CHAPTER - IV

WORKING AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF JANATA PARTY
WORKING AND ACHIEVEMENT OF JANATA PARTY

The Janata Party was inducted as the first non-Congress government at the Centre on 24th March 1977. This broke the prevalent party system in India which was till then characterised as "dominant party system" or "one party dominant situation" or "dominant non-authoritarian" system or the Congress system and raised high hopes about the institutionalization of two party system of the British and American patterns of party democracy in India. Morarji Desai was chosen to head the new administration. An old chunk of the united Congress proved to provide the leadership required to run the government and to provide the necessary raw-material to organise an alternative to the Congress. The Janata Party, in its election

5. Janardan Thakur, All the Janatanen, Delhi, 1981?4.\
manifesto, had promised to follow the Gandhian path to rebuild India on the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. The Janata Party Cabinet members promised at Raj Ghat on 25th March, 1977 on the lines to build India indicated by Mahatma Gandhi. They also promised to bring valuable changes in the economic, social and political structure of India in order to achieve the goal of "Total Revolution" enunciated by Jay Prakash Narayan, the living apostle of the Mahatma.

The total Revolution as defined by Jaya Prakash meant "radical educational, moral, cultural and ideological reforms leading to a casteless and classless society." He had further said that the total revolution was a combination of seven revolution in social, economic, political, cultural, ideological or intellectual educational and spiritual fields. Economic revolution to him meant revolution in the economic structure and economic institutions in the society. It included technical industrial and agricultural revolutions accompanied by a radical change in the pattern of ownership and management of land.

5. Indian Express, 26.3.1977.
6. The Indian Nation, 6.7.1974, Janata Party, Patna meeting explained about
8. Ibid.
In the economic sphere the Janata Party adopted employment oriented policies. The development of agriculture, industry and small cottage industry especially in rural areas to get rid of unemployment within ten years. This was in keeping with the election promise. In the social field it promised to end illiteracy, corruption, nepotism, favouritism and inequality and vowed to safeguard the interest of minorities.

The Janata Party ruled over India for a very brief period from 24th March to 15th July 1979 in the centre and in Bihar from June 1977 to January 1980 for a brief period. It had a very long list of programmes. But it failed to achieve goals and fulfill the hopes of millions of the people. The game of power politics was so complex repulsive and dominating that it shattered every hopes of the masses.

Keeping in view the above tasks, the Janata party government's policy was outlined in the joint session of both the house of Parliament on 28th March 1977 by B. D. Jatti, the then acting President of India. The Policy of Janata party was to amend the Constitution "to restore the balance between the people and the parliament the state and the Centre the citizen

11. The Hindu.
and the government." To prevent any other abuse of power the Janata government promised to bring major changes in the constitution so that no government or parliament could amend the constitution at its whim. The most urgent task before the government was to restore the rule of civil law, civil liberties and right to free express. In order to achieve this goal the government decided to repeal MISA and the prevention of objectionable matters act, unto the amendment to the Representation of people's Act 1951 and lifting of emergency.

The working of Janata party was 'unique'. Every day leaders and ministers of Janata Party government used to make statement that such reforms were going to be introduced but most of them were tall talks having no connection with the reality.

The working of Janata Party may be examined on the basis of its achievements and failures in different fields in the light of the Manifesto given to the people during parliamentary and assembly election in 1977. Its failure were very loudly talked about by the Congress protagonists but its

achievements during the brief period of its rule were no less significant by any standard. Its achievements during a short period of 28 months cannot be under estimated. The Janata Party rule at the centre as well as in the states was not a saga of total failure. It had quite a number of achievements to its credit which had lasting value for our administration and society. This chapter seeks to analyse the achievements of the Janata party in Bihar in the national context.

1. **Achievements in the Political Field**

   (i) **Democratic set up restored**

   The Janata Party restored the democratic fibers in India which were strained out of proportion during the emergency. It demolished the so-called authoritarian structure set up by Mrs. Gandhi. The 44th Constitutional amendment passed during the Janata party regime was a significant attempt to restore democracy in India and set a landmark in the evolution of the Constitution. The state of internal emergency was lifted on 21st March 1977, and the external emergency which was imposed on 3rd December 1971 during Indo-Pakistani war was revoked on 27th March 1978. No doubt internal emergency was lifted by

Mrs. Gandhi but she did so due to her total failure in March polls. Hence the credit goes to the Janata Party. The Janata government also restored the civil liberties and freedom to the press by lifting press censorship imposed during emergency ruled.

