

# **Vision Document**

## **FOR**

# **JAMMU & KASHMIR**



**J&K NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
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## PREAMBLE

1. The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference has been a visionary party and it has enshrined in its “Naya Kashmir” document as far back as in 1944, a vision of an ideal society which will consist of “magnificent human beings who are equal to the glory of this beautiful land,..... who will be “filled with spiritual endowment,” and in which the “skilled and the intelligent citizens will earn their livelihood by honest toil.” The party, in order to give shape to this grand vision, identified the major problems in the Naya Kashmir document that were required to be focused on and these issues were poverty, illiteracy, backwardness, lack of infrastructure, un-employment, disease and, above all lack of democracy.

2. Immediate steps were taken to trigger those suppressed impulses, which could lead to the eradication of these bottlenecks in the road to progress. In a revolutionary move, after the National Conference assumed power, land reforms were under taken in 1951 when big landed estates were abolished, and again in 1976, when the party came back to power after twenty two years in exile, all tillers were made owners and landlords were more or less eliminated. Thus the majority of the peasant population which had been exploited and oppressed over the years were not only empowered but

were provided an incentive to harness the wealth of the land and, today, as a result, the State is progressively advancing towards self sufficiency in food grains, and the standard of living of the average peasant has significantly improved, above all, this has resulted in narrowing of economic disparities in the rural sector, and alienation of tensions in society which still exist in large parts of the country

3. Again, through another unprecedented policy initiative, the National Conference announced free education from the primary to the University level to be the cornerstone of its fight against illiteracy. This policy has continued for the last sixty years and has paid rich dividends and the State has reached a literacy level of 55.5% as per census 2001. This became possible not only because education was free, but because schools and colleges were opened especially in the far flung areas and qualified teachers were recruited on a large scale through the SSRB and the Public Service Commission and also under an innovative scheme of summary and localized recruitment called the Rehbar-I-Taleem Scheme, launched in the year 2000. Mention may be made of the imaginative scheme of scholarships devised as an incentive to attract under privileged section of society into educational institutions. Special attention was focused on females in backwards areas like Poonch Rajouri, Doda, Leh, and Kargil as also the

children of ST/and Scheduled castes. It is noteworthy as a result of this measure the enrollment of female students from the Primary to College level has increased from two lacs in 1974-75 to 9.75 lacs in 2005-06 \*\* The increase in the literacy rate of females has been equally dramatic since 1981 up to 2001. The increase in the literacy level is indicated in the chart below:-

\*\* Table No. 23, Page 319 J&K Digest of Statistics,2006-07)

LITERACY LEVEL OF FEMALES ( IN PERCENTAGES)

	<u>1981</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>%age</u>
Anantnag	10.94	34.4	23.46%
Srinagar	24.66	48.1	23.44%
Baramulla	9.57	32.3	22.73%
Kupwara	4.88	28.7	23.82%
Pulwama	9.21	37.7	27.49%
Budgam	8.02	30.6	22.58%
Leh	12.09	52.7	40.61%
Kargil	3.14	42.4	39.26%
Jammu.	32.24	68.5	36.26%
Udhampur	13.55	41.2	27.65%
Kathua	21.25	54.40	33.15%
Rajouri	14.32	44.5	30.18%
Poonch	11.24	36.0	45.76%
Doda	7.34	29.9	22.56%

Source: - Govt of Jammu and Kashmir ( Digest of Statistics 2006-07 )

4. Consequently women's education has spread and their awareness levels have increased. The dream of Jenab Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah that women should contribute equally with men to the advancement of society has begun to materialize. Large number of females now choose specialized professional courses. This is mainly because of the landmark decision of the National Conference Government taken in 1987, whereby 50% reservation was provided to females in MBBS courses. In the year 2004-05 there were 21096 females and only 15788 males enrolled in professional courses. Government service also is now attracting females in large numbers. Moreover the educational status of the Scheduled Castes, who were traditionally a deprived lot, has been raised significantly. Today the youth of the State have become globally linked and are competing with the best in the world.

4. A tragic irony of this beautiful State, so richly endowed by nature with fresh water lakes, limpid streams, clean and green pastures and snow capped, awe-inspiring mountains was the prevalence of diseases, and the extremely poor health services available to the people. The J&K National Conference concentrated on the rapid expansion of health infrastructure after 1975 and set for itself an objective of

providing one doctor for a population of fifteen hundred souls. The State is today providing one doctor for a population of around three thousand souls, which as a ratio, is better than the national objective of providing one doctor for five thousand souls. Disease control and immunization have become effective and epidemics are almost non-existent. Jenab Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah gave to the people a State of the Art Medical Institute at Srinagar at par with the AIIMS in Delhi to not only prevent the sick from going out to far off Delhi at great expense, but also to give them a sense of pride and self-esteem. Similarly the Medical College Hospital at Jammu was upgraded by the National Conference Government and built on a grand scale at a new location at Bakshinagar. In order to improve the peripheral rural health care facilities and bring them at par with the towns and cities, a scheme of providing hospitals and sub-district Hospitals in all District Headquarters and Sub-Divisions and backward areas, was devised and implemented in a phased manner. As a result of these strategies, the State in the year 2002-2003 was ranked at the top in the country in respect of the health care services. Unfortunately in the year 2007 the State had been relegated to the eighth position due to the poor performance of the Coalition Government.

6. Development cannot take place without infrastructure especially like roads, electricity. In acknowledgment of this fact the National Conference Government improved the connectivity between District Headquarters, Tehsil Headquarters and far flung areas besides providing link roads between villages and connecting isolated pockets. Power, which is a vital input for all economic activity was given special attention by the National Conference Government. Mega Hydel Projects like Dulhasti and Uri Phase-I were brought in for implementation through the NHPC. Notably the Baglihar Hydel Project was taken up as a State Project to generate about 9,00 MW of additional power to be available fully to the State. In addition the capacity of the existing Upper Sindh Project was augmented and many other mini hydel projects were conceived and implemented. Buildings, which are an essential infrastructure, were provided for schools and colleges, which had no decent accommodation, and, above all, institutional buildings and bridges damaged during the years of turmoil were reconstructed on a war footing so that the derailed administration could be brought back on the rails.

