

CHAPTER - IV

Objectives, Targets, Priority And Strategy Of The Tenth Five Year Plan

4.1. Meghalaya's objectives, targets, priority and strategy for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) are in conformity with those of the national Plan though adjustments may become essential here and there in order to suit the local conditions. In the light of the Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan prepared by the Planning Commission, the objectives, targets, priority and strategy of the Plan are briefly stated in the following:-

4.2. Objectives :-

- (i). The Tenth Plan aims at a target growth of 8.00 percent of GDP for the period 2002-07 and thereby reducing poverty ratio by 5 percent points by the year 2007. The medium term performance of the economy over the past several years demonstrated a growth potential of about 6.5 percent only. The growth target of 8 percent during the Tenth Plan, therefore, involves an increase of at least 1.5 percentage points over the medium term performance. (Latest reports indicate that the growth of GDP during 2000-2001 is 5.2 percent only).
- (ii). Enhancement of the level of human well being by way of providing adequate level of consumption of food and other types of consumer goods and access to basic social services especially education, health, availability of drinking water and sanitation.
- (iii). Expansion of economic and social opportunities for all individuals and groups.
- (iv). Reduction in disparities.

4.3. Monitorable Targets For The Tenth Plan And Beyond:-

The following are the monitorable national targets for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) and beyond as laid down in the Approach Paper to the Tenth Plan prepared by the Planning Commission:-

- (i). *Reduction of poverty ratio by 5 percent points by 2007 and by 15 percent points by 2012.*
- (ii). *Providing gainful high-quality employment to the addition to the labour force over the Tenth Plan period.*
- (iii). *All children in School by 2003; all children to complete 5 years of schooling by 2007.*
- (iv). *Reduction of gender gaps in literacy and wage rates by at least 50% by 2007.*
- (v). *Reduction in the decadal rate of population growth between 2001 and 2011 to 16.2 %.*
- (vi). *Increase of Literacy rate to 75 % within the Plan period.*
- (vii). *Reduction of Infant Mortality Rate(IMR) to 45 per 1000 live births by 2007 and to 28 by 2012.*

- (viii). *Reduction of Maternal Mortality Ratio(MMR) to 2 per 1000 live births by 2007 and to 1 by 2012.*
- (ix). *Increase in forest and tree cover to 25 % by 2007 and 33 % by 2012 at the national level.(In Meghalaya, land under forest at 1998-99 level is 42.35 percent as against a target of 60 percent in hill areas).*
- (x). *All villages to have sustained access to potable drinking water within the Plan period.*
- (xi). *Cleaning of major polluted rivers by 2007 and other notified stretches by 2012.*

4.4. **Priorities Of The Tenth Plan :-**

Priorities for the Tenth Plan (2002-2007) are on the following areas:-

- (i). Agriculture and Land Management with concentration on small and marginal farmers and with diversification in areas like animal husbandry including dairying and poultry which hold immense promise for improving the livelihoods of not only the rural population but of the urban population as well.
- (ii). Building up of irrigation capacity through public investment and improvement of water management.
- (iii). Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development Programmes.
- (iv). Programmes to ensure Food Securities.
- (v). Forestry & Environment Programmes.
- (vi). Programmes that will ensure efficiency and competitiveness of Industries which is expected to grow at over 10 % during the Tenth Plan period with emphasis on the Small Scale Industries
- (vii). Science and Technology.
- (viii). Social Infrastructures in areas like Education, Health and Water Supply.
- (ix). Economic Infrastructures in areas like Power, Transport and Communications.
- (x). Rural road connectivity for substantially enhancing rural road accessibility by linking up all villages with all-weather roads through the Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana. However, while constructing rural roads, connectivity of Public Health Centres, Schools, Markets Centres, Backward Areas, Tribal Areas and Areas of Economic Importance should be given priority.

4.5. **Strategy For The Tenth Plan :-**

The strategy for the Tenth Plan includes the following : -

- (i). Learning from past experience by way of strengthening of what has worked well and avoiding the repetition of past failures.This would involve modification of policies and institutions based on past experience and keeping in mind the changes that have taken place in the Indian economy and in the rest of the world.
- (ii). Avoiding taking too many responsibilities on the part of the Government to reduce severe strains on its limited resources. Since the country is now having a vibrant private sector, the time for an all-pervasive government role on the part of the

Government may not be necessary any longer. However, in the case of backward States like those of the North Eastern Region and other hilly States which have special problems the Government has to continue playing a predominant role in development activities. The public sector is now much less dominant than it used to be in many critical sectors and its relative position is likely to decline to minority. It is clear that the industrial growth in future will depend largely upon the performance of the private sector and the policies during the Tenth Plan must therefore provide an environment which is conducive to such growth.

- (iii). The Tenth Plan must give high priority to identifying efficiency enhancing policies both at the macro level and also at the sector level involving policy decisions.
- (iv). Since the size of the country's economy is considerably large, much of the demand needed to support high growth will have to come from the domestic economy itself. However, external markets are also very important sources of demand and they need to be tapped more aggressively for many sectors. With the ICOR in the 8th and 9th Plan period amounting to around 4.0, the investment increase needed to achieve a 1.5 percentage point increase in growth is 6 percentage points. While some part of this could come from an increase in foreign direct investments, it is unrealistic to expect this source to contribute more than 1 to 1.5 percentage points. This means that if the entire acceleration in growth has to come from additional investment with an ICOR of 4.0, it would be necessary to mobilize between 4.5 and 5 percentage points of GDP through additional domestic savings. An increase of this order in the average of domestic savings over the next five years may not be feasible. As such, a very substantial part of additional growth targeted must, therefore, come from increased efficiency. The Tenth Plan can only succeed in achieving 8 % growth if sufficient political will is mobilized and a minimum consensus achieved which will enable significant progress to be made in critical areas. If this is not possible, then, growth will be corresponding lower.
- (v). 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 including agricultural labour. Also, since the majority of women workers are engaged in agriculture, investments in this sector have enormous implications for gender equality and must be designed to have maximal impact on this dimension.
- (vi). Substantial allocation of resources to the Social Sector to be combined with major improvement in governance to make effective use of these resources with a view to achieving the targets.
- (vii). Rapid development of those sectors which have the potential to create high quality employment opportunities should be ensured by removing policy constraints by paying due attention to the policy environment influencing a wide ranging economic activities which have a large employment potential. These include sectors such as construction, real estate & housing, transport, small scale industries, modern retailing, entertainment, IT enabled services and a range of other new services, which need to be promoted through supportive policies. There has to be a qualitative change in the structure and pattern of employment in terms of promoting growth of good quality work opportunities. In order to enable the poor to access the opportunities and to ensure consistency between the requirement and availability of skills, emphasis will need to be placed on skill development.

- (viii). Urban population growth is much higher than the rate of population growth and already 29 percent of our country's population live in urban areas, frequently in deplorable conditions. In the past, our approach to the process of urbanisation has been largely reactive in the sense that the problems have been sought top be addressed in post-hoc manner. This approach must change during the Tenth Plan and urban planning has to become anticipatory and based upon an integrated approach to addressing the various dimensions of urban development.
- (ix). Resolving issues in tribal development, development of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities.
- (x). Empowering the Disabled and ensuring the Welfare of Other Disadvantaged groups.
- (xi). Greater participation in decision-making.

[Source : Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan Plan as prepared by the Planning Commission.]