(ii) Court's Jurisdiction Restored

The Janata Party had promised to anull the major parts of 42nd amendment which had curtailed the democratic liberties and the powers of the judiciary. The 42th amendment to the Constitution established the supremacy of the legislature and curtailed the independent jurisdiction of the judiciary. It threw the concept of judicial supremacy to the winds.

The Janata Party restored the original powers of the Supreme courts by the 43rd amendment and 44th constitutional amendments. 43rd amendment was introduced in Lok Sabha on 15th May 1978, and it was passed on 24th August 1978 by the parliament. On 30 May 1979 the bulk of provisions of the 44th amendment came into force from 19th June 1979 following a presidential Notification that gave immediate effect to 37 clauses including delecting the right to property into force from 1st August 1979.

17. 42 Amendment of the Constitution.
18. The Indian Nation, 17.5.1978.
The 44th Amendment Act restored the original power of the High Courts and Supreme Court to examine the constitutional validities of the state and Central laws and replaced the powers of the Parliament to enact laws in respect of anti-national activities and to ban political dissent against the government. Article 131 A granted the Supreme Court exclusive jurisdiction to decide the constitutional validity of Central laws depriving high court of its jurisdiction in the matter. Article 226 A provided that a minimum of five judges in the High Court shall consider the constitutional validity of a state law and the judgement shall be given by a two third majority. According to 44th amendment the appointment of Prime Minister and the election of the speaker in the Lok Sabha can be challenged in the court. The original provisions under Article 225 were restored.

The Janata government thus restored the original powers of the Supreme Court and the High courts that were curtailed by the Congress.

In Bihar on this amendment, Chief Minister, Ram Sunder Das said that this supremacy of the courts over assemblies will

---

give a healthy democracy. One resolution was passed on 3 August 1979 in the assembly to follow the 44th amendments and it was supported by Janata legislators.

(iii) Amendment in Emergency Provisions as a check on the misuse of powers

The Janata Party government amended the emergency provisions so that no government or parliament could be able to misuse the emergency powers provided in the constitution. The clause 37 to 41 of the 44th amendment act limited the powers of the president in respect of proclamation of Emergency. The amendment act provided that emergency can only proclaimed by the President when the security of India or any part thereof is threatened by war or by armed rebellion. Internal disturbance not amounting to armed rebellion could not be a ground for the proclamation of emergency.

In order to ensure that a proclamation of emergency is issued only after due consideration, the act provided that the emergency can be proclaimed after the written advice of the ministers and within one month it will be approved by the two third members of both the houses for six months. In first

24. The 44th Constitution Act article 37 to 41.
instance it cannot exceed one year unless an extension is certified by the Election Commission. Thus the Janata government provided a check on the misuse of Emergency powers. Mr. Kailashpati Mishra on this issue in assembly said that it was last sign of the dictatorial government, which was washed away by the Janata government.

(iv) **Protection of Civil Liberties**

The Janata Party government ensured the liberty of the citizens as originally incorporated in the constitution. In order to protect the civil liberty the amendment act restricted the powers of government. It was provided in the clause 40 of the 44th constitution amendment act that right to move in a court for enforcement of the fundamental rights cannot be suspended in respect of fundamental rights to life and liberty even in the emergency rule.

(v) **Preventive Detention**

More safeguards were provided to the rights to life and liberty in the amended act. The Act provided a law for detention in any case for more than two months unless the advisory board advised for more than six months on the ground of

---

certain sufficient cause. The chairman of the advisory board would be a sitting judge of the appropriate high court with two other members being either a sitting or retired judge and the board would be constituted in accordance with the recommendation of the chief justice of the court concerned.

(vi) President's Power Strengthened

The 42nd amendment to the constitution had made the president a rubber stamp and on the other hand the prime minister with council of ministers a powerful entity. According to 42nd amendment to the constitution the president was bound to act on the advice of council of ministers.

The Janata party government strengthened the powers of President by the 44th constitutional amendments which empowered the president to return back the advice of the council of ministers for reconsideration. But the President is bound to accept the advice tendered to him after reconsideration of the Council of the Ministers.

27. Ibid.
29. 44th Amendment of the Indian Constitution Act.
(vii) **Tenure of Legislature Restored**

The term of Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies was restored to five years by 44th constitution amendment. The 42nd constitution amendment act had extended the tenure of Lok Sabha and State legislative assemblies to six years.

(viii) **Right of property detached**

The Janata government gave practical state to its commitment to the electorate by delecting the right of property from the chapter of Fundamental rights and making the right to property a legal right in place of fundamental ones. Article 31 of the Constitution of India was defected by the 44th constitutional amendment. It came to the force from 1 August 1979, but the right of minority community and right of holding land within ceiling for personnel cultivation remained unaffected.

