

Planning Commission
(State Plans Division)

Summary Record of the Wrap-up Meeting held on 22nd May, 2012 to consider the Sectoral Outlays proposed by the Government of Puducherry for Annual Plan 2012-13 at Yojana Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi.

The Working Groups consisting of officials from the Government of Puducherry and Subject Divisions of Planning Commission discussed the performance of the respective sectors in light of the past achievements/activities proposed for Annual Plan 2012-13 on 22nd May 2012. The recommendations and suggestions of Working Groups were later discussed in a Wrap-up meeting chaired by Dr. Arun Maira, Member, Planning Commission. The list of participants in the Wrap-up meeting is given at Annexure- I.

The Member welcomed the Chief Secretary, Government of Puducherry and other officers of the UT Government and invited the Chief Secretary to highlight the Plan priorities and major issues concerning the UT Government.

The Development Commissioner, Government of Puducherry, highlighted the major issues and achievements related to the UT of Puducherry, which are as follows:

- (i) In the 12th Five Year Plan, the UT Govt. had carried out elaborated exercise of Zero Base Budgeting, under which the schemes having similar objectives / goals had been merged into single scheme and obsolete & redundant schemes had been done away with. The schemes were modified with reference to their objectives and as a result, the number of Plan schemes for the Annual Plan 2012-13 were brought down to 226 as against 341 schemes.
- (ii) The UT planned to have well developed harbours to facilitate the fishing community and thereby increase the marine fish production to reach 40,000 MT during 2012-13.

- (iii) In order to achieve total literacy and to cover 1,00,000 neo-literates in the age group 14-45 in which women constitute major chunk, a new programme called Kamarajar Literacy Mission would be initiated during 2012-13.
- (iv) The UT Government had targeted to provide "Better Health Care at low cost" to the general public and "Better Health Care at no cost" to the BPL families during the 12th Plan period.
- (v) A paradigm shift in the focus of health care from 'disease control' to 'disease prevention' and from 'communicable disease management' to 'non-communicable disease management' was being implemented which would also modify the life style practices.
- (vi) In order to afford primary care health services at the Village and hamlet levels, the infrastructure of PHCs and Sub-Centres would be strengthened.
- (vii) The Pondicherry Power Corporation Limited had proposed to expand the existing Gas Power Plant by 100 MW during the 12th Five Year Plan period.
- (viii) As per 2011 census, the literacy rate of UT of Puducherry was 86.55%, of which male literacy rate was 92.12% and female literacy rate was 81.22%. The UT was targeting to achieve 100% literacy rate during the 12th Five Year Plan.
- (ix) All the 437 habitations in the Union Territory had been provided with access to Primary schools within 1 km distance.
- (x) To ensure retention and reduce dropout in Secondary and Higher Secondary level, free supply of uniform, text books, note books, footwear, free Mid-day meals and breakfast had been extended upto XII standard in Govt. / Govt -- aided schools. The UT had also proposed for free supply of school bags for school children from 1st to 8th Standard from the academic year 2012-13.
- (xi) The outstanding debt to GSDP ratio had increased significantly during last year because the UT's GSDP had fallen significantly on account of Thane cyclone. The outstanding debt to GSDP ratio stood at 35.18% which had been targeted to reduce to 20% in 2018-19.

- (xii) The tax receipts to GSDP ratio had shown a sharp increase because of the ARM measures undertaken by the UT on 1st Jan. 2012. The UT had introduced new taxes and also increased excise and VAT, which were the main components of UT's tax revenues. During the last quarter of 2011-12, the UT was able to raise additional resources of Rs. 90 crore because of its ARM measures. However, the full effect of these measures would be seen during AP 2012-13.
- (xiii) The resource projection of the UT for AP 2012-13 was Rs. 1,925 crore and for the complete XII Five Year Plan, the resource projection stood at Rs. 13,500 crore.
- (xiv) Out of the resource projection of Rs. 1,925 crore, the UT's own resources were Rs. 535.72 crore, UT's total borrowings amounted to Rs. 780 crore, Central Assistance, as communicated to the UT of Puducherry by MHA, amounted to Rs. 609.28 crore. In addition to that, One Time ACA requested for Thane relief and other specific infrastructure projects amounted to Rs. 1,100 crore.
- (xv) For the Thane relief measures, the MHA had approved an amount of Rs. 69.68 crore, and suggested the UT of Puducherry to submit a detailed proposal to the Planning Commission for permanent reconstruction, restoration, and mitigation measures of the damaged infrastructure under the regular State Plan.
- (xvi) There was an immediate need to restore the sectors which were badly affected because of the Thane cyclone such as Agriculture, Forestry, Electricity, Public Works, and Tourism etc.

Consultant (SP-Puducherry) said that the major component of the AP 2012-13 of Puducherry was the One Time ACA requested of Rs. 1,100 crore for Thane relief and other specific infrastructure projects. He suggested the UT to send a detailed break-up of this component including the project-wise & year-wise requirement of funds, and sub-components of expenditure of Rs. 1,100 crore to the Planning Commission. He said that the population density in the UT of Puducherry was high and the land availability was small, which leaves a small space for the Agriculture sector in the UT. He also said

that the share of the Primary sector in Puducherry's GSDP was to the tune of 4.6% only, whereas a large part of the Plan funds was being invested in the Agriculture & allied activities. He also said that the UT Government was targeting to increase the share of the Primary sector in the Puducherry's GSDP to 10% by the end of XII Plan, which would mean that the UT's primary sector would have to grow at a rate of 20-25% during the XII Plan. He also said that such high growth rate may not be feasible because land would continue to be the limiting factor in the UT, given the high population density, and high proportion of the urbanized population in the UT. He further said that the only activity under Primary sector where the UT might look to achieve a higher growth rate would be fisheries because that is not dependent on land, and therefore, the UT should have a very comprehensive strategy for the fisheries sector.

