



**GOVERNMENT
OF**

NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI

SPEECH OF

**SMT. SHEILA DIKSHIT
CHIEF MINISTER, DELHI**

**54th meeting of
National Development Council**

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NEW DELHI

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS.

1. We are meeting here to consider and approve the Draft Eleventh Five Year Plan prepared by the Planning Commission. In its 52nd meeting, National Development Council discussed the approach paper for the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Government of Delhi broadly supported the strategy indicated in the approach paper towards “faster and more inclusive growth” which is the theme of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. We felt that the inclusive growth approach was a right beginning for the Eleventh plan.

2. We have dedicated our Eleventh plan towards development with a human face and making Delhi a global city. The first annual plan 2007-08 under Eleventh Five Year is in operation since first April, 2007. At this point of time, Government of Delhi is poised for a further leap towards accelerating the momentum of growth of its State Domestic Product, increasing its revenue surplus and reducing the fiscal deficit. In comparison to 7.31% growth rate in GSDP during ninth Five Year Plan, Government of Delhi has recorded a 9.1% growth rate by the end of tenth Five Year Plan. The targeted growth on Gross State Domestic Product of Delhi has been kept at 11.23% for Eleventh plan which we hope to achieve. Delhi is contributing about 3.1% of national income as compared to its 1.4% share in total population of the country. Our plan size has shown a quantum jump from Rs. 23,000 crore of Tenth Plan to Rs. 55,000 crore projected for the Eleventh Plan.

3. The indicators of growth of economy, fiscal measures and plan funds utilization in Delhi, which I have just discussed,

are on a positive path. The pioneering Human Development Report of Delhi, which was undertaken last year (2006) as a collaborative project of UNDP, Planning Commission and Government of Delhi has shown the directions for qualitative aspects of development. We are taking effective steps to take care of quality development, on which Delhi HDR has focused.

4. The NDC is the apex body for giving substance to the federal vision of ensuring that the different tiers of the Government have specific roles and responsibilities in culminating in a harmonious set of outcome for the country as a whole. This has been very aptly elaborated by the Hon'ble President that "federalism is not merely a legal- constitution mechanism for the distribution of legislative and fiscal powers but a concept rooted in 'self rule'". She further said that " 'Power sharing' arrangements between different units of Government gives a sense of belonging to various groups within the political system. It facilitates the deepening and widening of democratic process". It is in this context, may I point out that Government of Delhi, is not in a position to make a blue print for development of Delhi on its own as neither land nor its development authority rests within the powers of the Government of Delhi. The master plans of Delhi, prepared by the DDA so far, have been unrealistic, too sketchy and far removed from current needs of a very fast growing metropolis. This deficiency in the existing planning process gets compounded by the multiplicity of authorities that decide the fate of Delhi. We, therefore, feel that a mechanism in the form of a suitably constituted Metropolitan Planning Council will be useful. The vexed problem of multiplicity of authorities has to be addressed with the utmost seriousness and urgency. Unless this is done, Planning for the Eleventh Plan for the Government of Delhi would continue to be just planning of schemes and

programmes and drawing up some action plans. Obviously, however such planning cannot take the place of a vision based blue print for action, based on the people's aspirations. Only an elected body who is responsible to the electorate as well as to the citizens of Delhi for overall development of the city state of Delhi can do justice to the process of drawing up a holistic Eleventh Five Year Plan. Nothing can be more logical or obvious.

5. On the issue of diffused accountability, may I point out another relevant fact. Though Government of Delhi is accountable to its citizens as an elected Government yet the Municipal Corporation of Delhi is not accountable to the elected Government in the state. This creates serious problems of managing Delhi, which is a complex, growing and dynamic national capital. I would, therefore, reiterate that proper institutional arrangements for ensuring accountability and reducing multiplicity of authorities need to be realistically resolved so that we are in a position to use the opportunities facing us to make Delhi into a global city.

6. I would now raise the issue of the dire need of all round development of the National Capital Region, commonly known as NCR. The economy of the country is doing well. As a result, there is a greater integration of the states around their metropolises. This is equally true for Delhi viz- a- viz states in NCR. This process of integration in the days to come will grow further. We, therefore, need a more dynamic arrangement to study areas where the barriers to growth can be removed. Legal hurdles should not become an impediment to sustainable growth. In the NCR areas, various states have their own transport policy and arrangements including taxation on public transport. This creates environmentally an unviable situation for Delhi. For example, we have promoted CNG, an environment friendly fuel,

2 } in our public transport. We expect that in the entire NCR, similar environmental considerations too will be reflected. This is equally valid in the areas of taxation. We feel that there is need for Governments of NCR areas to follow a taxation policy to take care of the tax distortions.