(ix) **Freedom to the Press**

The major victim of the internal emergency was press as it was not allowed to work freely. To be more accurate the ten years old press council of India a body of journalists and

---

31. Ibid.
32. The Hindu, Madras, 20.5.2979.
protector of the freedom of the press was dissolved by the old government. The immunity given to report parliamentary proceedings was withdrawn.

The Janata party government restored the freedom of the press by repealing the prevention of publication of objectionable matters Act 34 and restoring the status quo of the press council. The 44th amendment act granted the press the right to report freely the proceedings of the parliament and legislatures without censored.

In 1st January 1976 the Janata party government restored the previous by passing press council act on 2 September 1978.

(x) Freedom to Radio Durdarshan

The All India Radio and T.V. granted autonomy to ensure a fair and balanced flow of information including contrasting view without advocating any opinion or ideology of their own. The guidelines were issued on 4th June 1978.

(xi) MISA repealed

The Janata party government repealed the MISA Act 1971 by passing Repealing Maintenance of Internal Security Act on

27 July 1978. The bill to repeal MISA was introduced in parliament on 23rd December 1977.

(xii) Attempt to incorporate Referendum clause

The freedom of the people keeping this fact in mind the Janata government introduced a provision in 45th amendment. The main purpose of the bill was to refer any bill of public interest to electorate for final decision. Though the bill was passed by the Lok Sabha, it could not become an act as the Rajya Sabha disapproved the referendum cause along with another clauses.

The Janata government for the first time attempted to incorporate referendum clause in the constitution for taking consent of the people in the matters of constitutional changes and the proposed referendum clause in case of constitutional changes and the proposed referendum clause in case of constitutional changes and the proposed constitutional amendment sent to Rajya Sabha for its approval but it was rejected in Rajya Sabha as majority of its members belonged to Congress party of both the factions. They felt that the referendum was impracticable in big populated like India.

The main motto of the Janata government was to restore popular sovereignty through incorporating referendum clauses but it failed due to lack of its majority in Rajya Sabha.

(xiii) Relaxation to the detenus of the Emergency

Political prisoners were released and relaxation was given to the detenus detained under defence of India rules and MISA Act. A scheme was formulated by the Janata party government under which the dependents of MISA detenus who had died either in custody or within three months of their release on parole were eligible for getting compensation from government.

In Bihar many persons got compensation from government.

(xiv) Decentralisation of powers

The Janata Party wanted to decentralise powers and resources at the district, municipal and panchayat levels so that leaders of the state could not become unresponsive to local needs, bossism could be curtailed and the people could participate in decision making. A number of steps taken to decentralise the powers.

37. Times of India, 2.9.1978.
In Bihar election to municipality, Municipal Corporation and Gram Panchayat held after seven years.

Ashok Mehta Committee was set-up to go into question of giving autonomy to Zila Parishad and Village Panchayats. Besides this it also restored the trade union rights.

(xv) Setting up Enquiry Commissions

The setting up of enquiry commissions was also an achievement of the Janata Government in the political field as it was constituted with the aim and object to prosecute the leaders and officials who committed excess misused power indulged in corruption and malpractices duties the period of Emergency.

The Janata party government constituted inquiry commission under section 3 of Commission of Inquiry Act 1952. The setting up of enquiry commissions was in accordance with the manifesto of Janata party.

After a couple of days of working of Janata government constituted various commission of inquiry under chairmanship

40. The Times of India, 2.9.1978.
41. The Hindustan Times, 18.7.1979.
42. Mosani and Minoo, op.cit, p.48.
of judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts known as Sah Commission, Reddy Commission, Gupta Commission, Grover Commission, Vimaldalal Commission and Das Commission.

The Janata government appointed Justice J.C. Sah, former Chief Justice as Chairman of one man Commission on 19th April 1977 to enquire excess committed during emergency.

Similarly on 6th June 1977 Justice Jagmohan Reddy, a former judge of the Supreme Court started an enquiry into Nagarwala affairs regarding withdrawal of 60 lacs rupees from the State Bank of India at Delhi on 24 May 1971. He was also appointed to enquire misuse of powers by former Chief Minister and Defence Minister Bansi Lal.

On 23rd May 1977 one member commission of enquiry under the chairmanship of A.N. Grover, retired judge of Supreme Court was constituted to enquire the charges of corruption, misuse of power, favouritism and giving protection to corrupt men by former C.M. Devraj Urs of Karnataka and his ministers and M.L.A.'s.

