

SPEECH OF SH. AKHILESH YADAV, HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, UTTAR PRADESH AT THE 57th MEETING OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ON 27th December, 2012

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Members of the Council of Ministers and Members of the Planning Commission, my colleague Chief Ministers and other distinguished dignitaries.

We are thankful to the Prime Minister for convening the meeting of the National Development Council to discuss the Twelfth Five Year Plan. The meeting is being held at a time when the country needs a new direction to development. Many important issues have emerged which require serious thinking by all of us. It would have been appropriate that, before finalising the Twelfth Five Year Plan, discussions had been held with the State Governments because there are a large number of problems which need to be highlighted to address the diverse development problems of the States. This would have provided an insight into the problems of backward States and could have yielded fruitful results in addressing development issues.

2. The economic and social well-being, along with holistic development, is the epitome of socialist movement which is built on the principles of upliftment of deprived sections, women, farmers, youths, labourers and economically backward persons. The primary aim of the Samajwadi Government is to provide benefits of development to the downtrodden so that they can also fulfill their dreams and live a life of fulfillment. At this juncture, it would not be inappropriate to point out that, it was with these principles in mind, that in 1976, the 42nd Constitutional Amendment introduced the words "Socialist Secular" in the Preamble of our Constitution.

3. It is heartening to note that the Twelfth Five Year Plan document (2012-17) has laid emphasis on alleviating poverty, reducing disparity and regional imbalances, creating employment opportunities which make for a more equitable society and empowerment of the masses. These have been the guiding principles of our socialistic philosophy for inclusive growth.

4. Sir, our vision for accelerated development with inclusive growth, is to reduce poverty, unemployment, regional disparities and address the problems of rural areas along-with equitable development. It is true that these objectives could not be attained during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. In order to achieve these objectives, it would be necessary for the Central Government to rise above the party politics and distribute the resources to bring balanced development and uplift the target groups.

Growth Rate

5. Sir, the Twelfth Five Year Plan envisages a targeted growth rate of 8.2 percent. Keeping in view the impact of the global recession and the present economic scenario it would be difficult, but not impossible, to achieve the targeted growth rate. Keeping in view the development potential and possibilities, higher growth rates can be achieved if there is a concerted and coordinated effort by all.

6. Uttar Pradesh is the biggest State where 16 percent of the population resides and in terms of area it is one of the largest State. To achieve the targets of the Twelfth Five Year Plan, the contribution of Uttar Pradesh is important. In order to achieve the targeted growth rate and to reduce the existing 50 percent gap between the per-capita income of the State vis-a-vis the All-India average, Uttar Pradesh has fixed a growth target of 8.5 percent. The State has accorded priority to development of basic infrastructure. Steps have been initiated for the development of the power sector and roads, so that it becomes possible to achieve a higher growth rate.

7. At the national level, in the first year of the Twelfth Five Year Plan, the rate of growth of agriculture is estimated at 0.5 percent whereas during the plan period, it is targeted at 4 percent. Uttar Pradesh is predominantly an agricultural State. The growth rate of agriculture is targeted at 4.9 percent, for industry 7.1 percent and for the service sector 10.9 percent. In order to achieve this growth rate, it is estimated that an investment of Rs 16.70 lakh crore would be required. Our recent efforts should bring additional investment in the State and we hope that if positive cooperation of the Government of India is forthcoming, we would be able to achieve these targets.

8. Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that the sectoral distribution, without consultation with the State Governments, should be discouraged. For meeting the State's priorities and development needs, the assessment of resources made by the State Government should not have been reduced by the Planning Commission. For achieving the targets of the Twelfth Five Year Plan, mobilisation of requisite resources would be necessary because the States have a central role in poverty alleviation and development. I would like to inform the august gathering that while in the Twelfth Five Year Plan there has been an increase in the Gross Budgetary Support, the Central Assistance to the States has declined from 26.52 percent in the Eleventh Plan to 24.04 percent in the Twelfth Five Year Plan. This would adversely affect the developmental programmes of the States. This is a cause of serious concern.

9. The resources of the States are scarce which have been further constricted by the provisions of the FRBM Act. Under this Act, a borrowing limit as well as the ratio of Gross Fiscal Deficit to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has been fixed for the States. Any infringement of these limits, adversely affects the resources of the States. The FRBM Act and the rules framed by the Government of India, provide for fixing annual target of Gross Budgetary Deficit for the Centre. Infringement of this target by the Central Government does not adversely affect their resource position. We suggest that, to mobilise additional resources, similar flexibility should be granted to the State Governments.