7. All these strategies for development were operated through a democratic system in which the participation of people through their representatives at the grass roots level was

ensured. One of the main components of this strategy was the Single Line System of de-centralized planning and development introduced in the year 1976 by Sher-e-Kashmir Jenab Sheikh Mohd Abdullah. Through this system the focus of planning was brought closer to the problem and felt needs were identified and redressed, with the result that the pace of development got accelerated dramatically and today around 35% of Plan funds are being earmarked for the districts alone every year. This model of planning aroused interest in the rest of the country, and though not emulated totally, elements of de-centralization in it were adopted by some other States as well. In Ladakh i.e. Leh where the mechanism for de-centralized planning existed earlier, the concept and modalities were further strengthened by setting up an autonomous Hill Development Council which were given statutory status by the National Conference Government to fortify the belief of the people that they can have major role to play in shaping their own destiny. Since then this modal has been replicated in Kargil District also as envisaged in the aforementioned statute. Demands for a similar dispensation are now being raised from other areas as well. This is because, the Hill Development Council structure ensured that development became visible on the ground, flow of money was smooth, their utilization was proper and execution of works was closely

monitored. As such this experiment has without doubt proved a success because of peoples active participation through their elected representatives.

8. During the worst period of turmoil between 1990-96 when the political establishment was absent, the administration became dis-functional, institutions and systems got badly shaken, and people's confidence lay shattered as they remained enveloped in dark clouds of despair and hopelessness with nowhere to go for succour or relief, it was the National Conference Party which remained steadfast and pulled the State out of the mists of gloom when it came back to power in 1996. By 2002 the administration had again become a well oiled machine, militancy affected people were provided permanent relief and unprecedented employment opportunities were created for the youth of the State, including f migrants living in Jammu. Violence was controlled and the sense of fear among people to a large extent was reduced and the march towards Naya Kashmir was resumed.

9. This march was interrupted by the Assembly election of 2002 when we did not get a big enough mandate, but emerged as the single largest party with the highest share of the vote. We, in all humility, accepted the judgment of the people and decided to remain in the opposition to introspect and learn lessons for the future. Today the J&K

National Conference Party is again geared up to serve the people of the State with the realization, however, that “there are miles to go before we sleep” but, with the confidence, the support of the people these miles shall be traversed, our goal shall be reached, and our vision for the future shall be given shape.

10. This vision shall encompass the political, social and economic ideals enshrined in the Naya Kashmir document, but reframed and adapted to the changed and changing realities, the State, country and the world at large. Above all restoration of Autonomy to the State as comprehensively explained in the State Autonomy Report in the year 2000, in backdrop of the Instrument of Accession the Presidential order of 1950, and the Delhi Agreement of 1952, duly approved by the Parliament of India and the State Constituent Assembly, shall be the cornerstone of the edifice of peace and prosperity of the people of the State which, the National Conference Government shall strive to build in the shortest possible time. The National Conference is conscious of the regional and sub regional aspirations of the people of the State. It shall ensure that these aspirations are addressed adequately. For this the National Conference Government shall put in place an affective planning mechanism to be devised and implemented

through elected representatives as detailed elsewhere in this document.

11. In this background the following concrete steps shall be taken to achieve the objectives envisaged.

### PEACE PROCESS

12. At the political level, the National Conference government shall try to convince those who have taken recourse to violence and intimidation as means to achieve their goal, that the lessons of history are very clear that all social, political discords are resolved ultimately by discourse and dialogue. It would be in the interest of the people of the State if all parties and organizations take a pragmatic view of the changed and changing perceptions all over the world about regional conflicts and accept the reality that the solution to the Kashmir problem can be found only through sustained dialogue between all stakeholders. In this context the National Conference Government would strive to make the people understand that restoration of Autonomy in its pristine form is the only viable solution. This realization alone shall bring peace back to this beautiful land, and peace alone can be the backdrop against which socio economic development of the State will unfold. This proposal is gaining more and more acceptability in the country and in other parts of the world notwithstanding the fact that certain quarters inimical to the National Conference have

been harping on the fact that the NDA Government had rejected the resolution passed by the State Assembly.

13. The facts must be placed in the right perspective before the public. While it is true that the NDA government initially refused to consider the Resolution, it is a matter of record and history that the NDA Government taking note of the sharp resentment of the National Conference Working Committee and its decision to withdraw from their Government, realized that it had made a hasty response and that the Autonomy Resolution had merit and deserved attention of the Government. Consequently it set up a Committee comprising Shri Arun Jaitly, Shri Mohi-ud-Din Shah and others to examine the Resolution for further action. Unfortunately no visible progress was made in this direction, and Shri Omar Abdullah withdrew from the NDA Government, in 2002.

14. The National Conference Government shall pursue with the Central Government the matter of providing objective and urgent consideration to the Resolution on Autonomy passed by the State Assembly. The National Conference has however made it abundantly clear that in the event any better solution acceptable to the people of the State is offered, it will not hamper its implementation. In this context the National

Conference party shall earnestly continue to make efforts to bring together all parties to arrive at a lasting solution.

### GOOD GOVERNANCE

15. Good governance is a primary requisite for overall development. Good governance would consist of responsive and people friendly mind set of the political workers and the civil servants, close monitoring of implementation of programmes and policies of the Government, the habitual use of modern aids devised by Information Technology for improvement of efficiency and transparency, and curbing of misutilization of funds and effective check on corruption. In order to energize the administration to deliver the programmes of the Government to the people in a time bound framework and in adequate measure, a mechanism shall be devised for each department. This shall be institutionalized, to take periodical reviews and undertake inspections in the field. The independence of the civil service shall be respected and officers shall be encouraged to perform their duties without fear or favour.

16. The State Accountability Commission which was set up by the erstwhile Coalition Government, has not had the desired impact because of the controversies surrounding it, and because of the Coalition Governments lack of will to give it shape as envisaged in the Act.

17. The National Conference Government would in the spirit of the Act provide the necessary infrastructure to make it an effective organ for combating corruption.

18. The National Conference Government would fight against corruption whole-heartedly but would like to avoid being highhanded, impulsive, or propagandist. The National Conference Government will prefer the employees to develop self-discipline, dedication and a lively and sensitive conscience.