---

45. Ibid.
Gupta Commission was set up to enquire irregularities in Maruti technical services Pvt. Ltd.47

Along with these commission Vimaldalal Commission was constituted on 2nd May 1977 under the chairmanship of Vimaldalal, a retired judge of Andhra Pradesh was set up to enquire about misuse of powers and other corrupt practices by J. Vengal Rao, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and his other Cabinet colleagues.48

Mr. K.K. Das was appointed to enquire and to collect facts on misuse of mass media during emergency.49

The Commission were directed to give their results within very short times.

Bihar assembly also ordered many against many officers and many cases were instituted against many officers of the state government.

(xvi) Setting up of Special Court

Supreme Court under Article 143(D) of the Constitution of India Janata government formed many special courts against

47. Ibid, 5.1.1978.
48. Ibid., 5.1.1977.
many ministers of Congress party and officials for the use of their illegal powers in emergency.

Under the special court Act 1978 two special courts were set up court No.1 and court No.2 with Mr. Justice S.S. Chandra and Mr. Justice M.L. Jain of Delhi High court at the head. The special courts were heading several cases that were levelled against several political and official leaders into the light of report of the inquiry commission. The case was related to illegal institution of criminal proceeding by Mrs. Gandhi. D. Sen former chief of the C.B.I. and R.K. Dhawan former Additional Private Secretary of Mrs. Gandhi. The another case was concerned to former information and broadcasting minister against misuse of government machinery in Lok Sabha elections. Similarly the special court answering jeep scandal case against Mrs. Gandhi and five others P.C. Sethi, R.K. Dhawan, M.D. Manchanda former stenographer in P.M.'s house and two businessmen Suresh Basudeva and Jit Paul. There were several cases against for hearing several cases for hearing in the special court for emergency excesses such as illegal wrongful detention of Late Bhimsen Sachar and Seven others under MISA. Mrs. Gandhi, R.K. Dhawan and P.C. Bhinder, D.I.C. Police were main

50. The Constitution of India, Article 143(1).
51. Ibid.
52. Sunday Weekly, 1.7.1979, p.29.
accused. There were also cases against Bansi Lal and Zail Singh and several Cabinet colleagues.

The proposal of setting up of special court was proposed by Sri Ram Jethmalani, a M.P. in a non-official bill in parliament on 6th July 1978.

The setting up of special court was a major achievement of the Janata Government. The aim of the government was to give a lesson to the political leaders and officials for the future. Though attempts were made to prosecute Mrs. Gandhi and her other associated for misuse of powers and emergency excesses the Janata party could not achieve its purpose. It is interesting to mention that the special courts dropped almost all pending cases on the emergency excesses when Indira Gandhi took up the reigns of government.

Social Field

(i) **Prohibition**

Gradual introduction of prohibition was a significant achievement of the Janata party in the field of social reform. No one can ignore that drinking is a serious evil in the

society. Such reforms was initiated firstly by Janata government despite the fact that the prohibition may cause the loss of the revenue to the State governments and Central government. The Union government directed to state governments to introduce complete prohibition by the end of 1982.

The State of Bihar decided to reduce the sale of alcohol by 25 percent in 1979, 50 percent in 1980 and one hundred percent of 1981.

The government of Bihar enforced prohibition throughout the state from 1st April through a notification issued on 27th March 1979 which prohibited sale and purchase of liquor by any person in the state. A number of petitions challenging the notification in the shape of executive order were filed in the Patna High Court by liquor traders and others.

On 18th May 1979 the Patna High Court of Judicature quashed the notification of the Bihar government and directed the government to consider the application of liquor traders for renewal of their licences. Opening on the issue Mr. Justice

54. The Hindustan Times, 30.5.1978
56. Ibid.
57. The Indian Nation, 19.5.1979.
S.K. Jha held that state government had no power to enforce prohibition by an executive notification. In this judgement he said, "this cannot be done by executive power. The legislative sanction is must for banning such a trade." After the judgement of the court the government of Bihar reimposed prohibition through an ordinance, 'The Bihar Prohibition of intoxicants Ordinance issued on 9th June 1979 with retrospective effect from 1st April 1979. Through the government provided in ordinance from 1st April 1979 that no person would be punished for contravention of provisions of the ordinance between 1st April and the date of publication of ordinance in the official gazette. In accordance with the ordinance no person could carry intoxicants except Bhang and toddy without a valid licence. However, ordinance did not bar consumption or possession of foreign liquor by the members of defence services within the permits of defence establishment or foreign nationals holding permits issued by excise commissioner or any other officers empowered for this purpose. Any person cannot take liquors in public place. This ordinance also provided imprisonment up to one year of penalty upto Rs.2000 or both in case if was violated.

Other states also decided to start prohibition.

