
**Hon'ble Prime Minister, Deputy Chairman,
Planning Commission, Union Ministers,
Chief Ministers and friends,**

I feel immense pleasure to participate in the 55th meeting of National Development Council. Today, important issues like Mid-Term Review of 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12), strategy for urbanization, agriculture & power production, water resources etc. are being discussed in this meeting. Mid-Term Review of plan gives us an opportunity to think about our achievements and shortcomings and to take up necessary corrective measures by revising our strategy as per requirements. On this occasion, I compliment the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and his team for preparing such a detailed Mid Term Appraisal document.

State's GDP at constant prices (1999-2000) has increased @ 2.51 percent in 2009-10 whereas it increased by 9.10 percent in 2007-08 and 6.57 percent in 2008-09. Main reason of lower growth rate in 2009-10 in comparison to 2008-09 is less production in agriculture sector due to drought in the State. In 2009-10, there is decrease of 18.99 percent in comparison to 2008-09 in agriculture and allied sector whereas there was an increase of 4.28 percent in 2008-09 in comparison to 2007-08.

Contribution of agriculture and allied sectors in the State's Income has been 19.94 percent in 2009-10 which was 25.23 percent in 2008-

09 and 25.78 percent in 2007-08. Contribution of industries sector in State's Income has been 29.96 percent in 2009-10 which was 28.40 percent in 2008-09 and 29.46 percent in 2007-08. Accordingly, contribution of services sector in State Income increased to 50.10 percent in 2009-10 as against 46.37 percent in 2008-09 and 44.76 percent in 2007-08.

The broad vision of the 11th Five Year Plan is inclusive and faster growth that reduces poverty and creates employment opportunities, access to essential services in health and education sectors especially for the poor, equality of opportunity, empowerment through education and skill development, increased employment opportunities under National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme etc. Looking to these broad objectives, we have also fixed our priorities in different schemes of the State.

Last two years were problematic for the whole country and our State was also not an exception. I am happy that we have successfully faced the challenge of global economic recession with the active assistance and policies of UPA Government and Planning Commission under your efficient leadership at the centre. Specially, plan investment was maintained and in fact speeded up in these years so as to reduce the adverse impact of recession on the common man. In this perspective, stimulus packages and other monetary measures adopted by Central Government proved really effective.

All the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission have been accepted by the Central Government. According to which, Rajasthan has to bring down revenue deficit to zero and fiscal deficit up to 3

percent of GDP through financial management by 2012-13. As you are aware that Rajasthan is struggling with drought since last two years due to which State is facing adverse circumstances. Last year, we incurred an expenditure of Rs. 888 crores on drought relief works and on distribution of input subsidy to overcome the severity of drought in 27 districts of the State. An expenditure of Rs. 364 crores has already been incurred during first two months of the current year on these activities. I would like to suggest that the borrowing limit should be increased to 3.5 percent of GDP to maintain continuity of investment in social sectors.

Total size of the 11th Five Year Plan of Rajasthan was fixed at Rs. 71,732 crores. Against this, Rs. 46,781 crores have been spent during the first 3 years (2007-10). Annual Plan of 2010-11 is of Rs. 24,000 crores. We hope to achieve the original size of the 11th Five Year Plan in first 4 years only, despite the problems like drought and global recession.

Many public utility and social security schemes have been undertaken and innovations implemented after our Congress Government took over reins of Government in Rajasthan once again about one and half year back. Some of them are as follows:

- State Planning Board has been constituted to suggest policies for overall and balanced development of the State. Prof. V. S. Vyas has been appointed full time Vice Chairman of the Board along with one full time member.
- 'Kisan Aayog' has been constituted to submit report on the condition of farmers, debt of farmers, loaning system, price

determination of crops, mandi system, export of agricultural products, agriculture based industries and agricultural labour etc.

- Agro-processing and Agro-business Promotion Policy has been implemented.
- Weather based Crop Insurance Scheme has been started in the State in lieu of National Crop Insurance Scheme.
- Breeding Policy has been formulated for checking uncontrolled reproduction of goat and sheep and for conservation & enrichment of improved breeds.
- Livestock Development Policy has been issued
- Directorate of Social Audit has been established to ensure fully effective and transparent system under NREGA.
- State's Forest Policy has been declared.
- Eco-Tourism Policy has been declared.
- Rajiv Gandhi Missions have been constituted on important subjects like education, medical & health, water, social security and agriculture.
- Water Policy has been issued in February, 2010 to ensure proper utilization of water.
- Sanction has been accorded to establish 3 new super critical thermal power plants of 3960 MW capacity in Chhabra, Suratgarh and Banswara to increase power generation capacity.

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- Biomass Policy 2010 has been issued to encourage power generation from Biomass.
 - New Industrial Policy 2010 has been issued
 - It has been decided to prepare City Development Plan for each city for planned development of urban areas.
 - Decision has been taken to prepare Master Plans for each village.
 - Metro Train Project has been prepared to make Jaipur a world class city.
 - “Affordable Housing Policy” has been issued to provide dwellings at cheaper rates to the families of economically weaker and low income groups in urban areas.
 - Under social security measures Mukhya Mantri Jeevan Raksha Kosh has been formed and free medical facilities are being provided to selected BPL families, State BPL families, Astha Card holder families, patients suffering from HIV & AIDS and Old, Widow & Disabled Pensioners.
 - BPL and State BPL families are being provided wheat through coupons at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg instead of Rs. 4.70 per kg, for which State Government is providing subsidy of about Rs. 240 crores.
 - Pension of Rs. 500 per month has been sanctioned to widows/ disabled persons having no earning family member of 25 years or more.

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- Rs. 750 per month pension is being provided to pensioners of more than 75 year old and Rs. 500 per month to pensioners below 75 year of age. Pension of Rs. 1500 per month is being provided to the couples of 75 year old and above.
 - Separate department for Minorities Affairs has been established in the State.
 - 50 percent interest subsidy is being provided on loans to women Self Help Groups who are not availing any subsidy.
 - Various development schemes are being effectively monitored through Chief Minister Information System.

Education

Rajasthan has made serious efforts for utilization of SSA budget. Special attention has been given on girl education. All the 200 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas are functioning and in good condition and their results are encouraging. There is a felt need of opening second KGBV in selected blocks of desert and tribal districts where, area is vast and transportation facilities are poor and also change the KGBV Model III (Where residential arrangements are made for 50 girls) to KGBV Model I (Where teaching arrangements for 100 girls are made along with residential facilities).

The State Government has undertaken the implementation of Right to Education Act in right earnest. Door to Door survey work for identification of un-enrolled and drop out children of the age group of 0-18 is underway in the state so that all children may be taken in the

main stream of formal education.

I want to draw your attention that it is mandatory to develop new infrastructure for implementation of the Right to Education Act and additional funds will be required for this purpose. It is very difficult for the State to arrange such huge financial resources. Therefore, the ratio of subsidy of Centre and State under SSA may be fixed at 75:25.

I compliment the Central Government for starting so many new schemes under secondary education specially for Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA). The proposals of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan will be sent soon to Central Government. In this scheme, only those schools have been included which are at present in operation. I want to propose that Central Government should also include non-government aided schools in this scheme.

The proposal for establishing 93 Model Schools in educationally backward blocks has been sent to the Central Government. Land is available for these 93 Model Schools. Proposal for Model Schools in other 93 blocks will also be submitted to Central Government where land is also available. I also request Central Government to provide subsidy for infrastructure development of those Senior Secondary Schools where land is available so that these schools can come up to the levels of Model Schools.

In the educationally backward blocks, construction work of 74 girl hostel buildings is being started. Sanction of Central Government is awaited for construction of 112 other girl hostels.

I also want to congratulate the Central Government for its decision to

establish secondary schools under PPP mode. In Rajasthan, scheme of opening secondary schools under PPP mode is already functioning. Under this scheme, participation and interest of the private sector is very encouraging. This requires complete support of the Central Government at every step.

I am grateful to the Central Government for establishing IIT, IIM and Central University in Rajasthan.

National Knowledge Commission, has kept a target of 15 percent gross enrolment in higher education by 2015. At present gross enrolment is more than 11 percent in the State, which is higher than the national average.

In the previous year, we have focused our attention for improving the Higher & Technical Education in the State. In Rajasthan, 1135 academic colleges, 334 Engineering colleges and 38 Universities are functioning, out of which 16 Universities and 923 colleges have been established in the private sector.

