Appendix 5

BJP's National Agenda For Governance
[March 1998]

In the recently concluded elections to the 12th Lok Sabha, the BJP and its alliance partners went to the people as a team and sought their support for forming a new Government. The electorate has given its verdict. The BJP and alliance partners have unitedly won. We have the mandate to govern. This we will do mindful of the high responsibility and honour that has been conferred upon us.

On this occasion we recollect the core of the appeal for support that we had made: the assurance of a stable government and an able leadership. As a reaffirmation of that, and in joint and unanimous commitment to this high national endeavour, together the BJP and alliance partners now present to the country a 'National Agenda for Governance.'

This is our joint commitment, an assurance that we give together to the entire country. We do so conscious of the deep historic import of the moment in this the Golden Jubilee year of our Independence; of the great relevance and significance of 'The Agenda For India', adopted unanimously by both Houses of Parliament on that occasion; the impending end of the Twentieth Century and the dawning of a new millennium. On this occasion we appeal for and aspire to the advent of a new political age of reconciliation and accord; of dynamic economic growth with our cherished values of humanism in the forefront, and above all with an unshakable faith in the destiny of our great land and its people.

Our first commitment to the people is to give a stable, honest, transparent, and efficient government capable of accomplishing all round development. For this the government shall introduce time bound programmes of needed administrative reforms including those for the police and other Civil Services.

Economy

We will continue with the reform process, give it a strong Swadeshi thrust to ensure that the national economy grows on the principle that 'India shall be built by Indians': reappraise and revitalise reforms through giving primacy to removal of unemployment, and to an accelerated development of infrastructure, particularly energy and power production. We will bring GDP growth to the 7-8 per cent bracket, and control deficits—fiscal and revenue. We will take all such steps as would expedite implementation of policies and programmes in accord
with our national interests; and give to the entire national development efforts a humane face with total eradication of poverty as the ultimate goal. For this 'Berozgarl Hatno' - eradicate unemployment - is our call.

We will carefully analyse the effects of globalisation, calibrate the process of it by devising a time-table to suit our national conditions and requirements so as to not undermine but strengthen the national economy, the indigenous industrial base and the financial and services sector.

We will earmark 60 per cent of the Plan funds for and effect public investment in agriculture, rural development, irrigation and by diversifying incentives, including tax shelters, achieve a quantum leap in agriculture production so that agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food processing, fisheries and so on become the vehicles for growth resulting in an enhancement of the purchasing power of the people. Effective crop insurance schemes will be introduced. Special efforts will be made in Animal Husbandry, Dairying, particularly in respect of Cow and its progeny. This is one of the routes to generating employment, thus eradicating hunger and poverty in rural as well as urban areas. We will continue with farm subsidies but make them more direct, efficient and specific. Development of medium and small scale irrigation projects shall receive priority attention; emphasis for investment here will be in accordance with the potential for development.

National water policy

We will adopt a National Water Policy which provides for effective and prompt settlement of disputes and their time-bound implementation.

We will increase the national saving to 30 percent of the GDP in the next five years by appropriate incentives and through motivation; encourage Foreign Direct Investment in core areas so that it usefully supplements the national efforts and discourage FDI in non-priority areas.

We will institute a comprehensive study of the financial, technological and social security requirements of the self-employed and unincorporated sector, also constitute a Development Bank to promote this largest segment of the national economy which, too, has great employment and self-employment potential. Further, in addition to financial support institutions we will bring into being other institutional systems for providing services, technology and marketing facilities for artisans, the small-scale, village, khadi, powerloom, handloom, handicrafts and such other industries. This and the agriculture sectors are an untapped source with unlimited scope for generation of employment.

We will give a major thrust to infrastructure development, particularly energy and power, by recommencing public expenditure in the sector. Towards this we will access long term funds in the national and international markets, remove
administrative bottlenecks, reverse the slowdown in this critical area of national economy, thus giving a fresh impetus to growth.

We will undertake a review of all laws and regulations relating to industry so as to free it from bureaucratic control; institute a system of voluntary compliance with laws, including tax laws; ensure speedy redressal of industrial sickness; arrange for meaningful interaction between industry and government; and revive the capital market as a viable and transparent mechanism for raising capital. We will also expedite comprehensive reform of the PSUs including restructuring, rehabilitation and divestment. We will make labour, both organised and unorganised, an equal and proud partner in the production of the nation's wealth and in its progress. Laws relating to equal pay for equal work for men and women shall be strictly implemented.

**Eradication of unemployment**

Recognising the right to work of every citizen, the main thrust of the new government will be 'Berozgaari Hatao' (Eradicate Unemployment). As against the present trend of jobless growth, our government will measure growth by generation of gainful employment. Our new investment and institutional thrust to agriculture, the self-employed, the unincorporated sector, infrastructure development and housing will act as the vehicles for massive employment creation at all levels.

**Food security and price stability**

We will ensure food security for all, create a hunger-free India in the next five years, and reform and improve the Public Distribution System so as to serve the poorest of the poor in rural and urban areas. We will also ensure price stability by all appropriate means and necessary legislation. We will ensure that potable drinking water is available to all villages in the next five years. We will strive to achieve 'Health for All' by diverse programmes. We are committed to a total eradication of illiteracy. We will formulate and implement plans to gradually increase the governmental and non-governmental spending on education up to 6 per cent of the GDP; this to provide education for all. We will implement the constitutional provision of making primary education free and compulsory up to 5th standard. Our aim is to move towards equal access to and opportunity of educational standards up to the school-leaving stage. We shall strive to improve the quality of education at all levels – from primary schools to our universities. Shelter is a basic human requirement that needs to be met on a priority basis. We are therefore, committed to evolving a National Housing and Habitat Policy in consultation with State governments, aimed at providing Housing for all. Towards this end, we shall facilitate construction of 20 lakh additional housing units annually. As in other programmes, the emphasis will be on the benefit to the poor and the deprived.

[Source: The Hindu, March 19, 1998]
Appendix 6

CODE - SHEET

1) Name of the Newspaper ■ ___________________ 2) Ownership :

3) Editor _______________________________ 4) Place :

5) No of Pages Colour ______ B & W ______ 6) Advt Space :

7) Separate Business / Economics Page ______ 8) Day & Date :

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Abbreviations: A = Agency Source, S = Staff reporter, Value 1 = Positive, Value 0 = Neutral, Value -1 is Negative

Note: I) All the Content Categories are listed on a separate sheet and broadly divided here as BE/PE/SE.

   BE is used to code business and industry related articles concerned with the new Economic Policy
   PE for Political Economy aspects of the NEP & SE for Social Economic aspects of NEP

II) Actors are also listed on Separate Sheet