



**GOVERNMENT
OF
NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI**

SPEECH OF

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CHIEF MINISTER, DELHI**

**NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
MEETING**

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NEW DELHI

Mr. Chairman, Members of the National Development Council and distinguished participants,

1. We are indeed privileged to work with a Chairman of the NDC who has the experience of serving as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. We wish that under the guidance and leadership of the new Chairman, the present NDC will leave an indelible imprint on Indian planning and its development, all within the framework of our decentralized federalism.
2. In the last NDC meeting, we had submitted that a GDP growth rate of 8% was absolutely necessary for achieving the monitorable targets during the 10th Five Year Plan, yet going by the economic indicators of that time, we asked ourselves whether 8% growth would be actually achievable. This we find substantiated in the assessment made in the Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) done by the Planning Commission, which states that "the overall growth rate for the plan as a whole is unlikely to exceed 7 per cent". Incidentally, we must congratulate the Chairman of the NDC and the Planning Commission for bringing out such an exhaustive and a useful Mid Term Appraisal of the 10th Five Year Plan. In fact, we must admit that by holding the Regional Consultations in November 2004 to discuss the MTA of the concerned States, the Planning Commission made a path-breaking beginning for undertaking an MTA of the 10th Plan of the country as a whole.
3. Government of Delhi's growth rate in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in real terms during 9th Five Year Plan was 6.96%, which increased to 8.38% during the first 2 years of 10th Five Year Plan. Delhi is contributing about 3.1% in National income as compared to 1.4% share in total population of the country. On our part we would strive hard to have a higher growth in the remaining years of the 10th Plan.
4. But growth alone, as you would all agree and know, cannot and does not indicate the real development of the State as well as its populace. It is in this context, human development concerns moved to the center stage of determining development of a State in the 1990s. The main reason for this concern was to recognize the fact that the real objective of the

development was to enlarge people's option, not necessarily in terms of income alone but more importantly taking into account the components of Health, Education, Physical Environment and Freedom. We have accordingly taken up the preparation of the first Delhi Human Development Report (HDR), which will be published shortly. It is worthwhile to point out that different stakeholders were consulted and a large public perception survey was carried out for preparation of the Delhi's first HDR to make the process of report preparation a broad based participatory effort. This is in tune with our programme of Bhagidari, which aims at to have people's participation in the developmental process and also in managing some of the civic services in Delhi. As a passing reference, May I mention that the Bhagidari Programme of Government of Delhi has drawn international recognition and has received many international awards including the recently declared "United Nations Public Service award 2005".

5. Turning to the monitorable targets of the 10th Five Year relating to reduction of poverty, bringing down illiteracy, bettering IMR & MMR and improving the environment, we wish to record that we have had a fair amount of success in these areas. The MTA document of the Planning Commission has shown the importance of human development by having a separate chapter and rightly keeping it as the first subject chapter after the introduction. The national target under Education is to achieve 100% enrolment in primary schools by 2003 and 100% retention immediately thereafter. Through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), we have succeeded in bringing a large number of left out children in Delhi to the classrooms. A door-to-door survey, launched as a part of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in 2003, showed that 6.4% (1.03 lakh) of children in the age group 6-10 years and about 7% (0.84 lakh) in the age group 11-14 years are out of schools. We are committed to ensure that all of them are brought into the school network. However the problem of continuous large-scale in-migration hampers 100% retention, if not enrolment. Further, my Government has decided to implement the Sarva Shikhsa Abhiyan in Mission Mode. We are also committed to provide 25% of total expenditure of SSA as 75% would be borne by the Government of India as per funding pattern laid down by them. We hope to see a perceptible change not only in the enrolment of students but also in the quality of education, particularly at the

elementary level. This is expected to go a long way for a better foundation for having better intakes at the middle level schooling and thereafter at the secondary level.