58. Ibid.
(ii) Food for Work Scheme launched

To end unemployment within ten years was an important pledge to the Janata party. With the object of creation of additional employment better maintenance of public works etc. Food for work scheme was launched in the year 1977 April for four months but it was extended for one year. Under this scheme wheat was made available to the states and union territories free of cost for supplementing the budgetary provision for one going plan and non-plan scheme. The special feature of this scheme was that foodgrains was made available for payment of wages to labourers, engaged by contractors. The scheme covered major, minor and medium scheme, drainage and anti water logging work, soil and water conservation and afforestation works on government and community lands, roads included state and highways. Construction of intermediate and main drains, field channels and land levelling in irrigation areas, school buildings, community belonging to the government and local bodies including panchayats.

The food for work scheme was implemented for various works by the different states. Bihar government had undertaken of roads, and irrigation works and roads maintenance of roads and soil conservation under this scheme.

60. The Times of India, 27.3.1977.
61. The Times of India, 1.5.1977.
62. Ibid.
This scheme was taken and implemented with high hopes but it could not fulfil the wishes due to corrupt practices of government machinery and non-cooperation of people. This programme helped in providing minimum wages and better nutrition to the country and Bihar. 3 millions tons of foodgrains was distributed in Bihar and 17 million tons were distributed in the country. The total investment in the country under this scheme in 1978 & 1979 exceeded ₹3000 crores and in Bihar it exceeded 350 crores.

(iii) Antyodaya Scheme

The Janata party government also launched socio-economic programme to vanish property. The Gandhian value of Antyodaya was one of them. The Antyodaya scheme was launched on 2nd October 1978, the birth day of Mahatma Gandhi with the aim and object to uplift the poor. It was one of published party programmes during assembly elections. The ten year Antyodaya programme was launched by the State governments with full responsibility without any central assistance for giving assistance to the poorest families, for the improvement of their standard of living. The five poorest families in a village

were selected for financial assistance for cultivating lands, for starting small scale industries etc.

Under Antyodaya scheme some two millions families were given financial assistance in one year in Bihar and 100000 schemes were sanctioned for the families. Rs.13.62 crores was made available up to July 1979 for distributing among 50,126 families by way of loans and grants.

But this was also not successful like other schemes of Janata party.

(iv) Adult Education

The introduction of Adult Education with the aim and object to end literacy and to provide employment was a significant achievement of the Janata party government in the field of education. The adult education scheme was launched on 2nd October 1978.

This scheme was the largest single project after thirty years of India's freedom. As estimated Rs.686 crore was allotted for implementing the programme in the next five years programme in India and Rs.79 crore was allotted for this purpose in Bihar. The age of adult education programme was to cover

68. The Searchlight, 18.7.1978.
about 65 millions in the 15-35 age group in India and 9 millions in Bihar in five years.

The Janata government initiated for the achievement of the directive of the constitution of India. The Janata party government at the centre had made obligatory to the state governments to enable students to study free in the elementary stage i.e. up to the age of 14 (standard eight) from 2nd October 1978, in Bihar state started many programme for adult education.

(v) Belief to minority and weaker sections

The Janata party government achieved something more concrete in comparison with the other governments in such a short period.

The financial aid for the Haj pilgrims allowed to go to Haj was raised. The number of pilgrims was also raised to 25000 from 15000. The Janata government had made few visit to end from Pakistan much easier order to benefit Indian Muslims who had relatives in Pakistan.

69. Ibid.
70. The Times of India, 17.7.1978.
72. Ibid.
Thus the Janata government had given better deal to the weaker sections. Steps were taken for providing relief to minorities.

(vi) Minority and Backward Commission constituted

The Janata party government constituted the minority and backward commission for the first history of India for the uplift of the weaker sections with the aim of bringing improvement in the social and economic conditions of the scheduled caste, scheduled tribes as well as backward classes. Minority and backward classes commission under the chairmanship of Bhola Paswan Shastri was constituted.

(vii) Reservation a New deal for the weaker sections

The Janata party in its election manifesto had clearly mentioned that for the uplift of the weaker sections of the society, it would reserve between 25 to 33 percent of all appointments to government service for the backward classes as recommended by the Kakakalekar Commission.

In the light of election promise the Janata party government of Bihar reserved 26 percent posts in the government

service for backward classes as recommended by Mungeri Lal commission and decided to implement this decision from 1st April 1978.

Consequently the Bihar's situation became tense and law and order of the Bihar began to deteriorate day by day. The issue of reservation in service for backward classes invited the threat of widespread communal riots in Bihar. The two groups pro-reservationists and anti-reservationists started fighting on their demands.

After a long period the government of Bihar modified its decision. According to modified formula 20% reservation for backward classes in the government job 12 percent were reservation for Annexure I and 8 percent for annexure II and rest 6 percent for women- and economically backward classes, 3 percent each.