19. In this regard District Level Monitoring and Vigilance Committees will be set up headed by an MLA and shall comprise District Development Commissioner and two senior officers of the district by rotation nominated by the Government. In respect of Srinagar and Jammu Districts the Committees shall be headed by the MP concerned and these Committees will also have jurisdiction over the Divisional level offices in addition to the District level offices of the two districts. At the State Level there shall be a High Powered Committee headed by the Chief Minister or a Minister to be nominated by him comprising of Chief Secretary and two senior Secretaries by rotation. This Committee shall, on periodical basis, scrutinize the reports received from the District Monitoring and Vigilance Committees and on the basis of these reports take appropriate action. In addition this Committee will

also periodically assess the performance of the officers working in the Secretariat and also of other State level officers with a view to taking corrective remedial measures like premature retirement and other disciplinary action as warranted.

20. Some of the main components of good governance are:-

- (a) Computerization of records, including land records and delivery thereof from computerized centres.
- (b) Simplification of rules and procedures,
- (c) Reducing the steps in the hierarchy like the introduction of the desk officer system.
- (d) Zero tolerance in human rights violations
- (e) Close programme monitoring,
- (f) Peoples participation and
- (g) Capacity building.
- (h) Transparency. In this context the N.C. Government shall bring the State RTI Act at par with the Central Act in all respects.

21. In order to give practical and concrete shape to these instruments for good governance a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be set up.

22. Another area of concern in public administration is the huge pendency of cases in the

Revenue and other courts. This leads to great expense and harassment to the rural population. In recognition of the need for urgent and revolutionary legislation in this behalf, the Leader of the Opposition in the last Assembly Shri A.R. Rather had introduced a Bill namely the Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Personal Law ( Shariat ) Application Bill, 2005. This Bills was passed and has become a Law. This Act has given overriding application to Muslim Personal Law on cases where the parties are Muslims and consequently Customary Law stands annulled. This has resulted in substantial reduction of pending cases and has provided great relief to the litigants. In the same spirit the National Conference Party would consider the establishment of a Revenue Board comprising of senior officers with Financial Commissioner as head of the Board to deal with the revenue cases in order to provide speedy justice which is not being provided by the subordinate courts like the Divisional Commissioners because of their multifarious preoccupations. Appeals against the orders of the Members of the Board shall lie with the J&K Special Tribunal.

PANCHAYATI RAJ AND LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

23. The National Conference Government has always believed that local self government at the grassroots level should be institutionalized and strengthened to ensure people participation in decision making , which is the only way in which democracy can become effectively functional and bring about social transformation. With this belief the National Conference Government enacted the Panchayati Raj Act in 1989 which was hailed all over the country as path breaking and was studied as a model by other States. This Act provided for a three tier Panchayati Raj, at the halqa block and district levels, each tier comprising of elected representatives. The Act provides for the Constitution of Panchayati Adalats which is unique in the country. The Act also provides for the election process to be initiated one month before the expiry of the term of these elected bodies so that there is no interruption in the transition of the existing elected bodies to the newly elected ones.

24. The National Conference Government held elections to the Panchayats in the year 2001. But the Coalition Government after 2002 took no steps whatsoever to implement the Act in letter and spirit. Instead of

strengthening the Panchayati Raj system the Coalition Government made repeated but unsuccessful attempts to dissolve the duly elected panchayats. In a final, sinister attempt to subvert the Panchayat Raj, the Coalition Government introduced and passed a Bill in the Legislature despite strong opposition by the National Conference Party. The Bill aimed at empowering the government to dissolve duly elected Panchayats at its sweet will. This Bill was prevented from becoming Law by the National Conference Party which convinced the Governor not to give his assent.

25. The National Conference government immediately after coming to power shall hold elections to all the Panchayats and fully support them to discharge their functions as envisaged in the Act. Similarly the Urban Local Bodies which are elected and are functioning shall be financially supported and also encouraged to raise their own resources and reduce their dependence on the government. In respect of Jammu and Srinagar cities which have elected Municipal Corporations the scope and jurisdiction of the existing District Development Boards shall be reviewed to eliminate the possibility of overlapping of authority for plan formulation and implementation.

REHABILITATION OF MILITANCY AFFECTED PEOPLE

26. Many civilians as well as militants have been killed during the last eighteen years and their children have been left behind orphaned and helpless. During 1996-2002 the National Conference government set up a Rehabilitation Council to settle the victims of militancy in remunerative vocations and to provide them financial assistance on a recurring basis. The activities of this Council unfortunately remained dormant during the Coalition Govt. Our government shall reactivate this Council and enhance the size of the Corpus of funds in this Council and enlarge its scope of activities so that more needy are benefited in greater measure.

27. We believe that there are many, out of those detained in jails, who could lead normal, productive lives if they are released. We shall review the cases of all detainees and set free all those who are not hardened criminals and who have had a change of heart and mind. We shall also try to create conditions for the safe return of those youth who were led astray by temptation and indoctrination to the POK and who now sincerely and honestly want to return to their homes and settle down as law abiding citizens. The National Conference is concerned about the plight of Kashmiri Migrants who are living outside the valley and realizes that their return to the valley is vital for strengthening the secular ethos of Kashmir.

Therefore it shall take effective and urgent steps as listed at para 42,43,44,45,46 to facilitate their return.

### PLANNING MECHANISM

28. Measures shall be taken to fine tune the existing planning and financial management practices so that the developmental process goes on smoothly and the programmes of the Government reach the beneficiaries in time and as planned. In this regard the National Conference government will consider duplicating the Hill Development Council Model of planning in the far-flung and backward areas and gradually extend this pattern to all districts. This initiative will hopefully accelerate the pace of development and sharpen the response to felt needs of the people through their participation. The political agenda of the National Conference for restoration of Autonomy is well known and the part is aware of the aspirations of the people at the regional and sub regional levels. Through these models of development, the National Conference shall ensure that 'Autonomy is given expression, in real terms on the ground, at the regional and sub-regional levels.