Agriculture

10. Seventy two percent of the State's population depends on agriculture for their livelihood. It is important that the farmers get remunerative prices for their produce. To determine the prices of agricultural produce, the actual cost of cultivation should be considered along-with some investible surplus for the farmers. Some States pay a higher procurement price than the price fixed by the Centre. While we would like to follow the practice of these States, our limited resources restrict us from doing so. If a Second Green Revolution is to be heralded, it is important that the farmers get adequate prices for their produce so that investible resources are available for agriculture.

11. Sir, we have accorded utmost priority for the development of agriculture in the State not only to increase production but also productivity. Priority has been given to diversified agriculture, vegetable and fruit production. Agriculture Research is being encouraged to reduce the cost of cultivation, so that high yielding varieties are developed in 9 agro-climatic zones of the State. The State has launched a scheme for reclamation of usar, ravine, water-logged areas to be used for agriculture.

12. The Centre had announced the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of Rs 170 per quintal for sugarcane. The State Support Price (SAP) for sugarcane has been fixed at Rs 280 per quintal after considering the gross income of the sugar mills and the cost of cultivation of sugarcane. The cane price payment to the farmers will be Rs 21,500 crore.

13. It is our firm belief that, for development of agriculture, there is no other option but to increase investment. The Centre has initiated the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and Food Security Mission, but these efforts are insufficient. In order to increase investment in agriculture, it is necessary to provide loans to the farmers at lower rates of interest. This, on the one hand, will reduce the cost of cultivation and on the other make agriculture profitable. To increase the income of persons engaged in agriculture, role of horticulture, animal husbandry, dairy development, fisheries, poultry etc is important. Efforts are being made in the State for achieving 10 percent or more growth in these areas. Our request is that the Centre should come forward in providing new technology, expansion of infrastructural facilities and marketing support. Sir, I would like to draw your attention that decisions should be made keeping in view the interest of the farmers, then only we can provide food for all.

14. In Uttar Pradesh, more than 90 percent of the farmers are small and marginal farmers and to protect their interests, prices of diesel should not be increased. The Centre should give adequate assistance for providing irrigation facilities to them. In the rural areas, for improving electricity supply for tube-wells independent feeder lines need to be setup and the Central Government should provide assistance.

15. The State has announced a new Food Processing policy to encourage the food processing industry. Establishment of food processing units, its expansion and modernisation, technological upgradation, integrated cold chain for non horticultural produce and manpower development would be eligible for financial support under this policy. New units would be eligible for interest subsidy and export units would be entitled for rebate in mandi fees and development cess. Research and development, standardisation, patent/design registration, market and brand development would be eligible for financial assistance. Beetel leaf growers would be provided 50 percent subsidy. For micro irrigation, small and marginal farmers would be eligible for 90 percent subsidy and 75 percent subsidy would be available for other farmers.

16. It has been decided to complete all the ongoing irrigation projects in a time bound manner. The practice of completing projects in parts has been done away with and it has been decided to complete them on a turnkey basis. Due to non-development of command areas of the irrigation projects, the benefits have not accrued. Arrangements have been made to develop these command areas in a time bound manner. For efficient operation of tube-wells, it has been decided to install smart meters.

Infrastructure Development

17. In many sectors like information technology, trade, commerce, law, insurance and banking, there exists a huge demand for manpower. There is no alternative besides, increasing educated and trained human resource. Strengthening of infrastructural facilities provides a suitable base for development. We have decided to construct a eight lane controlled expressway between Lucknow and Agra. The work of connecting all district headquarters with four lane roads is in progress. With a view to strengthen the road network in the State, road from Lucknow to Bahraich

upto Rupaideha on the Nepal border and Gorakhpur to Varanasi is required to be converted to 4 lane, for which support from Govt. of India is solicited.

18. Unlimited potential exist for development of tourism in Uttar Pradesh. For easy and better accessibility between various tourist spots, support of the Central Government is required for construction of international airports at Kushinagar and around Agra. In order to provide better tourist facilities, the Government is trying to upgrade the quality of existing accomodation and promote private partnership.

19. The rate of industrial growth in the State is relatively low. The State Government has initiated various measures for enhancing the growth rate. For accelerated growth in infrastructure and industrial development and attracting investment, '**Investment Policy 2012**' has been announced. Keeping in view the regional imbalances, special provisions have been made for enhancing investment in Purvanchal and Bundelkhand regions of the State. The State Government has made Public Private Partnership an integral part of its policy for attracting investment in infrastructure. For development of basic infrastructure facilities, emphasis has been laid on strengthening of State Highways and construction of high speed transportation networks. The State is encouraging development of Mega Food Parks, Mega leather clusters, IT Parks to give a boost to investment in these sectors.

