



सत्यमेव जयते

**SPEECH**

**OF**

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**CHIEF MINISTER  
MAHARASHTRA**

**At the Fifty Fifth Meeting of the  
National Development Council**

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**Hon'ble Prime Minister, Deputy Chairman's of the Planning Commission, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, Distinguished members of the National Development Council, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

On this occasion of the 55th meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) it is a pleasure for me to place before you the performance of Maharashtra during the initial half of 11<sup>th</sup> Five year plan period.

### **Mid Term Appraisal of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan**

2. While the economy of Maharashtra grew at 8.6% at constant prices during the 10<sup>th</sup> plan, in the first two years of 11<sup>th</sup> Plan, growth rate had further improved and was close to 10% before the occurrence of global crisis in September 2008. After a dip in 2008-2009 a partial recovery has been seen in the later part of last year, as a result of the various measures undertaken by the Central and State Government. A growth of around 8.6% is anticipated in 2009-2010.

3. While the Central Government allowed the States to increase their borrowing limit, the State Government has taken several measures to increase its own income and to contain non-plan expenditure so that more resources become available for planned development. To generate additional revenues the State Government has increased the rate of Value Added Tax (VAT) on the lower taxed category of goods from 4% to 5%. The State Government is also expecting higher revenue due to the recent hike in petroleum products at the national level. Non tax revenues and user charges have been revised wherever possible. Moreover, the State Government has also imposed a freeze on fresh recruitment except for essential posts like that of gram sevaks, teachers, health staff and law enforcing agencies. As a result of these measures the State Government has been able to increase the plan size for 2010-2011 substantially.

### **Price Rise – Measures to Provide Relief to Common Man**

4. The drought during 2009-2010 has led to an unprecedented increase in prices, especially for the food grains. This had affected the common man adversely. My government has intervened to stabilize the prices of five essential commodities namely, wheat, rice, dal, sugar and edible oil through the public distribution system. The scheme has been extended to cover both the BPL and APL families. My government is spending more than Rs. 110 crore every month to stabilize the prices of these five commodities. The

scheme, which was started in August 2009, has been extended till September 2010. We are also focusing on the strict enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act to ensure that the supply lines are maintained. During the last one and half year, 14,447 raids have been conducted and food grains worth Rs. 377 crore were seized.

5. The Government of India's scheme of allocating 35 kg food grains per family under the Targeted Public Distribution scheme is giving good relief to the common man. My government has decided to distribute 15 kg food grains per family to the APL beneficiaries for which the State government had requested the Government of India for an additional allocation.

### **Education**

6. Maharashtra believes that for growth to be inclusive, access to quality education must be broadened so that all sections of population benefit from the new and more productive employment opportunities generated by faster growth. Maharashtra has taken certain steps for achieving Universal Elementary Education (UEE) under the SSA and more than 20 lakh out of school children were brought into the formal school system. Free textbooks, practice books, reading cards, educational charts, were distributed for better quality education. The Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan, in combination with the mid day meal scheme, has succeeded in achieving near universal enrollment in primary schools. The performance of Maharashtra State in the field of total literacy, female literacy, rural literacy and urban literacy is higher than the national levels. For out of school girl children belonging to SC, ST, Minorities and other backward classes, 36 schools have been setup under Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya.

7. The 11<sup>th</sup> plan has set a target of raising gross enrollment ratio (GER) from 10% at the start of the plan to 15% by 2015. We believe that as far as higher education is concerned there are three focal themes: Expansion, Inclusion and Excellence. Maharashtra at present has 462 degree colleges, 541 diploma colleges, 473 post graduate colleges and 4,207 vocational colleges. Our full effort is towards an inclusive growth that will provide jobs locally for which employable skill development is important.

