

# DO YOU KNOW?

## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

### What is the National Development Council?

The National Development Council (NDC) or the Rashtriya Vikas Parishad was set up on August 6, 1952 to strengthen and mobilize the effort and resources of the nation in support of the Plan, to promote common economic policies in all vital spheres, and to ensure the balanced and rapid development of all parts of the country. The Council, which was reconstituted on October 7, 1967, is the highest decision-making authority in the country on development matters.

### Who Constitutes the NDC?

The National Development Council is presided over by the Prime Minister of India and includes all Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of all the States and Administrators of Union Territories and Members of the Planning Commission. Ministers of State with independent charge are also invited to the deliberations of the Council.

### What are the functions of NDC?

National Development Council is mainly concerned with :

(i) Approval of Five Year Plans; (ii) implementation of integrated Rural Development Programme; (iii) implementation

of community development programmes; (iv) approval of implementation of assessment of all major development projects in India.

### What was the outcome of the first NDC meeting?

The first meeting was chaired by the then Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru on November 8-9, 1952. Referring to the draft report, he had observed that it was obviously essential that both State Governments and the Centre should accept certain basic principles; agree on certain major policies and programmes in the Plan. Then alone could the Plan be 'finalised'. Referring to the preparation of the Plan, he felt that the Planning Commission had, during the preceding 14 months, succeeded in making the country planning-conscious. The draft report had been finalised after consulting various political organisations, economists, industrialists and women's organisations, and so on. By and large, through this democratic process the structure of the Plan had been very largely accepted by the country. Its implementation would also have to be a democratic. It had to become not merely a Government's plan but a people's plan. It would, therefore, be necessary to reach to the people and explain to them

the main principles of Planning in the language they understood. Suitable literature in popular style would have to be produced. The Plan would also have to be explained to the people through discussions, talks and speeches.

### What were the main features of the 56<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the NDC?

In the 56<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the NDC held on 21-22 October 2011, the Prime Minister had stated that in the past decade the Central Government has taken several major steps to improve the fiscal position of the States, which seem to have succeeded to a substantial extent. Today, most States of the Union are in a relatively strong position, and, perhaps in a stronger fiscal position than the Centre itself. The projections made in the Approach Paper suggest that by the end of the Twelfth Plan period, the States would have larger share of Plan funds than the Centre, if the CSS allocation to the States are included. The States should, therefore, be able to launch interventions that address their own specific problems, provided they make reasonable efforts to raise their own resources. □