

## Second Five Year Plan Strategy

The Second Five Year Plan (1956-61) of Himachal Pradesh was more specific in its goals and its major objectives were to:

- o increase income by 25 per cent,
- o increase food production by 19 per cent,
- o develop village and small-scale industries in rural areas,
- o increase the installed capacity of power generating plants,
- o further develop roads and road transport,
- o improve cattle wealth,
- o increase welfare of backward classes and scheduled tribes, and
- o carry out land reforms to reduce inequalities in income and wealth<sup>6</sup>.

The Second Plan proposed an investment of Rs 160.3 million. The distribution of the total outlay, by major development heads, reveals that again high priority was accorded to transport and communications as 37.1 per cent of the total outlay was allocated to this sector. Social and community services again got second position receiving 19.2 per cent of the total outlay. Agriculture and allied services received 15.7 per cent of the total budget and cooperation 14.9 per cent. Water and power development was allocated 9.4 per cent.

As was recognised in the mid-1950s, Himachal Pradesh is mainly an agricultural region where more than 90 per cent of the population depend directly or indirectly upon agriculture. Industrially, the State is very backward and there are hardly any industries of importance. The main causes for this industrial backwardness are lack of finance and lack of initiative among the indigenous inhabitants<sup>7</sup>. The area is, however, rich in forests, horticulture, minerals, and animal resources. There is a great need to conduct intensive surveys in order to know the industrial potential of this State and to properly plan the development of industries in the area. Despite the foregoing, in the Second Plan also, high priority was accorded to the physical infrastructure, and agriculture and industries were largely neglected. However, the outcome was reassuring as the physical infrastructure had been built for subsequent progress, both agricultural and industrial.

6. Second Five Year Plan (1956-61) of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla: Himachal Pradesh Administration Directorate of Economics & Statistics, p.10.

7. Himachal and the Plans (1959 issue, p.81). Shimla: Himachal Pradesh Administration, 1959.

In spite of many inherent weaknesses and shortcomings in performance targets, the Second Plan had some good elements and made some positive contributions.

### *Agriculture*

During the First Plan period, emphasis had been laid on the development of agriculture and the State made efforts to attain self-sufficiency in foodgrains. However, adequate attention could not be paid to agricultural research and to schemes of a productive nature, e.g. improvement of seeds, supply of fertilizers, etc. The Second Five Year Plan aimed at producing more foodgrains, raising cash crops such as fruits and potatoes, and supplementing the income of the people.

Besides research and training programmes, supply schemes and service schemes were taken up. The supply schemes included:

- o a fertilizer scheme,
- o a seed distribution scheme,
- o grant of loans for planting new orchards,
- o construction of seed stores and sheds,
- o establishment of progeny orchards,
- o seed multiplication farms, and
- o a potato development scheme.

The service schemes taken up were:

- o the establishment of mobile squad for pest and disease control in horticulture,
- o an agricultural publicity and propaganda scheme,
- o a plant protection scheme, and
- o an agricultural marketing scheme.

These schemes were incorporated into an integrated programme of agricultural development designed to raise the economic level of the people.

Under the seed distribution scheme, considerable work was done in the selection and multiplication of improved seeds, particularly wheat and potatoes. A programme to establish progeny orchards and a chain of nurseries was taken up to produce and supply fruit plant material of reliable parentage and guaranteed varieties suitable for different elevational zones.

Under the seed potato production scheme, nucleus seed is produced in seed multiplication stations, established in areas of low disease incidence, and further multiplication is carried out through the help of progressive cultivators.

For a State with an economy that hinges on cash crops (fruits and vegetables), the existence of a highly efficient organisation is necessary to keep in check insects, pests, and plant diseases. The Second Plan, envisaged the acquisition of a pool of insecticide machinery for each district and a mobile squad for providing quick facilities to farmers when the need arose. A research programme for temperate fruits (apples, pears, etc), sub-tropical fruits (mangoes, litchis, etc) and dry fruits (raisins, grapes, nuts, etc) was taken up during the Second Plan period.