29. Formulation and monitoring of the implementation of the Plan have been weak areas because those who draw up the plan are generally those who also are required to monitor it. Thus there is no detachment and no accountability. In order that formulation of the plan and its monitoring are realistic,

objective, and effective, the National Conference Government shall put in place a State Planning Commission comprising experts in various fields with the requisite authority to prepare the State's Annual/Five year plans for approval by the Competent authority, to oversee their implementation, and to suggest midterm corrections wherever necessary. This Planning Commission shall have various wings whose tasks will not overlap and monitoring and formulation of the Plan shall be looked after by separate wings each vested with authority to do so. This will ensure smooth and uninterrupted utilization of available funds for Schemes/Projects/EAPs from the State Plan or Government of India or Planning Commission. This mechanism shall also enable a focused attention to be directed at the State's overall developmental effort so that the results match this effort and chances of diffusion of resources are minimized.

#### PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT

30. The role of the Private Sector is vital to kick-start rapid economic growth. Now that the environment in the State has become conducive for private investment, the National Conference government as a matter of policy, while trying to provide opportunities of employment in the government as far as possible, would ensure that for creation of substantial job opportunities on a large scale in

private sector investment is attracted to the state for building luxury hotels, tourist resorts, modern hospitals, large call centres etc. Similarly investment in floriculture, in fisheries development and in large and medium industry shall also be encouraged. This has been the policy of governments in the past, but it has remained mostly a fond wish, because private investors have not felt enthused to invest during the period of disturbance and now in normal times they shy away because of bureaucratic hassles, which have frustrated potential investors within and from outside the State. To overcome these impediments the National Conference Government shall establish an autonomous Investment Promotion Board (IPB) to be headed by the Chief Minister. This shall be exclusively responsible for bringing in private investment into the State and shall also be charged with the task of suggesting simplification of procedures and formalities to promote investor confidence and also devise incentive schemes wherever not available.

### UNEMPLOYMENT

31. Unemployment of educated youth has always been a major concern of all governments. But the National Conference Government alone provided extraordinary measures to provide jobs on a large scale in the government.

32. The Coalition government of Congress and PDP which came into power in 2002, did not show the same zeal to address this problem with the result that today there is restlessness among the youth who resort frequently to protests in the shape of procession, dharnas, hunger strikes threats of immolation and so on. The dimension of unemployment in the State has become quite alarming as the following table will show:-

Quaification.	As per Census 2001	As per live Register in Employment Exchange.
Below Matric	0.85 lacs	25910
Matric and plus	1.15 lacs	34147
Graduates	0.52 lacs	16706
Post Graduates	0.24 lacs	8273
Degree /Diploma		
Engineers,	0.34 lacs	10043
Doctors(Allopathic/ ISM).	0.02 lacs	NA
Paramedics	0.005 lacs	NA
ITI trained	0.09 lacs	3241
Skilled other than		
ITI	0.20 lacs	6080
Illiterates	0.46 lacs	NA

This picture must be much more gloomy today with the addition of more youth to the pool of the unemployed since 2001.

33. The NC Government shall take urgent and innovative steps to harness the energies and qualifications of the unemployed youth gainfully, so that, while contributing to the progress of the State, they are able to also secure their own future and come out of the sense of hopelessness and despair. The National Conference government shall endeavour that, in a fixed time frame, all the educated unemployed youth are absorbed either in government jobs or in private sector thereby assuring them of a recurring source of income.

34. In order to ensure that this commitment is fulfilled, the National Conference government shall actively create conditions for the unemployed youth to be adjusted fruitfully. It shall revamp the Employment Department and the Directorate of Employment, which have regrettably remained uninspiring institutions perceived by the general masses as dumping grounds for unwanted officers. The N.C. government shall replace the Directorate of Employment by an Autonomous Agency designated as Employment Facilitating Agency (EFA) headed by an officer of the level of Principal Secretary to Government

which shall have a Governing Body to be headed by the Chief Secretary comprising of Secretaries to Government of concerned Departments. This Governing Body shall take policy decisions and oversee the implementation of the mandate of the Agency. The mandate of this agency shall be to identify the job opportunities in MNC's /PSU's within and out side the State both for technically qualified youth as well as undergraduates, graduates and post graduates. This agency shall be responsible for getting un-employed youth adjusted against these identified avenues after imparting them the necessary training, if required, in institutions like the Entrepreneurial development Institute/ITI/Polytechnics . A monthly stipend shall be paid to them during the period of training.

35. This Agency shall also identify and create opportunities of employment in sectors like Tourism, Horticulture, Floriculture, fisheries, Health, and Sericulture where skills rather than education are in greater demand. Training for youth who may not be highly qualified but would be suitable for jobs in these sectors would be organized for them by this Agency and during the period of training the trainees will be provided suitable stipend. This stipend shall be continued for a period of one year after

training or till such time they are adjusted in vocations which ever is earlier.

36. This Agency would operate a data bank which would provide information and counseling for the unemployed youth seeking jobs and training.

37. The performance of the officers in this Agency and of those associated with it shall be judged by their achievements in terms of training imparted, opportunities of livelihood identified, adjustments in jobs facilitated etc. The officers shall also be suitably rewarded in case of good work.

38. There are Doctors, Engineers and those qualified to be Physical Instructors who are also unemployed and who need to be provided some recurring source of income till they are adjusted against regular posts in the Government or on a private basis. The Agency that shall be set up to facilitate employment for the educated unemployed, shall also be responsible for enabling willing Doctors and Engineers to set up Polyclinics or Consultancies with the help of loans which are liberally available from financial institutions. Meanwhile the NC Government shall pay a monthly stipend of Rs.3500/- to the unemployed Doctors including ISM Doctors. All these Doctors shall be made available at various District

headquarters to be deployed to supplement the work done in dispensaries, or community centers or hospitals. Similarly the N.C. government shall provide a monthly stipend of Rs.3500/- per month to unemployed Degree engineers and Rs.3000/- per month to the unemployed Diploma engineers. These engineers shall also be made available to various Chief Engineers with the direction to use their services wherever required in order to push the pace of works under execution. The level of stipend will be revised annually on the basis of their performance.

39. The National Conference attaches great importance to the physical well being of the youth. Physical Education in schools is an important component of the curriculum but this has remained confined to the High and Higher Secondary level only. The National Conference Government shall introduce Physical Education at the Middle and Primary level and for this purpose it shall engage qualified unemployed youth as Rehbar-e-khel.