6. A target of 70% literacy has been kept at the national level in the 10th Plan period. In Delhi, we have already achieved a literacy rate of around 82% which we hope to improve upon further by the end of 10th Plan. There is also a target of reduction in gender gap in literacy by 5% in the 10th Plan. The literacy rate for male in Delhi was 87.4% in 2001 while that for the female was 75%. All out efforts are in hand to improve the literacy rate in general and female literacy rate in particular so that the reduction in gender gap in literacy rate between male - and female is further narrowed down.
7. The Mid Day Meal programme has been mentioned in the Nutrition chapter in the MTA document of the Planning Commission. It has been our experience and almost all the participants present here would agree that the scheme of Mid Day Meal in primary schools has been a major force for increasing a better enrolment and also acting as a magnetic pull for better retention and improving nutritional status of the children and thus increasing the sphere as well as impact of the elementary education. In Delhi, under the Mid Day Meal scheme, cooked food, containing 8 to 12 grams proteins and 300 calories is being provided to around 14 lakh students of primary classes. In order to achieve better enrolment and retention, Government of Delhi is also providing various incentives such as scholarship, free supply of textbooks, free transport facilities to girl students in the rural areas, uniform subsidies, stipend to girl students etc. All in all, Government of Delhi is totally committed to the concept of having 100% enrolment of all children of school going age and offering them a better environment and facilities for their retention and a quality education. This would no doubt pave the way for better human resources in the days to come.
8. Government of Delhi has embarked upon a host of schemes, which aim at empowerment of women and for their development and welfare. The satisfying result that has just come through our Stree Shakti Programme needs specific mention. Under this programme, facilities of health check up, improving literacy, imparting skills development training and legal awareness

are being taken up regularly. Within a span of last 3-4 years, more than 1.50 lakh women have been benefited under this programme. Since it has been our experience that unless there are regular follow up measures, the real empowerment, on a sustainable basis, does not come through. We have, therefore, set up Gender Resources Centers in Delhi. These centers function as a single window service and provide a host of benefits including the provision of setting up of self help groups for arranging micro finance and running enterprises.

9. Women today form increasingly large population of our work force, which has created demand for more and more Working Women Hostels. This problem is being tackled by setting up a number of Working Women Hostels in the areas/ localities where demands for such hostels exist in immediate future. As an experiment, we are also involving Non Governmental Organization for running a Working Women Hostel. The success of this experiment would facilitate in having such joint ventures with the Non Governmental Organizations. This would also result in increasing the participatory role of NGOs with the Government of Delhi.
10. The demographic profile of the country is changing fast. With the advancement of disease control measures and better living conditions, more senior citizens would be occupying a larger share of the changing demographic profile. This calls for various measures including that of setting up of Old Age Homes. Accordingly, Government of Delhi is making concerted efforts to set up a number of Old Age Homes in near future. In Delhi, we are already providing financial assistance to around 1.50 lakh senior citizens over the age of 60. We are also implementing other welfare schemes such as financial assistance to widows, scholarship to disabled persons; concessional bus passes to senior citizens etc. Out of all these schemes, a particular mention of the scheme of Jan Shree Bima noits. Yojana is necessary. This scheme is being ft undertaken in collaboration with LIC. Our target is to cover all the BPL families in Delhi so that social security cum insurance cover is available to the poorest section of the society.
11. I have just outlined some of the measures that my Government has taken in order to have our development with a human face. Now, I turn to the reforms

