

Communiqué on the Implementation Results of the National Economic Plan in Northeast China in 1952

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In 1952, under the wise leadership of the Communist Party of China, Chairman Mao, and the Central People's Government, the people of Northeast China successfully launched the great "Three-Anti" and "Five-Anti" movements and extensively and deeply carried out the patriotic production increase and thrift movement. On this basis, the annual plan was successfully completed. The main results of the implementation of the national economic plan in Northeast China in 1952 are hereby announced as follows:

I. Achievements in Industrial Production

(I) Industrial Production Exceeded the Plan

In 1952, the total industrial output value of the entire region reached 110% of the plan. State-owned industries reached 110.7% of the plan. Among them, the production of means of production reached 110.8% of the plan; the production of consumer goods reached 108.1% of the plan. The percentage of total annual output value achieved by state-owned and local state-owned industries is as follows: Industrial enterprises under the former Northeast Ministry of Industry achieved a total of 112% of the plan, including: Anshan Iron and Steel Company 112%, Benxi Coal and Iron Company 115%, Electric Power Administration Bureau 101%, Coal Mine Administration Bureau 113%, Fushun Mining Bureau 102%, Nonferrous Metals Administration Bureau 115%, Chemical Industry Administration Bureau 125%, Petroleum Industry Administration Bureau 131%, Machinery Industry Administration Bureau 124%, Electrical Industry Administration Bureau 124%, Building Materials Industry Administration Bureau 109%, Light Industry Administration Bureau 103%, and Textile Industry Administration Bureau 103%.

Industrial enterprises under other ministries and bureaus achieved a total of 105% of the plan, including: Ministry of Forestry 125%, Ministry of Trade 91%, Northeast Office of the Ministry of Railways 105%, Ministry of Health 85%, Ministry of Culture 52%, Post and Telecommunications Bureau 140%, and Inland Waterway Administration Bureau 115%.

Local state-owned industries collectively completed 113% of their planned targets, with the following percentages: Shenyang 105%, Lüda 102%, Fushun 145%, Anshan 117%, Benxi 110%, Liaodong Province 121%, Liaoxi Province 121%, Jilin Province 110%, Songjiang Province 124%, Heilongjiang Province 103%, and Rehe Province 92%.

In May 1952, building on the success of the "Three-Anti" and "Five-Anti" campaigns, the people of Northeast China, in response to Chairman Mao's great call to "increase production and practice thrift," formulated a plan to increase production and save the value of 8 million tons of grain beyond the national plan, launching a more in-depth and widespread large-scale patriotic movement to increase production and practice thrift. This movement greatly promoted the completion and over-fulfilment of the plan. After completing the national plan, all state-owned industries in the region achieved an additional 11.31 million tons of grain production and savings (excluding savings from capital construction), of which 8.32 million tons were increased and 2.99 million tons were saved.

(II) Growth in Industrial Output

The growth rates of output for major industrial products are as follows (percentage increase in 1952 output compared to 1951):

Percentage increase: Pig iron 23%, Steel ingots 38%, Steel products 32%, Coal 30%, Electricity generation 45%, Shale crude oil 43%, Copper 10%, Lead 32%, Sulfur 41%, Nitrogen 68%, Sulfuric acid 13%, Nitric acid 42%, Soda ash 47%, Electric motors 91%, Machine tools 150%, Freight cars 37%, Ball bearings 139%, Light bulbs 69%, Logs 74%, Paper 92%, Cement 25%, Glass 15%, Bricks 362%, Rubber shoes 7%, Cotton yarn 24%, Cotton cloth 24%, Blankets 82%, Jute sacks 38%, Knitwear 69%, Cigarettes 50%, Salt 27%, Flour 121%, Sugar 11%.

The total industrial output value of the entire region in 1952 increased by 47% compared to 1951. The total output value of all state-owned industries increased by 53 percent compared to 1951, with the Ministry of Industry increasing by 47 percent; other ministries and bureaus increasing by 53 percent; and local state-owned enterprises increasing by 65 percent.

