Chapter III

A PROFILE OF THE RURAL ANDHRA PRADESH
This Chapter the presents profile of rural Andhra Pradesh (AP). The Directorate of Census operations of India defines rural areas as the areas which are not categorized as urban areas. According to 2011 Census, there are 6,40,867 villages (Rural units) in India. The rural population of the country constitutes 68.84 per cent of the total population. In other words, out of the total of 1210.2 million populations in India according to 2011 Census, the size of rural population is 833.1 million. At the all India level, growth in rural population in India is steadily declining since 1991. Of the total number of literates in the country, i.e., 778.5 million, 493 million are in the rural areas.

Andhra Pradesh is one of the 28 states of India, situated on the country's southeastern coast. It is India's fourth largest state by area and fifth largest by population. The State was formed as a separate state on linguistic basis on 1st November, 1956, by merging nine Telugu speaking districts of old Hyderabad state and with the eleven Telugu speaking districts of the Madras state. Its capital city is Hyderabad. Andhra Pradesh is bordered by Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Odisha in the north, the Bay of Bengal in the east, Tamil Nadu to the south and Karnataka to the west. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people and 70 per cent of the people are depending on agriculture and allied activities. Most of the population in the State live in rural areas (66.51 per cent) according to 2011 Census, while according to 2011 Census, 73 per cent of the population of the State lives in rural areas.
3.1 Physical Features

The state of Andhra Pradesh is situated in a tropical region between the latitudes 13° to 20° North and the longitudes 77° to 85° East and is bounded by the Bay of Bengal in East with a coastal line of 960 k.m. The State has an area of 2.75 lakh hectares, forming 8.4 per cent of the total geographical area of the country. Andhra Pradesh has the second-longest coastline of 972 km among the states of India.

The state is drained by three major perennial rivers, Godavari, Krishna and Pennar, and several other rivers of lesser significance. The majority of the rivers flow easterly towards the Bay of Bengal. The state has areas rich in water resources, but also has semi-arid regions where agriculture is mainly rainfed. Droughts and water scarcity in summer months are a recurrent phenomenon in these semi-arid zones.

Andhra Pradesh is endowed with a variety of soils ranging from poor coastal sands to highly fertile deltaic alluviums. Red soils occupy over 66 per cent of the cultivated area and are mostly situated in Rayalaseema and Telangana districts. These soils have a low nutrient status. Red soils can be sub classified as (a) Dubba soils (loamy sands to sandy loams) (b) Chalkas (sandy loam soils) (c) sandy clay loams (d) loams including silty soils (e) deep loamy sands and (f) sandy loams with clay sub soil. Chalkas occur mostly in the Telangana districts, while red loams combined with sands are presented in the upland regions of coastal districts.

Black soils cover nearly 25 per cent of the cultivated area and are generally associated with poor drainage. The alluvial loamy clay soils
found in Krishna and Godavari deltas covers 5 per cent of the cultivated area. The coastal sands occupy only 3 per cent while the remaining 2 per cent is covered by laterite soils in certain corners of the State. Forested areas, which cover about 23 per cent of geographical area Andhra Pradesh, yield timber products such as teak, eucalyptus, cashew, casuarinas, softwoods and bamboo.

The climate of Andhra Pradesh varies considerably, depending on the geographical region. Monsoons play a major role in determining the climate of the state. Summers last from March to June. In the coastal plain, the summer temperatures are generally higher than the rest of the state, with temperature ranging between 20 °C and 41 °C. July to September is the seasons for tropical rains in Andhra Pradesh. The state receives heavy rainfall from Southwest Monsoon during these months. About one third of the total rainfall in Andhra Pradesh is brought by the Northeast Monsoon. October and November see low-pressure systems and tropical cyclones form in the Bay of Bengal which, along with the Northeast Monsoon, bring rains to the southern and coastal regions of the state. November, December, January, and February are the winter months in Andhra Pradesh. Since the state has a long coastal belt the winters are not very cold. The range of winter temperature is generally 12 °C to 30 °C. The hot season starts from March, builds to a peak in June, and begins to taper off with the monsoon rains. Temperatures can rise above 40 degrees centigrade during the summer.
The rainfall received during the South West monsoon period for 2011-12 was 539 mm. as against the normal rainfall of 624 mm. recording a deficit by 13.6 per cent. The rainfall received during the North East monsoon period for 2011-12 was 113 mm as against the normal rainfall of 224 mm recording a deficit of 49.6 per cent.

3.2 Administrative and other divisions

Andhra Pradesh comprises 23 districts including one urban district, namely, Hyderabad, covering 1091 mandals. Each of the district is divided into revenue mandals. Each mandal has around 20-35 revenue villages with Gram Panchayats (village government). Each revenue village may have between 1-5 habitations. The State can be also divided into three regions - Coastal Andhra, Rayalaseema and Telengana on the basis of history and social and cultural divisions. Coastal Andhra region consists of 9 districts, namely, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, West Godavari, East Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore districts. Telangana region has ten districts, namely, Adilabad, Nizamabad, Karim Nagar, Nalgonda, Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Medak, Mahaboob Nagar, Warangal and Khammam districts. There are four districts in Rayalaseema region, namely, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Rayalaseema and Tirupati. Along with 22 Zilla Parishads, 1095 Mandal Parishads, there are 21,895 Gram Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh covering a population of 5,63,11,788 (2011 Census). Hundred per cent urban population is found only in Hyderabad district in the State, where there is no implementation of MGNREGA. Therefore, MGNREGA is implemented in the State in 22 districts.
3.2.1 Gram Panchayats

The Gram Panchayat is the pivotal body for implementation at the village level for executing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) works. The Gram Panchayat is responsible for the activities like i) Planning of works, ii) Receiving applications for registration, iii) Verifying registration applications, iv) Registering households, v) Issuing Job Cards, vi) Receiving applications for employment, vii) Issuing dated receipts, viii) Allotting employment within fifteen days of application, ix) Executing works, x) Maintaining records, xi) Convening the Gram Sabha for social audit and xii) Monitoring the implementation of the Scheme at the village level.