### **Health Services**

8. The State Government is implementing the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in right earnest. Maharashtra is the first State which has achieved the preparation and

approval of District Health Action Plan in all the Districts by following bottom up approach. Maharashtra's performance is better than the national average in demographic, socio economic and health indicators. Maternal mortality rate is on a decline at an average rate of 6%. This is due to relatively higher percentage of institutional deliveries in Maharashtra, (63.5%) which is highest in the country. Similarly infant mortality rate (IMR) has shown a steep decline over the plan period. The percentage change from 2001 to 2007 is 27.90%.

9. We have decided to revamp our existing health care scheme and implement a new Rajeev Gandhi Jeevandayi Yojana to benefit both BPL and APL families with incomes below Rs.1 lakh. The scheme will be insurance based, cashless and paperless for the beneficiaries, who will be issued biometric health cards for the purpose. More than 850 life-saving and emergency medical procedures are envisaged to be covered under the scheme.

### **Poverty Reduction**

10. An important program contributing to poverty reduction in rural areas is the Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Scheme. Implementation of this program has reduced distress migration and improved bargaining power of agriculture labour leading to higher wages. Similarly the progress under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) is helping in poverty alleviation with more than 90% of the available funds getting utilized. However for better impact the State is also emphasizing on improving the credit disbursement.

### **Regional Development**

11. Inclusive development is not possible without ensuring that the regional disparities in development are removed at the earliest. Despite the high average income in the State, there are wide regional disparities. The disparities are acute in Marathwada and Amravati divisions and tribal regions in Nagpur and Nasik divisions. The coastal Konkan belt also has its own typical problems.

12. The State Government has been earmarking a separate budget for the removal of regional backlog of various regions in nine different infrastructure related sectors since 1985-86. In order to further promote all round development of all regions, my Government has approved special development programs for Vidarbha, Marathwada, Konkan and Khandesh regions. These packages incorporate on-going programmes, as well as several

new schemes and initiatives of administrative reforms which are to be implemented over a period of three years. Allocation made for these packages are as follows:-

Marathwada	:	1853 crores
Naxal	:	1387 Crore
Vidarbha	:	10,000 Crore
Konkan	:	5311 Crore
Khandesh	:	6509 Crore

13. The constitution provides for separate Development Boards for the three regions of the state. These Boards were set up in the early nineties and have made a significant impact. The period for these Development Boards has recently been extended by another 5 years up to April, 2015. It is intended to set up an expert committee to identify parameters of backwardness and suggest measures by which the disparity shall be reduced further.

14. The Maharashtra State legislature had passed unanimous resolution as long back as on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1989 requesting for a separate Statutory Development Board for Konkan by making suitable amendment to article 371(2) of the constitution of India. Similarly a proposal for separate Statutory Development Board for North Maharashtra was sent to Ministry of Home Affairs in 2007. I request support of the Planning Commission to both these proposals.

#### **Agrarian Distressed Districts**

15. Distress of farmers in 6 districts in Vidharba, 5 of which fall in the Amravati Division has been a matter of great concern. One of the primary reasons identified for the farmer's distress in this area is the poverty directly linked with low yields from a single crop and rain fed agriculture, as well as very few employment opportunities in the secondary and tertiary sectors. The State Government is grateful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister who had in July 2006 announced a special package for this region. A total of Rs. 4,241.43 crore has been spent under this program and an irrigation potential of 1,15,740 hectares has been created. The agrarian distress has come down substantially, area under irrigation has gone up significantly and agricultural productivity has risen as is seen by higher arrivals of cotton, cereals and pulses in agricultural markets.

16. The State had also taken several measures on its own. This includes distribution of milch animals, organizing of milk collection, improving cattle breed, promotion of organic

farming, improved agricultural implements to farmers and seed replacement. An IFAD funded multi sectoral project at a cost of Rs.650 crore has recently been sanctioned.

17. However, the issue is far from being fully resolved. There is a need to extend the program to fully develop the distribution systems of the irrigation projects and train the farmers for its utilization. Watershed development and horticulture programs need to be continued. It is necessary to continue adopting the mitigating strategies for at least another three years. With this in view, the State Government has sought an additional package of Rs.7,262 crore from Government of India to complete the remaining works.