20. Work has been initiated for creation of an additional capacity of 16000 MW to ensure the availability of power in the State. However, due to non-availability of coal linkages, progress in these projects has been hampered. The recommendations of the State Government for coal linkages have been forwarded by the Power Ministry to the Coal Ministry but, the decision is awaited. Seven power projects in the private sector have also not been provided the coal linkages. Our request is that the Government of India should provide the coal linkages for these power generation projects in the private sector.

21. We have initiated the '**Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Samagra Gram Vikas Yojana**' with the objective of infrastructure development in the villages. Under this scheme, villages which are deprived of basic infrastructure facilities such as link roads, rural electrification, drinking water, toilets and sanitation facilities will be covered, in order to bring them into the mainstream of development. It is proposed to cover 10,000 villages under this scheme.

22. For development of speedier transportation facilities in the urban areas, Metro Rail/Bus Rapid Transit System is being encouraged in the major cities. In addition, we are promoting the participation of the private sector in construction of rail over bridges, flyovers, ring roads, new bus terminals and transport nagars. Further, to tackle the problem of traffic congestion, northern peripheral road which connects Meerut through Loni and Ghaziabad, will be constructed.

Health and Education

23. Even today a large number of children die either due to diseases for which medical cure is available or due to malnutrition. We are still behind the national parameters in poverty eradication, infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, gender disparities etc. I am of the firm view that education, health and agriculture sectors need special attention. In order to achieve universal literacy, students from all sections of society, who need financial support, irrespective of caste or creed, should be supported by scholarships.

24. In the rural areas, despite our efforts, large number of the people have to rely on unrecognised medical practioners for treatment. The capacity of providing trained human resources by the medical colleges etc., is negligible as compared to our needs. We need to open new medical and nursing colleges. The State has initiated establishment of 7 new medical colleges. Efforts are being made to attract private sector to establish at-least one medical college in each Commissioner's division.

25. Sir, for the last few years there has been a demand from the Government of India to provide land free of cost to establish AIIMS in Raibareilly. Our Government has decided to provide land free of cost in Raibareilly. We also request the Central Government to initiate the establishment of institutes like AIIMS in Bundelkhand, Poorvanchal and Ruhelkhand, keeping in view our diverse conditions of development.

26. Every year, districts of eastern and terai region are affected by Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (A.E.S.)/ Japanese Encephalitis (J.E.), which has now become a national problem and challenge. Though it has now become possible to control J.E., with timely vaccination, serious efforts need to be made to prevent A.E.S. The Central Government will have to play a pivotal role in tackling this problem by providing cent-percent assistance under a centrally sponsored scheme for a multi-dimensional programme which covers medical research, universal medical coverage, upgrade urban infrastructure such as water and power etc. In addition, there is a need for a special programme to rehabilitate children permanently handicapped and disabled by this disease.

27. Special efforts and support of the Government of India will be required for prevention and cure of serious diseases such as Cancer, AIDS etc. The State Government has decided to establish a high-tech, modern cancer hospital for treatment. We expect the Government of India to support us in our endeavour. There is a need to enhance the existing financial and technical support for the AIDS programme by the Government of India.

28. The need for a fresh approach to vocational education is being felt at all levels in the government. Through technical up-gradation only, it will be possible to achieve the expected growth in production and productivity. For persons engaged in the un-organised sector, up-gradation of skills is necessary so that they can be paid a fair remuneration. Trained workers are also required in large number in the organised sector. We need to enhance the number of ITIs as well as improve the quality through a radical restructuring.

29. In addition to education and skill development the Central Government needs to support special efforts in health and mal nutrition, so that states which are below the national average can be brought at par by the end of Twelfth Five Year Plan. By these efforts there is a possibility of redemption and improvement in the indicators of human development.

Women's Empowerment

30. In the state special schemes have been launched to provide education to the children of backward classes. Arrangements have been made under the "**Kanya Vidya Dhan Yojana**" to give Rs. 30,000/- to the girls who have passed class twelfth. This year three lakh girls will be benefitted under this scheme. Similarly under the "**Hamari Beti Uska Kal Yojana**" 83,000 High School pass girls of the minority Communities will be benefitted and the money may be used either for education or

marriage. In the case of girls belonging to the general category, unable to afford education, a new scheme "**Padhe Betiyan Badhe Betiyan Yojana**" has been launched.

31. An ambitious programme of providing free P.C. tablets to High school pass students and Laptops to students who have passed class twelfth has been launched.