The production of means of production increased by 54 percent compared to 1951 (61 percent in the machine manufacturing sector), and the production of consumer goods increased by 49 percent compared to 1951. The development of means of production took precedence, and its share continued to increase, reaching 67.5 percent of the total industrial output value in 1952 (65.9 percent in 1951).

Under the leadership of the state-owned economy, and due to the increase in state-commissioned processing tasks, the production of private industry also saw significant growth, with its total output value increasing by 9.4 percent compared to the previous year.

(III) Improvements in Industrial Production Technology and Management

Thanks to the creative labor of the working class and the assistance of advanced Soviet science and technology, the technological level of industry was further improved. Firstly, the machine manufacturing sector trial-produced dozens of new products.

Examples include 3,000 kW hydroelectric generators (only 800 kW could be produced in 1951), 600 kW electric motors, 5,000 kVA transformers, a long-wire paper machine with an annual output of 6,000 tons, and several new machine tools. The level of mechanization in production also increased. For instance, the coal mining industry began using coal cutters and combined coal cutters, and steel production saw the emergence of counter-enclosure plates and other automated machinery. Due to improved equipment and advanced production management experience, not only did labor productivity increase, but more importantly, the poor working conditions left over from the Manchukuo regime were completely improved. In the ferrous metallurgy sector, due to the effective implementation of advanced practices such as the "full-air fast-material smooth operation method" and the "rapid steelmaking operation method," the steel production per square meter of hearth area in Anshan Iron and Steel Company's open-hearth furnaces increased by 23% compared to the previous year, and the utilization rate of the effective area of blast furnaces increased by 17%.

In the power industry, the implementation of advanced methods such as rapid maintenance, unified maintenance, load adjustment, and electricity conservation greatly improved equipment utilization and led to more rational use of electricity. Equipment utilization increased by 41% compared to the previous year; adjusting load to save electricity alone saved the equivalent of 40,000 kilowatts of power.

In the coal mines, due to reasonable adjustments to labor organization, the implementation of periodic mining, and the vigorous promotion of the "Cui Guoshan rapid tunnelling team's experience," the overall efficiency of coal production at the coal mining bureau increased by 25% compared to the previous year, and continued efforts were made to overcome the shortcoming of tunnelling lagging behind production.

In machinery manufacturing, the promotion of high-speed cutting, multi-blade multi-edge cutting, "rhythmic production organized according to instructions and charts," and the creation of the Yang Shoushun casting method, among other advanced experiences, played a significant role in reforming the machinery industry.

In light industry, the promotion of the "rapid cooking method" and "sectional maintenance method" in the papermaking industry greatly increased paper production. The promotion of the "Li Chuanjiang oil refining method" in the oil refining industry increased soybean oil yield from 10.5% to 12.5%.

Due to the promotion of advanced operational experience, on the one hand, the raw material consumption quotas for industrial production were reduced compared to 1951, thus saving a significant amount of important fuels and materials such as coal, electricity, timber, and copper; on the other hand, labor productivity increased, with state-owned industrial labor productivity increasing by 14%, of which units under the former Ministry of Industry saw an increase of 22%, and local state-owned industries saw an increase of 13%. Due to the reduction in raw material consumption quotas and the increase in labor productivity, the overall production costs of state-owned industries decreased by 12% compared to the previous year.

In 1952, industrial production also saw many improvements in production management, product quality, safety, and welfare, but these improvements were relatively slow and uneven. In particular, the management level of enterprises still lagged behind the requirements of production development, and many enterprises lacked the mindset of fully completing the national plan. This was primarily manifested in the inability to evenly complete the national production plan, with widespread instances of relaxed production at the beginning and rushed production at the end. Many products frequently failed to meet the monthly plan, requiring a rush to meet the target in the following month. Some individual enterprises failed to meet their plans for three consecutive quarters, and in the fourth quarter, they had to spend a quarter of the time completing one-third of the annual plan. The rush to produce resulted in lower quality, increased scrap, more accidents, and higher costs, and also affected the timely completion of national plans.

Secondly, the quality of many products fails to meet the growing needs of national development and the people. The poor quality and unsuitable variety of many products have led to stockpiles of certain industrial goods. Some factories and mines have even violated national quality standards, manufacturing substandard goods that do not meet specifications and technical standards. For example, substandard rubber products have severely impacted sales and production expansion; while the quality of machinery products has been continuously improved, the scrap rate of certain important components remains high.