### **Human Development Mission**

18. My State has started an innovative project to improve Human Development Index in the backward regions since 2006. On an average Rs. 65 crore is allotted every year for 25 selected Talukas having lowest human development index. Excellent results of this program are visible. It has now been decided to implement the project with the Taluka as a unit, instead of District and to cover 50% of the Talukas in the State. For this an allocation of Rs.500 crore has been made. This fund will be disbursed taking into account population & deviation from average HDI indicators. This money shall be used for planning at the grassroots level and thereafter consolidated for the respective area. The programme shall be centered around improving health, education and livelihood opportunities for the target areas.

### **Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

19. My State is thankful that large number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been made available to the State Governments. These schemes are helping in removal of infrastructure deficiencies and also helping in improving services in education and health sectors, for electrification of villages, providing minimum employment to all rural areas and to connect villages by all weather roads and for removing other parameters of backwardness in specific regions.

20. While formulating such schemes it must be ensured that such schemes have adequate flexibility so as not to constrain the State's ability to tailor the schemes to its local conditions. Such flexibility could be given, provided that certain pre-agreed targets are met by the State Governments. Equally important, is a need to reduce the share of states in these schemes keeping in view the fact that the State Governments have limited resources of their

own and have to depend upon the Central Government for the devolution of funds. Moreover, many of the earlier schemes as well as their assets and staff have to be maintained by the states from their own resources.

### **Strategy for Agriculture**

21. Although Maharashtra is one of the most urbanized and industrialized state in the country, still agriculture and allied activities continue to occupy a predominant position in public policy discourse. Maharashtra has more than 85% cultivable area under rain-fed agriculture. The strategy for agricultural development focuses on having increased area under irrigation and soil and water conservation. The State has taken up a massive programme for *in-situ* water conservation and rain harvesting through farm ponds under RKVY and judicious use of various initiatives of GOI including Integrated Watershed Management Programme, National Watershed Development Project for Rain-fed Areas, River Valley Project and NREGA. The State has launched Water Shed Development Mission for backward areas of Vidarbha and Marathwada. A proposal has already been submitted to Government of India for permitting the activities regarding in-situ water conservation on private lands under NREGA which needs to be considered expeditiously.

22. The State has also taken an extended programme of micro-irrigation keeping in view the rain-fed conditions of the State. The Plan allocation by Government of India being limited for micro-irrigation, the State is constrained to tap the resources available under RKVY. Increased allocation under micro-irrigation would be highly appreciated.

23. Technology dissemination is yet another priority area for the State to bridge the gap between the yield achievable in the lab compared to what is being achieved on the land. The initiatives of the Government of India under National Food Security Mission, Integrated Scheme for oil seeds; maize and oil palm, Accelerated Pulse Development Programme, Technology Mission on Cotton and various related initiatives have helped the State to bridge the yield gap to a considerable extent in the normal monsoon year. But unpredictability in the yield continues due to large area still remaining rain fed.

24. These measures are leading to good results. The demand of fertilizers is showing a sharp increase in almost every region. My State welcomes new nutrient based fertilizer policy and subsidies for micro nutrient. The monsoon started in the State with satisfactory rainfall in the month of June. Maharashtra being a predominantly kharif state, agricultural

operations are in full swing. My Government took an initiative of creating a buffer stock of 2.47 lakh MT of chemical fertilizers for timely support to interior areas. We are facing some problems due to timely availability of rakes for the transportation of the fertilizers allocated to the State.

25. During the year 2009-10 in Rabi season special measures were taken to increase pulse production which helped in stabilizing price of pulse in the country. The Maharashtra Pulses Mission has been launched in areas in Marathwada and Vidarbha and some districts from Western Maharashtra for gram. The Mission will give emphasis on bridging yield gaps in crops like arhar, moong, and grams. The Central Government needs to be congratulated for increasing the minimum support price for pulses.