2 } 7. Delhi Metro, which has contributed significantly in improving urban traffic and transportation in Delhi and also in reducing air pollution, is extending its network into various NCR cities. This is expected to have positive effects on the environment. At the same time, the extension of Delhi Metro into various NCR cities is bound to raise issues like dealing with larger number of people in Delhi. We, therefore, need to have an effective mechanism to handle these issues of inter-state nature where large agglomerations around Delhi like Noida, Ghaziabad, Faridabad and Gurgaon are concerned. Institutional arrangements need to be worked out within States and between States so that quick decision making in the common interest of region can be evolved. I feel if this is not attended to on priority, various developments projects having inter-state linkages and impacts would be hampered, causing inconvenience and misery to the people specially of Delhi.

3 } 8. Energy needs of India are growing rapidly but the national transmission grid in its entirety is yet to be put in place and power trading is still not a familiar concept. I feel that in the power sector right now there is greater need for inter-state linkages and mechanisms for sharing and coordination than ever before. As of now, most states are making their own efforts to enhance power generation and there is yet no consensus of ways and means to bring down technical and commercial losses which are causing the country a great fortune, which we can ill

afford financially or environmentally. In spite of having the benefit of IT in the power sector in many ways, still there is no way by which the experiences of states can be logged on so that objectives of efficient utilization of power can be achieved in the country as a whole. In view of increasing concern on climate change, we must appreciate that energy efficiency, energy conservation and promotion of renewable energy must become a way of life in the energy sector. We need to evolve a clear-cut policy on meeting the emerging needs of the country in the short term as well as the long term and specially on renewable sources of energy.

9. I wish to draw attention of this august body to the vital issue of water, particularly water to meet the drinking requirements of the national capital. Today, we are able to provide 750 MGD of treated water by tapping both the underground and surface water resources as against an estimated requirement of 950 MGD. As per the Master Plan-2021 projections, Delhi will need around 1380 MGD of water for meeting the requirements of its population, which is expected to touch 22 million by 2021. Keeping in view the clear primacy given in the National Water Policy to drinking water requirements, it is extremely vital that availability of raw water is augmented for the citizens of the national capital in order to meet the shortfall in availability. If we are to meet the projected requirements of water in 2021, it is vital that the upstream storage dams planned on river Yamuna are built within a clear timeframe. There is need for a consensus on moving forward on these projects in the long term interest of all the concerned states. There can also be a case for similar upstream storage dams on the Ganga river system in order to augment water availability from this source as well. We require

the willing and active support of the neighbouring states to ensure that Delhi gets its share of water uninterrupted effectively.

10. There are targets in the Eleventh plan to be achieved under Infant Mortality Ratio, Maternal Mortality Ratio, Total Fertility Rate, Malnutrition of Children (0-3 years), Anemia among women (15-49 years), Sex ratio (0-6 years), Drop out rate in elementary education, Literacy rate, Gender gap in literacy rate and reduction in Poverty Ratio. We gave our commitments to achieve the targets under each activity in the 52nd NDC Meeting held in May, 2006. We stand by that commitment. However, let me reiterate that large scale in-migration mainly of labour force on a continuous basis and their settlement on every available vacant land hampers our endeavors considerably in these directions. The declining sex ratio is a national concern and we are extremely worried about it in Delhi. However, as per annual report on registration on births and deaths in Delhi for the year 2006, the number of female births per thousand male births increased from 822 in 2005 to 831 in 2006. Though, it is a very marginal increase yet the turn-around is noticeable and we would continue vigorous efforts and campaigns to improve it further.

11. The Hon'ble Prime Minister while concluding discussions of the full Planning Commission Meeting recently to consider the draft 11th Five Year Plan emphasized the need for good implementation of the Plan and reaching the disadvantaged groups. On behalf of Government of Delhi, let me assure the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the august gathering that we have taken up a number of steps to have an accelerated and inclusive growth for the weaker sections of our society. We are already implementing a scheme for old age pension covering all senior citizens of 60 years and above for the economically weaker

sections of the society. Our beneficiaries under this scheme has touched around 1.75 lakh senior citizens. Looking at the needs of widows who have no other means of financial support, we have launched another scheme of monthly widow pension from this financial year. In Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), we have done away with the contractor system. Now we have set up self help groups (SHGs) through associating NGOs to take care of procurement and distribution of Special Nutritional Items in the ICDS projects. We are launching Aam Aadmi Bima Yojna in a decentralized way so as to reach the needy people. The existing girl protection scheme has been broad based and right from the birth of a girl child and through various phases of schooling from primary to Senior Secondary we have made a total package. We hope that this will lead to her complete schooling up to Senior Secondary Level. Further, our Ladli scheme will help the girl child to receive a sum of Rs. one lakh on reaching the age of 18. Our Stree Shakti programme, which won international recognition through receiving Commonwealth award in 2006, has got another boost by its inclusion in the National Innovation Register as an innovative programme under the urban poverty removal project of the UNDP. Looking at the impact of Stree Shakti Camps towards improving health, social and economic status of needy women, we have created permanent Gender Resource Centers in every district to provide a number of services and benefits to the women throughout the year under a single roof. We have a basket of schemes with transparent and decentralized delivery mechanism for reaching out to the needy from every segment of our society.