Thirdly, many enterprises have not paid sufficient attention to safety and welfare, resulting in an increase in production accidents compared to the previous year. For instance, the number of electrical accidents increased by 13.5% compared to the previous year, many of which were major accidents caused by negligence, including 18 incidents of damage to important equipment and major power outages. The worker injury and death rate in coal mines increased by 20% compared to the previous year. The number of workers poisoned and suffering from occupational diseases has also increased in the chemical industry. In the textile industry, poor ventilation equipment is prevalent, resulting in very high workshop temperatures in summer and poor working conditions. This neglect of safety and worker welfare is intolerable.

All economic leadership departments, especially local state-owned industrial departments, must effectively overcome the aforementioned serious shortcomings in their future work to further improve the level of industrial production.

II. Development of Agricultural Production

In 1952, the entire region achieved an unprecedented bumper harvest in agricultural production, greatly improving the grain supply and further raising the living standards of farmers. The total sown area of the region reached 99% of the planned target, an increase of 2.1% over the previous year. The total agricultural output value of the region reached 101% of the planned target, an increase of 22% over the previous year, of which crop output increased by 24%, livestock output by 13%, and aquaculture output by 50%. Major crop outputs: grain reached 21 million tons, an increase of 4 million tons over the previous year; coarse grains increased by 25% and soybeans by 9%; cotton lint reached 94,000 tons.

The agricultural mutual aid and cooperative movement in the region was further developed. Organized farmers had become the majority in rural areas. There were 542 state-owned farms, of which 29 were mechanized. Some state-owned farms played a certain role in helping farmers improve their techniques.

The pilot agricultural production cooperatives and a few collective farms had a profound and positive impact on the vast majority of farmers. Six collective farms were established. The number of agricultural production cooperatives reached 1,307, and their output was generally much higher than that of labor mutual aid groups and individual farmers. There were 520,000 annual and three-season mutual aid groups, with improved quality compared to before. There were 377,000 temporary mutual aid groups.

The widespread adoption of new technologies in agriculture propelled farmers towards agricultural mutual aid and cooperation, and the development of the agricultural mutual aid and cooperation movement created favorable conditions for the promotion of new technologies. In 1952, a total of 38,000 new agricultural implements were promoted throughout the region, including 3,170 sets of horse-drawn implements and 25,000 comprehensive excavators. Fifty-one agricultural technology extension stations were established, mainly focusing on new agricultural implements. Forty thousand sprayers, 3,500 tons of pesticides, and 49,000 tons of sulphur dioxide were promoted. The area fertilized with fertilizer for crops reached 10.7 million hectares, an increase of 12% compared to 1951; the area using improved varieties reached 1.68 million hectares, an increase of 168%; and the area disinfected with seeds reached 1.3 million hectares, an increase of 10%. Yields per unit area significantly improved, setting new records for high yields. The highest yield per hectare for sorghum reached 15,000 jin; soybeans reached 9,150 jin; wheat 8,050 jin; rice 20,000 jin; and cotton 8,419 jin. In particular, Zhaoyuan County promoted the advanced farming method of "equidistant sowing, wide planting, thinning, seedling protection, and phased topdressing," creating high-yield experience on nearly 10,000 hectares of farmland, which is worthy of vigorous promotion.

Due to the protection and breeding of livestock, the total number of draft animals in the region increased by 11% compared to the previous year, including an 8% increase in horses and a 15% increase in cattle. Sheep and mutton increased by 49%, and pigs increased by 15%.

Afforestation and forest protection efforts continued to expand, with 103,000 hectares of forest belt planted in the western shelterbelt this year, a 4.2-fold increase over last year. The region's residents planted 52 million trees, a 21% increase over the previous year.