Only the persons to get benefit of reservation whose annual income did not exceed more than 8000. It was also decided to hold reserve vacancies for three years in case of certain for certain posts were not available. Twenty-six percent posts reserved for backward classes were in addition to

75. The Searchlight, 15.3.1978.
76. The Searchlight, 9.11.1978.
twenty four percent posts that had already reserved to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

The reservation of posts in government service was in accordance with the manifesto of the Janata party and Article 16 (V) of the constitution of India. The Constitution provides for reservation of seats for backward classes.

The government of Bihar implemented the decision of reservation for backward classes after a series of disturbances and hurdles. The basis of reservation was caste not economic backwardness. Leaders and intellectuals pleaded to make backward and economically sound persons should not be allowed to enjoy the bliss of reservation.

In the opinion of government of Bihar the reservation was in accordance with the constitution, promises of Janata party and decision of the courts. After a long struggle the Bihar government reserved 26 percent reservation for backwards from 31st October 1978.

Here it is relevant that many other states had already reserved seats for backward classes like Haryana,

77. Article 16 (v) of the Indian Constitution.
78. The Searchlight, 31.3.1978.
79. Ibid., 1.11.1978.
Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu reserved 5 percent and 31 percent seats for backwards. The Punjab government reserved 5 percent seats in direct recruitment and two percent in promotion.

The Janata government fulfilled one of the promises in the social field given to electorate by reserving government services for backward classes. This was certainly a big achievement of the Janata government. The reservation of backwards by the states were hailed by the centre.

**Economic Field**

(i) *Income Tax*

Those who were getting ₹10,000 were exempted from the payment of Income Tax, and those who were getting more than 10,000 per annum were not given exemption as they had to pay income tax from ₹3000. This step of the Janata party government was in accordance with the manifesto of the Janata party.

81. Ibid.
82. Ibid.
(ii) Rural Development

The policy of Janata government was rural oriented. The Janata party government of India and Bihar took many steps for rural development. Parliamentary consultative committee of Union Agriculture ministry approved the rural programme for the uplift of rural people and after that in the assembly of Bihar on 15th July 1978 various steps were planned for the rural development in the state of Bihar. The rural development programme to be introduced in 5004 rural development blocks in India and 600 blocks in Bihar in phases. In the first phase during the year 1978-79, 130 lakhs were to be taken up and the programme was to be extended to 60 blocks every year and finally programme was to be taken to cover all the development blocks in Bihar.

It was planned to allocate Rs.5 lakhs to each block to meet the expenditure on the integrated rural development scheme. At the initial stage a microplanning at the block was to be initiated and requirements of each block to be assessed.

The role of rural banks was to meet the need of rural people. In 1977 two thirds of bank branches were opened in public sector banks in rural areas. The rate of interest

85. The Searchlight, 8.7.1978.
for farmers was reduced and banks were directed to lend their rural deposits in the same area.

13000 villages were provided satisfactory drinking water during first year of the Janata rule in all over India.

Under minimum needs programme twelve water supply schemes were approved among that four water supply schemes were in Bihar with total estimated cost of Rs.2.42 crore during the session 1979-80.

Under various housing schemes upto the end of December over 10,250,000 houses built out of 7,70,000 houses were completed in India.

The achievement in the field of irrigation upto 1977-78 were 74 lacs dug wells, 17 lacs private tube wells, 35000 deepwells, 3.6 lacs electrical pumps in India.

In Bihar 3 lacs wells were made and 3 lacs private tube wells and 50000 electrical pumps were started by the Janata government in its first year. A rural health scheme

86. Ibid.
87. Ibid., 4.4.1978.
88. The Times of India, 4.8.1978.
89. Ibid.
90. The Indian Nation, 13.9.1978.
was introduced in the month of October 1977 and about 36000 community health workers were trained in its first year in India and in Bihar 3000 health workers were trained during one year of its life. By 31st March, L.I.C. advances a sum of ₹29.56 crores to the various states of India for their drinking water schemes. Under the maternity service scheme, 50000 nurses were trained during one year of the Janata Rule. Under this scheme, it was decided to make available trained nurses in every village within two years. Steps were also taken for the development of suitable cottage and village industries with the aim of self-employment. The weaker sections in rural areas particularly small and marginal farmers and landless labourers were provided special assistance under various schemes. Small farmers scheme was one of them. 169 projects were functioning in the country during Janata party rule.

Those who were holding below 2.5 acres of cultivated land were counted in weaker sections. The main emphasis was

91. Ibid.
93. Ibid.
95. Ibid.
given on crop husbandry, animal husbandry, dairy, poultry, sheep and piggery development schemes.