12. In Delhi, we have a successful Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which has helped to bring out more children from the weaker sections of the society to the classroom in terms of enrolment.

We have strengthened our mid-day meal network further by adding all aided Non-governmental schools in Delhi with that of Government and municipal run schools. The extension of mid-day meal to more than 10 lakh children in the primary classes have the beneficial effect of retention of the children and thereby drop out rate is on decline. Let me also recall the words of Hon'ble Prime Minister on August 15, 2004 that "there is a need to make learning joyful, interesting and meaningful so that children develop a desire to come to school". It is my pleasure to inform the Hon'ble Prime Minister that our Government has followed your wise words and achieved enormous success. We are proud to state that the pass percentage of the CBSE results for Standard X has gone by 29.09% in just two years, and the difference between private and government schools in Standard XII results is only 1%. Through improving teaching standards and environment, we are changing the perception that Government schools represent bad schooling. We are stressing more and more on improving infrastructure in government schools. For this we have again fall back on our Bhagidari approach. We have set up a Vidyarthi Kalyan Samiti in each government school which is a platform for participation of parents and citizens in the maintenances of school buildings and its improvements.

13. It is an acknowledged fact that in the success of IT sector, the availability of hi-tech manpower in IT/ electronics and also educated personnel from general stream in the country plays a significant role. As such there is a need to expand the base of higher education both in technical as well as in general subjects. In the Eleventh Plan, I understand that around 20% of outlay is proposed for education and higher learning. I feel, as has also been echoed by many academicians and experts, that a sizeable

amount of new allocations should be earmarked for improving existing facilities in colleges and universities. The same fillip is also required for the industrial training institutes (ITIs), polytechnics, engineering colleges etc. Through these measures, along with making available skill based vocational training, befitting for the day, we will have qualified manpower both in general and technical stream catering to the diversified needs of economy. Delhi is adopting all available options and means to augment job oriented training by opening more and more engineering colleges, expanding the existing ones, setting more ITIs in collaboration with present industrial needs. We have also set up a new University - Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University to cater to rising educational demands.

14. In the context of IT boom which is reportedly having a 28% growth per annum there is a need to support the sector by expanding the base of IT industry in the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) sector which is growing fast. For this, we must ensure that there is an acceleration in IT adoptions among the SMEs. This is possible if giants of IT industry and NASSCOM bring out such IT Module which would be acceptable to SMEs both from the angle of inter-connectivity and also in terms of getting end-user help desk support. In Government of Delhi, e-connectivity has taken strong roots. With a view to making government purchases efficient, transparent and quick, we are taking steps to commence e-procurement very shortly.

15. Delhi has by now a close network of large modern hospitals which are of international standard. Health tourism is becoming reality. Government of Delhi would like to improve it further both in terms of infrastructure and also from the angle of service delivery in the hospitals. On the lines of National Rural Health

Mission, Delhi State Health Mission is engaged in making primary health care services more comprehensive and broad based. We have supported the creation of a Public Health Institute in Delhi. We also propose to create two more medical colleges in Delhi.

16. In terms of the Master Plan-2021 estimates, there is a housing shortage of nearly 4 lakh housing units in Delhi particularly for low income group people including slum dwellers and industrial workers. Government of Delhi is handicapped on account of having no control over land. Yet, as an elected Government, we cannot neglect the need to provide urgently homes for the shelterless and the needy. We have taken up an ambitious programme to construct low cost housing of four storeys using pre-cast technology with an unit cost varying between Rs. 1.75 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh. Such clusters spread all over Delhi will also have a school, marketing & service areas and playgrounds. I feel there is a need to have a common policy for meeting the requirements of housing for weaker section of the society in NCR who cannot afford to purchase a dwelling unit in the open market at an exorbitant rate.

17. The river Yamuna, now-a-days, is being called as 'Maili Yamuna'. We have initiated a number of measures to give Delhi a clean Yamuna by 2010. The most important major scheme is construction of interceptors sewers along the three major drains so that only treated water is let into the river Yamuna. I thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for constituting the Yamuna River Development Authority which would focus strongly on measures to be taken to improve the water quality in the stretch where Yamuna river flows through Delhi.

18. The Hon'ble President in her speech, which I have referred to earlier, has observed that "federalism was not just good politics but also good economics. By equipping the different units to take appropriate decisions, federalism helps in judicious use of resources, increasing efficiency". I hope and pray that the economist in the Hon'ble Prime Minister will see that Delhi is empowered to deal with the problems of the National Capital which would be good economics from the angle of drawing up a holistic plan for the overall development of Delhi. As a learned and very wise Prime Minister, I am confident that he understands the need for an elected state Government with full political responsibility and accountability over its state of affairs. More so in the capital of the country, in place of its existing diffused accountability and multiplicity of authorities. With this hope, I conclude.

Jai Hind,

**SHEILA DIKSHIT
CHIEF MINISTER, DELHI**