### **Crop loan subsidy**

26. The State has recently decided that crop loans upto Rs.50,000 shall be made available free of any interest charges to the farmers who repay their loan on time. The Government has also decided to bear the interest above 2% for the crop loans beyond Rs. 50,000 and up to Rs. 3,00,000 lakh. This will reduce the cost on inputs for 88 lakh small and marginal farmer families in the State.

### **Urbanization**

27. The level of Urbanization in Maharashtra (42.40%), is one of the highest in the country. As per 2001 census, there are 40 towns in the State, having population of 1 lakh and above. The increase in urban population has given rise to many problems like unemployment, poor standard of living, lack of infrastructure facilities, environmental problems etc. With almost 50% population living in the urban areas, it is necessary to improve the standard of life of the increasing urban population and to develop well planed cities.

28. My Government is committed to make Mumbai a city of International stature in a planned and time-bound basis. Special stress is being given on improving the public transport infrastructure of Mumbai. In this context, I am happy to state that the trial run of India's first Monorail has been successfully carried out on 26th January 2010. This facility is expected to be commissioned by May 2011. The Metro line-1-Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar is expected to be commissioned by January 2011 and that elevated Metro Line-2 from Charkop to Mankhurd is expected to be completed by 2013. The first phase of the



project to strengthen the suburban rail system is nearing completion and the work of the second phase has already commenced.

29. I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman and other members of Planning Commission for the 100% grant provided for the ambitious Brihanmumbai Storm Water Drainage Project. An amount of Rs.1,000 crore out of the sanctioned cost of Rs. 1,200 crore has been disbursed up to the end of the year 2009-10. I would request a similar support for the Mithi River Development Project which is vital for improving the storm water drainage system of Mumbai City under the JNNURM.

30. A large number of small and medium towns in the state need to create the basic infrastructure like provisions of adequate drinking and sewerage systems. The allotment under the UIDSSMT scheme may be enhanced substantially to help such cities. The cost of the projects sanctioned under JNNURM has increased considerably as the DPRs were prepared on the basis of the rates prevalent at the time of submission of the projects which, in most of the cases, was one year or more prior to the date of approval. The Government of India should revise the project cost and its share accordingly.

31. The outlay for Urban Development has seen a substantial increase in the last few years and is Rs. 3,202 crore for the year 2010-11. In order to improve the civic infrastructure the State Government has launched missions called "Maharashtra Suvarna Jayanti Nagarathan Mahabhiyan," and "Maharashtra Agni Surakasha Abhiyan" with focus on achieving planned and integrated development of smaller Municipal Corporations and all Municipal Councils. For receiving financial support under the mission for urban infrastructure projects, it will be mandatory for the cities to prepare a comprehensive City Development Plan and to carry out reform program for improving civic administration.

### **Shelter for all**

32. Providing affordable shelter for all is a major challenge, particularly in Maharashtra, which is rapidly urbanizing. Inclusive development receives a serious setback when it comes to shelter. Exclusion gets manifested in myriad forms such as slums, poor quality of housing, urban and rural homelessness. The State attaches a lot of importance to addressing the issues of shelter as a fundamental building block of inclusive development.

33. To address the issues of shelter effectively, I urge Government of India to look into some key aspects. Lack of affordable, buildable urban land is the main reason why the

urban poor today live with a sense of exclusion. The National Urban Land Policy of 1965 does not fully address the issues. There is the need for a new policy for urban land with the active involvement of the States.

34. The schemes for slum redevelopment such as BSUP and IHSDP have helped many cities in Maharashtra to provide a better life to their slum dwellers. Enthused by the success of these two schemes, we are diligently working towards Slum Free Maharashtra. I urge the Government of India to not only maintain, but to step up the flow of funds under the two schemes.

35. A similar concerted effort is needed to deal with the issue of homelessness in rural areas. The State has set a target of providing shelter for all homeless families in the rural areas in next 4 years. Last year, we constructed 2.05 lakh houses under Indira Awas Yojana and intend to construct the same number this year and in the coming years to meet the aforesaid target. In order to ensure the durability of the houses under the system, an additional financial support of Rs.25000/- per house is being given by the State Government, over and above the financial assistance of the Government of India. It is also imperative that the targets under Indira Awas Yojana are substantially increased.

