The Bangladesh Times 039
তারিখ 04-DEC 1985 পৃষ্ঠা ... কলাম 2

## Thrust to eliminate poverty, check baby boom

# TAKA 38,600 CRORE TFYP

By A Staff Reporter

The Taka 38,600 crore Third Five-Year Plan (1985-90) which was approved on Tuesday at a meeting of National Economic Council with President H. M. Ershad in the chair will make a massive thrust at eliminating poverty and checking growth of population.

With eight-point objectives, the Plan aims at a growth rate of 5.6 per cent, much above those of the achievement of First and Second Plans. The investment in private sector will be Taka 13,600 crore indicating a larger role of the sector.

The share of foreign assistance also went down in the TFYP in comparison with those of other two plans.

Announcing the plan, Mr. Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury, Minister for Planning said that Taka 21.028 crore or 54.5 per cent of total plan outlay would come from the foreign aid. The share of foreign aid was 77 per cent in First Plan, 63 per cent in two-year plan and 58 per cent in second plan.

Mr. Chowdhury said that the main thurst would be to create new jobs to alleviate poverty of the people. About 51 lakh new jobs would be created during the Plan period employing over 244 lakh people.

The plan hoped to limit the population growth to 110 million by 1990.

It also hoped that process of sliding poverty line would be reversed and at least 10 per cent of those living under it would go above the poverty line.

Earlier the NEC reviewed the success and failure of the last two plans and fixed the main objective of the plan in alleviation of general poverty with regard to the socio-economic context. Moreover, the main programme of action would be to ensure production oriented use of land and labour—two main national wealth — including rural development and alleviation of poverty and removal of unemployment.

Tk. 17,572 crore would be mobilised from internal sources of which Tk. 5,960 crore would come from public savings and Tk. 11,612 crore would come from private savings, the Minister said.

Mr. Choudhury said that the TFYP took an integrated view of development in a long-term perspective fixing eight objectives. These were: reduction of population growth; expansion of productive employment; universal primary education and human resource development; development of technological base for bringing about a long-term structural change; self-sufficiency in food; satisfaction of minimum basic needs of people; acceleration of economic growth and promotion of self-reliance.

The Planning Minister said that three fourth families in the country were not able to fulfil the basic needs of living. 53 per cent families had been suffering from nutrition deficiency in 1962-64 which increased to 53 per cent in 1975-76. It was 78 per cent in 1981-82. He said that, without alleviating the poverty no development plan could be fruitful.

Asked why the publication of the plan was delayed although its implementation began in July last, the Planning Minister said it was delayed for discussions with various concerned quarters to determine its broad objectives and strategies for implementation. These discussions with renowed economists, social scientists, educationists, engineers, scientists, industrialists and industrial entrepreneurs of the country were essential for arriving at a broad consensus for the proper implementation of the plan. He mentioned the different stages of discussions and said that the outline of the Plan was elaborately discussed in three meetings of the Council of Ministers. He said that in the light of these discussions and also under the instruction of the President, certain major changes in the sectoral allocations were made keeping the size of the plan unchanged.

Replying to a question Mr. Choudhury said that the target of the Plan would be achieved provided there was political stability and no major natural disaster. He told a questioner that it was true that the present government was not elected, but it could not sit idle to wait for an elected government to prepare the Third Plan. He said that the next elected government might change the Plan, but there was very little scope to change as the planners framed the plan keeping the national interest above everything.

Contd. on page 8 col. 6

## Tk 38,600 cr TFYP

Contd. from page 1

terest above everything.

The condition of the common people did not change much although the previous plans tried to remove poverty, unemployment and disparity in the distribution of income for which various factors were responsible, he said.

But, he said, inspite of problems, progress was made in certain sectors. Food production increased to 1.58 crore tons in 1984-85 from one crore tons in 1972-73. The rate of population growth fell to 2.4 per cent from 3 per cent and production in energy sector annually increased by 14 per cent over the period. Due to the planned development over the last 13 years the national income increased annually by 5.3 per cent during 22,100 by 1989-90 from 7,900 at present.

been allocated to the agriculture sectors the highest in the plan.

The target of food production had been fixed at 2.07 crore tons in the terminal year of the Plan. Fish production had been projected to increase to 10 lakh tons during the year as against 7.74 lakh tons produced in 1984-85.

The allocation to the industries sector in the Plan was Tk. 5800 crore including Tk. 3,200 crore in the private sector. It was expected that the growth in the industrial sector would be 10.1 per cent during the Plan period.

### ENERGY

A total of Tk. 6,175 crore had been allocated to the Energy and Natural Resources sector with the goal to achieve 13.8 growth in natural gas and 15 22,100 by 1989-90 from 7,900 at present.

He told a questioner that the growth of landless peasantry would be checked by ensuring the tenancy of sharecroppers and distribution of khas land among the landless peasants.

In reply to a question, the Planning Minister noted that the number of development projects was fewer in the Third Five-Year Plan as many of the projects had been included in the schemes at the upazila level under the present decentralisation of administration. The mobilisation of people in the implementation of projects had been ensured by their involvement in the development programmes at upazilas.

He told another questioner that the mechanism of project implementation had been streamlined for the timely execution of development projects in various sectors.

Mr. Chowdhury noted that the size of Plan outlay at the terminal year would stand at Taka 52,000 crore if the inflation grew at the present rate of ten per cent annually.

Mr. Mujibul Huq, Member Planning Commission, Mr. M K Anwar, Secretary, External Resources Division and Mr. Ahmed Farid, Additional Secretary Planning also explained the salient features of the Third Five-Year Plan and answered some questions.