(iii) National Income Increased

National income increased by 8.2 percent in the first year of the Janata party rule i.e. 1977-78 whereas in the year 1976-77 national income rose by an average of 1.3 percent but in 1978-79 it was 4.1 percent and in 1979-80 it was 3.0 percent only.

The following tables show the clear picture of increase in national income.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Money supply</th>
<th>Real National Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1976-77</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977-78</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-79</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979-80</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average increase 17.3 2.7

Source: The Illustrated Weekly of India (Times of India Press, Bombay) 6th July 1980, p.11.
There was increase in the national income at the average rate of only 2.7 percent and the money supply expending at the average rate of 17.8 percent during these four years i.e. 1976-1980. This is clearly by the above mentioned table.

(iv) **Per Capita Income increased**

In the first year of the Janata party rule the per capita income rose by 5.2 percent or nine times faster than the 0.6 percent annual average increase during congress regime.

(v) **Gross National Production**

Gross national product did not fall during the Janata party rule. In fact the average growth rate was 5.5 percent during two years rule of the Janata rule as against the annual increase of 0.8 percent of Mrs. Indira Gandhi's ten year rule. But in the remaining four months of the Janata rule the National Gross product came down.

(vi) **Industrial policy**

In Janata party government gave a new direction to the industrial policy and impart dynamism to it. The government

policy was to expand both small and large scale industries, but emphasis was given to small and cottage industries for the creation of more jobs. Efforts made to change the industrial to reserve some items of daily consumption entirely for the cottage industry so that more families were able to get jobs.

The industrial policy and licencing policy were liberalised and import and export procedures were simplified. The items which could be imported without any of the usual clearance were expanded to 253 items e.g. items of leather machinery and large range of machinery and tools used by small scale industries. At the same time the import of three items was cancelled i.e. liquor, arms and ammunition and other hand industrial explosives and the export of six items i.e. kuth, goat-hair, potties, kanticocar barytes foot-wear and R70 pipes were decentralised. No distinction was made between public sector and private sector in the matter import licencing. There was no limit on the value of licences for emergency spears.

(vii) Foreign exchange Rose

The foreign exchange during the Janata party rule rose to 5635 crores in September 1979 which stood at Rs.2863 crores in the year when the Janata party came to power.

99. Ibid., 5.4.1977.
100. Ibid.
The Janata party rule gained foreign exchange of Rs. 2772 crores in almost two years.

(viii) Service Restored

Those who had lost their jobs in the emergency and railway strike of 1974 were reinstated. The Congress government had retrenched the services of Railways's employees who were participating in Railway's strike in 1974. The Janata party government reinstated their services.

In Bihar 38 thirty-eight cadet S.I.'s were discharged from police training college, prosecuted under J.P.'s movement. They were reinstated by the Janata government. In the different colleges 242 teachers went to jails under the Emergency. Their services also restored with the effect from same day and arrear was also given to them and they got the same seniority like other colleagues.

Bihar was the most disturbed place from 1973 to 1977. In Bihar many doctors, teachers, students were jailed. The service holders were discharged during the movement in Bihar.

102. The Times of India, 29.8.1978.
103. Ibid.
Due to this very decision of the government they got benefit.

(ix) **Agricultural production Increased**

The agricultural production during the Janata regime was higher than that of the Congress regime. The production of food grains during 1977-78 was over 125 million tonnes higher as against 45 tonnes in 1947.

Agricultural production in 1978-79 showed a substantial increase for the second successive year. The 131 million tonnes total output recorded an improvement of five million tonnes in the proceeding year. This was brought about mainly by increased output of rice and wheat. Between July 1978 and June 1979 agricultural output reached a record production. The food production of 14 million tonnes higher than the highest of the Congress regime. This was due to the achievements of Janata government in other fields such as unprecedented extension of irrigation facilities to five million hectares. The irrigation facilities (minor and major irrigation project) were increased which contributed to the production of food-grains.

The following table clearly shows the agricultural production.