36. My Government is actively pursuing the twin themes of “Affordable Housing for All” and “Slum-free Cities”. We have already set up Maharashtra Shelter Fund to facilitate this process. We have enabled the state para statals to enter into meaningful and beneficial PPP for models generating affordable housing in sizeable number. We have also entered into a MOU with Maharashtra Chamber of Housing Industry (MCH) for construction of 5,00,000 affordable housing around Mumbai.

37. Water Supply and Sanitation being the most basic needs of the citizens, the State has decided to ensure universal access to the water and sanitation facilities in rural and urban areas including the slums. In pursuance of the National Urban Sanitation Policy, we have decided to construct adequate number of toilet blocks for the slums on State Government lands. We have also proposed to provide portable toilets on the land belonging to Railways, Defence etc. The Central Government also needs to carefully work out a policy to deal with the slums on their lands, such as defense, railways etc. Further a clear policy is needed for slum dwellers on Central Lands who are displaced by their projects.

### **Public Private Participation**

38. Keeping in view the necessity of increasing the pace of infrastructure development, the state has been on the forefront in creating infrastructure development through Public Private Partnership. The total investments through the private sector in 2010-11 alone are expected to be Rs 8,071 crore. A special provision of Rs. 6 crore is proposed in 2010-11 to facilitate various departments to identify quality projects and for the reimbursement of fees of advisors / consultants.

### **Left Wing Extremism**

39. Gadchiroli and part of Gondia district are Left Wing Extremist Districts of Maharashtra. The State has been a firm believer of the philosophy, that development of the LWE districts is the key factor that can help in controlling the situation. As a result of this, several steps to speed up development in Naxal Affected areas have been taken.

40. As long back in 2002, the State had sanctioned a special development package for the LWE districts against which we spent Rs.542 Crore in the 5 year period. Another plan was approved in April 09 in which a total of Rs. 1,386.51 Cr for 31 schemes in 18 development sectors has been provided. This plan is to be implemented in 3 years. Emphasis is on agriculture, employment generation, irrigation and soil conservation, road network and to improve health and education. In addition, a special plan for Gadchiroli district with 25 specific action points and estimated cost of Rs. 189 Crore was approved. The plan included strengthening of revenue / forest administration, employment generation, rights for minor forest produce to local people and simplification of laws, etc.

41. With a view to build confidence in government machinery, a special grant to LWE affected districts has been provided with the Collector. During a visit by the Collector, SP, CEO, Zilla Parishad and forest officers, on the spot sanction up to Rs. 5 Lakh to meet local needs is permitted. Also Rs. 3 lakh is given to villages where Naxals are prohibited entry. Another step taken was to fill all the vacant posts in these districts on top most priority. Collectors have been empowered to give administrative approval to schemes under the district plan and to release funds. Outlay for district schemes has been increased substantially as a result of special weightage being given to backwardness. Maharashtra Government is considering giving rights over Bamboo and promote SHGs in collecting

Tendu leaves / beedi manufacturing. Also steps are being taken to take up plantation of fruit bearing trees / medicinal plants in forest areas.

42. I would like to thank the Planning Commission for sending a special study team to the LWE Districts of Maharashtra for the purpose of finalization of an Integrated Action Plan for these Districts. A plan of Rs. 520.60 crore has been prepared by Gadchiroli District and an Integrated Action Plan of Rs. 392.67 crore by Gondia district. I request an early release of funds required under this Integrated Action plan.

43. Keeping in view the fact that life expectancy in Gadchiroli is less and opportunities for gainful employment are limited, I request that in Central Government schemes like the National Old Age Pension scheme the age limit of beneficiaries be decreased from 65 to 55 in LWE districts and the monthly amount under the scheme be increased to Rs. 1000. With nearly 80% of the land in Gadchiroli under forest, several development schemes are held up. I request that land clearances up to 10 hectares under the Forest Conservation Act 1980 for development activities be delegated to a State Level Committee.

