

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji, Respected Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia Ji, Esteemed Union Ministers, Governors/Lt. Governors, Chief Ministers and other distinguished participants.

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It is a matter of privilege for me to participate in the meeting of the National Development Council to consider the Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) of the 11th Five Year Plan is to be approved.

2. The Mid Term Appraisal is carried out so that mid-course corrections can be made. I am happy to say that during the first three years of the Eleventh Plan, we have performed very well in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna (PMGSY), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid Day Meal (MDM), Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF). We are intensifying our efforts in the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyut Yojana (RGGVY) and devolution of functions to PRIs and

ULBs. Let me assure you that we have capability and will to achieve an accelerated level of growth.

3. Sir, we prepared our 11th Plan under certain assumptions. The sectoral goals were prioritized assigning first priority to Social Services Sector in the State with allocation of 47.7% of total outlay of Rs. 35000 crore and second priority to Infrastructure Sector which was allocated 37.8% of the total outlay. I am happy to state that we have achieved commendable progress in all the sectors. This achievement should be viewed against several adverse factors like recession in the State economy during 2008-09 due to which the receipt from Tax and Non Tax Revenues in the year was less by almost Rs. 2000 crore. The implementation of the recommendations of 6th Pay Commission during 2008-09 further adversely impacted the finances of the State. Notwithstanding all this the economy has grown at average growth rate of 8 percent during the first three years of the 11th Plan against the target of 11 percent. We would be happy to make any mid-course corrections on the basis of Mid Term Appraisal.

4. Now I would like to highlight a few important issues from the perspective of Haryana, which I believe are relevant to many other States as well.

5. Sir, you would appreciate that the States have been assigned a wide range of expanding functions without matching resources, whereas the Centre has been endowed with the most elastic and buoyant sources of revenue. I would request to rectify the vertical and horizontal imbalances between the Centre and States in the allocation of Central assistance. I also suggest that the Planning Commission should play an active role in the resolution of inter-state issues which tend to become serious impediments in the development of the State.

6. There is an increasing tendency of the Central Ministries to release funds directly to the respective District level agencies instead of releasing these funds through the Consolidated Fund of the State. As a result, the State Government cannot effectively monitor utilization of these funds. This aberration needs to be corrected.

7. Water is a fundamental necessity for every State. For an agrarian State like Haryana which is the 2nd largest contributor to the

Central Pool of food grains, water resources acquire an even greater importance. It would, therefore, be in the national interest to ensure that Haryana gets its legitimate share of river waters. The continued denial of Haryana's share of Ravi-Beas waters through the SYL canal needs to be addressed at the earliest. Punjab is using Haryana's 1.9 MAF Ravi-Beas waters since the last 30 years by not completing the SYL Canal in its territory and on the other hand utilizing it to flush out flood waters which cause havoc in Haryana areas. I take this opportunity to point out that because of the denial of this water, despite the verdict of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, an additional one lac tonne of food grains which could have been produced annually is lost to the nation.

8. Recently the flash floods due to heavy rains and breaches in rivers have caused extensive damage to houses/household items, commercial establishments in both rural and urban areas of the flood affected districts. Major infrastructure like roads, railway tracks, irrigation networks, community buildings , rural paths and other assets have also been damaged in the floods. I also want to emphasize that had the SYL canal been completed, this calamity

could have been substantially mitigated. It is high time that the Centre plays a proactive role in ensuring that Haryana gets its due share of water through SYL. The Presidential reference made to the Hon'ble Supreme Court in this regard has been pending since 2004. This should be actively pursued by the Central Government. Based on a preliminary assessment in the eight affected districts a loss of Rs. 1370 crore has been estimated. I request the Central Government to sanction immediately a special grant of Rs. 1370 crore so that necessary relief can be provided promptly to the affected people and infrastructure is restored.

9. Norms of relief fixed by the Government of India are unrealistic in the context of Haryana. The existing norms are not even sufficient to re-transplant paddy which has been destroyed by the floods. I would, therefore, request that the relief norms may be increased by at least five fold so that the affected persons are adequately and fairly compensated. Also, damage to crops due to frost should be brought under the ambit of Natural Calamity Relief Fund. I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Central Government that our concerns be

addressed as a combination of these factors is going to have a negative fallout for the economy and the people of Haryana.

10. The river Yamuna is highly polluted within the territory of Delhi due to discharge of untreated effluents through 22 drains in Delhi territory. The Government of Haryana has expressed its deep concern to the Delhi State Government regarding the alarming levels of pollution generated in the river Yamuna in Delhi territory which further affects the quality of water going into Agra Canal as well as Gurgaon Canal. Repeated interaction with Delhi authorities has not yielded any result so far. I would urge the Hon'ble Prime Minister to sort out this issue so that discharge of effluents in Agra and Gurgaon Canals and discharge of untreated effluents in Delhi territory in Yamuna river is stopped. The Central Pollution Control Board should play a proactive role in enforcing these minimum standards.