Regarding water conservancy construction, the Raoyang River fundamental treatment project is currently undergoing preparations for upstream sand control and soil conservation, as well as reservoir construction. Technical design and construction preparations for the Liaohe River Dahuofang Reservoir project have also begun. The region added 4,000 hectares of paddy fields,

bringing the total paddy field area to 320,000 hectares. Due to water conservancy projects, natural disasters have significantly decreased compared to last year. However, there are still several shortcomings in agricultural production. These mainly include: in promoting the agricultural mutual aid and cooperation movement, many areas have not yet fully implemented the Party and government's policy of active leadership and steady progress; many cadres have developed some impatience and a tendency towards overreaching. There is also some one-sidedness in production leadership, with excessive focus on advanced sectors while neglecting the leadership of intermediate and lagging sectors.

The work of state-run farms is unsatisfactory. Farm leaders suffer from a strong supply-based management mentality, and many farms suffer from low output, high costs, and significant waste. Machinery and equipment lack proper maintenance and repair, resulting in inefficient operation and excessive fuel and oil consumption. Cultivation and harvesting are rudimentary, causing losses. Some farms construct unnecessary non-productive facilities instead of focusing on production. Work zones and crop rotation systems have not been formally established, leading to widespread disorganization and lack of accountability.

Regarding the manufacturing and promotion of new agricultural implements, some are substandard, and certain key components are of poor quality. The promotion of new implements is untimely, resulting in stockpiles. The use, storage, and repair of new implements are inadequate, thus failing to fully realize their potential.

The management and product distribution of agricultural production cooperatives have experienced some deviations. Some cooperatives have accumulated excessive public assets, taken out excessive loans, expanded their operations too much, and retained excessive public funds and welfare funds, impacting members' income. Weak accounting practices, chaotic accounts, unreasonable calculation of labor days, and unreasonable profit-sharing ratios for land, vehicles, and labor in some areas hindered the consolidation and development of agricultural production cooperatives. While these shortcomings were corrected promptly, further improvements are needed.

Numerous shortcomings existed in organizing the West Manchurian shelterbelt project: the implementation plan lacked focus; a strict regional responsibility system was lacking; the regulations for forest network area were too general and unsuitable for different conditions; the survival rate of planted trees was very low in some areas; and management was chaotic.

Agricultural leadership at all levels must pay close attention to and effectively eliminate these shortcomings in future work to further improve the level of agricultural production.

III. Expansion and Growth of Capital Construction

In 1952, the total capital construction work in the entire region reached 91% of the annual plan, an increase of 72% over the previous year. Specifically, the former Northeast Industrial Ministry system completed 93% of the plan, an increase of 138% over the previous year; other ministries and bureaus completed 85% of the plan, an increase of 11%; and provinces and municipalities completed 84% of the plan, an increase of 19% over the previous year. The building area increased by 40% compared to the previous year.

Several major construction projects of vital importance to our country's industrialization, such as the Anshan large-scale steel plant, the seamless steel pipe plant, the Fuxin open-pit mine, and the Fuxin power plant, all exceeded their expected progress and largely guaranteed project quality. As a result of the implementation of the capital construction plan, many new technologies and equipment were

incorporated into production, significantly increasing the production capacity of industries such as industry and transportation.

The rapid concentration and growth of capital construction forces in Northeast China was a major characteristic of capital construction work in 1952. Various management bureaus and their affiliated enterprises, as well as provincial and municipal units, gradually established and initially improved their capital construction leadership organizations, gradually unifying and strengthening capital construction management. The construction force in surveying, design, construction, and installation rapidly expanded. The total number of capital construction workers in the region reached 430,000, including 120,000 permanent workers, an increase of 1.7 times compared to the previous year. Measures such as winter construction, factory-based construction, mechanization, standardized design, and expanding the permanent skilled workforce all played a significant role in increasing the capital construction force.

During the patriotic production increase and economy movement, construction workers created and learned many advanced experiences, totalling twenty-one important ones: three in civil engineering, eleven in mechanical installation, three in mining, and four in geological drilling. These experiences greatly improved work efficiency, ensured project quality, and reduced costs. For example, the "New Building Design Standards" of the Ministry of Industry's Design Company increased work efficiency by 40%; Anshan Iron and Steel's "Anchor Bolt Installation Method" increased work efficiency fourfold while ensuring technical accuracy; Su Changyou's bricklaying method increased the number of bricks laid per day from 700-800 to 1300-1400 while maintaining quality; and Wang Sunci's "Segmented Parallel Flow Operation Method" shortened the completion time of a three-story building of 3,000 square meters from the originally planned 120 days to 39 days.

