



Address by
Ms. MAYAWATI
Chief Minister
Uttar Pradesh

At the Meeting of
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
December 19, 2007

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Members of Union Council of Ministers, Members of the Planning Commission, Chief Ministers and distinguished dignitaries,

We are grateful to the Prime Minister for convening this meeting to deliberate on the draft Eleventh Five Year Plan. The agenda for the meeting is the draft Eleventh Five Year Plan document prepared by the Planning Commission. It would have been better if discussions were held with the states on the issues and problems relating to the Eleventh Five Year Plan and a general consensus is reached before giving final shape to the plan document. Such an exercise would have resulted in incorporation of the views of the states in the plan.

2. It is a matter of great pleasure and privilege for me to be able to put forth my views before this august gathering. It is a proud moment for us, as the country has made amazing strides in a short span of sixty years which the other countries who started the

development process along with us could not achieve. Now the country's economy is growing at a rate of around 8-9 percent. Today our country is included in the list of fast growing economies of the world. However, at this juncture, we need to ponder on the question whether our development has been on the same lines as visualized by our freedom fighters? Whether our economic and development policies have been able to achieve the objective of poverty alleviation ? Have we succeeded in creating a social order based on equity and justice ? Today, we face the truth that much of the benefits of this great development saga are yet to percolate down to the poorest of the poor and the marginalized.

3. Regional disparities have been highlighted in the agenda as one of the important issues. We must admit that our liberalisation policies have created these regional imbalances. At present, some States are achieving a growth rate of 11 percent, whereas some other States are developing at a rate of 4 percent. The areas where big industries existed and where global connectivities through ports were developed, have benefited the most. Largely, the positive results of our policies have accrued only to industries and urban areas. It is necessary to make suitable changes in our policies and strategies as the real benefit of development have not reached the

rural areas and the poor and deprived sections of the society. If the disparities continue to increase among the states and within the states, it will have far reaching economic, social and political implications. If concerted efforts are not made at the national level for the faster development of backward states, it would be very difficult to achieve the national targets.

4. Sir, we have included infrastructure development as one of our major priorities in order to create development-oriented environment in the state. While determining our priorities, special emphasis has been laid on the development of power sector, empowerment of farmers, development of world class road network, efficient transport system and urban rejuvenation. For the development of infrastructural facilities in the state and for the development of Bundelkhand and Poorvanchal regions, a package of proposals amounting to about Rs 80,000 Crores has been forwarded to the Central Government. This package includes assistance for road development, health facilities, drinking water, electrification, irrigation, rural housing etc. We hope that the Centre will consider our proposals in a positive manner and help the state in increasing the pace of development.

Growth Rate

5. Sir, in order to achieve the national growth target of 9 percent, a higher growth rate of 10 percent is targeted for Uttar Pradesh during Eleventh Five Year Plan. To achieve this target, we have assigned utmost priority to the development of basic infrastructural facilities. Steps have already been initiated for the development of power and road infrastructure in the state to enable us to achieve higher growth.

6. The growth rate in agriculture at the national level has been targeted at 4 percent. Uttar Pradesh is predominantly an agrarian state. Therefore the growth rate of agriculture in the state has been kept at 5.7 percent, growth for manufacturing and service sector have been targeted at 11.5 percent and 12.4 percent respectively. According to overall estimates an investment of about Rs 8 lakh crores is required to achieve the targeted growth rate. The recent efforts of the state, have created a positive investment climate and with the positive co-operation of the Government of India we would be able to achieve the targeted growth rate.

Agriculture

7. Lack of remunerative return on agricultural produce is forcing our farmers to give up cultivation. In order to save the farmers from this situation, a broad based market mechanism would have to be developed to enable them to get appropriate price for their agricultural produce. Timely availability of high yielding variety of seeds, fertilizers and insecticides will have to be ensured. In my opinion, for overall development of the country, our developmental policies should be properly designed to improve the plight of our farmers and entrepreneurs.

8. Sir, we have accorded utmost priority to agriculture in the state and accordingly incentives are being provided to those activities which lead to increase in production and productivity. Priority has been given to diversification in agriculture, vegetable and food production. To reduce the cost of cultivation, agricultural research is being revamped so that hybrid varieties may be developed separately for each of the nine agro – climatic zones in the state. Schemes for improvement of sodic-land, ravines, barren and water logged areas have been introduced so as to make these

lands cultivable. The state has taken steps to complete all the ongoing irrigation projects in a time bound manner.

9. In the last meeting of National Development Council detailed discussions were held on the issues relating to agriculture. In our opinion, there is a strong need for stepping up investment in agriculture. The Centre has started the scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and efforts are being made through Food Security Mission to increase production, but these are not sufficient. In order to increase investment in agriculture, the farmers should be provided loans at not more than 4 percent interest rate. This would result in reduction in input cost and agriculture would become profitable.

