

TECHNOLOGY

The Policy of "Walking on two legs"

What does the policy of "Walking of Two Legs" mean?

In developing her national economy, China balances the relations between industry and agriculture, heavy industry and light industry, large enterprises and medium-to-small enterprises, modern production methods and indigenous methods, enterprises run by the central government and those run by local authorities, and other pairs of relations. She does not emphasize one to the neglect of the other but develops both simultaneously in such a way that they co-ordinate with and promote each other.

The relations between these pairs are like that between the two legs of a person. When both legs co-ordinate well, the person is able to walk steadier and faster. Therefore, the policies for handling these pairs of relations in developing the national economy have been named simply the policy of "Walking on Two Legs".

What is the basic content of these policies and the underlying reasons for them?

The basic content is as follows:

1. Industry and agriculture develop simultaneously. China is still a large agricultural country and most of her population is in the countryside. Only a rapidly developing agriculture can meet the people's food and clothing needs and provide industry with ample raw materials for development and a wide market for its products. At the same time, the development of agriculture depends on the support of industry. Only a modern industry can provide the large amounts of farm machinery, electricity, chemical fertilizers and insecticides necessary for a modern agriculture. Thus, industry and agriculture in China are developed simultaneously and the two complement each other.

2. Heavy industry and light industry develop simultaneously. Building a modern industry, modern agriculture and strong national defence requires advanced equipment and materials from heavy industry.

To develop heavy industry, however, requires a great amount of funds. In China today, one of the main sources of these funds is the accumulation from light industry. Light industry needs comparatively less funds, goes into production faster and the period of capital turnover is shorter. Therefore, while giving priority to developing heavy industry, China is also actively developing light industry. As light industry progresses, more and more consumer goods are produced to satisfy the increasing needs of the people and a growing amount of funds is thus provided for heavy industry to expand production. Developing light industry also promotes the development of heavy industry because light industry demands more and more machinery and industrial raw materials such as plastics and materials for the chemical and synthetic fibre industries.

3. Large enterprises and medium-to-small enterprises develop simultaneously. To build a modern industry it is necessary to build some large core enterprises with a high level of technology and productivity. But large enterprises require large investment, a rather long time to build and the technological requirements are complicated. Therefore, at the same time that large-scale enterprises are being built, many medium-to-small enterprises are also rising up throughout the country. Medium-to-small enterprises require comparatively less investment, a shorter time to build and simpler technology. They not only provide the people with urgently needed industrial products but also train technicians and accumulate more experience and funds for building the large enterprises, thus promoting the development of the big enterprise.

4. Modern production methods and indigenous methods develop together. This means that in the main China adopts the newest modern technology and at the same time actively adopts the simple and practical technical experience of the

local people. New China's industrial base was very weak, so it is impossible in a short time to have the newest equipment and technology for all factories and mines. Wherever it has not yet been possible to adopt the newest technology, simple and practical indigenous methods are being used. These methods are then continually improved upon. This saves time and speeds up China's industrialization.

5. National and local enterprises develop simultaneously. China is a big country with a huge population. Its provinces and autonomous regions range from 100,000 to several

factories which act as the core in the country's industrial development have been built and are directly managed by the central government. On the other hand, the central government encourages every province, autonomous region, municipality, region and county to build local industries according to their particular conditions. These industries use the raw materials of their locality and manufacture for that locality. Their production plans are part of the unified national production plan.

By developing national and local enterprises at the same time, the

It enables China to mobilize all positive factors for the building of socialism, thus accelerating the country's economic development and guaranteeing that the General Line for Socialist Construction—"go all out, aim high and achieve greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism"—is put into effect.

Precisely because the initiative of the national and local authorities and the people has been brought into full play, China's agriculture has had good harvests every year for the past decade, her main core enterprises have developed rather quickly—thus laying the preliminary basis for socialist industrialization, and local industries have shot up everywhere.

Every province, municipality and autonomous region has thousands of factories and mines in production. Ninety-six percent of the counties have built their own farm-tool manufacturing and repair plants and 70 per cent have built cement factories. As the masses set up factories, not only are engineers and experienced veteran workers able to display their initiative to the full but the peasants' enthusiasm for building industries is also aroused.

China's large core enterprises utilize rich natural resources where they are concentrated, whereas the thousands of medium-to-small enterprises utilize natural resources that are scattered. This brings the people's initiative into full play and makes full use of materials and land.

There is also a long-range significance of the "Walking on Two Legs" policy. Because it has brought about the increasing numbers of modern industries in China's vast countryside which train many workers and engineers from among the peasants, the policy leads to reducing the differences between workers and peasants, city and countryside, mental and manual labour. The policy, therefore, will help China make the transformation from a socialist system to a communist society in which these differences will be eliminated.

Some Basic Facts about China
From CHINA RECONSTRUCTS

The debate about less-than-advanced technology ("intermediate"—"appropriate") versus advanced technology has now entered Sri Lanka. There are strong basic technological arguments against "intermediate" technology in that it helps perpetuate the colonial division of the world. The Third World under this scenario remains a producer of raw material and indulges in primitive technology whilst the West, as the centuries before, continues on its forward industrial march. In fact it has been seriously suggested by Third World analysts that the emphasis on "intermediate technology" is a not-so-subtle propaganda campaign for precisely these ends.

The opposing view is that the resource base in countries like Sri Lanka is small ("lack of foreign exchange") that to keep our people employed we have to find recourse to less expensive, less advanced technology. Why our foreign exchange resource base is small is because we have seen the continuous erosion of our terms of trade—our tea, rubber and coconut fetching less whilst capital goods from the industrial countries continue to sky-rocket in prices. These are matters that Sri Lanka and other Third World countries are trying to correct with a demand for a New Economic Order.

The question then is how to combine the need of reality—our small resource base which is imposed on us and which we are trying to correct with the need to be technologically equal with the world? A successful strategy that has combined both these requirements and has attracted much attention in world centres of development studies, is the Chinese one of 'Walking on Two Legs'. Here in question and answer form, we outline the basic Chinese technological strategy.

hundred thousand square kilometers in area. Their populations range from several million to several dozen million people. In such a large economically under-developed country it is not possible for the central government to run everything in economic construction.

China is carrying out a planned socialist economy in which the industries throughout the country are parts of the whole, like chessmen in a game of chess. On the one hand, important mines and

initiative of both can be given full play, and the natural resources, funds, equipment and technology of every part of the country can be fully utilized. This speeds up China's economic construction.

What is the main significance of "walking on two legs" in developing the national economy and building socialism?

The policy of "walking on two legs" suits China's concrete situation and conforms to the objective laws of China's economic development.