

**ICRIER-KAS-FICCI Seminar:
India's Regulatory Framework and the Twelfth Five Year Plan**

Date: 25th September 2013 (Wednesday)

Venue: Rosewood and Ebony Halls, The Park Hotel, Kolkata

- **Mr. Arun Maira**, Member, Planning Commission, Govt. of India
- **Mr. Gaurav Swarup**, Chairman, FICCI West Bengal State Council
- **Dr. Rajat Kathuria**, Director & CE, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)
- **Ms. Mareen Haring** from KAS
- **Mr. Roland Lomme**, Governance Advisor, South Asia Governance and Public Sector Unit, The World Bank
- **Dr. Navroz K Dubash**, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi
- **Dr. V K Unni**, Associate Professor, Public Policy & Management, IIM Calcutta

- I am truly delighted to participate in today's seminar organized by FICCI, ICRIER & KAS Foundation on India's Regulatory Framework and the Twelfth Five Year Plan. This is indeed a very important area for discussion and debate. All these organizations have an important role to play in shaping public opinion and policy making and I do hope you all will continue this effort in future.
- The mantra of 12th 5 year plan is 'Faster, Sustainable and more inclusive growth'. Our 'Ma Mati Manush' government has always been committed to objective of inclusive growth. We have been engaged in programmes that seek to address this objective for years - growth which would bring tangible benefits to the weaker sections, women, the SC/ST, minorities and other deprived groups of society.
- Much has been discussed and debated on the advantages of West Bengal. I do not have to elaborate potential of the state before this august audience. We are happy to share in 2012-13, the NSDP of our state grew at 7.62% and per capita NSDP grew at 6.65%. Our Industrial sector also grew at 6.24%, which was twice as high as country's 3.12%. I truly believe that West Bengal can play a vital role in the overall economic and social development of the country by becoming the economic growth engine of India.
- Now that moratorium on environmental clearance for new industries in Haldia, Asansol and some parts of Howrah districts has also been lifted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India due to our persistent efforts and our compliance to the pollution controlling norms, I am sure this will unfold tremendous opportunities for industrial investments in these regions.

- Business regulatory frameworks are indispensable in creation and promotion of successful business environment in countries. We do not want our businesses growth to be hampered by myriad ambiguous, vast business regulation and poor enforcement. Several positive steps have already been taken by the State Government in this regard and we know we have many more miles are ahead of us. Let me focus today on what we have achieved.
- As you all may be aware recently an industrial policy has been unveiled by our Government and first I would like to highlight some of the thrust areas of new West Bengal Industrial Policy 2013-a policy that rewards productivity.
 - We promise to nurture and support the labor intensive Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise and revive the industries that were the hallmark of the State, like jute and tea
 - We will leverage the core competence and rich natural resource base of the State for midsize and large scale industries in Manufacturing and Engineering, Chemical, Petrochemical and its downstream hydrocarbon Industries, Food processing and Agro, Cement, Steel, Paper, Lather, Textiles, Tourism and IT sectors
 - We welcome the latest technology and FDI, especially in manufacturing, sun-rise industries and high tech areas and promise to promote local entrepreneurship and employment
 - We will utilize the potential of large technical and creative manpower in IT, entertainment & electronics and upgrade the skills of human resource to meet global standards
 - We will focus on policy reforms and business process reengineering for creation ease of doing business through the creation of a Single Window System for industrial start-ups
 - We will partner with industry players in the areas of industrial infrastructure, power, communication, roads and bridges, ports, airports, tourism and hospitality, health and education sectors in the State to work with us in PPP mode.
- Facilitating ease of doing business is a key component of any business regulatory framework. We are determined to eliminate systemic bottlenecks in the process of Industrialization in the State. We have introduced Shilpa Sathi – Single Window Clearance for the Industrial Proposals where the number of pages of documentation for starting a new business reduced from 99 pages to 7 pages. The state Government would bring out an Act for the implementation of Single Window Clearances. Gradually, we will also work towards web-enablement of the Single Window System to bring the process online.

- For better management of the affairs, the State has also undertaken the largest IT driven reform process. This includes major steps in simplification of tax structure and creation a tax friendly regime. Many of our G2B processes including administration of Commercial Tax, Stamp duty and Registration are already web-enabled and business-friendly. We have started using e-tendering and e-Procurement, minimizing the time and space of execution of government projects.
- We have published ready land bank information in public domain and we are bringing the best talent and knowledge in the private sector in planning and transaction advisory services from empanelled firms. Industrial Land is being made available through Industrial Park of WBIDC, WBIIDC, WBSIDC and other State agencies.
- “The West Bengal State Support for Industries Scheme, 2013” has been declared to provide an array of incentives to industry. The State will pay 8 per cent annual interest on the monetary incentive due to an industrial unit in cases of delays which is a landmark step.
- As you all are aware manufacturing sector can serve as a pivot around which various other sector can revolve and by boosting manufacturing sector, spillovers to other sector could be created. In 1975-76, share of manufacturing sector in West Bengal economy was 19 percent. By 2008-09, this figure had fallen to a mere 7.4%. In order to create a paradigm shift in the manufacturing sector we are committed to increase manufacturing growth rate from 4.7% to 20% at the end of the year of the policy and to achieve at least 25% share of the NSDP for manufacturing sector. The government will develop a ‘state Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme’ in line with the national programme to achieve this goal.
- Employment generation is one important pillar of any strategy of inclusive growth. Our goal is to create jobs for about 1.3 million people in 2013-14 itself and sustain this momentum in near future.
- We also believe that physical and industrial infrastructure is backbone of the socio-economic progress of any State or Country. We have therefore given special emphasis on infrastructure development in our new industrial policy through following measures:
 - Newly formed West Bengal Highway Development Corporation Ltd with a target to take up 1000 Kms State Highways development within next year and about 2827 Kms thereafter
 - Power sector to see a number of new projects totaling about 2600 MW capacity by 2016
 - The State has announced a policy on Co-generation and Generation of Electricity from Renewable Energy Source and has set a target of setting up 2706 MW Capacity from these resources by the end of 13th plan.
 - The State to have four operational airports by end of 2013. One of the airports and aerocity spread over more than 1800 acres at Andal near Durgapur with estimated

10,000 Crore investment including considerable FDI was very recently inaugurated by our Chief Minister.

- The State Government has taken a key policy decision to start operation of Helicopter Services and Sea Planes (Amphibian). We have already signed an MoU with Pawanhans for helicopter transport services
- Two Deep Sea Ports-Sagar and Rosulpur are planned – Both in PPP mode
- The State has moved to a ‘No Bandh’ regime. Man-days lost has drastically reduced from 65,80,000 in 2010-11 to 5,200 to 2012-13, which is a major step in the direction of image makeover for the State for attracting industrial investments.
- West Bengal is the only State which has introduced a State Policy on PPP to facilitate private investment in infrastructure including physical and social infrastructure.
- We are trying to rise above the challenges to make our growth processes both efficient and inclusive. This is our endeavor in Government. It will have to be yours too and I seek your partnership in making it a success. Under the inspiring leadership of our hon’ble Chief Minister, the Government is determined to bring about transformation in a way in which all section of society and industry will benefit and participate.
- Finally, I wish today’s seminar a great success in its deliberations.

I thank you for your attention