Infrastructure Development

10. Demand for skilled manpower is growing fast in the fields of information Technology, Trade, Business, Legal Education, Insurance, Banking and so on. There is no alternative to development of educated and trained man power in various sectors. Availability of good infrastructural facility provides a base for development. We have decided to construct a 1000 km. long

Express Way connecting Noida and Ballia. This Express Way will run along the bank of the river Ganges. This will also help in controlling flood and developing the lower reaches of the river where development is not possible now. Waste land will be utilized in constructing this Express Way. Our endeavour will attract private sector investment and thus government resources will be saved which could be utilized in other sectors. This Express Way will act as an industrial corridor for economic development of the eastern Uttar Pradesh. This project envisages total private capital investment and seeks no central assistance. The Central Government should therefore clear this project without any objection.

11. Industrial growth in Uttar Pradesh is comparatively low. The State has taken various initiatives to increase the growth rate in industries. Availability of electricity is being ensured for industrial units. Delhi–Mumbai Industrial corridor offers a lot of opportunities for the Export Sector of Uttar Pradesh through the route of Public Private Partnership. Hence it is requested that the project may be completed expeditiously.

12. We have launched Dr. Ambedkar Integrated Rural Development Programme for infrastructure development in the villages. Under this scheme, basic infrastructural facilities like education, health, drinking water, link-roads, power supply and sanitation will be developed in the gram sabhas and the hamlets in a time bound manner. Like-wise Hou'ble Sri Kanshi Ram ji Urban Integrated Development Programme is also being launched to provide basic amenities in the urban areas. Under this scheme, towns will be saturated with 16 main developmental programmes.

13. Public sector investment also plays an important role in economic development as much as private investment. In order to increase immediate availability of power in the State, we have decided to invest Rs. 2000 Cr. for refurbishing the machines in our power stations and this has given encouraging results. An amount of Rs. 65,000 Cr. will be invested in power generation during the Eleventh Plan period and 10500 MW additional power would be made available. In the area of power distribution we have involved franchisees in a big way which has resulted on the one hand in substantial improvement in revenue collection and on the other hand new opportunities for employment of trained youth in the rural areas have opened up.

14. Twenty Four thousand MW additional capacity is being created in the country through ultra mega power projects. Uttar Pradesh is being given only 7.29% of this power. Keeping in view the power shortage and the large population of Uttar Pradesh our share should be at least 17%. Similarly the population of the State and the power shortage in the State should be the criteria for allocation of power from central power utilities.

Education and Health

15. Even today, large number of children in the country die not due to terminal illness, but unfortunately due to curable diseases and mal-nutrition. We are committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It is a matter of concern that in attainment of these goals like poverty alleviation, infant and maternal mortality rates and gender equality, we are trailing behind. In my opinion, education, health and agriculture sectors should be liberalized more. Special steps should be taken to make the country fully literate. Scholarships should be provided to all needy students so that all sections of the society are brought into the mainstream of development.

institutions provide needs complete overhauling. We are in favour of encouraging private investment in this important sector of skill development.

18. Even after so many years of development, when people in the rural areas fall ill, they get only the services of quacks. The number of Medical Colleges in the country is inadequate in comparison to the our present need. Hence new Medical Colleges and Nursing training colleges should be established.

19. The agenda emphasizes educational development and skill up-gradation. Health and nutrition have been given due importance and national targets have been fixed for various health parameters and nutritional status. We firmly believe that the states which are far behind the national average in these areas should be accorded priority by the centre. Our target is to reach the national level, in major health indicators by 2012. This would result in desired improvement in the Human Development Index of the State and the country.

16. It is ironical that in this country of over a billion people, we have only a limited number of specialized institutions like IITs and IIMs. Obviously this is negligible in comparison to our current and future needs. We need to make comprehensive arrangements for training our manpower in the fields of science and technology. Private sector should also be encouraged to contribute to this effort and the government should play the role of a facilitator. It has been proposed in the agenda to establish some new IITs and IIMs. Keeping in view the population of the state, it is requested that the proposed institutions in appropriate numbers may be established in the State.