Under Higher Education, budget provisions have been made for development of infrastructural facilities for building repairing, restructuring and for equipments. Generous contribution from the Central Government is required for ensuring wider geographical expansion of higher education and for development of infrastructural facilities in established colleges i.e. building construction, equipments, furniture, library, labs and computer etc.

With the objective of informing youth about the opportunities of employment, subsidy is being provided for establishment of Youth

Development Centers in Government Colleges. Language labs are being established in Government Colleges with the aim to improve skills in English language. In reference to National Skill Mission, Rajasthan Mission on Livelihood (RMOL) has been constituted in the State, by which one lac youths are being trained for employment every year.

With the increased demand of security in the State and to provide trained Security Guards, the Rajasthan Institute for Security Education (RISE) is giving training in private areas. Looking to the increasing demand of employment in the construction sector, construction academies are being established to prepare skilled construction labour with the help of private sector. To provide comprehensive training to youth for receiving employment in foreign countries, Overseas Placement Bureau is being established.

Medical & Health

Rajasthan is the first State which has introduced Pregnancy, Child Tracking & Health Services Management System (PCTS) for case-specific monitoring of services of every pregnant women & child. From the information received in this software, we can estimate the MMR of any area and area specific schemes can be operated. About 10 lac pregnant women have been registered under this software.

After launch of Janani Suraksha Yojana, institutional deliveries have increased from 28 percent (2005-06) to 65 percent (2009-10), Child Death rate reduced from 115 (NFHS-2, 1998-99) to 80 (SRS 2008-09), maternal mortality Ratio from 677 (SRS-1997) to 388 (SRS 2004-

06) and Infant Mortality Rate from 80 (SRS 2001) to 63 (SRS 2008). At this moment, it will be a Herculean task to achieve the targets fixed for the 11th Five Year Plan.

Decision has been taken to provide hot and nutritional food under 'KALEWA' scheme during the 48 hours stay after delivery of pregnant women at all 368 CHCs of the State. This scheme has been started at 275 CHCs.

State's achievements under the Revised TB Control Program have been better than the national level and higher than the target zone (70 percent patient search rate and 85 percent disease eradication rate). This has been highly appreciated at national and international level.

I am delighted that Rajasthan has been conferred the award of best performing State in the implementation and financial utilization under National Rural Health Mission among high priority States of the country.

Under the NRHM scheme for the entire 11th Five Year Plan, Rs. 6200 crore was allocated to Rajasthan State. At the end of March 2010, the State has utilized Rs. 2370 crore against the allocated amount of Rs. 2400 crore.

In the 12th Five Year Plan, Government of India has proposed to increase the State Government's share from 15 percent to 25 percent under National Rural Health Mission. Looking to the limited resources of the State Government, we request you not to increase the state's share.

Emergency medical facilities are being provided in 118 Tehsils under emergency ambulance services and by the end of this year, this will

be made available in all the Tehsils of the State. Government of India has informed that Central Government will provide 40 percent share in 2010-11, 20 percent share in 2011-12 only for operational expenses of free ambulance services. Looking to the importance of ambulance services scheme, I request you to provide 100 percent share of capital costs and 50 percent share of operational expenses.

State had earlier implemented Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, Rajasthan Swasthya Bima Yojana and Swasthya Bima Yojana. Keeping in view the unsuccess of these schemes, “Mukhya Mantri BPL Jeevan Raksha Kosh Yojana” has been implemented in the State. As this scheme has been started in place of National Health Insurance Scheme and a large number of BPL families are being benefited at a much lesser cost, Central Government is requested to provide 70 percent share under this Scheme on the lines of other health insurance schemes.

Government of India is providing 100 percent share under Infrastructure Maintenance even long before NRHM was conceptualized and even after NRHM was launched. But in 2010-11, Government of India has desired 15 percent state share in infrastructure maintenance as in other components of NRHM. Due to this, there will be huge financial burden on the State. Hence, it is requested that Central Government should continue to provide 100 percent share under infrastructure maintenance.

According to criteria decided by Central Government, there is provision to open one sub-centre for population of 3000 and one primary health centre for population of 20,000 in tribal and desert areas. Due to very

low population density in tribal / desert areas of the State, one sub-centre is catering to the population of 100 sq km area approximately. Hence, Central Government is requested to further relax the norms for setting up of new Sub Centre and PHCs looking to the low population density, scattered population and difficult terrain in tribal / desert areas of the State.

Social Security

Under Social Security data, 4.64 lacs beneficiaries of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, 26000 pensioners out of identified 57000 widows under Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme and 2100 pensioners out of 9000 identified under Indira Gandhi National Disabled Pension Scheme implemented under National Social Assistance Program have been uploaded on the website of Central Government.

State Government is paying Rs. 750 per month to pensioners above 75 years of age and Rs. 500 per month to pensioners below 75 year. Out of these, Government of India contributes only Rs. 200 per month per pensioner and the remaining amount is borne by the State Government.

Under the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme, widows of listed BPL families whose age is between 40 to 64 years are eligible for pension. In the State, pension is being provided to widows/destitute of any age who are fulfilling eligibility conditions under “Rajasthan Old-age and Widow Pension Rules 1974”. Central Government is requested to consider benefiting the widows/destitute between 18 to

40 years.

Under the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme, pension is being provided to disabled of listed BPL families that are multi-disabled or highly disabled (80 percent or more) and between the age group of 18 to 64 years. State is giving pensions to the disabled persons who are more than 8 years of age and having more than 40 percent disability under “Rajasthan Disabled, Handicapped and Blind Persons Pension Rules 1965”. The Central Government is requested that the age group for IGNDPS should be modified to 8 to 64 years and disability criteria should be 40 percent & more in place of severe (80 percent) and multiple disability.

State Government has amended the Rajasthan Disabled, Handicapped and Blind Persons Pension Rules 1965 so that disabled like blind, leprosy eradicated persons, hearing impaired and mentally retarded persons will also be eligible for pension.

Mess allowance of ST and SC students living in government and aided hostels and students living in hostels of special schools operated for deaf-dumb, blind and mentally retarded has been increased from Rs. 725 per month to Rs. 1000 per month.

State Government has increased the rate of facilities being provided to students of residential schools from Rs. 7340 per year per student to Rs. 10600 per year per student.

Women and Child Development

Sir, High IMR & MMR, low women literacy, declining sex ratio in 0-6

years, low socio-economic status of women, high rates of anemia among children & women etc. are still major areas of concern for Rajasthan. To focus on these issues, the State Government has announced a Seven Point Programme for women empowerment. The State government has deployed an additional women worker known as “ASHA Sahyogini” at each anganwari centre to act as a mentor for counseling and assistance on matters of health & nutrition to families of children up to 3 years of age and for pregnant and lactating women. The Mid Term Appraisal has recommended deployment of one more anganwari worker in each Centre. An upward revision of honorarium payable to AHW and AHH is a felt need.

In the State, even today a large number of villages/ habitations with population less than 150 are devoid of ICDS services. The formation of clusters is also difficult as these settlements are quite scattered. It is expedient to search for alternate solutions to connect such areas with anganwari. The Central Government has increased the unit cost of supplementary nutrition per beneficiary per day from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4. Fifty percent share of expenditure of this amount is borne by the State Government. The Central Government has also revised the norms of supplementary nutrition. This revision in supplementary nutrition norm has led to an increase in it's per unit cost. This increased cost is also borne by the State Government. Therefore, in distribution of supplementary food of improved quantity and quality, the State Government is bearing additional cost due to two different reasons i.e. increased unit cost & revised calorie norms. We feel that at least additional costs due to revision of calorie norms of supplementary nutrition should be borne by the Central Government.

In the last four years, the number of anganwari centres in the State has increased from 36 thousand to 61 thousand. In current financial year only, ten thousand new anganwari centres have been opened. Now, 95 per cent of the population of the State is covered under ICDS services. Buildings with adequate facilities is not available to operate anganwari centres. Construction of anganwari building is receiving higher priority in different development programmes in the State. Wherever possible, a space has been provided for anganwari centres in Primary Schools. After exhausting this option still 40 per cent centres are being run in rented buildings. It is requested that construction of anganwari centres be treated as integral part of ICDS programme and funds for building construction should be provided.

