Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana mainly focuses on bridging the developmental and infrastructural gaps of these areas in a time-bound manner. This ambitious program has, in the first three years of implementation, improved the income levels considerably. During the three years of this program, 1,31,000 individuals were imparted skill training, major livelihood projects amounting to Rs.2,000 crore were started which are expected to benefit 3.25 lakh ST families, 1.06 lakh new houses were provided, 1.98 lakh houses were electrified, and tap water connectivity was ensured to 1.82 lakh households. HDI related interventions like extending coverage of Chiranjeevi Yojana, universalizing the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, setting up one good quality residential school in each taluka, setting up new technical institutes, etc. have contributed in a big way in bridging the quality gaps as well.

There is a need to have national consensus on some of the common issues affecting the tribal population.

Agriculture is the major source of livelihood for tribals. Due to lack of irrigation coarse cereals and inferior food crops are mainly cultivated. Unfortunately, agricultural research institutions have failed to release any hybrid varieties suitable for such areas and there is a strong need to focus on bringing out **high yielding varieties** by agricultural research institutions.

There is an urgent need to take up a strong program for Animal Husbandry including development of small stocks. Perhaps the largest number of non-descript cattle, goats and sheep of the country exist in the tribal areas. These animals are presently a big drain to the local population due to their poor productivity. A **national programme for breed improvement** of cattle wealth of scheduled areas coupled with value addition projects like goat cheese etc. will enhance the income of these areas manifold.

There is also a need to launch a new **central scheme for promoting minor irrigation** projects in the tribal areas. Although these areas witness high rainfall, due to heavy run off and various regulatory obstacles like Forest Conservation Act, restriction on land alienation etc, very little irrigation potential can be created. A new central scheme for this purpose will not only bring about better co-ordination between the Ministries of Forest & Environment and Water Resources Department, but also lead to well diversified development in agriculture, horticulture and fisheries.

## **Interface between power generation and availability of coal**

It is now essential to **establish a regulatory framework for the coal sector** with the function of policy formulation and regulations, pricing, disputes and preparing Fuel

Supply and Transportation Agreement (FSTA). The Regulator can also function as a Stakeholder Redressal Forum.

To bridge the gap between the domestic coal production and demand, Coal India Ltd. and NTPC are sourcing imported coal mines. The State Government's power sector should also be involved in such sourcing by offering certain percentage of equity.

Where the Coal Blocks are located in the forest area, the development of coal blocks are delayed due to delay in obtaining forest clearances. Further in some cases, it also happens that Coal Blocks allocated to the State Power Utilities for captive mining for power generation are not actually handed over to Utilities in view MoEF's not granting forest clearances. In such cases, the Power Utility should be allocated the alternative Captive Coal Blocks, at the earliest.

Coal India Ltd. is selling coal mines through e-auction process. In this process of auction, the State Power Utilities should also be invited and given priority on nomination basis.

States like Gujarat are facing major disadvantage of being located away from domestic coal sources. The transportation cost of Gujarat Power Plants is almost 1.5 to 2 times the cost of coal. Moreover sufficient domestic coal linkages are not available and coal has to be imported to bridge the overall gap of domestic coal production and its demand. We are burdened with additional cost as the cost of imported coal is much higher compared to domestic coal. Additional cost borne by the State Utility should be compensated by providing **fuel subsidy**.

## Transparency in Governance

The Mid Term Appraisal has highlighted the issues of corruption, mal-practices and misuse of MGNREGA funds. I quote ..... (para12.23)... *“Initially it appeared that instances of corruption under MGNREGA were less frequent than in similar programmes in the past. But it appears that the “system” has fairly quickly devised creative ways around MGNREGA safeguards. There are instances both of “elite capture” of job cards and of fake muster rolls resulting in leakages to vested interests. The problem has been compounded because workers are unable to travel long distances to get their payments from banks/post offices (POs), where they also face harassment at the hands of undoubtedly overworked officials. In such cases, especially common in sparsely populated tribal areas, “middlemen” have stepped in. They get hold of job cards of workers unable to travel to banks and in alleged collusion with bank officials swindle the money. Cases have also been reported where powerful middlemen cornered ATM cards issued by banks to MGNREGA workers and drew out cash from ATM counters. Thus, a measure to reduce corruption has not yielded the expected results..... (para12.23)... there have been reports of fake and hand-written bills for materials used in MGNREGA works, exaggerated claims, use of substandard material and payment by cash or bearer cheque. These represent violations of government orders..... (para12.24)... The*