17. The necessity for providing a new direction to vocational education is being felt at every level. Only technical knowledge can increase production and productivity to the desired levels. Arrangements for accreditation of the skills of the people involved in various trades of unorganized sector should be made so that such workers get proper remuneration in the market according to the skills they possess. Large number of trained workers are required in the organized sector as well. For this, the number of ITIs and polytechnics should be increased. The quality of training that these

Social Harmony

20. Sir, all sections of the society should get equal opportunity and equal benefits of development. Otherwise all our efforts would prove futile. Poor and helpless people cannot be differentiated on the basis of caste or creed. State has initiated all steps to provide equal opportunities and facilities to such people. The State Government has made adequate provisions for providing education and scholarship to eligible students of all sections of the society and we are providing pension to all eligible old age persons, destitute widows and handicapped persons. Under the National Social Assistance Programme, it has been proposed to reduce the age eligibility for old age pension from 65 years to 60 years and increase the monthly rate of pension to Rs 400 per beneficiary. Our request is that the Centre should provide this entire assistance to the states in the form of grant as the States are not in a position to bear this additional expenditure.

21. Development presupposes a society which is free from injustice, crime and fear. For this an effective law and order enforcement system will be necessary. Establishment of such a system will require that we rise above party lines and religious prejudices. The police system will have to ensure that the

suppressed and the poor people are protected against injustice and Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, Minorities, the poor people from the upper castes, women and children who have always been victims of injustice must be provided justice on a priority basis.

Eleventh Five Year Plan -Main targets

22. I would like to draw your attention to some important targets and priorities of the State Government for the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. State Government has decided that the main thrust of the Plan would be farmer's prosperity, poverty eradication and improvement in the status of women and children. It is my firm belief that if the condition of these groups is improved then the developmental goals can be achieved easily. We have given importance to equal and humane treatment of all sections of the society. Main objectives of the Eleventh Five Year Plan of the State are as follows:

Health

1. To reduce Infant Mortality Rate to 35 per thousand and Maternal Mortality Rate from the present level of 517 to 100 per lakh of population.

2. To reduce child malnutrition level to 23.5 percent, keeping in view the national target.
3. To reduce anaemia among women to 24.4 percent.
4. Effective implementation for full immunization of children against 6 life endangering diseases.

Education

5. Keeping in view the steps taken towards universal primary education, the State is committed to the target of total literacy.
6. To bring down the drop out rate to 5 percent, in the primary classes.
7. To reduce gender gap in literacy to 10 percent.

Poverty and Employment

8. To reduce the poverty level in the State to 15 percent.
9. Creation of 125 lakh new jobs in the State.

Infrastructure Facilities

10. To increase the surface water irrigation level from 21 percent to 33 percent and to bring 85 percent of the net area sown under irrigation.

11. To reduce the gap between irrigation potential created and its utilization by 60 percent.
12. To connect all habitations with population of more than 500 by link roads. All State Highways and Major District Roads will be widened to two lanes with good riding quality as per Indian Road Congress norms.
13. To ensure uninterrupted 24 hours power supply, it is proposed to generate 10500 MW additional power during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period.
14. It is targeted to increase the PLF of electricity generating units from 60 percent to 85 percent and reduce line losses to 15 percent.

Drinking Water and Sanitation

15. To provide piped water supply to all villages/habitations with population of more than 5000 and ensure clean drinking water supply to quality affected villages/habitations.
16. To cover all urban local bodies under piped water supply.
17. To cover all households with sanitary latrines under Total Sanitation Programme.

Important Issues

23. Besides putting forth the views of the State Government on the Eleventh plan document, I would like to bring certain other issues to your notice which are of great importance to the state. These issues have been raised at various levels from time to time. Therefore, it is my request that the Central Government may take positive steps to address these issues:-

1. 90% of farmers in the State have small and marginal holdings and their economic condition is not good. Therefore, the Central Government should make necessary arrangements to reduce the cost of cultivation for these farmers and provide irrigation facilities to help them earn enough to lead a decent life.
2. Adequate supply of fertilizers has not been ensured to the farmers in the State. The existing policy of DAP fertilizer should be simplified. Also the closed fertilizers plant at Gorakhpur and Kanpur should be revived to improve availability of urea in the State.

3. Out of 70 districts of the State, Central Government has included only 40 districts in the National Horticulture Mission. Our request is that all the 70 districts should be included under this programme. Also the unit cost for some crops like banana, gladiolus, rajnigandha and the unit cost of plasticulture and micro irrigation should be fixed on the basis of actual cost.
4. The Centre is providing 25% grant to the States under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). This grant portion of assistance needs to be increased. The restriction under this scheme for sanction of a new project in the place of a completed project needs to be relaxed, so that a number of new projects which are pending for sanction could be sanctioned.
5. Under AIBP, the irrigation projects which benefit the flood affected areas or drought prone areas are eligible for 90% grant as per the existing guidelines But the State is getting only 25% grant even for these projects which needs to be increased to 90%

6. Almost all rivers that cause floods in eastern U.P. and Bihar originate from Nepal causing wide spread human and economic loss thereby adversely affecting development in these regions. For a permanent solution of this problem, Central Government should initiate on priority basis, works relating to prevention of floods and time bound completion of water storage projects in Nepal. We should treat this as a national problem and try to resolve it. Efforts should be made to prevent floods and generate hydro-power, besides creating additional irrigation facility. This will also ensure rapid development of neighbouring Nepal if we work for long term agreements in this regard with the Government of Nepal.

7. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana the target is to link all habitations with population of 1000 or more with link roads by the year 2009. In Uttar Pradesh, only 428 habitations of 1000 and above population remain unconnected at the moment. It is therefore, necessary to sanction under this scheme link roads to connect habitations between 500 to 1000. It is pertinent to

mention here that 49560 habitations in the State are still not linked with link roads. The Centre should provide funds under this scheme keeping in view the habitations which remain unconnected.

8. In order to link Agra (Taj Mahal) with International air route, a green field airport has been proposed. Ministry of Civil Aviation Government of India agreed on technical grounds for setting up Taj International Airport and Aviation Hub at the proposed site Jewar which is 72 Km. from Indira Gandhi International Airport. However, Government of India has not sanctioned it in principle. It is requested that the in principle sanction may be granted at the earliest.

9. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme, electrification of the remaining villages in the State has been taken up. The Central Government has made provision in the budget of 2007-08 for this purpose but the funds have not been released to the States yet. It is requested that funds for electrification of villages in the State may be released immediately.

10. There are ample opportunities for development in the education sector in U.P. But without liberal central assistance the desired growth in this sector cannot be achieved. Although the State Government is making necessary investment in this sector, the Central Government should continue to provide central assistance under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan on 75:25 basis during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period similar to the assistance provided during the Tenth Plan period.
11. The infrastructure facilities in the schools of the state have been strengthened but still the previously constructed schools are deprived of facilities like drinking water, latrines, boundary wall and electrification. Our suggestion is that arrangements should be made to provide these infrastructure facilities in the old schools also under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan.
12. The Centre is providing assistance to give scholarships to the post-matric students belonging to Scheduled Castes. In our opinion scholarships should be provided to all the students of poor families so that no child is

deprived of education due to poverty. Scholarships should be given to the students of all the sections of society without any discrimination. Similarly, scholarship to eligible pre-matric students of different sections of society should also be provided by the Central Government.

13. The Japanese Encephalitis cases in the eastern Uttar Pradesh have increased during the last several years. The Central Government was requested to establish a Viral Research Centre at Gorakhpur with the assistance of National Institute of Virology, Pune or NICD Delhi. Government of India has agreed in principle to this proposal of State Government but formal orders are still awaited. Our request is that this institute should be established at Gorakhpur at the earliest.

14. The State Government has sent proposals for establishment of AIMS type medical institutes in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal regions of the State. My request is that these medical institutes should be

established in both these regions with super specialty medical facilities.

15. Top priority has been assigned to Polio eradication campaign in the State, but there is a shortage of preventive polio vaccine in the State. Therefore, it is requested that oral Polio vaccine, specifically the trivalent polio vaccine and D.T. vaccine should be made available in the State in adequate quantity.

16. A commitment has been made in the agenda to provide house to the homeless families based on the BPL survey, 2002 under Indira Awas Yojana. As per the above survey, 43 lakh households need to be provided houses under this scheme in the State. Thus 9 lakh houses need to be constructed every year. Against this, only 2.50 lakh houses are being provided in the State under Indira Awas Yojana.. It is therefore necessary to enhance the allocation of funds to the State under this scheme.

17. Under the Calamity Relief Fund and National Disaster Management Fund, capital expenditure for prevention of disaster and for works in the nature of pre- disaster preparations are not allowed whereas for disaster management, formation of capital assets is a necessity. Therefore, our suggestion is that capital expenditure under Calamity Relief Fund should be allowed.

24. Sir, in the end I would like to reiterate that a large section of our society is still down-trodden, backward and poor and even today these people have been deprived of the benefits of development. It is a great challenge to bring such a large segment of the population to the mainstream of development. The dream of holistic development would remain incomplete without removing social and regional disparity. All the people belonging to various religions, caste and creed must get equal opportunity for their growth and prosperity. In order to accomplish the dream of social and economic advancement of all sections of society along with political freedom as dreamt by our great leaders, we must adopt the policy of **Sarvjan Hitay - Sarvjan Sukhay** in all spheres of social advancement and development.

25. Hon'ble Prime Minister, I am thankful to you and all other dignitaries who have listened to me with patience and attention. Uttar Pradesh hopes that guidance and full positive cooperation from the Central Government would be forthcoming.

Thank you !