To provide health and nutrition related services regularly to children, pregnant and lactating women 'Mother and Child Health and Nutrition Day' (MCHN) is being organized on specific day in every month. This is an opportunity to provide information on health and nutrition related issues, such as, exclusive breastfeeding to infants upto 6 months, breastfeed and top feed after 6 months, locally found healthy food etc. But there is still need to sensitize common people on exclusive breastfeeding and locally available nutritious food, information regarding this should be provided in their local language through short films and other communication modes.

To monitor growth of children upto 5 years of age, new growth charts as per WHO norms are being provided to anganwari centres. In the State, this is being done in phased manner and in 11 districts children suffering from malnutrition are being identified on this basis. To follow up such children, malnutrition treatment centres have been established

at district/block level in all districts.

For effective monitoring of malnutrition and development related status of children and to ensure transparency and accountability of programmes run by anganwari centres, it is important to have web based information management system. Through e-gram initiative, though monthly information at Gram Panchayat level on key public services is being compiled online including information related to functioning of anganwari centres, but for comprehensive monitoring and evaluation it is necessary to enable Gram Panchayats with IT.

In the State, to encourage birth of girl child, family welfare, girl education and women's empowerment, "**Rajlaxmi Yojana**" was implemented. But declining of interest rates forced closure of this scheme. As the State has experience of implementing such scheme, it stakes claim to operate pilot "**Dhanlaxmi Yojana**".

A Gender Cell has been established under the Directorate of Women's Empowerment in the year 2009-10 to examine schemes and budget through a gender perception.

Rural Development

Rajasthan is one of the leading States in the country in executing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. To ensure effective and transparent implementation of this programme, a Directorate of Social Audit has been set up in the State. To set up 'Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra' - an Information Technology and Information Resource Centre at each Panchayat Samiti and Gram Panchayat level, work has been started in 243 Panchayat Samities

and 5200 Gram Panchayats.

The minimum wage rate under MGNREGA has been notified by the ministry of Rural Development as Rs. 100 per day. Any wage higher than this is to be paid by the State Government from its own budget. The minimum wage rate should be linked with consumer price index and revised accordingly. The minimum working hours under MGNREGA has been increased to 9 hours by the Central Government from the earlier level of 7 hours. Physically weak, old and feeble persons also report for work under this programme. It is difficult to engage them for 9 long hours in adverse climate in the State. Therefore, working hours should be restored to 7 hours.

In the State, 14.5 lacs BPL families do not have residential accommodation. Under Indira Awaas Yojna, at the rate of current allotments, it will take around 20 years to cover the above numbers. Hence there is a dire need to increase target and also to allow construction of houses for rural houseless BPL families under MGNREGA.

Under Mid-day Meal Scheme, Central Government provides administrative cost at the rate of 1.8 per cent of the total budgetary provision. This budget is not sufficient for implementation of this programme in 81 thousand schools. There is a need to increase this percent. The Department of Central Excise has issued notices to such NGOs that are providing mid-day meals to school going children to pay service tax. These NGOs are not operating catering services in its usual sense of earning profits. There is a strong case for exempting these NGOs from this tax.

Road Development

During 11th Five Year Plan, target of widening, strengthening, renewal and construction of 18249 km length of State roads was fixed. Against this target, work on 12,843 km long road has been completed by the end of annual plan 2009-10. Remaining targets would be achieved by the end of Five Year Plan. Work on 16 ROB are in progress and would also be completed by the end of 11th Plan.

Under PMGSY, funds have been provided for construction and upgradation of rural roads during 2007-08 to 2009-10. During this period, an expenditure of Rs. 3946.01 crore was incurred and 4534 villages have been connected by constructing 14012 km rural roads and 10566 km rural roads have been upgraded under Through-Route.

We have tried to mobilize maximum institutional finance through RIDCOR and RSRDC by utilizing the available funds under the State Road Fund.

State Government has formulated a scheme of Rs. 5000 crores for upgradation of roads on BOT/PPP, Toll and Annuity basis. State Government would take advantage of Government of India's VGF scheme. First time roads would be developed on annuity basis in the State.

One part of the State Road Fund (SRF) shall be utilized in such a way that the SRF amount invested gets multiplied and causes an overall investment of 3-5 times through executing agencies RIDCOR, RSRDCC. To get loan from Financial Institutions, State Government shall provide necessary equity / soft loan and VGF amount. The

identified road stretches which are not financially viable under these schemes will be developed thorough CRF and other resources of the State Government.

Government of India is requested to allocate funds for PPP based projects from the funds received under Central Road fund so that 4 to 5 times of these allocated funds can be invested in these projects.

Entrepreneurs are less interested and proposals are not received even after repeated tenders for the projects, which are not profitable and are having less traffic density since VGF amount is restricted to 40 percent (20 percent central and 20 percent state) for development of state highways. Government of India is requested to enhance the VGF amount given by Centre from 20 percent to 30 percent so that maximum state roads of low toll rate can be developed in the State.

Due to limited resources, It becomes difficult for the State Government to bear the huge expenses on land acquisition and utility shifting for bye-passes of towns/cities that come in the route of projects slows down and it obstructs the implementation of projects. If expenses of land acquisition and utility shifting are included in the project cost, private investment would be increased and State Government can utilize this saving for development of other roads.

Industry

According to an estimate, Rajasthan will have an incremental human resource requirement of 5 to 5.2 million persons till 2015. Maximum incremental requirement will be in the Construction industry, followed by textiles, healthcare, tourism and hospitality, food processing, auto

servicing, gems and jewellery, handicrafts, auto and engineering, banking and financial services, I.T / ITeS, mines and minerals and retail sector.

Thus, it is important that policies are framed so that in coming years economic growth rate of the State is enhanced, competitive capacity is strengthened and long term faith of investors is developed.

In the State, 'Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy 2010' has been launched. This Policy takes a holistic approach to promote private investment by addressing all the variables that substantially affect the attractiveness of a location as an investment destination. It seeks to achieve a quantum improvement in the numerous, critical components—land, infrastructure, skill-pool, policy environment - that constitute the core of the industrial and investment ecosystem.

Rajasthan Government is committed towards encouraging investors, to accelerate inclusive economic growth and generate employment opportunities on large scale for the people.

To sustain the industries in the era of competitive environment it is essential to have adequate infrastructure. Therefore, State government is making sustained efforts towards providing quality network of roads, uninterrupted power supply, adequate water and high speed data transfer connectivity. In addition to budgetary resources for infrastructural needs of the State, State Government has decided to enact an act to attract private investment in infrastructure sector. The act will provide a fair, transparent and clearly articulated mechanism for private investment in setting up industrial park, gas grid and other basic infrastructure facilities in industrial areas. Efforts will be made to

improve services, for this coordination between various government departments & agencies will be ensured.

State of Rajasthan is very strategically located with regards to Delhi-Mumbai Freight Corridor. Nearly 39 percent of the total length of this corridor passes through Rajasthan and 46 percent part of total DMIC project influence area (PIA) falls in Rajasthan.

DMIC provides wide development opportunities to the State in coming years. Development of Sahjahanpur- Neemrana-Behror (SNB) knowledge city, Central Spine connecting Global city with Biwadi-Tapukada Industrial Complex via Ajarka, Green Field Airport project etc. are identified projects in Rajasthan with DMIC.

MSME sector is important for investment, growth, employment generation and poverty alleviation. Being less capital intensive and more labour intensive in nature MSME sector can contribute significantly to employment generation and rural industrialization. MSME policy seeks to address issues of easy availability of finance, research and development related investment, easy availability of technology, product innovations, marketing and e-marketing support etc. to mitigate hardships being faced by the sector.

Cottage, Khadi and Village Industries have potentials to create employment opportunities in handloom and handicraft sector. In view of developing Rajasthan's handloom and handicraft sector through cluster development approach a target of 57 clusters development were fixed under the Eleventh Five Year Plan. In last 3 years, work of 33 clusters has been started. The State Government has established Bhartiya Shilp Sansthan, Jaipur with the objective to encourage craft

and design. The same is being managed in collaboration with private sector partnership.

Marketing plays an important role in encouraging handicraft items and products of artisans and weavers. Urban Haat in Jaipur, Jodhpur and Delhi and Rural Haats in 10 districts have been setup by Udhyam Protsahan Sansthan (UPS) to provide permanent market facilities for these products.