40. The National Conference Government will draw up a perspective plan of the bare minimum requirement of Engineers, Doctors, and other professionals for the next 15 years in the State and shall, on the basis of this data, make adjustments in the intake capacities in government institutions. The government shall see that facilities and

curricula in professional institutions in the State are upgraded and updated so that the quality of education is at par with the best in the country. This way the engineers, doctors, and other professionals who come out from this system can compete for jobs, in addition to Government departments, in the best private institutions. They can also come together in groups to set up Consultancies and Polyclinics for which government shall facilitate grant of soft loans and, if necessary, for some time, shall grant subsidies and incentives also. The government will, at the same time actively explore the possibility of creation of posts in departments like Health, Education, Agriculture, Power Sector and other Engineering Departments on need basis.

41. Contractual appointment of doctors, engineers etc have been made on a large scale district-wise. While this strategy has helped to provide livelihood, it has led to a sense of insecurity among the appointees. Despite having been recruited through a transparent process of competition akin to the procedures adopted by the SSRB, they have to again compete for permanent jobs when vacancies are advertised. They remain apprehensive that even after serving the State for two to three years, they may not be finally appointed on regular basis and this creates mental agony. A way shall have to be found to make such appointees

permanent without having to undergo a second competition, which on the face of it appears unfair. The NC Government will take appropriate legal and if necessary legislative measures to safeguard the future of these contractual appointees.

42. Over the years, in the management of matters pertaining to personnel in the government services, adhocism, arbitrariness, inordinate delays and irregularities have become a usual phenomenon which has caused dissatisfaction as well as inefficiency among the government servants. Some of the reasons for this chaos have been, non finalisation/updating of recruitment rules, delayed recruitment by recruiting agencies, non availability of performance reports for conduct of Departmental Promotional Committees meetings and over all lack of monitoring from a central point in the government. In order to bring about a systemic change and enforce the rule of law in matters pertaining to government servants, the National Conference Government will redefine and rationalize the role of Departments like GAD and ARI etc so that a single agency is put in place which shall be charged with the responsibility of achieving the aforementioned objective.

43. The problem of unemployment has afflicted the Kashmiri migrants in Jammu as also those Kashmiri Pandits who did not migrate and continued to stay in the Kashmir valley. The National Conference government would make efforts to convince the Kashmiri migrants to return to their homes in the Valley. Those families whose children have not been able to acquire any professional training or worthwhile jobs shall be induced to return to the Valley by providing them a rehabilitation package including jobs for their educated unemployed children. The National Conference government shall ensure that for one year, as these families settle back in their homes, they shall continue to get free ration at the existing scale, if a job has been provided, and cash relief as well as free ration, if no job has been provided. The National Conference is aware of the lack of opportunities for employment that the Kashmiri pandits who stayed behind in the Valley have faced. The National Conference Government shall launch a special drive to absorb Kashmiri Pandit youth of such families in jobs in the Valley.

44. While what has been said above will act as an incentive for many families to return to their homes in Kashmir from Jammu and elsewhere in the country, it would

be unrealistic to assume that all migrant families would be motivated to return immediately. Some families would, for various reasons, continue to stay in the camps or outside in their present living conditions. Having accepted this reality it would be fair and humane to increase the income of these families which is limited to monthly cash relief of Rs.4000/-. This increase in income can be made if jobs are provided to those children who are not highly qualified and are living with their parents. The condition for this dispensation would be that it will be available for one year in the first instance and may be renewed by another one year in case there have been strong reasons for these families not to avail of the incentive of a job for their children in Kashmir. Therefore the National Conference government would create temporary posts of teachers, Junior Assistants and Orderlies in every camp against which recruitment could be made campwise on the pattern of Rehaber-e-Talim. The Junior Assistants and the Orderlies can be deployed to work in the offices of the Camp Commandants and the teachers would be posted in the Camp schools. Similar action would be taken in respect of non camp migrant clusters.

45. Some Kashmiri Migrants living in Jammu, who had small industrial units in Kashmir before they migrated

to Jammu have shown a desire to set up small scale industrial units in Jammu. They have been allotted industrial plots but the lending institutions are not providing them financial assistance because these entrepreneurs can not offer security in terms of land or other assets. The National Conference government will ensure that such entrepreneurs, among Kashmiri migrants are provided loans by the lending institutions which the government will guarantee.

46. The National Conference has taken note of the fact that the Government of India has sanctioned a relief package for the Kashmiri Migrants which includes compensation for properties lost, payment of balance ex-gratia relief, provision of 6000 jobs and financial assistance of Rs.7.5 lacs to those who want to rebuild their houses in the Valley. The National Conference Government will give priority to implementing the component of financial relief for properties lost and payment of balance ex-gratia and the recruitment of Kashmiri migrants against 6000 jobs. The National Conference realizes that the return of Kashmiri migrants to the valley cannot be engineered by promise of a lump sum amount as indicated in the package. Without feeling secure in the Valley Kashmiri migrants will not return. The National Conference government will therefore

do its best to create a political and social environment in the Valley which will encourage the Kashmiri migrants to return to settle permanently in their place of birth.

47. The National Conference Party is aware that the Kashmiri migrants living in Jammu have fallen prey to serious diseases and in many cases they cannot afford the expense of treatment. The Corpus of funds that has been created for granting financial assistance is meager and its operation is bogged down in procedure, with the result, this assistance does not become available when required. In view of this difficulty the National Conference Government, in consultation with financial institution/Insurance Companies, will adopt a Health Insurance Scheme for all such migrant families which are taking relief. The National Conference Government will contribute 50% of the premium per family per year. With this, it is hoped that most of the migrant families will get health security.

### **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

48. Industrial development is one of the biggest stimulants for economic growth. It leads to creation of employment opportunities for the semi-skilled, skilled and professional persons on a large scale and through them

production of goods and services, required by society, takes place.

49. It was in view of this tremendous potential of industrialization that late Jenab Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, laid down a very attractive Industrial Policy which was designed to motivate the entrepreneurs from within the State and to attract the industrialists from outside the State to invest in the setting up of industrial units in the Jammu and Kashmir. Since the J&K State is located at the northern most corner of the country and does not have indigenous raw material for the manufacturing of products of mass consumption except minerals, and also because, within the State the scope for the sale of these finished products is limited, the investors from outside the State were reluctant to invest funds whole heartedly as their cost of production was high and their profits were low. Therefore, in order to offset this disadvantage, an attractive package of incentives was announced by the late Jenab Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in which the cost of raw material and to and fro transportation was subsidized. Exemption from payment of sales tax and excise was also granted. Simultaneously Industrial Estates were developed at Barri

Brahmna in Jammu and Rangret in Srinagar which very soon became the hub of industrial activity.

