

Speech of Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana in Regional Level Consultation Meeting on Approach Paper to Twelfth Five Year Plan on 23.5.2011 in New Delhi.

Respected Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Sh. Montek Singh Ahluwalia Ji, esteemed Chief Ministers, Ministers of Northern States and other distinguished participants in this Conference !

2. It is a matter of privilege for me to participate in the important discussions on the Approach Paper to the 12th Five Year Plan. I compliment the Planning Commission for providing this opportunity to the States in participative planning process. I also agree with the objective of 'Faster, Inclusive and Sustainable Growth' for the 12th Plan proposed by the Planning Commission.

3. I would however, take this opportunity to share with you some of my views which in my view have a direct relevance for the planning process.

4. As we all know, Government is the largest provider of public goods and services by way of making huge investments across the sectors of the economy. The delivery costs of providing the services have increased substantially over the period. These costs are proportionately higher for the smaller States like Haryana. The real challenge before us is to get the best out of these investments by reducing the costs and improving efficiency of delivery of services. One of the possible strategies to provide the public goods and services cost effectively and efficiently could be "conditional cash transfers" linking them to the desired outputs and outcomes.

5. There is a proliferation of Central sector and centrally sponsored schemes most of which are based on "one size fit all" approach. They do not provide the desired flexibilities to meet the State specific implementation requirements. There is a need to evolve an umbrella approach under which the lump sum transfer of grants is provided to the State governments and they are given the necessary flexibility to utilize the funds as per their requirements and priorities. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) is a useful example of umbrella approach adopted by the Central government.

6. Another critical issue is the urbanisation of population in the States. In Haryana, the urban population was 29% of the total population in the year 2001. It is expected to increase to 30% in 2011. The slum population is also likely to increase from 17.69% in 2001 to approximately 22% in the year 2011. In Faridabad alone, the slum population is expected to increase from 4.81 lakh in 2001 to 6 lakh in the year 2011 which is as high as 45% of the total population in the city. The challenge of providing basic services like sanitation, solid waste management, drinking water, affordable housing, transport, road network, health and education facilities is becoming more and more daunting. States alone cannot deal with this challenge. There is an urgent need of support from the Centre. The Central government and think tanks like Planning Commission are expected to evolve pragmatic models to attract private investments and harness efficiencies of private sector.

7. The concept of National Capital Region (NCR) has had a limited success. It has not been able to tackle the challenges posed by territorial boundaries of the constituent units. Different norms are applied in different States for providing even basic services. Even a project like Delhi Metro appears truncated in several cases. For example, terminals like Mundka are not meaningful destinations. Such instances point to sub optimal utilization of national resources. Even a healthy initiative of developing a private metro is held up due to various technicalities. Haryana in particular has been put to a severe disadvantage in this regard. We constitute nearly 40% of the NCR and 30% of our total area falls in NCR. Our development initiatives and planning are frustrated due to various factors beyond our control. The Central government should ensure that the norms of providing urban services in the NCR areas are implemented uniformly and equitably.

8. In order to sustain the projected growth level in the 12th Five Year Plan huge investments are required in physical and social infrastructure as also in capacity building of various stake holders. States' resources are inadequate to meet this requirement. It is, therefore, imperative that we develop new models to leverage these resources to bring in private investment. For example, we have created a sizeable capacity and infrastructure in the Higher Education Sector. The challenge here is to enhance the accessibility of the common man to avail of the benefits of these capacities. For this, liberal

vouchers/scholarships could be devised to provide access to the common man. Similarly in the Health Sector, accessibility to the facilities available in the private sector can be provided through some sustainable arrangements with the private investors and by providing cashless treatment to the common man through an insurance based model.

9. Haryana is largely an agrarian State and agriculture remains the mainstay of its population. The major challenge in the agriculture is the effective use of scarce surface and ground water resources. For this, we need to intensify our efforts towards watershed management and water conservation measures through MANREGA. What we need from the Central government is some flexibility in the norms of the MANREGA programme.

10. With these words, I thank you for providing me the opportunity to address this august gathering.

Jai Hind !