State's handloom producers are facing challenge for survival due to competition posed by powerloom and Chinese items. Thus, relief funds proposed for handloom producers in the Eleventh Five Year Plan of the Central Government should be started immediately. In addition to this, powerloom units will be forced to put "Powerloom Mark" on their products so that these products could be differentiated with handloom products.

Large number of labourers, in the which number of women labourers is high, is working in an unorganized manner in their households or at a specific workplace as artisans, handloom, household industry and other industrial work. There is need to empower these labourers by organizing them in form of self help groups with active support of NGOs.

'Rajasthan Enterprises Single Point Enabling and Clearance Bill' is under formation to strengthen single window scheme and provide legal basis to the same.

A piece of land has been earmarked for setting up of Japanese industries in Neemrana Industrial area. A Japanese institution "Jetro" is actively collaborating with us to set up Japanese industries. Land

has been allocated to 21 Multinational Companies. Out of these, 9 units have started production.

To promote textile industry, under ITP scheme of Central Government, many integrated textile parks are being established in the State. It will significantly increase the textile export and create employment opportunities in the State.

State Government will ensure compliance of occupational safety standards related to essential equipments, medical and financial aid for labourers working in mining, mineral based and other industries.

Keeping in view, sufficient availability of land and educated youth in I.T sector, Rajasthan is ideal for setting up I.T. units. For establishment of IT units State Government has provided various relaxations under IT policy. A number of IT SEZ are also being established in the State.

It has come to my notice that in the draft Direct Tax Code, proposals have been made to withdraw various income tax concessions presently available to developers of SEZ and units set up therein. Withdrawal of these tax concessions would retard development of SEZs and export related economic growth in the country. I would therefore, request Hon'ble Prime Minister and Finance Minister to kindly reconsider these provisions of Direct Tax Code and continue the existing provisions regarding tax concessions to SEZs in the proposed Direct Tax Code regime also.

Knowledge and skill based activities like Information Technology and Business Process Outsourcing will be encouraged by the Government. The State Government has reserved 3 per cent of its annual plan

budget to ensure development of e-governance and e-administration to promote business centric and public centric environment.

Environment

Rajasthan falls within the greatest climate sensitivity, lowest adaptive capacity, and maximum vulnerability to climate change. As the predominant wind direction in Rajasthan is South West to North East, the tendency for desertification has been more in that direction. Thus, from the climate-proofing perspective, creating mega-shelterbelts plantation perpendicular to the predominant wind direction in Thar Desert is likely to help in climate change mitigation and livelihoods improvement. This will require large investment which needs to be provided by the Central Government.

Public Sector Units (PSUs) needs to be given financial assistance by Central Government to contribute CDM projects as recommended in the Mid Term Appraisal document of XIth Five Year Plan.

Financial assistance needs to be provided by the Central Government to the local bodies to increase their administrative capacities for implementation of the NRCP & NLCP Programmes and to maintain the facilities created under these schemes as recommended in the Mid Term Appraisal document of XIth Five Year Plan.

Scheme for the Conservation of Wetlands is 100 per cent CSS while scheme for National Lake Conservation Programme has 70 per cent grant by the Central Government & 30 per cent amount is to be given by the State Government. As per recommendations of the MTA, these two schemes should be merged & made 100 per cent CSS.

1. Agriculture and Allied Sector

Priorities in Agriculture Sector

Two-third population of the State depends on agriculture and allied activities for livelihood. In Rajasthan, since agriculture is mainly rainfed, it is affected by scarcity and irregularity of rainfall. Agriculture production is adversely affected due to variation in the time spread of the rainfall. Of total irrigated area in the State 67 percent is irrigated by groundwater. Groundwater exploitation rate in the State is 137 percent as a result of which 205 Blocks out of 237 Blocks are in dark and grey zone. 90 percent drinking water supply depends on groundwater as a result of which dependency of agriculture on rainfall is continuously increasing in the State. Even in this adverse situation, due to hard work by cultivators and active support by the State Government, Mid Term Appraisal document has praised State's agriculture development rate during the years 2005-09.

The agriculture sector contributes 24-30 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the State. Agriculture Sector is adversely affected by erratic and scarce rainfall in the State. Reduced production in agriculture sector also affects financial activities in other sectors like industry, manufacturing and services. The GSDP is also directly affected by the agriculture production as was evident during 2002-03 when due to famine the GSDP reduced by 10 per cent. Similarly, 2 per cent reduction in GSDP was observed in 2004-05. In 2008-09, the GSDP recorded increase of 6.6 per cent, which however reduced to 2.5 per cent due to weak monsoon in 2009-10.

Kisan Ayog has been constituted to give recommendations to improve the livelihood options, credit availability, appropriate rates of agriculture produce, marketing facilities, export of agriculture produce and agro processing facilities for farmers. At district headquarters, Kisan Bhawans are being constructed.

The adverse agro climatic conditions and adverse monsoon directly affects the growth in agriculture sector and with emphasis on crop production alone, one cannot achieve 4 per cent growth rate in this sector. Therefore, it is necessary to take initiatives for value addition in agriculture produce. For better price realization from agriculture commodities there is need to promote agro processing. Rajasthan is a major producer of oilseeds and spices. 60 per cent production of seed spices in the country comes from Rajasthan State. Besides, oilseeds, barley and seed spices, there is also further need of promoting horticultural crops like amla, orange, kinnow and medicinal crops for better economic returns to the farmers. To enable this, the State has promulgated Policy for Promotion of Agro-processing and Agri Business, 2010. In this policy, emphasis has been given on new employment creation, concession in electricity duties, discount in land conversion fee, allotment of land on lease, simplified conversion process in processing zones, development of infrastructure, support for food parks, private mandi yards/E-markets, etc.. Rajasthan Agriculture Produce Marketing Act, 1961 is already modified for the promotion of contract farming.

Promotion of coarse cereal crops of the State

Keeping in view, the less availability of water for irrigation and arid

and semi-arid climatic condition of the State, it is necessary that state specific crops like barley, pearl millet, Sorghum (jowar) should be promoted in place of wheat in programmes like National Food Security Mission (NFSM). About 3.5 crore milch animals are available in Rajasthan but the milk productivity of these animals is lower than the national level. Further, pearl millet, jowar and barley are main source of fodder for these milch animals. However, increase in productivity of these crops is necessary. Minimum support prices should be fixed for pearl millet. In major flagship programme like NFSM, if pearl millet, jowar and barley are included, then the productivity of these crops can be increased which will help in increased availability of dry fodder for milch animals.

Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme

The weather based crop insurance scheme has been extended in all the districts of the State from this year. Under this scheme, the claims would be given on the basis of temperature, humidity, high/less rainfall conditions. This scheme is launched in State covering all important crops of Rabi and Kharif season. Under the scheme, at tehsil level, automatic weather forecast centres are being established. Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has targeted to establish 300 automatic weather forecast centres in the State and for 50 centres the weather forecasting instruments have been received.

Rajasthan State Warehousing Corporation (RSWC)

The main object of Rajasthan State Warehousing Corporation is construction of new godowns, management of established godowns,

to provide scientific storage facilities for Agriculture produce, Seeds, fertilizers, agriculture implements, and notified commodities of farmers, cooperative societies, businessmen etc.

Estimation of Storage capacity

The construction for storage facilities of 22950 M.T. in 2007-08 and 1800 M.T. in 2008-09 have been completed. 60000 M.T. storage facilities are under construction.

Agriculture Extension & Research

Agriculture Extension

Looking to the availability of water & status of soil fertility, efforts are being made for suitable selection of crops, so as to obtain maximum production per unit area. Agriculture Extension & Research play key role in maximizing Agriculture production. The State government is emphasising & encouraging the services of NGO's and private companies like Sadguru Foundation, Monsanto, Pepsico, Gaytri Sansthan, Lupin Foundation etc. on PPP Mode and these organizations are actively participating in various agriculture extension and development activities. In this context, prominent seed producing companies like Monsanto, Proagro & other companies are being involved on the format of PPP Mode for undertaking seed development programmes in Rajasthan for increasing the productivity of crop like pearl millet and maize. Maize is prominent cereal food grain crop in tribal area of the State. During the current Kharif season nearly 39000 quintal hybrid seed of maize have been distributed to nearly 7.5 lacs

ST farmers under operation Golden Rays. Similarly in 8 major bajra producing districts of Western Rajasthan 17500 quintal hybrid bajra seed have been provided to nearly 12.5 lakh farmers. These are RKVY supported programmes.

