

## **NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

### **1.1. INTRODUCTION**

The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) is being prepared against the backdrop of new Millennium and expectations of higher standard living arising among the people of the country in the context of reforms. While encouraging progress could be achieved in last decade on basic indicators such as reducing percentage of population below poverty line, declining trend of growth of population, significant increase of percentage of literacy, new source of strength on software and IT related services, yet a number of areas e.g. slowing down of world economy, slow generation of employment opportunities, stagnating position of infant mortality rate, a large gap in providing household power connection and water connection, degradation of forests, over exploitation of ground water etc. have remained as cause for concern. The Tenth Plan provides and opportunity to take up a new approach in the planning process on the gains of the past and also to address the weaknesses that have emerged. It is, therefore, suggested to draw up a reform focus plan instead of having a conventional resource plan.

### **1.2 STRATEGY**

1.2.1. In the past plans the Government had tended to take to many responsibilities which had imposed severe strains on its limited financial resources and administrative capabilities. Such a position was not so conducive for promoting individual/private initiatives and capabilities, compared with potential of the private sector in the country. It is, therefore, proposed that the Government will stride to promote conducive environment so that private sector can expand rapidly for playing dominant role in the industrial growth in future.

1.2.2. In respect of infrastructure development the role of the Government may be re-structured so that private investment can be attracted in areas like road development, telecommunication, power and sports. However, considering the large gaps and pressing needs of these sectors, it may not be expected that private sector can fully meet the gaps. The Government still may have to continue playing a significant role in building this infrastructure in the coming year also.

### 1.3. **OBJECTIVES**

1.3.1. The Tenth Plan aim at an indicative target of 8% GDP growth during the plan period with a perspective goal for doubling par capita income of the people in next 10 years.

1.3.2. Instead of achieving mere arithmetical economic growth or par capita income, the larger objective of the plan is to improve level of consumption of food and other consumer goods, better excess to basic social services e.g. education, health, drinking water, sanitation, expansion of economic and social opportunities and greater participation of the people in the decision making in the process.

1.3.3. Keeping these in view, the objectives of the Tenth Plan is focused to attain following monitorable targets.

- Reduction of poverty ratio to 20% by 2007 and to 10% by 2012.
- Providing gainful employment to the addition to the labour force over the Tenth Plan period.
- Universal access to primary education by 2007.
- Reduction in the decadal rate of population growth between 2001 and 2011 to 16.2%.
- Increase in literacy rates to 72% by 2007 and to 80% by 2012.
- Reduction of Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to 45 per 1000 live births by 2007 and to 28 by 2012.
- Reduction of Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) to 20 per 1000 live births by 2007 and to 10 by 2012.
- Increase in forest and tree cover to 25% by 2007 and 33% by 2012.
- All villages to have access to potable drinking water by 2012.
- Cleaning of all major polluted rivers by 2007 and other notified stretches by 2012.

1.3.4. On the sectoral policy issues the plan envised to address following areas.

- The subsidies have grown in size and are now financially unsustainable. The plan envisages reduction of such subsidies.
- The plan aims at a major revival of public investment in irrigation capacity and water management.
- Development and dissemination of agricultural technologies.
- Improvement of rural infrastructure specially road connectivity to promote rural economic activities.
- Focus on post harvest technologies and marketing infrastructure.

1.3.5. In order to emphasise the importance of ensuring balanced development for all states, the Tenth Plan should include a state-wise break-down of the broad developmental targets, including targets for growth rates and social development. These state specific targets should take into account the potentialities and constraints present in each state and the scope for improvement in performance.

1.3.6. For achieving the goal of 8% growth, it is envisaged to give high priority in the plan to identify efficiency enhancing policies both at the macro level and at the sectoral level by mobilising political will with minimum consensus.

#### 1.4. **GROWTH, EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY**

1.4.1. Equity related objectives of the plan are to be linked to the growth objective so that attainment of one may be possible with the attainment of the other.

1.4.2. High growth rates may not be sustainable if they are not accompanied by a dispersion of purchasing power which can provide the demand needed to support the increase in output without having to rely excessively on external markets. External markets need to be tapped more aggressively for many sectors. However, considering size of the economy and its present status, much of the demands need to support high growth coming from domestic economy.

1.4.3. The Plan is proposed to be formulated in a manner which explicitly addresses the need to ensure equity and social justice.

1.4.4. Agricultural development must be viewed as a core element of the plan since growth in this sector is likely to lead to the widest spread of benefits especially to the rural poor.

1.4.5. Growth strategy of the Plan must ensure rapid growth of those sectors which are most likely to create high quality of employment opportunities.

1.4.6. Supplement the impact of growth with special programmes aimed at special target groups which may not benefit sufficiently from the normal growth process. However, it is envisaged that they are effective in achieving their objectives.

#### 1.5. **TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT**

1.5.1. To tackle the various unresolved problems of the tribals, it is envisaged to formulate a comprehensive National Policy for Empowering Tribals through their integrated development, which will lay down the responsibilities of the different wings of Government with appropriate accountability.

#### 1.6. **ENVIRONMENT**

1.6.1 Considering the growing problem of pollution and waste generation, it is envisaged that population and economic growth should be synchronised with environmental conservation by taking effective measures.

#### 1.7. **CONCLUSION**

1.7.1 In short, the broad objectives and targets of the Plan can be described as achieving an average rate of growth of GDP of 8%, along with specific focus on a few key measures of human development with a view to achieve the vision of doubling per capita incomes of the country by the end of Eleventh Plan period.