

1.3. Eleventh Five Year Plan for Tamil Nadu

Broad objectives and Strategies

1.3.1. The 11th Five Year Plan for the State is focused on achieving a growth rate of 9% during the 11th Plan period. The central objective of the Plan will be “to safeguard the livelihood of the population and to improve the living conditions in the rural and urban areas of the State”. The Plan will emphasize not only the rate of economic growth, but also the nature and pattern of growth, so as to set right the imbalances and disparities in the State economy.

1.3.2. The 11th Plan proposes to dwell upon the major issues of concern, which have to be addressed by the State Government during the Plan period with the revitalization of the agriculture sector in the State at the top. The agriculture sector has been in a state of crisis during the preceding few years. The contribution of the agriculture sector to the GSDP has declined from about 25% in 1993-94 to about 12.7% in 2005-06 without a corresponding reduction in population dependent on agriculture. The Plan will adopt a farmers’ approach rather than a farm approach by reducing their debt burden and improving their access to cheap and timely credit and other inputs. The Plan will also encourage promotion of efficient farming practices through effective extension services, emphasis on improved dryland agriculture, enhancing markets linkages and strengthening storage and marketing infrastructure in rural areas.

1.3.3. In the social sector, the 11th Plan proposes to achieve significant improvement in the human development index and to bridge the gaps and disparities in the level of development between districts. On the health front, emergency obstetric services will be geared up to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates and the public health system in urban areas will be strengthened. The Plan supports universalisation of secondary education and strengthening of school infrastructure, capacity building of teachers and monitoring of the performance of schools and teachers through community based systems.

1.3.4. The outlay for the 11th Plan has to be in consonance with the above objectives and strategies of the 11th Plan. The outlay for the 10th Plan was Rs. 40,000 crore at the 2001-02 prices. The State sector Plan outlay for the 11th Plan is proposed as Rs. 80,000 crore at 2006-07 prices.