50. Since then the package of incentives has been updated and improved several times and many Industrial Estates have come up all over the State and considerable employment has been generated. However, during the disturbed period of the nineties industrial growth slowed down and sickness of industrial units became common.

51. Now that the conditions have improved considerably the rejuvenation of the industries in the State can be taken up in hand on an urgent basis. This can be done by streamlining the delivery of incentives and other facilities to the entrepreneurs and simplification of procedures which need to be made investor friendly.

52. In order to achieve this objective, the National Conference Government shall set up a Monitoring Committee comprising of elected representatives of industry to oversee the performance of institutions and organizations, meant to give a boost to industry. This Committee shall periodically interact with a High Powered Committee to be set up by the government comprising senior officers of the concerned departments and it shall provide feedback about problems,

being faced, about performance of various officers, and about the investor mood. On the basis of these meetings disciplinary action shall be taken against officers responsible for unexplained delays in the delivery of incentives and remedial measures initiated wherever necessary. The time has come when the interface of our officers with potential investors whether from inside the State or outside has to be professional and responsive and not churlish and bossy. Our government shall sensitize officers in the Industries Department to requirements in the modern times and expose them to the procedures and attitudes that have marked the progress of industry in States like Gujarat and Maharastra.

53. Investors from within and outside the State are keen to set up manufacturing as well as service industry in the State. However, the State Government is unable to keep pace with this enthusiasm because of shortage of developed industrial estates. The N.C. Government shall earmark appropriate funds for acquisition of land for industrial estates and shall ensure that acquisition and development of plots

for industry are achieved in the shortest possible time. Care shall be taken to provide adequate compensation and cause minimal inconvenience to the people who may part with their lands. However highly productive lands like orchards and saffron fields shall not be acquired as far as possible for industrial use.

54. The traditional handicraft and handloom industry of the State needs a major boost because of its tremendous potential for providing wage-earning opportunities. However the handicrafts of the State, have still not captured the imagination of the people in the rest of the world as much as handicrafts of other States. This is because, in our State we have not adapted our designs and crafts to the changing tastes of the buyer and the connoisseur. Because of this complacency, our handicraft and handloom production and sales have not shown a quantum growth. But it is possible to find a larger market all over the world for our handicrafts and handlooms by involving non traditional artisans, in addition to traditional artisans, in production of items like Carpets, Namdas, Papier-mache, Tweeds, Blankets, etc. For this the training programmes in the handicraft and handloom sector shall have to be revised and upgraded. This strategy will enable those youth to be provided opportunities of employment who cannot study beyond a particular stage. This

would in a way revive the Massive Carpet Training Scheme which was a great success in the late 1970's and 1980's. The National Conference Government shall formulate a detailed road map in this behalf and ensure that the State's handicrafts and handlooms reach the zenith.

### **POWER SECTOR**

55. The Power Sector in the State requires massive restructuring as well as infusion of heavy doses of funds for improving the transmission network, for extending connectivity and for generation of more power.

56. When the National Conference was in power it realized that smooth, regulated, and adequate supply of electricity to the domestic, commercial and industrial consumers was vital for generating a sense of well being among the people, and for development of industries and ancillary activities and for the over all growth of the economy of the State. It realized that there was tremendous potential in the rivers of the State especially the river Chenab for generation of hydropower. At the same time it was felt that in order to tap this vast potential of nearly 20000 MW, a huge amount of money would be required which was not available with the State. The option of allowing power generation in the State to remain stagnant in the absence of

resources to tap potential of the States rivers did not find favour with the National Conference Government. It was better to have 12% of something rather than 100% of nothing. The alternative of requesting the NHPC to make investment in power projects in the State was considered to be a better option so that at least 12% free of cost electricity could become available to the State as per the national norms out of the power generated. This was suitable option also because no private investor was willing to invest unless certain conditions like counter guarantees were fulfilled by the GOI. It was in this background that National Conference government invited the NHPC to take up Power Projects as BOOT projects. Under this arrangement, which had been agreed to by the Power Ministry of the GOI power projects would be built, operated, owned and transferred back to the State after money invested was recovered by the NHPC. This could have paved the way for the ultimate transfer of already Commissioned projects like Salal and Uri to the State. Unfortunately this understanding did not get translated into an agreement. Now the NHPC has taken up projects costing Rs.18000 Crores in terms of an MOU signed on the basis of the decision of the Coalition Government which is detrimental to the interests of the State. The N.C. Government will pursue the GOI to convert these projects

into BOOT projects so that ultimately the State Government becomes the owner of these projects.

57. This long term strategy mentioned in the previous paras was supplemented by the National Conference government by improving the capacity of hydro projects and constructing Mini Hydel Projects in places like Ladakh, Uri, Ganderbal, Kathua and Chenani. This resulted in the increase of installed capacity from 174.56 MWs in 1978-79 to 502.70 MWs in 2001-2002. It is painful to note that since 2002-2003 not a single MW has been added to this installed capacity.\*\*

58. In addition to the aforementioned initiative the N.C. Government had formulated an innovative scheme for raising resources for investment in the power sector. This scheme was sanctioned through an Act passed by the State Assembly and was called the Roshni Scheme. This envisaged sale of leased nazool land and other government land to those in possession, at the prevailing market rate, and transfer of ownership rights. It was estimated that the money collected from sale of around 11 lac kanals of such land would be about Rs.10000 Crores. It was provided in the Act that this amount would be kept in the Finance Department as a special fund to

\*\* Table No.13.00 , Page 193 J&K Digest of Statistics, Director of Economics and Statistics 2005-2006.

be exclusively utilized for generation of power. Unfortunately the responsibility for implementing this revolutionary scheme got shifted to the Coalition Government after the elections of 2002. The Coalition Government mutilated the scheme beyond recognition by including encroachers of government land also in the list of beneficiaries and by proposing to use the money collected, for normal developmental programmes and not exclusively for power generation as envisaged in the original Act. Interestingly the amount of money so far collected by sale of government land is reportedly a meagre Rs. 50 Crores. If the Roshni Scheme had been implemented in letter and spirit another 1200 MWs of power could have been generated in the State.