Agriculture Research

The State Government is providing financial assistance to both the State Agriculture Universities to accelerate the pace of need based research through special projects being sanctioned under RKVY. An amount of Rs.12.40 Cr. has been made available to SKRAU, Bikaner for seed production programme, for development of farms, for establishment of tissue culture lab, specific crop production technology, development of drought resistant varieties etc,. Similarly to MPUAT, Udaipur an amount of Rs.23.68 Cr. has been provided for strengthening of Forestry and Horticulture College, assistance to fodder research and development center, construction of phyto sanitary lab, establishment of veterinary complex etc. Funds have also been provided for establishment of veterinary university at Bikaner.

Special Emphasis on Bio-technology

It has been observed that there is stagnation in the productivity of major crops. To increase the production and productivity of major crops emphasis is being given on supporting bio-technology research. Bt Cotton areas has increased in Ganganagar, Hanumangarh and irrigated area of Bikaner district. The Bt cotton is now being sown in nearly 2.5 lac ha. To take care of environment concern, it is necessary to have a Regulatory Board/Agency to monitor any adverse impact of

Bt cotton and other seeds developed through bio-technology.

Efficient use of water

Due to periodic drought and low rainfall associated with depleting status of groundwater for irrigation in the State, the Department of Agriculture has given special emphasis on construction of water harvesting structures in rainfed and command areas by construction of diggies (water storage tank). So far 4391 diggies have been constructed and during 2010-11 a target of constructing 5000 diggies have been fixed through the funds provided under RKVY. Similarly, construction of 1359 water tanks and 4121 khet talai have been completed in the State. During 2010-11 a target to construct 1000 water tanks & 2000 khet talai have been fixed with funding support from RKVY. To check the seepage losses in irrigation channels during irrigation, so far 50,374 km of pipelines have been distributed on subsidy and during current financial year 2010-11 a target of 5000 km have been fixed for piped water conveyance.

During 2010-11 a target to cover 12500 hectare area under sprinkler system of irrigation and 23000 hectare area under drip irrigation system has been fixed. It is envisaged that adopting these programmes on efficient use of water will help in higher productivity of crops.

Adoption of Israel Technology

During 2007, to adopt the benefits of Israel techniques on precision farming a tripartite agreement between Israel Indolive Ltd., Plasto Plasan Ltd industries and Rajasthan State Agriculture Marketing Board was signed with equal participation in shares establishing Rajasthan

Olive Cultivation Ltd. with the objective of promoting cultivation of olive in different agro-climatic conditions at 8 locations farms covering an area of 210 hectare area. A total amount of Rs.7 to 8 crore is likely to be spent on this project. In the buyback agreement, it is ensured that produce will be purchased by M/S Indolive Ltd. at the prevailing prices in the international market. Nearly 1.12 lakh plants of olive have been imported from Israel. After hardening of these olive plants at State Government Nursery, Durgapura and on seven State Government Farms these plants have been further transplanted in 182 hectare area.

Crop Diversification

For sustainable agriculture development crop diversification is necessary taking one crop regularly and adopting same crop rotations, the status of soil fertility is reduced. For increase in the income of farmers it is necessary to have crop diversification. It is not possible to achieve 4 per cent growth rate through agriculture sector only. It is only possible to increase growth rate by 2-2.5 per cent from crop husbandry sector. For achieving 4 per cent growth rate, it is pertinent to mention that horticultural crops, animal husbandry and dairy sector will play key role. To enable this, it is necessary to increase investment in these sectors also.

In horticulture sector, it is necessary to increase investment in protected cultivation (Shed net, green house) in agro processing as well. Similarly, under dairy sector, it is necessary to encourage milk processing centres including chilling plants and encourage breed improvement and cattle health programme.

To get reasonable price for the agriculture produce at village level, small storage facilities/godowns need to be established so that cultivators can store their produce and may sell it at reasonable price in the market. This way the cultivators can be saved from incurring the loss due to distress sale because of non-availability of small storage godowns at village level. Similarly cold storage facility is also required for vegetables so that income from agriculture sector can be enhanced through vegetable export.

Green Fodder Production programme

In Rajasthan, animal husbandry is a prominent occupation particularly in the Western Rajasthan, where, it is main source of income and livelihood. It is a well known fact that green fodder plays a pivotal role in increasing the milk production besides providing nutritious fodder.

From last two years, State Government is making all efforts for promoting green fodder production programme through RKVY funds. During drought conditions in 2009-10, nearly 10 lac fodder seed minikits were distributed through RKVY funds resulting production of 60 lac MT. green fodder. Through these interventions, even in drought situation fodder could be made available to milch cattle.

Amendment in AMPC Act

The Act has been amended to facilitate Contract Farming and related issues. These amendments are expected to open better marketing opportunities and access to latest Practices of Process (PoPs) and technology.

Kisan Credit Card

The role of timely credit availability greatly helps in adoption of improved agriculture technologies. In this, Kisan Credit Card has played an important role under this scheme till 31.3.2010, 41.28 lac Kisan Credit Cards have been distributed to farmers. Farmers have availed credit of Rs.25272 crore through Kisan Credit Cards.

Cooperative Loan

The State Government has approved the suggestion given by Vaidhnathan Committee on short term cooperative loan and the same has been also included as amendment in the Cooperative Act.

National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP)

This programme will be implemented from 2009-10 to 2015-16. The programme is being executed in four districts of the State namely, Barmer, Bhilwara, Jodhpur and Tonk. During the current financial year, it is proposed to extend this programme to five more districts of the State viz. Bundi, Churu, Jalore, Nagaur and Rajsamand. For effective implementation of the programme, the Settlement Commissioner has been appointed as Nodal Officer.

Distribution of Surplus Land

The State Government has so far acquired a sizeable chunk of the land measuring 5.73 lac acres, out of which 4.69 lac acres has already been allotted to 83705 eligible farmers. The policy of acquiring and

allotting the ceiling Surplus Land is being pursued effectively to benefit the landless people of the State.

Now, I will like to take some other issues.

To construct water harvesting structure of dimension 100X100X3 meter, Central Government provides an amount of Rs. 15 lacs (100 per cent) in water resources development programme under National Horticulture Mission. Actual expenditure on water harvesting structure of this dimension is approximately Rs. 25 lac. Apart from this, it is difficult for farmer's group to provide 1 hectare land for construction of water harvesting structure. Thus, it is recommended to keep dimension of water harvesting structure to 50X50X3 meter and provide 100 percent of the actual cost as support.

Animal Husbandry plays an important role in economy of Rajasthan. Contribution of animal husbandry in GSDP is 9 percent. Livestock is contributing about 35 percent income in rural economy. In desert areas this share increases to about 50 percent.

Due to recurring droughts in the State, there is gap of 50 percent between demand and supply of green and dry fodder. It adversely affects milk and animal produce.

There is a dire need to increase livestock production, optimal use of fodder, improvement in livestock management, innovative technology management and exchange and expansion of technologies for harnessing sustainable benefits from livestock.

Gram Panchayats not having Veterinary Hospital are being covered

through “Pashu Chikitsalaya Pashu Palak Ke Dwar” scheme.

For the overall development of Livestock sector in the State, ‘Livestock Development Policy’ has been announced. Apart from this, to promote Sheep and Goat rearing and curb uncontrolled breeding as well as conservation and promotion of traditional breeds a ‘Sheep Goat Breeding Policy’ has been announced.

“Rajiv Gandhi Krishi Evam Pashupalan Mission” and a new Veterinary Science University have been established in the State.

At present, Animal insurance scheme of Central Government is being implemented in 22 Districts of the State, this facility should be expanded to remaining 11 Districts as well.

Only 13 percent of total saleable milk production is being collected by Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation Ltd. The main reasons for less collection of milk are poor milk processing facility, lack of distribution facilities, high temperature, difficult geographical terrain, insufficient fodder & cattle feed and lack of water. Thus, there is need of investment for infrastructure development in Dairy sector.

Rajasthan is the leading contributor in agriculture sector but there is negligible representation of Rajasthan in National Agricultural Bodies. Therefore, it is requested that adequate representation may be provided to Rajasthan on such bodies.

