

# Industrial Policy-1948

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# Introduction

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- The Government of India set out a Resolution on dated 6 April, 1948 as the Industrial policy which central govt. proposed to pursue in the industrial field.
- It was the first industrial or economic Policy of the independent India.
- The Constitution of India was under process when this policy declared.
- It was highly influenced by the then Prime minister Pt. Nehru.
- It was formulated after the second world war and pain of separation of India-Pakistan.

# Features

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The Government of India have given careful thought to the economic problems facing the country. The nation has now set itself to establish a social order where justice and equality of opportunity shall be secured to all the people. The immediate objective is to provide educational facilities and health services on a much wider scale, and to promote a rapid rise in the standard of living of the people by exploiting the latent resources of the country, increasing production and offering opportunities to all for employment in the service of the community. For this purpose. Careful planning and integrated effort over the whole field of national activity are necessary: and the Government of India propose to establish a National Planning Commission to formulate programmes of development and to secure their execution. The present statement, however, confines itself to Government's policy in the industrial field.

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- Any improvement in the economic conditions of the country postulates and increase in national wealth: a mere redistribution of existing wealth would make no essential difference to the people and would merely mean the distribution of poverty. A dynamic national policy must, therefore, be directed to a continuous increase in production by all possible means, side by side with measures to secure its equitable distribution. In the present state of the nation's economy, when the mass of the people are below the subsistence level, the emphasis should be on the expansion of production. Both agricultural and industrial; and in particular on the production of capital equipment of goods satisfying the basic needs of the people and of commodities the export of which will increase earnings of foreign exchange.

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- The problem of State participation in Industry and the conditions in which private enterprises should be allowed to operate must be judged in this context. There can be no doubt that the State must play a progressively active role in the development of industries, but ability to achieve the main objectives should determine the immediate extent of State responsibility and the limits to private enterprise. Under present conditions, the mechanism and the resources of the State may not permit it to function forthwith in industry as widely as may be desirable. The Government of India are taking steps to remedy the situation; in particular, they are considering steps to create a body of men trained in business methods and management. They feel, however, that for some time to come, the State could contribute more quickly to the increase of national wealth by expanding its present activities wherever it is already operating and by concentrating on new units of production in other fields, rather than on acquiring and running existing units. Meanwhile, private enterprise, properly directed and regulated, has a valuable role to play.

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- On these considerations the Government have decided that the manufacture of arms and ammunition, the production and control of atomic energy, and ownership and management of railway transport should be the exclusive monopoly of the Central Government. Further in any emergency, the Government would always have the power to take over any industry vital for national defence. In the case of the following industries, the state which in this context, includes Central, Provincial and State Governments and other Public Authorities like Municipal Corporations will be exclusively responsible for the establishment of new undertakings, except where, the national interest, the State itself finds it necessary to secure the co-operation of private enterprise subject to such control and regulation as the Central Government may prescribe-

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- Coal (the India Coalfields Committee's proposals will be generally followed).
- Iron and Steel.
- Aircraft manufacture.
- Shipbuilding.
- Manufacture of telephone, telegraph and wireless apparatus, excluding radio receiving sets.
- Mineral oils.

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- While the inherent right of the State to acquire any existing industrial undertaking will always remain, and will be exercised whenever the public interest requires it, Government have decided to let existing undertakings in these fields develop for a period of ten years, during which they will be allowed all facilities for efficient working and reasonable expansion. At the end of this period, the whole matter will be reviewed and a decision taken in the light of circumstances obtaining at the time. If it is decided that the State should acquire any unit, the fundamental rights guarantee by the Constitution will be observed and compensation will be awarded on a fair and equitable basis.