Consultant also said that the tourism sector should become the mainstay of the UT. He suggested the UT to abolish the tax on the entry of vehicles in the UT because that would have a profound signaling effect in tourism sector. He enquired whether Puducherry had done mapping of all its cultural assets. He said that the cultural mapping would enable the UT to strategize on the provision of different tourism & cultural activities to different types of tourists. He also said that the UT should focus on building inventory of its cultural assets and thenceforth marketing of its tourism & cultural activities.

Member suggested the UT that it should focus more on the less land-intensive and High Value Agriculture (HVA), if they want to increase the growth and share of primary sector in the total GSDP. He also advocated the abolition of taxes on entry of vehicles and said that the UT should tax only those things/activities where the multiplier impact on the GSDP and employment is least. He suggested that the UT should expand its tourism package to suit the people from all age group. He hoped that the UT would be the leader in the country in terms of health management. He suggested the UT to decide on the type of job opportunities required on the basis of UT's

demography and then impart the skill set required to the unemployed youth for the job opportunities created.

Jt. Adviser (Power) pointed out that the commercial loss of the Electricity Department was reported at Rs. 290 crore in 2011-12 (RE). He said that The UT of Puducherry was having lower tariff rates compared to the average cost of supply and also there were no tariff revision from 2002 to 2010. He added that the JERC, set up for smaller States and UTs, had issued their first tariff order in February 2010. He further added that the tariff petition for 2011-12 was filed to JERC and their award was expected shortly.

Director (Health) pointed out that the IMR in the UT was pegged at 22 since 2001. She enquired the UT about the reasons for non-decrease in IMR.

SRO (Water Resources) said that there was a heavy burden on groundwater in Puducherry region of the UT (105% development against country average of 58%). He said that the UT should focus on recharging the groundwater by rehabilitation of tanks in the 12th Plan. He further said that the Thane Cyclone had estimated to have uprooted almost 1 lakh trees and this loss of tree cover was likely to have a major impact on the Micro climate of UT and may affect rainfall pattern. He suggested that the UT may take up a study on loss of tree cover and its impact on micro climate and rainfall. He said that the water rates were last fixed in UT in 1979 and suggested that water rates in the UT should be revised at least to the neighbouring State Tamil Nadu. He said that the UT should at least be able to recover the O&M charges by revising the rates.

The Chief Secretary replied that the proposal on revision of water rates had been submitted to the cabinet and upon the Cabinet's approval, the rates would be revised.

RO (Housing & Urban Affairs) pointed out that under JNNURM; Puducherry was allocated Rs. 348 crore of which Rs. 137 crore only had been released during last 7

years. He informed that out of 3,396 dwelling units sanctioned only 358 had been completed by the UT. He further informed that at ULB level, only 2 out of 7 reforms were completed whereas out of 10 optional reforms, only 3 were achieved by the UT thus far.

The Member thanked the delegation from the UT Government of Puducherry and the officers of Planning Commission for a very useful interaction.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

List of Participants in the Wrap-up meeting of Annual Plan 2012-13 of Puducherry held on 22.05.2012 in Room No. 122, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi; chaired by Dr. Arun Maira, Member, Planning Commission

PLANNING COMMISSION		
S.No.	Name	Designation
1	Dr. Arun Maira	Member
2	Shri Arbind Modi	Consultant (SP-Puducherry)
3	Shri A. Jacob	Joint Adviser (Power & Energy)
4	Shri B. K. Pandey	Director (SP-Puducherry)
5	Smt. Shashi Kiran Baijal	Director (Health & Family Welfare)
6	Shri Amarjit Banga	Director (RD)
7	Shri P. R. Meena	Director (HRD)
8	Shri A. Murlidharan	SRO (WR)
9	Shri Madanpal Singh	SRO (Transport)
10	Shri Gagan Pahwa	YP (SP - Puducherry)
11	Shri Gajanan Mali	RO (HUA)
12	Ms. Sindhu M. T.	RO (HRD)

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY		
S.No.	Name	Designation
1	Smt. M. Sathiyavathy	Chief Secretary
2	Shri Raajiv Yaduvanshi	Development Commissioner
3	Shri K. R. Meena	Secretary (LAD)
4	Shri R. P. Pal	Secretary (PWD)
5	Shri Uddipta Roy	Secretary (Power)
6	Shri T. Sreekanth	Secretary (Education & IT)
7	Shri W.V.R. Murthy	Secretary (Industries)
8	Shri S. Sundaravadivelu	Spl. Secretary (Transport)
9	Shri S. Raghunathan	Chief Town Planner
10	Shri V. Bhuvaneshwaran	Town Planner
11	Shri S. D. Sundaresan	Director (WCD)
12	Dr. R. Sathiyaseelan	Director (Agriculture)
13	Shri G.Anbazhagan	Director (ADW)
14	Shri K. K. Singh	Director (Industries)
15	Shri. L. Kumar	Director (IT)
16	Shri E. Vallavan	Director (School Education)
17	Dr. S. Kanagsabai	Director (Planning)
18	Dr. K. V. Raman	Director (Health)
19	Dr. N. Balaji	Director (ISMGH)
20	Dr.A.S.Sivakumar	Director (Tourism)
21	Shri G.Panneerselvam	Director (Higher & Technical Education)
22	Ms. A.S. Vijayalakshmi	Jt. Director (Planning)
23	Shri Jayanta Kr Ray	JRC
24	Shri K. Mathivanan	SE-I (Electricity)
25	Shri T. Chanemougam	EE (Electricity)