Capital construction was a new, complex, and arduous task. Although important experiences were gained in 1952, many shortcomings remained. Preparations for capital construction were insufficient, material allocation was untimely, and most projects only started in June, a delay of two months.

The surveying and design capabilities remained weak. There is a shortage of geological personnel with low technical levels, and there is also a lack of equipment for engineering geology. The assembled design force is still insufficient to meet the needs; some designs are of poor quality, even erroneous, requiring mid-project modifications, which reduces project quality and increases costs.

In terms of construction management, there is a lack of accountability. Some construction sites lack technical operating procedures, or the existing procedures are not implemented, affecting project quality; labor organization at many sites is unreasonable, often resulting in idle work; and there are still many unsatisfactory aspects regarding the safety and welfare of construction workers.

In capital construction, the implementation of the economic accounting system is poor; some leaders focus on "good and fast" while neglecting "saving"; the management of equipment and materials and financial supervision remain inadequate, causing significant waste.

In future work, all levels of capital construction leadership must pay full attention to and effectively improve the above-mentioned shortcomings, further strengthen capital construction forces, improve the level of capital construction work, and accelerate the process of national industrial construction.

IV. Expansion of Commodity Circulation in State-Owned Trade and Cooperatives

With the development of industrial and agricultural production and the increase in people's purchasing power, in 1952, the volume of commodity circulation in state-owned trade and cooperatives in Northeast China steadily expanded. The total sales of state-owned trade enterprises

reached 97% of the planned target, an increase of 76% over 1951. Of this, sales within the region reached 103%, an increase of 119%; sales outside the region reached 70%, an increase of 29%. Total procurement reached 103% of the planned target, an increase of 53% over 1951. Of this, procurement within the region reached 111%, an increase of 79%; procurement outside the region reached 94%, an increase of 110%.

The percentage of planned sales volume for various major commodities within the region was as follows: cotton yarn 114%; cotton cloth 107%; wadding 152%; coarse grains 113%; fine grains 130%; pork 486%; coal 124%; timber 300%; soybean oil 82%; kerosene 83%; matches 59%.

The sales volume of cooperatives throughout the region reached 128% of the planned target, an increase of 163% over 1951. Cooperatives paid special attention to the supply of agricultural production materials to farmers. The procurement of agricultural and sideline products reached 100% of the planned target, an increase of 135% over 1951.

In 1952, state-owned trade and cooperative retail sales accounted for 63% of total social retail sales; wholesale business also saw considerable development. The leading role of state-owned and cooperative trade in the overall social commodity circulation was further strengthened, effectively guaranteeing social needs and maintaining price stability. The overall price index for public and private goods in the region, as of the end of December, was 100.4% of the same period of the previous year.

There were many shortcomings in commodity circulation work, mainly: a lack of investigation and research into people's needs and market supply; inaccurate and untimely procurement and allocation; resulting in large stockpiles of some commodities and shortages of others, failing to guarantee sufficient supply; poor management; and a persistent supply-based management mentality, manifested primarily in slow capital turnover, high costs, chaotic accounting, unclear responsibilities, and lax discipline.

Commercial leadership departments at all levels must resolutely and systematically eliminate the above-mentioned shortcomings in future work to further improve management, implement the economic accounting system, and raise the level of commercial work to a higher level.

V. Development of Transportation

With the development of industry and agriculture and the expansion of trade, transportation has developed accordingly.

Railway transport volume (tonnes shipped) reached 104% of the plan, an increase of 16% over the previous year; total loading reached 101% of the plan, an increase of 10% over the previous year. The percentages for major commodities were as follows: coal 101%, steel 97%, mineral building materials 111%, timber 104%, and grain 107%. Technical quotas were also improved, with daily loading reaching 101% of the plan; vehicle turnover exceeded the plan by 2.99 days, an increase of 8.3% over the previous year; the nationwide campaigns of full load, over-axle, and 500 km/h improved transport efficiency and management.