44. The State Government has created a new Range to effectively deal with the Naxal menace. A new police district has been carved out of Gadchiroli district. In December last year, 2,355 additional posts have been created in Gadchiroli range. In order to recruit larger number of local youth, extra weightage has been given to candidates knowing local dialects. Physical standards have been relaxed. Besides this a special drive has been taken to fill up all vacant posts in Naxal-affected areas and a large number of vacancies have been filled up.

45. One group of State Reserve Police Force is being shifted to Gadchiroli district. To counter Naxalism, two India reserve battalions have been raised in the State at Aurangabad and Gondia and the third is being raised in Kolhapur District. The State Government is setting up one 'ALFA HAWKS', a Jungle Warfare School, at Nagpur.

46. Considerable incentives are being offered to the officials posted in Naxal affected districts. The Left Wing Extremist (LWE) related violence in the State of Maharashtra, which saw a marked increase during 2009, witnessed subdued activities of Maoist during 2010. While there were 99 incidents in first half of 2009 there were only 42 incidents in the first half of 2010.

## **Water Resources**

47. The Water and Irrigation Commission appointed by GOM has estimated the water resources of the State and has assessed the ultimate irrigation potential through flow irrigation at 85 lakh Ha which can be increased to 126 lakh Ha by using advanced irrigation techniques, watershed development and improving water distribution system. An irrigation potential of 46.36 lakh Ha has been created through an investment of Rs.50,000 crore. So far 21 major, 186 medium and 2470 minor Irrigation projects are completed and total water storage of 33,070 Mm<sup>3</sup> has been created. The State has corporatised the irrigation sector and construction of irrigation projects is being carried out through five irrigation development Corporations set up in the State.

48. An installed capacity of 3551 MW has been created through 45 Hydropower projects which generate approximately 4000 Million units annually. State Government has adopted policy of privatization of small hydel projects (below 25 MW). So far 62 small hydel projects of 176.60 MW capacity are being developed through private entrepreneurs.

49. We are thankful to the Government of India for declaring Gosikhurd project from Vidharbha Region of Maharashtra as a National Project. This project will benefit Backward & Tribal area of Vidharbha Region. It is requested to enhance powers of State Government to approve the project proposals which require forest land upto 20 hectares.

50. I am very happy to report that the “Maharashtra Management of Irrigation Systems by Farmers Act, 2005” has enabled the formation of legally empowered Water Users Associations. A large number of such associations have been formed and their elections held. The responsibility for ensuring proper distribution, collection water charges and payment to government has been transferred to them.

51. Maharashtra has initiated the system where water charges are collected on volumetric basis. Management of irrigation systems through the WUAs and supply of irrigation water on bulk basis has led to increasing the utilization substantially. Another first the State has achieved is over 100 per cent cost recovery since the beginning of 2002-03. There is also no denying the fact that water rates in Maharashtra are among the highest in the country.

52. Maharashtra has enacted the Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Act (MWRRA) in 2005 and the authority established. The main functions of the Authority

are to regulate the distribution of water entitlements; establish water tariff system and to regulate construction of projects as per an Integrated State Water Plan. The Authority has decided water entitlement for 129 projects so far. The water tariff order for different sectoral users is under issuance. The Integrated State Water Plan is currently under preparation. The MWRRA is functioning well and it would definitely facilitate and ensure equitable and sustainable management, allocation and use of water in the State.

53. Ground water being the main source of drinking and protective irrigation, the State is in the process of legislating a new Ground Water Act, which will ensure sustainable development and ground water recharge.