59. It is to be emphasized that the National Conference government despite its limited resources, showed courage to take the first step towards reducing dependence on the NHPC by taking up on its own the Baglihar Project the first phase of which was to be completed by 2004 at an estimated cost of Rs.4000 Crores ( now revised to Rs. 5200 Crores) which would provide 450 MWs of power to the State. Simultaneously the National Conference government negotiated the contract for Sawalakot Hydel Project on the same river at an estimated cost of Rs. 7500 Crores. This would provide 1200 MWs of power to the State. Unfortunately the

Coalition government after 2002 showed no interest in getting the Baglihar Project completed in time for reasons which are very mysterious. The Sawalakot Hydel Project for which the Coalition government allotted contract after thorough investigation and negotiations was shelved by the same government for reasons which were not adequately explained leading to great escalation of cost.

60. The first phase of the Baglihar Project has now mercifully been at last commissioned though after an escalated cost caused by delay in execution. The N.C. Government shall expeditiously get the second phase of this project on stream. The National Conference government will also revive the Sawalakote Hydel Project, so that additional 1200 Mws of power become available to this power starved State in the next six years. At the same time the NC government shall take a realistic view of the tariff structure prevailing in the State. Government has to spend a huge amount of money for purchasing power from the national Grid. In order to reduce this burden, the N.C Government will continue to make efforts to harness the huge hydel potential within the State for not only making the State self sufficient but also surplus in power. This effort shall have to be supplemented by opening the power sector to the private investors also. In this regard, the National

Conference government will simplify the procedures and address the genuine concerns of the willing investors. The National Conference Government shall also study the schemes launched by States like Himachal Pradesh and Utterakhand for generating of power through Mini Hydel Projects which have short gestation period, with a view to taking up similar projects in the State.

61. Indus Water Treaty 1960 has proved detrimental to the economic interests of the State. The NC Government will vigorously pursue with the Central Government the matter of compensation on this account to the State.

62. The N.C. Party has taken note of the MOU signed between the Government of India and the State Government for setting up a joint venture company called the Chenab Valley Power Projects Ltd. with 49% NHPC equity, 49% JKPDC equity and 2% equity of the Power Trading Corporation. The National Conference government will ensure the implementation of this MOU and simultaneously strive to persuade the Government of India to increase the entitlement of free electricity to the State government from 13% to 20% in addition to the normal dividend on the profits of the joint venture in view of the precarious power situation in the State and the long gestation period of power projects taken in hand by the NHPC. The NC Government shall also pursue the GOI to

convert the power projects under construction by NHPC as BOOT Projects as mentioned earlier.

### TOURISM PROMOTION

63. Tourism is the backbone of the economy of the State and its revival after the period of turmoil shall be given a boost. Private sector investment by permanent residents of the State in hotels, tourist resorts, amusement parks and in cable car projects, etc shall be encouraged.

64. The road journey from Jammu to Srinagar will become shorter and smoother after the highway is four laned and the tourists will prefer to travel by road to enjoy the beauty of the landscape of snow peaked mountains, gorgeous valleys and the rapids of the Chenab flowing alongside most of the way. The N.C. Government would provide motels, drive-ins and view points at vantage positions on the highway without disturbing the environment so that tourists could feel tempted to break their journey before they enter into the valley of Kashmir.

65. The Mughal Road connecting Kashmir with Poonch was a dream child of Jenab Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah but much progress on its completion could not be made during his life time. The Dr. Farooq Abdullah government revived the project and provided 50% of the cost as State share. In fact work was started but could not proceed further because of certain objections raised by the Defence Ministry of the

Government of India. Now there is hope that this road can be completed as all obstacles have been removed. The Mughal road is not only a significant link but it can become an interesting tourist destination if along its length, in stretches, the ambience of the Mughal days is recreated with elephants and palanquins moving in a caravan with tourists and with sarais located for rest and recreation at crucial places. The N.C. Government would make the Mughal road a vibrant heritage site, which would become an attraction for all tourists coming into the State from all over the world. This will also generate ample opportunities of employment.

66. The N.C. Government will strengthen the existing Tourism Development Authorities by providing adequate funds and infrastructure to give a boost to the Tourism industry.

67. The N.C. Government will actively promote adventure tourism in which local youth will be gainfully employed as guides and trainers. It will also, if necessary, provide reasonable financial assistance for purchase of equipment.

### **EDUCATION**

68. Thousands of educational institutions have been upgraded/opened by the Coalition government in the last six years, in an adhoc manner. The norms laid down by the Education Department itself have been totally ignored with the result that expansion and opening of new institutions has not

kept pace with the building of the requisite infrastructure. Even necessary staff for the additional intake of students is not available anywhere. Short term measures like internal adjustments were resorted to. This depleted the staff strength of those institutions from where staff was withdrawn without adequately meeting the needs of those institutions in which the staff was adjusted. Obviously this arrangement has disturbed the existing structure. As a consequence the quality of education is suffering badly, the adverse results of which will begin to show in the near future. This trend has to be checked immediately. The National Conference government shall, on an urgent basis, comprehensively review the scenario in the Education sector and take corrective measures to consolidate the investment made haphazardly in this field and reorient and modernize the educational infrastructure in the State so that the capabilities of the students are properly developed and they are made fit to take up jobs where high skills and sharp minds are needed.

69. The Coalition government has opened 39 new Degree Colleges for which huge funds have been received from the government of India but the progress on building these colleges is slow and admissions have been made in existing Higher Secondary Schools leading to congestion. In a strange twist to the UGC policy of providing Post Graduate Courses in selected colleges, the Coalition Government has opened token

University campuses in far flung areas as populist measures, which shall in no way help in spreading quality Higher Education. The National Conference Government shall ensure that the college buildings are completed on a war footing and that the curriculum being taught in these colleges is demand driven so that it is possible to find placements for graduates/postgraduates in sectors where there is need for them. Otherwise the number of the unemployable educated youth will continue to increase leading to frustration and unrest. The National Conference Government shall take all possible measures to make Higher Education an effective vehicle for human resource development.

