

SUGGESTIONS OF DEPARTMENTS ON THE APPROACH PAPER

1. COMMENTS OF SH. S.S. JOHL

- It is quiet feasible to achieve 8% growth in the 11th Plan. But is has to broad based and inclusive.
- Equalisation of opportunities and access to education, health, life amenities and access to gainful employment alone can put the economy on a sustainable growth path.
- Massive improvement in school level education is required. Teaching of Science and Mathematics be emphasized and these subjects be taught in English. A sum of Rs.1 Cr be demanded for every school for teaching facilities in science and mathematics.
- All poor families be covered with health insurance and medical claim facilities at subsidized rates.
- Multi specialty general hospital should be created at every Tehsil headquarters, with adequate number of doctors and number of vans.
- Nuclear power - A nuclear Power Plant be set up in Punjab in border areas.
- Opening of Wagha Border and creation of Highway from Delhi to Wagha.
- Creation of a Technical Cell in every block for training of PRI representatives.

2. AGRICULTURE

- Decline in income – MSPs be fixed in more realistic terms.
- Private sector – RIL, Bharati, Pepsico
- Debt relief

3. IRRIGATION

- State Government has framed a draft Participatory Irrigation Management Act and it is under discussion.
- Artificial recharge schemes to augment the water resources to sustain agricultural production.
- Construction of more low dams.
- Work on lining of Water Courses under CADWMP.
- PPP – can be considered only if adequate revenues are ensured to department.

4. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

- Concessions available to agriculture should be extended to dairy, poultry etc. These should not be charged commercial rates of electricity.
- FMD Plant – Punjab being a major consumer of FMD vaccine should have an FMD Plant.

5 FISHERIES

- Approximately 8000 hectare area under village ponds can be covered under fisheries if a sum of Rs.120 Cr is available (Rs.1.5 lac per hectare). It will create lot of employment and income to the farmers.

6. SOIL CONSERVATION

- Check ground water depletion and increase ground water recharge.
- Rehabilitation of village ponds and other water bodies

7. INDUSTRIES

- Upgradation of road and power infrastructure
- Augment air cargo facilities at Amritsar International Airport and creation of cargo facilities at Chandigarh, Halwara and Ladowal.
- Withdrawal of a tax concessions to neighbouring states.
- Excise duty on drugs and medicines, which is now calculated on the basis of MRP and not on the manufacturer's first sale price, be calculated on the first sale price. The revision in policy has adversely affected the state of Punjab.
- Revision in pricing policy of wheat, so as to fully account for transport and other charges. At present wheat is made available through out the country at more or less the same price.

8. POWER

- For reduction of losses a realistic view has to be taken and in the lower range (below 25%) even marginal reductions are difficult to achieve and should be incentivised at par with reduction in the higher range say about 35%.
- Under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Viduyatikaran Yojana States which have achieved 100% rural electrification are not being extended financial assistance at par with the states which are yet to achieve this target.
- Nuclear Power Plant be set up in a Northern Region and Punjab be given 25% share.
- Extending gas grid to Punjab by construction of Dadri-Panipat-Doraha-Nangal pipeline (to supply 1000 MW gas station at Doraha & Fertilizer factory at Nangal), with earmarking of 4.5 MMSCMD gas to Punjab for power generation.
- Planning/identification of gas linkage to Punjab in case Indo-Iran pipeline finalised.
- Planning/identification of gas linkage to Punjab in case of GAS REQUIREMENT OF PUNJAB FOR POWER GENERATION MAY BE PROJECTED AS 9 MMSCMD FOR 2000 MW CAPACITY.

9. CIVIL AVIATION

- Upgradation of infrastructure facilities at Sahnewal Airport

10. SCHOOL EDUCATION

- ECCE - The experiment of adding a pre school (3 – 5 years of age) section to 1660 primary schools has proved to be very successful. This should be extended to all the primary schools. Besides, Mid-day meal should also be served to these pre school children enrolled at early childhood care and education centre.
- Mid-day meal scheme – The scheme should be extended to school students of all age groups, with a richer component of diet and nutrition as compared to the present level. GOI should fund construction of kitchen sets and gas connections in the schools during the 11th Five Year Plan.
- Incentives - GOI should grant liberal aid to PRIs/ULBs who have been transferred 5.59 primary schools where about 10,000 teachers have been recruited fresh.
- There should be provision of one computer teacher under SSA and GOI should finance this.
- Schools of Excellence – GOI should consider financing 216 school of excellence – one in every educational block, having infrastructure, facility and faculty of international standards.