that have been carried out in the Power sector in Delhi. In fact, Delhi was the first State to set up its Electricity Regulatory Commission in 1999, well before the reforms in the power sector, which were successfully completed in 2002. One of the recommendations arising out of MTA by the Planning Commission is to have a comprehensive reform in the Power sector so as to have a significant effect on plan financing as a whole. I am glad to state that in Delhi, we are already witnessing the fruitful results of the reforms undertaken by our Government. During the last 2 years, that is after the unbundling of the then Delhi Vidyut Board and opening up of power distribution to the private companies, Government of Delhi has saved a substantial amount, running into hundreds of crore every year both under plan & non plan. This has significantly increased our plan financing. Thus Government of Delhi is now in a position to allocate much more plan funds to the social service sectors and also to the infrastructure sector. On another count also, the Power sector reforms have gone well. Notwithstanding initial hiccups and some hardships here and there, the power supply position has improved. With such encouraging results from Power sector reforms, one discordant note is arising from the Government of India's refusal to provide Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (APDRP) fund to the private distribution companies. From Government of Delhi, we strongly feel that such denial of APDRP fund to the private Distcoms may result in slowing down of reform process where Power sector reform has taken place. We feel privatization of distribution of power is the best option to achieve the objective of the reforms in the power sector. I therefore, request the Union Government to reconsider their decision on APDRP in the interest of furtherance of the Power sector reforms in rest of the country.

12. Government of Delhi also took lead in introduction of e-Governance particularly in its public dealing departments like Transport, Sales Tax, Revenue, Education, Civil Supplies and so on to improve transparency and make the service delivery more efficient and convenient. The Citizens Service Bureau has been opened on various localities to provide various services and facilitate payment of all Government dues under one roof. One such center is being opened in each of the 134 wards of MCD. Publication of tenders of all Government Departments and Undertakings in our website has

also been made mandatory. We are also in the process of starting the system of an line bidding. Delhi Right to Information Act, 2001 has contributed further in providing adequate opportunities to the citizens in getting the requisite information from the Government departments and local bodies. Citizen's Charters issued by all the public dealing departments, make available maximum information to the citizens of Delhi about functions, activities, duties, responsibility and time schedule fixed for the delivery of services. Government has moved a step further in transparent and participatory governance by assigning the task of social audit of public services to a reputed organization so as to assess the performance of various departments on the basis of public feed back.

13. I am happy to record that the Annual Plan of Delhi is financed to the tune of 96.2% from our own resources including small saving loan. The central grant represents only the balance 3.8% of the plan outlay of Rs.51 00 crore for the Annual Plan 2005-06. We have also availed the facilities of swapping of high cost debt offered by the Government of India. This has also resulted in saving scarce resources on account of reduction in interest burden due to retirement of high cost debt of Government of Delhi. Our resource mobilization efforts and tax revenue have been buoyant. Delhi continues to have positive Balance from Current Revenue (BCR). With all these, with some modesty, we may claim, that Government of Delhi has been able to manage its finances prudently,
14. Citizens of Delhi have started experiencing the benefits of the Metro Rail. We have given the clearance required at our level for phase-I I of the Metro project and we hope that the same would be approved at the Union Government level soon. The Metro culture, I am sure, would not only usher-in an efficient transport mode to the citizens of Delhi but equally it would also bring in a sense of cleanliness and more importantly a sense of belonging. We have some more ambitious plans of mega projects in the transport sector. In all, we are gearing up to meet not only the present challenges and but also those which would come up on account ensuing Commonwealth Games and other international events in Delhi. I take this opportunity to plead to the Union Government for allocation of liberal grants/ assistance for such projects.

