



GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

Speech by

Thiru N. Rangasamy

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Puducherry

at the

57th meeting of the

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

at

Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi

on

27th December, 2012

Hon'ble Prime Minister,
Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission,
Hon'ble Chief Ministers and distinguished Members of
this august House.

It gives me immense pleasure and privilege to participate in the deliberations of the 57th meeting of the National Development Council convened today for consideration and approval of the Draft Twelfth Five Year Plan. At the outset I would like to convey my warm greetings and best wishes for the New Year 2013.

I accept that the broad vision and aspirations which the Twelfth Plan seeks to fulfil are reflected in Faster, Sustainable and More inclusive growth.

I strongly believe that our Nation is capable of achieving the annual average growth rate of 9% at the end of the Plan period. Other than the target of GDP, at the end of the Twelfth Five Year Plan, Government of India expects the Agriculture growth rate at 4% and Manufacturing growth rate at 10%. I endorse the core indicators and the priorities outlined in the Twelfth Plan document.

I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation for the commendable work done by Planning Commission under the guidance of Dr. Montek Singh Alhuwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission for bringing out a well drafted Twelfth Plan document.

At this forum, I would like to inform that Puducherry district has been selected as one of the pilot districts for implementation of Direct Cash Transfer system from 1.1.2013. We have made all preparedness to roll out the Direct Cash Transfer system from 1st January 2013. This would help the beneficiaries to get the cash benefits directly and provide direct income support.

Most of the new schemes of Government of India are implemented in UT of Puducherry as a pilot and has been successfully implemented. I request in this forum that instead of considering us like other States for implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 100% funds may be given for all the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

I would like to bring the notice of this forum that the Union Territory of Puducherry is deprived of funds under plan due to changes in the pattern of plan financing adopted since 2006-07. Though Puducherry Union Territory has a Legislature, it is not considered under devolution formula of the Central Finance Commission which is causing severe financial strain upon the Union Territory Administration. We have been pleading in the appropriate forums for this cause since this hampers the devolution of funds and the financial needs of Panchayat Raj Institutions & Urban Local Bodies could not be fulfilled. I would sincerely request this forum to consider release of Rs.300 crore as special grant to Local Bodies in the absence of devolution of funds. The special grant needs to be ensured till constitutional amendment is brought in for inclusion of the Union Territory with Legislature in the Terms of Reference of the Central Finance Commission.

I am thankful to Planning Commission for allocating Rs.200 crore under Normal Central Assistance for the implementation of Thirunallar Temple Town Project and

for infrastructure facilities of Government Medical College in the current financial year which would help the Administration for creation of infrastructural facilities.

The industrial scenario in Puducherry is facing decreasing trend. Though Puducherry acts as ^{an} educational hub most of the technically qualified people could not find an employment as industries are slowly moving away from Puducherry as all industrial concessions have been withdrawn. The central investment subsidy which was prevalent two decades back may be reintroduced to retain the existing industrial base besides attracting major industries. This would facilitate large employment opportunities for skilled and semi-skilled personnel and reduce unemployment.

Tourism is a potential area to generate much needed resources. Tourism has gained magnificent dimension and emerging as the largest industry for generating employment and a powerful vehicle for economic growth in Puducherry. In the Twelfth Plan various infrastructural projects like Special Tourism Zone, Five Star

Resort, Water Theme Park, Family Entertainment Centres are planned through PPP mode so that tourist would prefer Puducherry as their favoured destination.

In view of the proposed efforts taken under the tourism and infrastructure sectors, I request the Planning Commission to provide substantial Central Assistance to the Union Territory of Puducherry during Twelfth Five Year Plan.

I am thankful to Hon'ble Prime Minister for having given an opportunity to express the issues concerned. I do hope that the Twelfth Plan will increase the tempo of development and achieve faster, inclusive and sustainable growth.

Thank You!