Development of irrigation assumes significant importance in the context of increasing crop production. Only a small proportion of land receives perennial and seasonal irrigation, mostly from *kuhls* (gravity flow). Snow-fed *nullahs* provide a huge potential for irrigation. In view of the fact that the cultivated areas of the State are widely scattered at heights ranging from 330 to 4,000 meters above sea level, it has been estimated that it is possible to irrigate only about 40 per cent of this area. The proposed irrigation programmes envisaged improvement on existing *kuhls* and the construction of new *kuhls*. Most of the existing *kuhls*, constructed by the farmers, were structurally unsafe allowing huge wastage of water in transit. Besides, they were subject to damage by landslides and cross drains. The improvements envisaged under the Plan included the strengthening of banks, provision of drainage crossings, blasting, and cutting work on the hillside to ensure safe and permanent working of the channels. Irrigation schemes were treated as public works and thus 50 per cent of the total cost was subsidised by the Government and 50 per cent realised as contributions from the public in easy installments in the form of improvement levies. For all schemes, water rates were charged and these included the cost of maintenance and distribution of water in addition to the contribution by way of improvement levies. In the case of gravity canals, water rates were charged on an acreage basis and on a volumetric basis for lift schemes.

Progress of development schemes relating to irrigation was not encouraging during the First and Second Plan periods.

### *Livestock*

The animal breeders in Himachal Pradesh, in general, are ignorant of the methods of scientific breeding, balanced feeding, etc. In order to provide veterinary aid in time and appraise the breeders of the advantages of judicious breeding, feeding, and disease control, it was thought essential to open more veterinary hospitals equipped with trained staff in the interior of the State. Therefore, 10 more veterinary hospitals (in addition to the existing 31) were opened during the Second Plan. A programme of cross breeding of indigenous cattle with improved strains of bulls, i.e. 'Red Sindhi', cross-breeds of Jersey and Red Sindhi, pure 'Jersey' or 'Dexter' was started. 'Murrah Buffalo' bulls were located in various hospitals where the population of buffalo cows was maximum.

### *Forests*

The forest areas in Himachal Pradesh contain most valuable tree-species, viz., *Deodar*, *Kail*, *Chil*, silver fir, and spruce. Work on forest demarcation continued during the Second Plan.

Conduction of forest surveys to collect data relating to growing stock and seedling regeneration in forest areas was initiated. Such surveys help in the estimation of forest area, timber volume, and yields, etc. For want of roads and paths, most of the forest areas in the interior still remain inaccessible. Due to lack of transport facilities, mules and horses were provided for the touring forest officers to enable them to tour extensively. For proper management of forest areas, it is necessary to construct forest roads and paths. To check erosion and denudation of land in the proximity of villages and to raise the fuel and fodder resources of the people, the Second Plan proposed to afforest 4,600 acres of land and to protect the area through employment of *Rakhas* (watchmen).

#### *Power*

Under the Second Five Year Plan, after communications, emphasis was placed on provision of electricity so that the people of the State, whose static economy had suffered for centuries, would usefully and profitably employ it in small-scale cottage industries (for which raw material was not lacking after the remote areas were opened up through a net-work of roads). It proposed to raise power to 3,100 kw through hydel-generation only by 1961. Besides this, about 2,200 kw were purchased from the neighbouring State of the Punjab and distributed for village electrification, industrial use, and lift irrigation. The hydel-power development fitted in with the development of communications in such a manner that, wherever motorable roads were opened, hydel-power was generated to feed the villages and small-scale industries of the area. In the First Plan, a base was made by establishing training-cum-production centres in various trades for most of which raw material was available. In the Second Plan also, the main stress was on industrial training programmes.

#### *Technical Manpower*

In the beginning, the Himachal Pradesh Government's main problem regarding the execution of schemes in the agricultural, animal husbandry, irrigation, and power sectors was the shortage of trained and technical staff. No substantial progress was made during the First Plan period to overcome this difficulty and to ease the situation. The number of vacancies in some of the departments was over sixty per cent and with such an excessive shortage the execution of the Plan schemes, particularly in the technical departments, suffered a set back<sup>8</sup>. Persistent efforts were made by the Government to obtain the required personnel, either through direct recruitment or on deputation from the neighbouring States. In the third year of the Second Plan, the Government established a Manpower Committee which examined the problem of the shortage of trained and technical personnel. It recommended that the number of seats earmarked for Himachal Pradesh candidates, in various technical institutes outside the State, should be increased and that sufficiently attractive terms, including a higher start, may be given to deserving persons directly recruited. Some personnel were also obtained on deputation. Scholarships and stipends were given to candidates from Himachal admitted to technical institutions outside the State. There were no technical institutions within the State at that time.

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8. Third Five Year Plan (1961-66) (Abridged Edition), pp 9-10. Shimla: Himachal Pradesh Administration, Planning & Development Department, 1961.