15. In the last NDC meeting, I had emphasized on the importance of implementation of National Capital Regional (NCR) plan if Delhi is to survive optimally and also to maintain the international standard of a capital city. However, the thrust that one would expect from the different quarters is not forthcoming. I therefore, request again to the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana & Rajasthan to come forward collectively, in this gigantic task, which would save not only Delhi from tremendous pressure of continuous in-migration but also create an investment potential and developmental force for the regions in the respective States and hence bring in prosperity in the region as a whole. The Union Government, as is obvious, would have to play the most important role of providing much needed fund as well as "teeth" to NCR Planning Board to take roots and to fructify.
16. On the environmental front, the introduction of CNG in the entire public transport system of Delhi has brought about a much desired reduction in the pollution level in Delhi. It has a beneficial cyclic effect on the society as well as on the economy. Government of Delhi would like to accelerate the momentum of this eco-friendly fuel by enforcing other vehicles plying in/through the city to switch over to CNG. This would call for amendments in acts and provisions. It is also heartening to recall that our concerted efforts to increase forest and tree cover have started showing good results. The latest survey indicates substantial enhancement of forest and tree cover in the city. The degraded Bhatti mine is also being brought to "life" through huge plantation and other eco-friendly measures.
17. We fully endorse the recommendations of MTA to review the issue of ownership rights on ground water, as legislation to control over-exploitation has not been successful. Delhi Government has taken up the work for preparation of Draft Bill to transfer the control of ground water in Delhi to Delhi Jal Board for its proper use, recharge and control on over-exploitation. We also endorse the recommendations of MTA to encourage a gradual change in dependence from ground water to surface water for rural water supply to tackle the problem of sustainability of water quality. Delhi is generating more than 300 MOD of treated waste water at present and we have already installed the sewage treatment capacity of 512 MGD. Delhi needs raw water of Western Yamuna Canal for our water treatment plants in lieu of

which the treated waste water from our sewage treatment plants could be made available to rural areas of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh for irrigation purposes. With this approach, we will be able to save ground water exploitation being done at present in these areas for irrigation.

18. Kindly permit me now to raise certain issues of huge public importance for kind deliberation and intervention from the Union Government and co-operation of the neighboring States.
19. As per Yamuna Water Agreement of 1994, Delhi can get its due share of 0.724 B.C.M. of water only after construction of Renuka Dam in Himachal Pradesh, Lakhwar Vyasi and Kishau reservoir in Uttranchal. Keeping the precarious position of raw water availability to Delhi for making potable water, it is in interest of the capital city of the country and its citizens that these water projects are completed in the shortest possible time. This calls for a prioritized plan of action.
20. In our opinion the major drawback or impediment in timely and effective implementation of National Capital Regional Plan 2001 was delay in implementation of public transport projects connecting Delhi to towns like Ghaziabad, Sahibabad, Gurgaon etc. Government of Delhi financed the feasibility cost of IRBT project connecting Delhi with these three fast developing towns of the NCR. Though we are keeping a provision for IRBT project each year, no concrete action has been taken. Delay in implementation of this project is a matter of serious concern for all of us.
21. NCR Planning Board has prepared a number of transport projects as part of National Capital Regional Plan 2001. Construction of Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways, one such project could be taken up only recently with the intervention of the Court. Government of Delhi has already released an amount of Rs. 147 crore during 2004-05. We are willing to release balance of our share. However, I would like to urge all concerned with these projects of Eastern & Western peripheral Expressways to expedite the implementation of the projects and even reduce the "project duration" so that its benefits may help in improving the environmental conditions of the area along with better movements of Inter State goods and passenger traffic in the Region.

22. A larger number of projects of Government of Delhi are facing cost over run problem on account of delay in allotment of adequate and suitable land by the Delhi Development Authority. We request for an urgent intervention by the Union Government in those cases.
23. At present, there is a system of giving special dispensation towards disadvantaged areas/backward states. While there can be no two opinions that in a federal structure, the backward areas/States deserve special dispensation, yet the States who perform well on fiscal measures need to be rewarded so as to induce the remaining States to perform better. In this regard, Government of Delhi would like to point out that the grant, which is given to Government of Delhi in lieu of share in central taxes, has been kept stagnant for the last four years. Further, based on 12th Finance Commission's recommendations, certain other facilities available to the States are not extended to Delhi. This needs to be looked into. Another issue that needs mention is regarding unilateral cut by the Ministries after the plan allocation/ assistance has been agreed to in the meetings between the States and the Planning Commission. On this issue also, there is a greater need of deliberation in the NDC particularly keeping in view that the Planning Commission desires to see itself in a more pro-active role in championing the cause of the States with Central Ministries.
24. I conclude with the hope that the deliberations made here would help us to reach our goal collectively in a spirit of cooperation and purpose that are hallmark of India's federal democracy and its planning.

Thank you.

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