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- Management of State enterprise will, as a rule, be through the medium of public corporations under the statutory control of the Central Government, who will assume such powers as may be necessary to ensure this.
- The Government of India have recently promulgated a measure for the control by the State of generation and distribution of electric power. This industry will continue to be regulated in terms of measures.
- The rest of the industrial field will normally be open to private enterprise, individual as well as co-operative. The State will also progressively participate in this field; nor will it hesitate to intervene whenever the progress of an industry under private enterprise is unsatisfactory. The Central Government have already embarked on enterprises like large river valley developments which are multipurpose projects of great magnitude, involving extensive generation of hydro-electric power and irrigation on a vast scale, and calculated in a comparatively short time to change the entire face of large areas in this country. Projects like the Damodar Valley Scheme, the Kosi Reservoir, the Hirakund Dam, etc. in a class by themselves and can stand comparison with any of the major schemes in America or elsewhere.

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- The Central Government have also undertaken the production of fertilizer on a very large scale, and have in view other enterprises like the manufacture of essential drugs, and of synthetic oil from coal; many Provincial and State Governments are also proceeding on similar lines.
- There are certain basic industries of importance, apart from those mentioned in paragraph 4, the planning and regulation of which by the Central Government is necessary in the national interest. The following industries whose location must be governed by economic factors of All-India import, or which require considerable investment of a high degree of technical skill, will be the subject of Central regulation and control-

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- Salt
- Automobiles and tractors
- Prime movers
- Electric engineering
- Other heavy machinery
- Machine tools
- Heavy chemicals, fertilizers and pharmaceuticals and drugs
- Electro-chemical industries
- Non-ferrous metals
- Rubber manufactures

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- Power and industrial alcohol
- Cotton and woolen textiles
- Cement
- Sugar
- Paper and Newsprint
- Air and Sea transport
- Minerals
- Industries related to defense.

The above list cannot obviously be of an exhaustive nature. The Government of India, while retaining the ultimate direction over this field of industry, will consult the Governments of the Provinces and States at all stages and fully associate them in the formulations and execution of plan. Besides these Governments, representatives of Industry and Labour will also be associated with the Central bodies which they propose to establish, as recommended by the Industries Conference.

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- Cottage and small-scale industries have a very important role in the national economy. Offering as they do scope for individual, village or co-operative enterprise, and means for the rehabilitation of displaced persons. These industries are particularly suited for the better utilisation of local resources and for the achievement of the local self-sufficiency in respect of certain types of essential consumer goods like food, cloth and agricultural implements. The healthy expansion of cottage and small scale industries depends upon a number of factors like the provision of raw materials, cheap power, technical advice, organised marketing of their produce, and where necessary, safeguards against intensive competition by large scale manufacture, as the education of the worker in the use of the best available technique. Most of these fall in the Provincial sphere and are receiving the attention of the Governments of the Provinces and the States. The Resolution of Industries Conference has requested the Central Government to investigate how far and in what manner these industries can be co-ordinate and integrated with large scale industries. The Government of India accept this recommendation. It will be examined, for example, how the textile mill industry can be made complementary to, rather than competitive with the handloom industry, which is the country's largest and best organised cottage industry. In certain other lines of production, like agricultural implements, textile accessories, and parts of machine tools, it should be possible to produce components on a cottage industry scale and assemble these into their final product at a factory. It will also be investigated how far industries at present highly centralised could be decentralised with advantage.
- The Resolution of the Industries Conference has recommended that Government should established a Cottage Industries Board for the fostering of small scale industries. The Government of India accept this recommendation and propose to create suitable machinery to implement it. A Cottage and Small Scale Industries Directorate will also be set up within the Directorate General of Industries and Supplies.