70. The National Conference Party believes that while government has an obligation to expand educational infrastructure as well as to consolidate it, both to achieve the objective of universalization of elementary education as well as to improve the quality of education, at the same time the Party underscores the important role that the private sector can play in supplementing the efforts of the government. In this context National Conference has noted with dismay that the coalition government discontinued Grant in Aid to private institutions, which had been provided by the N.C. Government to help the private sector to contribute to the advancement of education in the State.

71. The N.C. Government shall review this decision of the Coalition government and restore the scheme of providing Grant-in-Aid to private institutions. The scheme shall however be modified so that the flow of Grant-in-Aid is regulated in such a way that only those institutions are benefited from this which are yet to become self sufficient and which have established themselves with the larger objective of providing quality education to children and youth in the educationally backward and far flung areas.

### **AGRICULTURE**

72. Agriculture and the allied sector of Animal and Sheep Husbandry affect the lives of nearly 70% of the population of the State but there is stagnation in productivity of the cereal crops. The production per hectare of rice in the State is 21.52 qtls whereas in the neighbouring States of Haryana and Punjab it is 27qtls and 35qtls per hectare respectively. Similarly in maize and wheat also our production is much lower than in Punjab and Haryana. While there has been noteworthy increase in the consumption of fertilizer, the management practices do not seem to have improved much despite SKUAST doing a lot of research in the lab. The NC government believes there is need to strengthen the extension effort in the Agriculture sector. It shall consider enhancing the remuneration of the unemployed agriculture graduates already engaged as Rehber

Zirat from Rs.1500/- to Rs.3000/- per month. Their emoluments will be increased and their regularization considered only if in the areas of their jurisdiction there is a prescribed percentage increase in production per unit area at the end of each crop season. This shall enforce accountability and utilization at the micro level of man power resource which presently is going waste.

73. The Cooperative movement in the State has not been very strong although there have been attempts from time to time to give it momentum and to revive defunct Societies. The N.C. Government shall actively consider revamping the whole Cooperative structure to make it into a strong catalyst for economic growth in the rural areas.

74. The Housing Sector is very important and the Cooperatives have done well in this sector with many good residential colonies having come up in Jammu as well as in Srinagar. The N.C. Government shall try to encourage the Cooperative Societies/federations to go in a big way into colonalization so that residential houses become available to the people at affordable prices. The N.C. Government shall also look into the reasons for the failure of a prestigious Cooperative Organization like the JAKFED, which at one time served a useful purpose, and shall redefine its role and revive its activities

and help it to unburden itself of the liability of loans which has caused its sickness.

### **HORTICULTURE**

75. Horticulture is the backbone of the States economy. Around five lac families depend on horticulture for their livelihood directly and indirectly. In the difficult days in the nineties Horticulture and Handicraft sectors were the two sectors which sustained the economy of the State. Although production of fruits has increased significantly because of control of scab and other diseases and adoption of modern technology, over the years, the post harvest management continues to be an area of concern because the orchardists and others involved in the trade are not getting adequate returns matching their investment. This is because the cost of packaging, transportation and preservation has increased tremendously. This high cost has become a disincentive for the growth of fruit industry in the State. Competition with the neighbouring fruit growing States has aggravated the situation particularly the late arrival of fruit from the State in the markets of the country. The following urgent steps shall have to be taken in order to alleviate the hardships faced by the fruit industry:-

- a) Better and scientific post harvest management practices shall have to be adopted by way of setting up of Controlled Atmosphere Stores (CAS) and introducing

refrigerated vans in the fruit growing areas so that the delivery of fruit in markets outside the State is regulated as per demand.

- b) Private investment in setting up of these CAS's shall be encouraged.
- c) Availability of packing material at reasonable rates shall be ensured.
- d) The cost of transportation of fruits to the various markets of the country and the availability of transport shall be regulated by the government so that the burden on the growers and dealers is minimized.
- e) The Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) shall be reviewed and redesigned in such a way that the benefits accrue to the growers at large resulting in greater production and better grading of fruit.

76. A High Powered Advisory Committee with due representation to the growers/ dealers will be set up to monitor and review the implementation of these proposed initiatives and to make suggestions for further improvement wherever required for action by the government.

### **BALANCED DEVELOPMENT**

77. The NC government shall ensure that balanced development takes place in the State and all three regions, Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh, shall be provided resources

equitably and the complaints or perceptions of discrimination if any among the various regions and sub regions shall be alleviated. The proposed State Planning Commission and the existing Finance Commission shall be assigned the task of fulfilling this objective.

78. A special package of development for the cities of Srinagar/Jammu has already been approved by the Government of India under NURRM to be spent on major sewage, drainage and infrastructure projects. The Coalition government regrettably did not attach much importance to this scheme which had the potential of transforming the cities of Srinagar and Jammu into modern cities with upgraded public utilities. So far no tangible work has been taken up. This negligence will delay the accrual of benefits to the people of these cities that the amount of Rs.8200 Crores, earmarked for this scheme, is meant to provide. The N.C. Government will ensure that the NURRM is implemented on a war footing through an Executing Agency which shall have full and actual autonomy in decision making and which shall be an institution for coordinating the efforts of all concerned departments.

79. Continual complaints are received from Government of India that the State Government does not avail of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to the optimal level. In order to make maximum use of schemes and funds available, the State

Planning Commission will be specially charged with the responsibility of reviewing, monitoring the implementation of these schemes and taking timely action for completion of all formalities so that the State does not go by default in this regard.

### WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

80. The National Conference attaches high priority to the issue of women's empowerment. The Party believes that women have a major role to play in implementing its agenda. In order to enable women to perform their role the National Conference Government shall ensure their parity with men in all fields of life including political, economical and social. Reservation for women has already been made in the Panchayats and Local Bodies. The National Conference Government shall take all necessary measures to provide reservation to women in the Legislative Assembly also.

81. The Women's Commission which was set up by the National Conference Government has remained headless and defunct during the Coalition government. The National Conference Government will revive this important organization and make it fully functional. The National Conference Government will also strengthen other similar bodies including the Women's Development Corporation and NGO's doing work in the sphere of women's empowerment.

82. This document has only outlined an implementable road map for development in the next decade and the NC government shall endeavor to follow this in letter and spirit so that the vision of a prosperous State in which every individual lives with dignity and earns his livelihood with honest toil is given practical shape.