2. Water Resources

For DPAP area, there is a provision of 90 percent grant under AIBP but for DDP area only 25 percent grant is provided. The availability of

water in DDP area is worse than that of DPAP area. Therefore, Government of India is requested that DDP area should also be made eligible for 90 percent grant like DPAP area under AIBP.

The maintenance and management of inter-state Dams and canals system should be taken up at national level like National Highways. This would avoid the dispute between concerned States and equitable water distribution would be ensured

Water share of Rajasthan in Ravi Beas river is 52.69 percent, inspite of this there is no representation of Rajasthan in BBMB. Rajasthan being major share holder in Ravi-Beas water, permanent representation of Rajasthan in BBMB should be provided.

Rajasthan is the largest State of the country but its water resources are very limited. The State has recognized the importance of managing its meager water resources and has initiated a number of policy reforms in water sector. With growing dependence on ground water for drinking as well as irrigation purposes, the ground water situation in the State has become very critical and the withdrawal rate of ground water has already reached nearly 137 %. More than 90 % drinking water schemes are based on ground water. Out of 237 blocks, 198 blocks have already come under the Dark Category. Schemes are also being formulated to harness the State's remaining surface water resources.

The State has recently announced State Water Policy, which addresses the issues of supply and demand side management, increasing the efficiency of water use, adoption of improved agriculture and water application practices, and emphasis on utilization of every drop of available water. Though construction of large dams has its own

advantages of increased storage when the water is available, there is a distinct shift towards construction of small water harvesting structures by adopting watershed approach. Stress has also been given to treatment, recycle and reuse of municipal and industrial wastewater so that at least a part of the water demand can be met from this treated water and fresh water can be used for drinking. In the State Water Policy, top priority is given to providing drinking water facilities.

Government of Rajasthan has initiated a number of reforms including adoption of the State Water Policy by taking up several plans and programmes in water sector. Rationalisation of water charges for all user sectors is an important initiative to meet the annual O&M charges. The Project formulation at the initial stage shall also be improved. Critical appraisal of all irrigation projects will lead to enhanced performance and water management. Priority is given to completion of all ongoing Projects so as to reap their benefits as early as possible. Institutional restructuring and strengthening of water sector departments, participation of stakeholders in water management, implementation of plans aiming at increased agricultural productivity are some of the important policy initiatives of the State.

In order to coordinate and guide the activities in water sector, setting up of State Water Regulatory Authority, as envisaged in the State Water Policy, is under consideration in the State. The State is also marching ahead towards managing its dwindling ground water resources through implementation of a large number of ground water recharge schemes, roof top water harvesting schemes and ground water management by involving stakeholders and NGOs.

Special Category Status to Rajasthan for Drinking Water

Rajasthan is amongst States with low per capita income but here the percent of BPL families is less in comparison to other State, which is a contradiction. This indicates that, a large number of families are living close to the poverty line. In the case of epidemic and other abnormal situations like expenditure on health and social responsibilities the financial situation of these families become equivalent to that of BPL families.

According to the report of 61st round of National Sample Survey, in the rural areas of Rajasthan State, per capita monthly expenditure of 17 percent families is less than 365 rupees, whereas only 22 percent families spend more than 690 rupees per capita per month. These things conclude that the per capita monthly expenditure of 61 percent rural families of the State is between 365 to 690 rupees. It shows that the population is highly concentrated near the poverty line.

According to the Mid-term Appraisal Report the percent of rural BPL families in the State is less than 5 percent to that of the country. Whereas in MGNREGA scheme the contribution of the State is 22 percent of total generated mandays in the country, which is highest among all the States. This clearly indicates that in the State the families living below poverty line are more in comparison to the identified BPL families in the State.

Two third population of the State depends on agriculture and other allied activities for their livelihood. The contribution of agriculture sector in the GDP of the State is 24 to 30 percent. Due to the dependence of agriculture on monsoons, difficulties are faced by the large group of

agricultural labour and small and marginal farmers.

Many BPL families listed in 1997 were not included in the BPL list of the year 2002. The State government has decided provide these families medical facilities and food grains at cheaper rate in all its schemes. State has listed these families in the form of State BPLs. These State BPL families should be made eligible to get benefits under the schemes of Special Central Assistance.

On Human Development Index Rajasthan is at 9th rank among 14 large States of the country. Among the married women of age group 15 to 49, more than half are suffering from Anemia. In the is situation, to provide sufficient food grains to BPL families along with State BPLs, 25 kg wheat per month at the rate of 2 Rs. per kg is being provided to the 36.5 lacs families under the “Chief Minister Food Security Scheme”.

Sir, it is our humble effort in the direction of providing food security but to provide drinking water security, we need your full co-operation. Features like less surface water, recurrent droughts and deterioration in availability of ground water, more than 60 percent desert area due to which higher cost for providing basic facilities, low population density, more ST and SC population, Rajasthan fulfills the criterion fixed by Planning Commission for including Rajasthan in the list of Special Category States.

I had requested the Hon’ble Prime minister to include Rajasthan in the list of Special Category States but Planning Commission has expressed difficulty in it. Although, Planning Commission has proposed to provide financial assistance/additional central assistance on case to case basis keeping in view the special problems of the State.

To provide potable water to all is a huge challenge for the State Government and it requires substantial funds. In view of this, I had submitted a memorandum to Hon'ble Prime Minister on 29th June, 2009. In this regard, I will reiterate my request to accord a Special Category Status to Rajasthan by providing special annual assistance of Rs. 3045 crore specially for drinking water for the next 8 years.

3. Energy

We are giving highest priority to increase the power generation capacity in our State. In the 11th Five year Plan, State has taken up projects of the total capacity of 3150 MW in State Sector against the target of 1790 MW. Out of which, 1290 MW capacity has already been commissioned and remaining 1860 MW capacity will be added by the end of 2011-12.

Besides the State Sector, we are also promoting power generation in the private sector. Lignite based thermal power project of 1080 MW capacity is being executed by M/s Rajwest Power Ltd. in Barmer. Two units each of 135 MW of this project have already been commissioned and remaining six units shall be commissioned during the remaining period of 11th plan. In addition to this, a Power Purchase Agreement has already been signed for purchase of 1200 MW from a project to be installed by M/s Adani Power selected through case-I bidding process. Three more projects have been identified for execution in the private sector through case-II bidding process which include a coal based project at Banswara (1320 MW) and two lignite based thermal power projects at Gurha (70 MW) & Giral (250 MW). Bidding process has already been initiated. These projects are expected to

be commissioned by the start of 12th Five Year Plan.

Preliminary activities have been initiated by issuing administrative and financial sanctions for establishing state sector projects of 7090 MW capacity during the 12th Five Year Plan period. All these projects will be based on super critical technology. As we are far away from coal fields, the cost of generation in the State is relatively high which affects the cost of supply to the consumers. It would, therefore, be appropriate that Government of India should consider higher allocation of power to State like Rajasthan from Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs), Central Generating Stations so that the average cost of supply does not become exorbitantly high.

Selection committee of Atomic Power Corporation has recommended for establishing atomic energy based power generation plant at Banswara. We request Central Government to take accelerated action for establishment of power generation plant and Rajasthan be allocated higher allocation of power from the project.

Under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana, 40 schemes amounting to Rs.1307 crores have been sanctioned for the State and Rs.785 crores has been released against which Rs. 641 cores expenditure has been made so far. At the beginning of 2004, the percentage of village electrification was 65.32percent which has increased to 84.85percent as a result of implementation of RGGVY scheme. However, the State is facing difficulty in electrifying hamlets of population from 100 to 300 within the sanctioned cost of existing schemes. Therefore, the State has submitted 18 supplementary schemes for coverage of 17000 hamlets. Central Government is

requested to sanction these schemes at the earliest.

The State Government is also promoting development of transmission system in the private sector. The process for award of three transmission projects to the private entrepreneurs through competitive bidding based on Standard Bidding Documents notified by Ministry of Power is at final stage. The total cost of these projects will be around Rs. 510 crores.