*problem seems to be deeply entrenched corruption in the field bureaucracy that resists any mechanism of enforcing accountability.”*

The simplistic prescription offered in the same document of social audit and widening the space for civil society action cannot be accepted as being sufficient. **Government of India should take steps to constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee to go into this issue of corruption in MGNREGA instead of indulging in mere rhetoric and vote bank politics.**

## **Strong State Strong Nation**

In the recent years, there has been dangerous tendency on the part of Central Government Ministries to transfer funds directly to Panchayati Raj Institutions, by-passing the state governments. We have a well defined federal structure and any tendency to tinker with it or disturb it will have grave consequences in the future. While the Ministry of Rural Development places programme funds for NREGA, IAY, SGSY, DRDA and all its schemes directly in the hands of the district panchayats, it places the onus on the state government for overall programme implementation, monitoring and accountability. This unusual procedure of by-passing the state governments weakens the role of the state government and results in poor quality of outcomes. It is all the more difficult for us in Gujarat to understand or appreciate this as we have a well developed system of Panchayati Raj since 1963. Since inception, all developmental schemes of departments are implemented through the district panchayats and the State government provides administrative support to the 3 Tier Panchayati Raj Institutions. Gujarat is also one of those rare states where election are held regularly to district, taluka and village panchayats with a well established system of gram sabhas.

I would strongly urge that the federal structure of the country mandated by the Constitution should not be distributed and all constitutional authorities are allowed to carry out their mandated functions. **Strong States are vital for a Strong Nation.**

## **Innovation**

The initiative to include a chapter on Innovation in the Mid Term Appraisal is indeed welcome. Innovation in governance and meeting challenges of the future is the need of the hour. Efficient states need to be incentivized in order to ensure that the nation's resources are utilized in the most optimal manner. We in Gujarat have constantly taken **new initiatives** and carried out **innovation** in government to ensure that the benefits of development reach the poorest of the poor.

Our **Flagship Programmes** of Developing Talukas, Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana, Sagarkhedu Sarvangi Vikas Yojana and Garib Samruddhi Yojana take a holistic view of balanced regional development, integrated development of tribal areas, coastal areas and cities. Our **Mission Mode** schemes of Kanya Kelvani and Gunotsav aim at



increasing enrollment, reducing drop outs and promoting quality in primary education. Beti Bachao Abhiyan, Chiranjeevi Yoyana, EMRI 108, Matruvandana Yojana and Bal Sakha Yojana are innovative strategies to improve the sex ratio and reduce both maternal and infant mortality. Fortification of atta with soya proteins and micronutrients are initiatives in reducing malnutrition in which Gujarat is a pioneer. E-gram Vishva Gram Yojana and the Rurban initiative endeavor to bridge the rural-urban divide. In the current year we are extending our vocational education and training schemes to rural clusters through Kaushalya Vardhan Centres to give rural youth employable skills.

## **Golden Jubilee Year**

On 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2010, all legislators and parliamentarians of the State, both past and present, as well as several former Chief Ministers gathered together in the august premises of the Legislative Assembly to hold a unique **Swarnim Gujarat Sansadiya Sankalp Parishad**, unparalleled in the history of the entire country and resolved to dedicate themselves to the all round and all inclusive development of the State. This historic event marked the celebration of Gujarat's **Golden Jubilee year**.

In keeping with this spirit my government has taken the lead to define the roadmap for the future and give a clarion call to all sections of the society to set new standards and benchmarks in performance and break old boundaries. Fifty Golden Goals or "**Swarnim Siddhis**" have been set to achieve a quantum jump in terms of outcomes during the year.

We have framed a unique 50 Point Programme called "**Swarnim Sopans**" to define the vision and roadmap of the State's development. Swarnim Sopans have a wide sweep from good governance to cultural identity. The major focus will remain on inclusive growth and human development while setting a higher trajectory of growth which will prepare the next generation to meet challenges of the future in a rapidly changing global environment.

**JAI JAI GARVI GUJARAT**

**VANDE MATARAM**