Social Harmony

32. Sir, all our efforts will be futile if all the communities of our society are not given an equal opportunity to participate in the economic progress of the country. Poor and destitute cannot be divided on the basis of caste and community. The State has initiated programmes to provide equal opportunities and facilities. The State has made arrangements for scholarships and education to eligible children of deprived sections of society as well as provide pension to destitute, women, aged and the infirm. The State has launched the "**Rani Laxmi Bai Pension Yojana**" to give relief to the poor who are not covered under the BPL or Antyodaya category. 25 lakh families are being provided a pension of Rs. 400/- per month.

33. Sir, according to our experience, high growth rates have not been able to create sufficient employment opportunities. Employment opportunities can be created by encouraging growth of small scale industries and cottage industries. In order to boost the morale of the youth, the State Government has introduced a scheme to provide an **unemployment allowance** to such youth @ Rs. 1000/- per month.

Centrally Sponsored Scheme

34. A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Member, Planning Commission to review the centrally sponsored schemes. The recommendations of the Committee have been received but no steps have been taken for its implementation. If the recommendations of the Committee are not implemented at the beginning of the five year plan, the States would face considerable difficulties if the decision is taken mid-way through the plan period. Sir, I emphasise that the recommendations of the committee should be accepted and arrangements be made for its immediate implementation. The States' need to provide matching resources to utilise the central assistance, which leads to scarcity of resources for building programmes to meet the local aspirations.

Regional disparities

35. Sir, In the plan document, the backwardness of Bundelkhand, Poorvanchal and Central Uttar Pradesh has been highlighted but no strategy has been suggested to combat the same. Keeping in view the economic and social backwardness of these regions, special measures for their speedy development would be necessary, because programmes under the on-going schemes would not suffice. The Bundelkhand Package sanctioned for U.P. is insufficient. Keeping in view the backwardness of this region, it should be addressed as a national problem and adequate resources be made available.

Twelfth Five Year Plan- Major Targets

36. I would like to bring to your kind notice some of the main targets and priorities of the Twelfth Five Year Plan. It has been decided by the State Government that well-being of farmers, poverty alleviation, improvement in the status of women and children are the main objectives of Plan. I am of the opinion that with the

achievement of these goals, it would be easy to attain other development targets. We have laid greater emphasis on achieving our goals through alignment of mutual interest and humanity. During the Twelfth Five Year Plan, on the one hand, timely implementation of Flagship Programmes would be ensured while on the other hand development programmes will be implemented on the basis of new policy initiatives. Important policy initiatives have been taken in the areas of agriculture, horticulture and food processing and steps have been taken to attract private investment in industry, bio-technology, non-conventional energy, higher education, housing and resettlement and I.T. Main targets for the Twelfth Five Year Plan are given as under:-

Health

- 1- Infant Mortality Rate to be brought down from the present level to 32 per thousand. Maternal Mortality Rate will be reduced from 359 to 200 per lakh.
- 2- Malnutrition of children to be reduced from the current level of 47 percent to 23.5 percent.
- 3- Anaemia amongst women to be reduced from the current level of 51.6 percent to 20.0 percent.
- 4- Preventive measures against six deadly diseases, impacting children, to be controlled by an effective vaccination programme.

Education

- 5- Efforts are being made in primary education to achieve total literacy.
- 6- Drop-out rate in elementary education will be brought down to five percent at the end of the Twelfth Plan.
- 7- Gender gap in literacy will be reduced to 10 percent.

Poverty and Employment

- 8- During the Twelfth Plan, hundred lakh additional employment opportunities will be created besides, reducing the number of poor people living below the poverty line.

Infrastructure Facilities

- 9- All habitations having more than 250 population will be connected by all weather roads
- 10- All district head-quarters will be connected by four-lane roads.
- 11- All the single lane State Highways would be widened to at-least 7 metres.
- 12- For un-interrupted 24 hours power supply, an additional capacity of 16274 MW will be created during Twelfth Plan.
- 13- PLF of state generating units would be improved to 70 percent from the current status of 57 percent and line losses will be reduced to 18 percent.

Safe Drinking Water, Sanitation and Housing

- 14- Piped safe drinking water to be provided to all rural habitations with population above 5000 and also cover villages affected by unsafe drinking water.
- 15- Piped safe drinking water supply would be provided in all urban areas and integrated solid waste and sewerage disposal mechanism would be introduced.
- 16- Twenty five lakh pucca houses would be constructed in place of kuccha houses.