Rajasthan is the geographically the largest State in the country and the population is scattered. The transmission and distribution systems are thus relatively large as compared to other States. Consequently, T&D losses are also high. The State has made large investments to develop HVDS systems through feeder renovation programme and extension of sub transmission system as a result of which the AT&C losses which were around 41.21 percent at the end of 2005-06 have come down to 26.96 percent at the end of 2009-10. For further reduction of losses, under the scheme named Gram Panchayat Vidyut Vitran Yojana, creation of 800 new 33/11 KV sub-stations to provide separate feeder for each panchayat are under progress. Strengthening of distribution network in the urban area through RAPDRP scheme is under process and we are confident that AT&C losses will be brought down to below 20 percent by the end of 11th Five Year Plan.

In our endeavor for expeditious implementation of the generation projects, we are looking forward to assistance from the Government of India, particularly with respect to early allocation of coal blocks / coal linkage and timely environmental clearances of coal blocks and power projects. Early environment clearance of the Parsa East and

Kente Basan coal blocks allocated to Rajasthan would also go a long way in deriving benefits from our generating units scheduled for commissioning in 11th Five Year Plan period.

We appreciate the initiative of Government of India for appointment of Coal Regulator for fixing the cost of indigenous coal. However, we feel that cost of indigenous coal should not be linked with landed cost of the imported coal because this may result in very high cost of coal for the Northern States like Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana which are far away from coal fields as well as from the ports.

The State has a vast potential for solar and wind power generation in its western desert region of the State, comprising of Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts. The State Government has accorded priority for exploitation of these resources for meeting the power generation requirement of the State. Over 1092 MW wind generation capacity has already been commissioned and an additional 600 MW capacity is likely to be commissioned by the end of 11th Five Year Plan.

The State Government has also brought out the Policy for Promoting Generation of Electricity from Biomass in February 2010. Biomass based power plants of 74 MW capacity have already been commissioned and further 100 MW capacity is likely to be commissioned by end of 11th Five Year Plan.

The State has immense potential for development of solar based energy generation on account of very good solar radiation intensity and availability of cheap unutilized desert land in the western desert region. We appreciate the initiative taken by Government of India to promote solar power generation under Jawahar Lal Nehru National

Solar Mission. This has generated a lot of enthusiasm among entrepreneurs. State nodal agency has received requests for allotment of sites for establishing solar power plants of 11500 MW capacities under Jawahar Lal Nehru National Solar Mission.

Rajasthan is one of the few States to have issued open access regulation. All consumers above 1 MVA load are availing benefits of open access w.e.f. 1st April, 2008. Large number of captive power plants in the state are availing open access for their self consumption as well as for sale of power within and outside the State. We feel that with the establishment of power exchange and setting up of Merchant Power Plant, the consumers will have various options to purchase power from the sources others than Discoms. As such there is no need for allocation of power from un-allocated quota of Central Generating Stations for open access, because this will create difficulty to fulfill the social obligations of the state.

The State had requested to Central Government for migration of solar power projects of 66 MW capacities under National Solar Mission. I thank to Hon'ble Prime Minister for accepting our request. Keeping in view the immense potential available in the State, Rajasthan should be allotted solar power plants of higher capacities so that State and the Country could avail entire benefits of this.

The State Government is also considering bringing out a policy for facilitating development of solar power plants. As the wind and solar generation potential is located in the far away desert region and the entire renewable energy potential cannot be absorbed within the State, the Government of India may also consider mandating Power Grid

Corporation to extend the regional transmission system up to generation hub in this remote region to enable the various States to meet their renewable power purchase obligations.

State Government is committed to bear the losses of power companies under the Fiscal Restructuring Program. These companies have created liabilities for the State Government to the tune of more than Rs. 15000 crores by the end of last year. In the absence of sufficient resources, these companies have had to resort to heavy borrowings, which have led to the deterioration of their financial health. Central Government is, therefore, urged to consider this sensitive issue and roll out a special package for the States which would provide relief to these companies in tiding over their financial crisis. I suggest that the Central Government, for instance, could authorize the State Government to issue power bonds to the extent of their liabilities. These should be deemed as lump sum relief over and above the borrowing limit of the states and the Central Government may think to provide grant to the States to the extent of additional interest burden.

4. Urban Development

To strengthen urban bodies, Rajasthan Urban Development Fund of Rs 400 crores has been established for urban local bodies of the State. For this Fund, State Government will contribute Rs. 150 crore and Rs. 250 crores will be contributed by urban local bodies.

Under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) sub-scheme of JNNURM, Government of India had allocated Rs. 748.69 crores (Central contribution) for complete duration of scheme. State

Government has obtained sanctions of 13 projects with project cost of Rs. 1229.09 crore from Central Government with committed central assistance of Rs. 766.26 crore.

Under UIG sub-scheme, Rs. 379.09 crore has been received as central assistance. An amount of Rs. 526.94 crore has been spent including share of the State Government & ULBs. Out of 13 sanctioned projects, work of 11 projects is underway.

Under Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) sub-scheme, Government of India had allocated Rs. 383.46 crores (Central contribution) for complete duration of scheme. State Government has got sanctioned 2 projects with project cost of Rs. 277.13 crores from Central Government with committed central assistance of Rs. 170.88 crores.

The work of 12000 houses sanctioned under BSUP project at Jaipur could not be started as the land selected for this purpose happened to be in the boundary of Nahargarh Wild Life Sanctuary. With State's continuous efforts the Central Wild Life Board has now agreed to de-reserve the land if another land is provided to Forest Department. This is being done now and hopefully the project will start very shortly.

A project for relocation of 17 slums of Jaipur with proposed construction of 2922 houses along with basic infrastructure facilities amounting to Rs. 97.53 crore has been submitted to Government of India. A project for relocation of another 22 slums of Jaipur with proposed construction of houses along with basic Infrastructure facilities amounting to Rs. 100 crore is being prepared. A project for construction of 142 relocation houses along with basic infrastructure at Pushkar is being prepared.

Under BSUP Sub- Scheme, contribution of Rs. 42.30 crores has been received from Government of India. An expenditure of Rs. 23.52 crores has been incurred including share of State and ULBs.

The admissible central grant for Mission cities under UIG & BSUP Sub-Mission of JNNURM varies with the population of city. For Ajmer-Pushkar admissible central grant is 80 percent of project cost, while Jaipur being million plus city, admissible central grant is only 50 percent. For non –mission cities, 80 percent central grant of project cost is admissible under IHSDP & UIDSSMT Sub-Mission. Keeping in view the weak financial position of municipalities, Central Government is requested to provide 80 percent central grant for UIG & BSUP sub-projects for Jaipur City also.

According to the guidelines of JNNURM, Urban Local bodies have to bear additional tender premium amount in addition to their share. In view of poor financial condition of ULBs, Central Government should also bear the burden of tender premium amount.

The of Additional Central Assistance amounting to Rs.142.58 crore under JNNURM is pending in which should be released at the earliest spite of submission of utilization certificate by the State for more than one year.

The Central Government should review the whole issue of reforms and their uniform applicability across the States under JNNURM based on experiences obtained so far during the Mission period and take a pragmatic view on the entire issue as uniform bench marking of reforms for all the states is not working because of different circumstances of each State. A thorough review of reforms bench marking therefore

needs to be under taken by Govt. of India after discussion with States to address the problems faced by them. Till then release of Additional Central Assistance should not be withheld on the pretext of non-implementation of reforms.

Presently, only Jaipur, Ajmer and Pushkar are covered under JNNURM. Prime Minister is requested that all cities with population of more than 5 lacs should be covered under this scheme.

Under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), Government of India had allocated Rs. 401.43 crores (Central contribution) for complete duration of scheme. State Government has got sanctioned 37 projects in the fourth year of scheme with project cost of Rs. 609.93 crores from Central Government with committed central assistance of Rs. 487.95 crores.

Under UIDSSMT sub-scheme, Rs. 284.22 crore has been received as central assistance. An amount of Rs. 170.29 crore has been spent including share of State Government & ULBs. Out of 37 sanctioned projects, work of 8 projects has been completed, while the work of 24 projects is underway. The work orders of sewerage project at Sardarshahar, Hanumagarh & Jhunjhunu, have been issued and work shall be taken up shortly. The work of sewerage project at Kota & Bikaner are still to be taken up. The tenders for both the projects have been received & are under process of sanction.

Government of India is requested to increase the central allocation by Rs. 500 crores and Rs. 1000 crores respectively for UIG and UIDSSMT sub-schemes.