Inland waterway freight volume reached 107% of the plan, an increase of 22% over the previous year. Road transport reached 109% of the plan, an increase of 82% over the previous year.

Postal services reached 83% of the plan, with telegrams reaching 85% and telephones reaching 82%. The postal and telecommunications plan had unrealistic shortcomings; the expansion of postal and

telecommunications services had previously involved serious issues of forced levies and alienation from the masses, which must be resolutely corrected in the future.

VI. Development of Culture and Urban Construction

The education system in Northeast China saw further development. The total number of students reached 6.78 million, an increase of 23% over the previous year. Among them: college students reached 38,000, an increase of 39%; middle school students reached 480,000, an increase of 84%; technical school students reached 66,000, an increase of 1.3 times; and primary school students reached 6.26 million, an increase of 19%.

A total of 115 million books were published in the region, an increase of 18% over the previous year. Newspaper circulation reached 305 million copies, an increase of 62%, with the Northeast Daily reaching a circulation of 90 million copies. 360 films were released in the region. The number of moviegoers reached 76 million, an increase of 33% over the previous year.

The health system in the region also saw significant development in 1952. In response to the bacteriological warfare waged by American imperialism, a large-scale patriotic health campaign was launched throughout the region, achieving great success. There were 4,200 health care institutions, and 5,000 more hospital beds were added, bringing the total number of beds to 27,000.

Widespread vaccination was implemented, with 32.95 million people vaccinated, significantly reducing the harm caused by infectious diseases. Sports activities flourished throughout the region, and the people's physical fitness gradually improved.

Urban public services, adhering to the principle of serving the working class and production, undertook significant work in road reconstruction, expanding urban automobile and tram services, upgrading water supply and underground sewers, dredging canals, planting trees, expanding parks, and improving gas and heating supply. Overall planning for industrial cities also began.

In culture, education, and health, there was a tendency to prioritize quantity over quality; medical and health personnel remained insufficient, and future efforts should focus on improving teaching effectiveness and the organization of medical and health services.

VII. Improvement in People's Material Livelihood

With the continuous growth of industrial and agricultural production, the material life of the working people gradually improved.

In 1952, the number of employees in the region increased by 350,000 compared to the previous year. Basic wages for employees increased by 9% compared to the previous year (excluding 20% for rent and utilities). Due to the widespread implementation of piece-rate wages, many employees received bonuses exceeding their allotted wages. In addition, the supplementary wages for cultural and welfare undertakings paid by the state according to a proportion of the total wage fund also increased significantly compared to the previous year. A total of 1.69 million square meters of new dormitory space was built for employees throughout the region, an increase of 82% over the previous year.

Farmers' lives continued to improve. In 1952, farmers' grain income increased by four million tons compared to the previous year.

This was largely due to the rational increase in grain prices and the decrease in industrial product prices, which brought significant benefits to farmers. As a result of the improved lives of people in

both urban and rural areas, sales in state-owned trading zones increased significantly compared to the previous year: cotton cloth increased by 41%; rubber shoes by 1.7 times; scented soap by 100%; bar soap by 1.3 times; sugar by 53%; towels by 52%; and socks by 110%. Urban and rural working people continuously raised their demands for the quality and variety of goods.

The overfulfillment of the 1952 national economic plan in Northeast China further strengthened our country's economic and defense capabilities. Based on this production growth, the living standards of workers and peasants improved. In 1952, industrial and agricultural production recovered to and exceeded the historical peak (1943). Industrial and agricultural production exceeded 1943 levels by 32%. Specifically, industrial production exceeded 23%; and agricultural production exceeded 47%. In the four years since 1949, under the leadership of Chairman Mao and the Communist Party of China, the people of Northeast China have healed the wounds inflicted on the national economy during the war, concluded the work of economic recovery, and begun large-scale economic construction in a focused and step-by-step manner. This fact fully demonstrates the superiority and boundless vitality of the New Democratic social and economic system. The people of Northeast China are now full of confidence in the first year of the first Five-Year Plan for national construction!

Northeast Administrative Committee, Finance and Economic Committee,

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