

## Seventh Five Year Plan Strategy

The formulation of the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) of Himachal Pradesh, by and large, followed the framework of the objectives of the National Plan. The National Seventh Plan objectives are listed below<sup>19</sup>

- o A significant growth in foodgrain production, increase in productive employment opportunities, and rise in productivity.
- o A higher growth rate in industrial production.
- o The integration of science and technology into the mainstream of development planning.
- o Improving the living standards of the people through basic needs' programmes that include improvement in health care, fertility control, provision of clean drinking water, sanitation, and housing.
- o Alleviation of poverty and reduction in inter-class, inter-regional, and rural-urban disparities.
- o Reduction in infrastructural bottlenecks and shortages, and improved utilization capacity and productivity throughout the economy.
- o Promoting policies for controlling population growth through improvement in literacy, awareness, education, appropriate mix of incentives, voluntary acceptance of the small family norm, and the positive role of women in economic and social activity.
- o Speedy development of alternative sources of energy with emphasis on energy conservation and promotion of non-conventional sources of energy.
- o Bringing about harmony between the short and long-term goals of development through ecological and environmental considerations.
- o Decentralisation of planning and full public participation in development.
- o Enhancement in the degree of self-reliance through export promotion and import substitution.

An analysis of the structure of investment priorities, proposed for the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) of Himachal Pradesh, reveals that out of the total proposed Plan outlay of Rs 13.38 billion the water and power development sector was allocated a 32.49 per cent share. Agriculture and allied services was allocated 18.96 per cent of the outlay, transport and communications 18.33 per cent, community and social services 22.23 per cent, and industries, economics, and general services and cooperation 2.86 per cent, 4.38 per cent, and 0.75 per cent respectively. Hence, it is clear that the sectoral priorities in the Seventh Plan are the same as in preceding Plans. The proposed Seventh Plan gives highest priority to power development followed by social and community services, agriculture, and transport.

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19. Draft Seventh Plan, 1985/90, and Draft Annual Plan, 1985/86, p 33. Shimla: Planning Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh, 1985.