Minority Welfare

- 17- For girls belonging to the minority communities who have passed class-10, with families having annual income less than Rs 36,000, the Government would give Rs 30000 per child for continuing education or marriage. In the current year 83,000 girls will be benefited.
- 18- Boundary walls will be constructed for security and protection of grave-yards/funeral places of minority communities.
- 19- Establishment of new government educational institutions in districts with large muslim population.
- 20- Skill development training will be imparted to persons belonging to minority communities.

Important Issues

37. In addition to the issues regarding the Twelfth Plan, I would like to highlight some important points regarding the State of Uttar Pradesh. We have been raising these issues from time to time and we request the Government of India to take immediate positive steps:-

- 1- To strengthen the cooperative structure in the State, on the basis of recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee, the State Government, Government of India and NABARD had signed a Memorandum of Understanding. An assistance of Rs. 1545.69 crore was to be made available by Gol against which Rs. 623.41 crore has been released till now. The remaining funds should be released immediately because the State Government has already released its share.
- 2- About 64,000 habitations in U.P. are still unelectrified. For this, a project of Rs. 7806 crore was submitted to Gol for sanction, but only 31,000 habitations have been sanctioned so far and the remaining 33,000 habitations are pending approval with Gol which needs to be expedited.
- 3- The State Government had applied for coal linkages for power projects being established at Harduaganj, Jawaharpur, Dupaha and Lalitpur. These have been recommended by the Power Ministry and are pending approval with the Coal Ministry. Further, 7 power projects being setup in the private sector namely, Bhognipur - Fatehpur, Aurraya, Mirzapur, Khurja, Bargadh, Barabanki and Sandila have also submitted application for coal linkage. Gol should make arrangements to provide coal linkages to these private sector projects.
- 4- Electricity distribution companies will require at least 3 years to become economically self sustainable. During this period, it is essential, that long term credit be made available at a subsidised interest rate. At present, banks are taking a long time in approving new loans because of which the electricity supply position in the States is adversely affected.
- 5- To mitigate the problem of drought in the Bundelkhand region, water conservation and management is the only alternative. We suggest that an integrated programme for development of dams and irrigation potential in the region be taken up as Bundelkhand National Irrigation Project, with the assistance from Gol. Along with this, strengthening and modernisation of the Upper Ganga and Eastern Yamuna Canal system should be taken as a National Project, which is more than 100 years old.

- 6- To resolve the problem of floods in eastern U.P. and Bihar, an initiative by the Gol with the Nepal Government is necessary so that water storage and power generation facilities may be jointly developed. It is estimated that there exists a potential of creating 60,000 MW of hydro-power generation. If Gol supports the construction of multipurpose projects on the rivers flowing from Nepal, it will not only solve the problem of power scarcity in U.P. and Bihar, but also help to reduce the impact of floods in this region.
- 7- To encourage vocational education, the current capacity of I.T.I's in the Government sector is being increased from 50,000 per year to one lakh. New I.T.I's should be established in the areas with large minority and SC/ST population. This will require large number of trainers. At present, only one Research and Training Institute has been established in the State. It is essential that Gol establishes 4-5 new such institutions in order to meet the requirement of trainers for filling the existing vacancies.
- 8- At present, two I.I.T's have been established in Kanpur and Varanasi. Considering the large human resource of the State, at-least 2 new I.I.T's should be set-up in the State during the Twelfth Plan period.
- 9- During the Twelfth Plan, it is proposed to set up 20 centres of excellence and 50 centres for training in frontier sciences in the universities. Adequate number of institutions in U.P. should be selected in establishing such centres.
- 10- Following the enactment of the RTE Act, the State Government has notified rules. Under this Act and rules, arrangements have been made to provide good quality primary education to the students. With this, the responsibility and financial burden of the State Governments has increased. In view of the constraint of financial resources of the States, the Central Share in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan should continue in the present form, which is 65 percent.
- 11- With the enforcement of the RTE Act, free and compulsory education is to be provided to children of weaker sections and destitute groups in private schools. The State Government will reimburse the expenditure on these children to these private institutions. As the States are implementing the programmes of national priority, it would be appropriate that the above entire expenditure should be fully reimbursed under Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan.
- 38- Sir, in the end, I would like to reiterate that a large section of our society is still deprived of the benefits of development. Social inequality and regional disparities need to be eradicated to achieve holistic development. Equality of opportunity and progress should be open to all sections of the society.
- 39- I am grateful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and other dignitaries who have listened to me with patience and rapt attention. We expect full support and cooperation from the Gol because the federal structure of our Constitution requires both the Centre and States to work together, with mutual cooperation.

Thanks.