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- One of the main objectives will be to give a distinctly co-operative bias to this field of industry. During and before the last war, even a predominantly agricultural country like China showed what could be done in this respect and her mobile industrial co-operative units were of outstanding assistance in her struggle against Japan. The present international situation is likely to lessen to a marked degree our chances of getting capital goods for large scale industry and the leeway must be made up by having recourse to small-size industrial co-operative throughout the country.
- The Government, however, recognise that their objective, viz securing the maximum increase in production will not be realised merely by prescribing the respective spheres of the State and of Private enterprise in Industry. It is equally essential to ensure the fullest co-operation between labour and management and the maintenance of stable and friendly relations between them. A resolution on this subject was unanimously passed by the Industries Conference which was held in December last. Amongst other things, the resolution states:

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- The system of remuneration to capital as well as labour must be so devised that, while in the interest of the consumers and the primary producers excessive profits should be prevented by suitable methods of taxation and otherwise, both will share the product of their common effort, after making provision for payment of fair wages to labour, a fair return on capital employed in the industry and reasonable reserves for the maintenance and expansion of the undertakings."
- Government accept this Resolution. They also consider that labour's share of the profits should be on sliding scale normally varying with production. They propose, in addition to the over – all regulation of industry by the State, to establish machinery for advising on fair wages, fair remuneration for capital, and conditions of labour. They will also take steps to associate labour in all matters concerning industrial production.
- The machinery which Government propose to set up will function at different levels, central regional and unit. At the centre, there will be Central Advisory Council, which will cover the entire field of industry, and will have under it Committees for each major industry. These Committees may be split up into sub-committees dealing with specific questions relating to the industry eg. Production, industrial relations, wage fixation and distribution of profits. The regional machinery under the Provincial Governments will be Provincial Advisory Boards which like the Central Advisory council, will cover the entire field of industry within the Province; they will have under them Provincial Committees for each major industry. The Provincial Committees may also be split up into various sub-committees dealing with specific questions relating to the production, wage fixation and industrial relations. Below the Provincial Committees will come the Works Committees and the Production Committees attached to each major industrial establishment.

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- The Works Committees and the Production Committees will be bi-partite in character, consisting of representatives of employers and workers only, in equal numbers. All other Committees will be tri-partite, with representatives of Government, employers and workers.
- Government hope that the machinery proposed will substantially reduce the volume of industrial disputes. In the case of unresolved conflicts. Government trust that management and labour will, in their own interests and in the larger interests of the country, agree to settle them through recognised channels of conciliation and arbitration, which will be provided by Government. The Industrial Relations Machinery, both at the Centre and in the Provinces, is being strengthened, and permanent industrial tribunals are being established for dealing with major disputes.
- The Government of India are also taking special steps to improve industrial housing as quickly as possible. A scheme for the construction of one million workers' houses in ten years is under contemplation, and a Housing Board is being constituted for this purpose.

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- The Government of India agree with the view of the Industries Conference that, while it should be recognised that participation of foreign capital and enterprise, particularly as regards industrial technique and knowledge, will be of value to the rapid industrialisation of the country, it is necessary that the conditions under which they may participate in Indian industry should be carefully regulated in the national interest. Suitable legislation will be introduced for this purpose. Such Legislation will provide for the scrutiny and approval by the Central Government of every individual case of participation foreign capital and management in industry. It will provide that, as a rule, the major interest in ownership, and effective control, should always be in Indian hands; but power will be taken to deal with exceptional cases in a manner calculated to serve the national interest. In all cases, however, the training of suitable Indian personnel for the purpose of eventually replacing foreign experts will be insisted upon.

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- The Government of India are fully alive to their direct responsibility for the development of these industries which they have found necessary to reserve exclusively for State enterprise. They are equally ready to extend their assistance to private or cooperative enterprise in the rest of the industrial field, and in particular, by removing transport difficulties and by facilitating the import of essential raw-materials to the maximum possible extent. The tariff policy of Government will be designed to prevent unfair foreign competition and to promote the utilisation India's resources without imposing unjustifiable burden on the consumer. The system of taxation will be reviewed and readjusted where necessary to encourage saving and productive investment and to prevent undue concentration of wealth in a small section of the population.
- The Government of India hope that this elucidation of their intentions on fundamental aspects of industrial policy will remove all misapprehensions, and they are confident that a joint and intensive effort will now be made by labour, capital and the general public, which will pave the way for the rapid industrialisation of the country.

*Source- [www.dcmsme.gov.in](http://www.dcmsme.gov.in)*