- Schools for differently Abled Children – State Government proposes to set up such schools in every district with boarding and lodging facilities. GOI should finance this.

11. HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

- Colleges with potential for excellence- five colleges have been selected by UGCs with CPE status for grant of Rs. 1 Cr to each college. Atleast 10 colleges should be selected with grant of Rs. 2 Cr for each college.
- Development of “Centers of Excellence” in the Universities- There are seven universities in the State and atleast three universities in addition to PAU, be selected for grant of Rs. 100 Cr for development of these Centre of Excellence.
- Rather than going for expansion of selected institutions, stress should be laid on improving infrastructure for skill development in all the existing institutions, in a phased manner.
- Atleast one IIT and one IIM should be located in the State.
- Provision should be there for adoption of technical institutions by the industry.
- Grant – Punjab Government is setting up a 400 acre Knowledge City on the outskirts of Chandigarh in SAS Nagar (Mohali) for locating top institutions – IISER, NIBT, NINT and Bio-Technology Park.
- PIMS – GOI has upgraded Regional Engineering Colleges in the States to National Institute of Technology, with 50% central assistance. Similarly, atleast one medical college in every State should be upgraded to National status with central assistance. PIMS Jalandhar (Rs.200 Cr), which is nearly complete should be considered for central assistance.
- Central law for professional courses – There is no central law for regulating admissions, fees etc. in private professional colleges with the result that every year the Supreme Court is required to adjudicate on this issue creating lot of uncertainty among the students and the managements of the colleges. In the absence of clearly defined policies, reputed groups are not willing to set up professional institutions especially medical colleges.
- Foreign Universities – Large number of Indian students (about 1 lac) go abroad every year for studies. GOI should permit foreign universities and institutions to operate here.

12. INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AND VOCATIONALISATION

- 6 Centre for excellence will be set up at six ITIs with grant in aid of Rs.1.6 Cr each. Need for more centre of excellence in more ITIs.
- Addition of courses in the ITIs and major expansion of ITIs.

13 HEALTH

- Incentives – A sum of Rs.60 Cr. is required per annum for the 1310 dispensaries transferred to PRIs. It should be financed by GOI.
- Decentralisation – There is lot of scope for community participation in improving the secondary level health care services through the formation of user associations at each hospital level like Rogi Kalyan Samitis, having authority for operation and maintenance of the hospitals. Decentralisation of authority to the hospital level and outsourcing of non-core services, support services etc. will also lead to improvement of health care delivery at the hospital level.

- Drug abuse

14. WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

- New Schemes - Work is in progress in 993 villages and 1941 PC habitation and the requirement of funds is to the extent of Rs.440 Cr. An other sum of Rs.448 Cr. is required for the balance habitations yet to be taken up- 2094 villages and 920 PC habitations. That is if a sum of Rs.900 Cr. is provided, all the schemes can be completed by 31/3/2009. The State is getting Rs.150 Cr. per year under ARWSP, Swajaldhara, NABARD etc. and therefore a sum of Rs.150 Cr. will have to be provided so as to meet the target of Bharat Nirman by 31/3/2009.
- Rejuvenation of existing schemes – A sum of Rs.186 Cr. required for revival and rejuvenation of the existing water supply schemes.

15. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

- Gender budgeting – selected employees from every department be trained for a gender budgeting.
- Greater financial assistance be provided for Mahila Jagriti Yojana (Self Help Groups) be given.
- Hostels for working women and girl students be set up in all the districts and other places where their number is sizable.

16. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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17. WELFARE

- Doubling of rate of scholarship under various schemes to SCs and increase in upper income limit to Rs.2.5 lac for eligibility.
- Construction of houses for houseless. Rs.50 Cr. per year be earmarked for this scheme.
- Definition of BPL families be revised so that State of Punjab is not put to any disadvantage. (matter was taken with the GOI and settled to our satisfaction. It was stated by them that there is separate poverty line for each State and it is fixed to take into account the consumer price index of the State. Case for separate definition of BPL is under process between PD & RDP for grant of benefits under Social Security Schemes by Punjab Government. It has nothing to do with GOI.)