11. I would now invite your kind attention to the problems being faced by Haryana in arranging power on short term basis, especially during the summer and paddy seasons. I thankfully acknowledge the gesture of Government of India for providing Rs. 400 crore as partial compensation for the huge expenditure incurred by us on this account

last year. However, the fundamental problem is yet to be addressed. There are two aspects: First, the power generators and traders are quoting very high rates for short term power, often more than Rs. 10 per unit. This naturally puts a very heavy burden on the State. Last year, CERC had capped the short term rates for a limited period of two months. The capping should be made permanent. Second, many State Governments are blocking the flow of power from their States through open access by invoking Section 11 of the Electricity Act. Resultantly, suppliers in these states are unable to meet their contractual obligations to buying states which not only vitiates the entire scheme of open access envisaged under the Electricity Act, but also accentuates the shortages and fuels short term power rates.

12. It is time to recognize that the circumstances that governed agriculture four decades ago have radically changed today. There are new challenges that need to be addressed differently. The green revolution and intensive agriculture have helped the country to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains. However, now certain farm problems have become critical. Repeated wheat and paddy rotation and indiscrete use of chemical inputs has caused a substantial

deterioration of soil health. Global warming has also led to unpredictable weather conditions which necessitate agricultural research interventions to arrest the decline in farm productivity and to stimulate further growth. Haryana Government is adopting a number of measures for restoration of soil health and replenishment of micro nutrients. However, agricultural and horticultural crops in recent years have suffered a substantial damage due to sudden onset of hot weather. The problems of salinity and alkalinity in soil are also real. It is important to invest in agricultural research to develop crop varieties resistant to sudden temperature changes as well as salinity and alkalinity. The research facilities of Haryana Agriculture University at Hisar need to be strengthened. For this purpose we are seeking a special grant of Rs. 100.00 crore. The request of Haryana State is already pending with the Government of India. We also request the Central Government to make available adequate quantities of hybrid and high yielding varieties of seeds for paddy, bajra and BT cotton etc. at reasonable rates.

13. Prime Minister, Sir, the National Capital Region was created with the twin objective of decongesting the National Capital as also arresting the migration of population from the neighbouring areas. To achieve these goals, it is imperative that the satellite towns within the NCR are provided with proper supporting infrastructure. In order to achieve these objectives, liberal capital support needs to be provided by the Central Government.

14. Here I would like to invite your kind attention to yet another serious problem which Haryana faces because of its unique geographical location. As a sizeable part of the NCR, it serves as a corridor for the traffic moving from North to South and vice versa. However, because of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the entire traffic has been diverted to the rural roads which are not designed to take such a heavy load. It would, therefore, warrant urgent attention and the Central Government needs to provide immediate financial assistance for strengthening these roads.

15. The NCR Planning Board has been providing financial assistance in the shape of loans to the constituent States. Haryana has availed of

maximum loan assistance from the NCRPB for various schemes for development of infrastructure for roads, drinking water and power supply. There are, however, substantial infrastructure gaps that need to be bridged. But loan assistance has its limitations because of the overall ceiling on the borrowing limit of the State. Therefore, it is requested that a special grant may be given to Haryana as a Member State of the NCR for development of infrastructure.

16. We need to support our rural economy by strengthening the rural road network. This will help the entire country by way of strengthening the foodgrains supply chain and making supplies much more reliable. We need the continued support of PMGSY for upgrading at least about 1000 km of additional roads. The revised Guidelines of PMGSY which provided connectivity to its villages do not help Haryana. It is requested that more funds may be allocated to Haryana under PMGSY.

17. With the reduction of rates of CST, States are getting much lower CST revenue on goods manufactured and sold from their States. However, States have to incur heavy expenditure for development of industrial infrastructure and to maintain law and order in these

industrial estates. Similarly, earlier foodgrain surplus states were getting full CST on agriculture produce sold to other States. But now, there is little monetary incentive left with the States and it is likely to affect the morale of States like Haryana which are net exporters of goods to other States and suppliers of foodgrain to the national kitty. Therefore, I would request that the States should be suitably compensated for loss of revenue on account of introduction of GST.

18. The main objective of ICDS is to provide a package of services under one umbrella for overall development of children below 6 years of age. The location of Anganwadi Centres in private buildings does not fulfill the requirement of ICDS services. The purpose of providing all the services to the children can only be achieved if there is an attractive Anganwadi building where swings and other playing facilities, proper kitchen sheds with a provision of safe drinking water and sanitation to maintain the hygienic conditions are available. The State government has limited resources. Therefore, the government of India is requested to provide additional Central Assistance for construction of more Anganwadi Centres.

19. In the end, I would like to urge the Hon'ble Prime Minister that all the districts of the State should be covered under National Food Security Mission (Wheat) as against seven districts at present. Allocation for creation of storage capacity for foodgrains under Gramin Bhandaran Yojana also needs to be enhanced considerably. Furthermore, more silos should be constructed in the State under PPP mode by the Central Warehousing Corporation.

20. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sir, Haryana firmly believes that a great future awaits its people. In fact, we are eager to walk the extra mile to meet it as we are confident that given the required resources, we will overcome all the challenges and create a society that was the dream of the founding fathers of our Constitution. I thank you for providing me the opportunity to address this august gathering and share with them my thoughts.

Thank you

Jai Hind!

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