Under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Program (IHSDP) sub-scheme, Government of India had allocated Rs. 424.56 crores (Central contribution) for complete duration of scheme. State Government has got sanctioned 39 projects with project cost of Rs. 500.67 crores from Central Government with committed central assistance of Rs. 333.84 crores. Under IHSDP sub-scheme, Rs. 180.89 crore has been received as central assistance. An amount of Rs. 87.49 crore has been spent including share of State and ULBs.

State Government is committed to provide basic amenities to urban populations especially housing and other basic amenities like electricity, water, transport facilities, health, education and social security.

It is State Government's strong resolution to make the local bodies financially sustainable/strong in accordance with 74th Constitutional Amendment. Efforts are continuing in this direction. Local Bodies have been directed for optimum utilization of urban land available in their jurisdiction. The work of e-governance in local bodies is under way in accordance with the agreement executed with the Central Government by the State Government & local bodies under JNNURM. To improve the financial position of local bodies, necessary rights have been provided to collect fees under Rajasthan Municipal Act, 2009 for different civic services. As per agreement executed under JNNURM, necessary action is being taken to increase coverage and collection capacities of local bodies for Urban Development Tax (Property Tax) imposed by the State Government.

Due to increasing population and migration of people from rural areas to urban areas, providing basic amenities in urban areas is essential.

Although, State Government is ambitious to provide basic amenities to all urban population but looking to economic condition of the State, it is a herculean task. Similarly keeping in view the geographic conditions of the State, Central Government should provide maximum financial assistance under various schemes for providing basic amenities.

State Government is committed to implement Kachchi Basti Vihin Shahar Program under Rajiv Awas Yojana. In this regard, survey has been undertaken in slum areas of all local bodies. According to the directions of the Central Government, action-plan will be submitted to Central Government in due course for approval of the scheme.

State Government has already constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of concerned Divisional Commissioner/Collector for co-ordination among the different departments/agencies for providing basic amenities and construction activities.

State Government is implementing various projects with private sector participation due to unavailability of funds required for providing basic amenities.

To implement big projects, action is being taken for imparting necessary training to different government departments/officers of agencies/specialists of the State.

5. Tribal Development

Education

Literacy rate of ST population is 44.70 per cent as per the census 2001. But it is still lower than the State literacy rate. Low enrollment rate and high dropout rate are still prevailing in scheduled area. Emphasis has been given on education in XIth Five Year Plan. 249 school level hostels have been established for tribal students in the State. 10 new hostels (capacity 550) are being started this year. Construction of 3 boys' and 32 girls' hostel buildings are planned this year.

12 tribal residential schools are being run in the State. 4 new residential schools will be started during this year and construction work of 2 residential school buildings is under progress. In addition to that a proposal for sanctioning 6 residential schools has been sent to Central Government.

Vocational training and employment

Vocational training for self employment is being imparted to tribal youths through ITI, Food Craft Institute and Rajasthan Mission on Livelihood. Financial assistance is also being provided to tribal youths for self employment. During current year, 7200 tribal youths will be benefited by these schemes. Construction work of one engineering college building is under progress at Banswara in scheduled area. Adequate reservation for scheduled tribe students would be ensured in this college.

With the objective to provide sufficient representation and opportunities to the tribal youth, special reservation of 45 per cent for tribals of scheduled area has been made on all posts of direct recruitment other than state services in scheduled area. Similarly 25 per cent vacancies of direct recruitment in various departments in Baran district are reserved for Saharias of Shahbad and Kishanganj tehsils.

Maa-Bari Centres

Boys and girls residing in the remote hamlets of scheduled area & Saharia area cannot go to schools. To provide education and treat malnutrition of such girls and boys, Maa-Bari centres are running in these areas. In these centres, free of cost uniform, breakfast, food along with education are being provided to the children. 155 & 207 Maa-Bari centres are running in the scheduled area and Saharia area respectively.

Tribal Sub Plan

The State Government provides plan allocation in proportion to the tribal population of the state for Tribal Sub Plan. In year 2010-11, 12 per cent flow of total plan ceiling of the State has been kept for Tribal Sub Plan.

In the year 2010-11, State Government has increased budget provision for “Janjati Kalyan Nidhi” from Rs. 100 cr. to 124 cr. During the last three years Rs. 139 crores have been spent under the scheme “Special Central Assistance” Rs. 92 crores under Article 275(1) of the Indian Constitution Rs. 22 crores and under the “Janjati Kalyan Nidhi” has been spent. Various schemes for development of infrastructure, social

services and employment opportunities are being prepared.

State Government has decided to treat Sahariya and Kathori tribes at par with State BPL families.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group

Saharia tribe has been identified as PTG in the State. They are living in Shahbad and Kishanganj tehsils of Baran District. Their population is about 74,000. A proposal of Rs. 51.93 crore was sent for 11th Five Year Plan period (2008-09 to 2011-12) to Central Government. Out of this, sanction for Rs. 12 crore was received for year 2008-09. A revised proposal of Rs.71.54 crore has been sent to Central Government. The proposal seeks to establish 4 residential schools and 3 hostels along with construction of 3300 houses.

Forest Rights Act

The Schedule Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act, 2006 was enacted by Central Government in order to recognize and vest forest rights and occupation in forest land of scheduled tribe occupants and other traditional forest dwellers. Special efforts were made to document 60353 claims. All claims have been decided. Out of them 30083 claims were accepted and 30270 claims rejected. 30080 title deeds have been issued so far.

Appeal process is under way for cases rejected at various levels. Wide publicity among masses, training at different levels is being conducted to ensure that no eligible claimant is left or rejected on wrong or flimsy grounds.

Implementation of PESA

For effective implementation of PESA, power of ejection of trespasser from a piece of land held by a tribal has been delegated to Panchayat Samiti.

Powers of Registrar General, Registrar and Assistant Registrar have been delegated to Commissioner (Tribal Area Development), Panchayat Samiti and Gram Panchayat respectively. These powers have been delegated under Rajasthan Money Lender Act, 1963 for scheduled area.

Necessary amendment has been made in Rajasthan Minor Mineral Concession Rule, 1986 so that no prospecting license, mining lease or any other mineral concession in respect of a minor mineral shall be granted in the scheduled area without obtaining prior recommendation of the Panchayat Raj Institutions at appropriate level. Implementation of all provisions of PESA are under process.

Minor Forest Produce (MFP)

Pending finalization of rules under PESA, the collection and sell of MFP in scheduled area and saharia area is being done by RTADCF as earlier. MFP worth Rs. 118.48 lacs were collected during the year 2009-10, which is more than the target. Prepration of Rajasthan Panchayat Raj (Control and Management of Minor Forest Produce in Scheduled Area) Rules, 2010 is in process.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention on some key issues.

Huge reserves of crude oil have been discovered in Rajasthan. Earlier estimate made by Cairns India Ltd. for Barmer district was 480 Million MT of crude oil which has now been increased to 900 Million MT. The commercial production of crude oil commenced on 29th August, 2009 in the august presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister. The current production of crude oil is 1 lac 5 thousand barrels per day which is likely to go up to 1.5 lac to 2 lac barrels per day. Barmer will soon account for 20 per cent domestic production of crude oil in India.

The maximum benefits of discovery of crude oil can accrue to Rajasthan only through value addition by way of a refinery which will lead to employment and revenue generation for the State. Rajasthan is the only major state without a refinery. There are many states in the country which have refineries without any production of crude oil within the State. Therefore, there is a very strong case of setting up of refinery in Rajasthan.

Education has been treated as fundamental right along with poverty eradication in the targets fixed for the 11th Five Year Plan for inclusive growth. I am very happy that UPA Government has implemented the 'Right to Education Act'. Besides there are other fundamental rights like Right to Information, Right to Employment (through MGNREGA) and Food Security on which Central Government has taken action. State Government has already initiated a scheme to provide sufficient food grains to BPL families along with state BPLs at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg. "Housing for All" is also a fundamental need and I would urge

the Prime Minister to take initiative here also to promulgate an Act which ensures Home for every body within a certain time span.

Hon'ble Prime Minister, main objective of this country's planning process is removal of regional imbalances and disparities along with increase in growth rate. In context of Rajasthan, we found that huge differences still persist between us and developed States. In this reference, I again request to this highest august body to include our long-time pending and best justified demand of giving "Special Category Status" to our State.

Jai Hind.