### **Tribal Development**

54. My State has earmarked an amount of Rs. 3,461 crore of the total plan for Scheduled caste sub plan based on 10.2% of the population and another Rs. 3,020 has been earmarked for the Tribal sub plan based on 8.9% of the population. Maharashtra is perhaps the only State which has been making the full provision based on percentage of population

It is well known that development of any Society is associated with improvement of its educational level. Keeping this fact in view, Government of Maharashtra has taken a decision to impart quality education in reputed Residential English schools to 2500 tribal students every year from Ist standard to XIIth standard.

55. To encourage students to attend school regularly and to check drop outs, Government of Maharashtra has taken decision to implement "Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme" for tribal students studying in Ist standard to Xth standard from this academic year 2010-11. Under this scheme Tribal Students of 1st to 4th, 5th to 7th and 8th to 10 standard will be given Rs.1,000/-, Rs.1,500/- and Rs.2,000/- per student per annum respectively.

### **Environment Management**

56. Maharashtra being a progressive, developed and industrial State, managing environment is one of the biggest challenges. To address it, the State Government has set an 'Environmental Vision' for the State. This is the roadmap for our future planning prioritization. Our aim is to set up a low carbon and environmentally sustainable economy.

57. To restore and conserve polluted and degraded Lakes of the State National and State Lake Conservation Schemes (NLCP/SLCP) are being implemented in the state. Similarly National River action Plan Programme is being implemented for the conservation and improvement of water quality of polluted rivers in the state.

58. As part of our pollution management strategy we have chalked out phased programme to manage sewage generation. In first phase 8 municipal corporations and 44 towns will be provided sewage treatment at estimated cost of 494.4 cr. Remaining 186 towns and 14 municipal corporations will be covered in 2nd phase with estimated cost of Rs.2,245.0 cr. Besides this we intend to also improve Urban air Quality. In 2005 25 air monitoring station existed which increased to 76 in 2009. We intend to increase up to 102 by 2015.

59. Maharashtra state has also initiated, 'Green building programme' to promote eco friendly construction. Maharashtra has entered into a partnership with TERI to develop an action plan to adapt to climate change and devise strategic policy alternatives.

#### **Eco-Village**

60. State Government is determined to launch a scheme for "Eco balanced village development". Under this scheme, villages will be provided financial assistance for all round development but in an environment friendly manner. Priority is also proposed to be given to villages with a population of more than 10000 so that they can act as a growth centers and help in generation of employment in small industries and services sectors.

#### **Coal Availability and Power Generation Policy:**

61. The State Power Generation utility has Thermal Power Stations of 7300 MW capacity. At present coal requirement of these power stations is 43.435 Million MT per annum. In order to obtain adequate and regular coal supply, Coal Supply Agreements with the coal companies for a total supply of 39.6 million tones as per the new Coal Distribution Policy have been entered into. As per the directives of Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Government of India, last year the State utility has procured 2.38 Million MT high-grade coal of foreign origin in 2009-10. This year it intends to procure 3.35 Million MT high-grade coal of foreign origin as per the directives of CEA.

62. During the 11th Plan, the public utility proposes to commission the thermal generation capacities at Khaperkheda, Bhusawal Unit, Chandrapur, Koradi and Parali and

the coal required for these projects is 2.47 Million MT per annum. Ministry of Coal, Government of India has approved coal linkage from M/s Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd. (MCL) for some of the projects.

### **Conclusion**

63. Maharashtra State completed 50 years of its formation and the expectations of the people from the Government are very high. With a view to meet these aspirations, the Government is working hard to speed up the development on all fronts. We have prioritised the implementation of the Flagship Programmes and these are being monitored both at the State level and at the district level. We have appointed Guardian Minister and Secretaries for each district to monitor these programmes. At the State level, we have decided to adopt the Performance Management and Evaluation System (PMES) in order to evaluate the outcome of the programme prioritised by the departments.

64. Having high lightened the 11th Five Year Plan, performance of Maharashtra and having addressed the high focus issues, I would like to conclude with an assurance that my State will strive to resolve all the concerns afflicting the state and we look forward to continuous support from the Central Government in doing so.

**THANK YOU**