### TABLE NO. 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Rice</td>
<td>43.07</td>
<td>39.58</td>
<td>44.05</td>
<td>39.58</td>
<td>48.74</td>
<td>41.92</td>
<td>52.68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Other cereal</td>
<td>26.60</td>
<td>23.13</td>
<td>28.33</td>
<td>26.13</td>
<td>30.41</td>
<td>28.86</td>
<td>29.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Pulses</td>
<td>11.09</td>
<td>09.91</td>
<td>10.01</td>
<td>10.01</td>
<td>13.04</td>
<td>11.36</td>
<td>11.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Food-grains</td>
<td>106.17</td>
<td>93.03</td>
<td>104.67</td>
<td>99.93</td>
<td>121.03</td>
<td>111.17</td>
<td>125.60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Oil seeds</td>
<td>8.75</td>
<td>06.86</td>
<td>08.85</td>
<td>08.83</td>
<td>09.91</td>
<td>07.82</td>
<td>08.93</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Cotton</td>
<td>06.95</td>
<td>05.74</td>
<td>06.31</td>
<td>07.16</td>
<td>05.95</td>
<td>05.87</td>
<td>07.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Jute &amp; Mes</td>
<td>06.85</td>
<td>06.09</td>
<td>07.49</td>
<td>05.83</td>
<td>05.91</td>
<td>07.10</td>
<td>07.12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

170 kg each for cotton and 80 kg for Jute and Mes. 1978-79, 131 tonnes of total for food grains output.

(x) *A New Look to planning*

The Janata party government changed the entire policy of planning. A new rolling plan was introduced and the Fifth Five Year Plan was terminated a year earlier i.e. 31st March 1978 and the new Sixth plan was introduced from 1st April 1978. The aim and object of the following plans was to bring continuity in the process of planning. According to the concept of 'Rolling plane' the five year plans would be formulated without any change in the process of planning, but the targets projected in the plane were subject to revision from the year to year in the light of performance availability of resources and change in international affairs. The Janata party government decided to start Rolling & lane on 10th September 1977.

The principal object of the Sixth plan as envisaged by the Janata government was as follows:

(a) The removal of unemployment and significant under employment,

(b) an appreciable rise in standard of living of poorest sections of the population, and

(c) provision by the state of some of the basic needs of the poor people, such as providing water, adult

108. *The Competition Success Review*, October 1978 (Special, 63)
literacy, elementary education, rural roads, rural housing for the landless and minimum services for the urban slums.

In the Sixth plan as envisaged by the Janata government utmost priority was given to self-reliance, production and technology. A massive provision made for power, petroleum products, fertilizer, cement etc. and stress was given on agriculture small scale and cottage industry and rural development.

The Janata Party government gave special emphasis on the positive measures to guarantee peoples minimum needs. The revised minimum needs programme in which in the items were listed and included:

(a) Elementary education (age group of 6 to 64).
(b) Adult education (age group 25 to 35).
(c) Rural health,
(d) Rural water supply,
(e) Rural Roads,
(f) Extension of rural electrification,
(g) House for landless,
(h) I environmental improvement of urban slums, and
(i) nutritional programme.

111. The Times of India, 22.3.1978.
112. Ibid.
113. Ibid.
The primary object of the Sixth plan as envisaged by Janata government was to bring improvement in different fields, especially benefitting the poorest sections of the rural and urban populations. It was to pay special attention to the scheduled caste and scheduled tribes. The draft of plan was designed to improve the economic and social lot of the poorest section of the society particularly scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and backwards and to increase public consumption. The minimum need or programme was a determined afford of the Janata party to transform the lofty ideas of socialism into reality. The Sixth Plan was the radical plan for the reconstructing rural life.

The total outlay of the Sixth plan as envisaged by the Janata government was Rs.1,16,240 crores for the period of 1978-83.

However the Sixth plan envisaged by the Indira government for the period 1980-85 was Rs.1,72,210 crores.

In this plan importance was given to the maintenance of fiscal stability with the role object of achieving fall reliance in the field of production technology and another financial fields.

114. Ibid.
Conclusion of working of Janata Party in India and Bihar

The Janata party as the ruling party in 1977 general elections is almost a historic event in Indian politics. It may be called as peaceful revolution because a major change took place without violence and blood shed. This party came with thumping majority in centre and most of the states of India. After independence people thought that there was no alternative to the Congress-1977 elections proved that the support of the general people cannot be ignored. Mrs. Gandhi tried to impose her personal rule but the people supported the Janata party and voted for its power. It was an event widely acclaimed by the people of other democratic countries of the world.

The country saw the Janata rule for a very brief period but it had some achievement in the political social and economic fields. It restored the civil rule of law fundamental freedom and powers of the courts were restored. Political prisoners were released and who had lost their jobs in Congress rule were reappointed. The radio and Door Darghan were made free and steps were taken to protect the citizens from the misuse of powers. Reservation was given to backwards. Various irrigation schemes were set up for rural development, employment and upliftment of weaker sections such as Antyodaya and food for work schemes were started.
Similarly social reforms were also started. In this respect prohibition was enforced and the massive programme of adult education was launched. Agriculture production reached on its highest record and foreign policy during Janata regime was also successful.

It may be said that the greatest achievement of Janata Party was price stability.