The Gram Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh stand at the base of the three tier structure of local governance with the Zilla Parishad at the district level and the Mandal Parishad at the intermediate level. Table – 3.1 shows district-wise particulars of Gram Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh (2006-07). It is noticed from the table that maximum number of Gram Panchayats are in Chittoor district (1399 Gram Panchayats), while minimum number of Gram Panchayats are in Ranga Reddy district (705 Gram Panchayats).

The Coastal region of Andhra Pradesh state consists of nine districts. It has a total of 8,909 Gram Panchayats in this region covering 40.69 per cent of the total Gram Panchayats in the State. In this region, Srikakulam district has the highest number of Gram Panchayats (1106), followed by Prakasam (1041), Guntur (1022), East Godavari (1011),
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Number of Gram Panchayats</th>
<th>% to the total</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coastal Andhra region</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Srikakulam</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Vizianagaram</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Visakhapatnam</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>East Godavari</td>
<td>1011</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>West Godavari</td>
<td>888</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Krishna</td>
<td>973</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Guntur</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
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<td>4.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Nellore</td>
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<td>4.39</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>8909</td>
<td>40.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rayalaseem region</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Chittoor</td>
<td>1399</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Kadapa</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Anantapur</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Kurnool</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>18.87</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Telangana region</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Mahabubnagar</td>
<td>1348</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Ranga Reddy</td>
<td>705</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Medak</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Adilabad</td>
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<td>20.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>6802</td>
<td>31.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visakhapatnam (976), Krishna (973), Nellore (961), Vizianagaram (931) and West Godavari (888).

Rayalaseema has four districts and this region has 4,131 Gram Panchayats (18.87 per cent). In this region, Chittoor district has highest number of Gram Panchayats (1399), followed by Anantapur (1005), Kurnool (898) and Kadapa (829). Telangana region has ten districts and this region has 6,802 Gram Panchayats (31.07 per cent). In this region, maximum number of Gram Panchayats are in Mahabubnagar district (1348), followed by Karimnagar (1194), Nalgonda (1178), Medak (1061), Warangal (1014), Adilabad (866), Khammam (770), Nizamabad (719) and Ranga Reddy (705).

3.3 Population

Population-wise, Andhra Pradesh occupies fifth rank in the country after Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and West Bengal. As per 2011 Census, the State accounts for 7.0 per cent of the total population in the country. The population of Andhra Pradesh has more than quadrupled in the last century from 19.1 million in 1901 to 84.7 million in 2011. Of this, 42.5 millions are males and 42.2 millions are females. Among the districts Ranga Reddy district stands to be the most populous district in the State surpassing the legacy of East Godavari and Vizianagaram district has the lowest population. The density of the population is 308 per sq. km. as against the India’s density of 382 per sq. km. as per 2011 Census.

Of the total population of Andhra Pradesh state, around 66.51 percent live in the villages of rural areas, while 68.84 per cent of the population lives
in rural areas at the national level according to 2011 Census. The total population of the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh state is 563.11 lakhs according to 2011 Census, while the same is 554.01 lakhs according to 2001 Census. The population growth rate recorded for this decade (2001-2011) was 1.64 per cent in the State, while the growth rate at the national level during this decade is 12.2 per cent.

The sex Ratio in the State up from 978 in 2001 to 992 in 2011 is higher than the All India’s 940 in 2011. The sex ratio continues to show a favourable trend in Nizamabad, Vizianagram and Srikakulam districts. The Districts of Adilabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Guntur and Chittoor have registered a progressive sex ratio moving from less than 1000 category to more than 1000 from 2001 to 2011. In rural regions of Andhra Pradesh state, female sex ratio per 1000 males is 995 while the same for the child (0-6 age) is 942 girls per 1000 boys, whereas these figures are 947 and 919 respectively at the national level. In Andhra Pradesh, 5,852,284 children (0-6) live in rural areas. The population of children forms 10.39 percent of total rural population.

3.4 Literacy

The percentage of literacy of the State is 67.66 while the literacy of the country is 74.04 per cent as per 2011 Census. In the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh, the literacy rate for males and female stood at 70.24 per cent and 52.05 per cent respectively, while this percentage at the national level is 78.6 per cent and 58.8 per cent respectively. Average literacy rate in Andhra Pradesh for rural areas is 61.14 percent, while the national rural literacy
rate is 68.9 per cent according to the 2011 Census. Total literates in rural areas are 30,850,648. The national rural literacy rate increased from 58.7 per cent in 2001 Census to 68.9 per cent in 2011 at the national level. The improvement in literacy rate in rural area is two times that in urban areas at the national level.

3.5 Poverty

As per the official estimates of poverty released by the Planning Commission, the poverty ratios of rural areas and urban areas of Andhra Pradesh for 2004-05 were 11.2 per cent and 28.0 per cent respectively and that for the State as a whole was 15.8 per cent. The corresponding figures for all India during the same period were 28.3 per cent, 25.7 per cent for rural and urban areas and 27.5 per cent for the nation as a whole. Over the period, the percentage of people below poverty line has declined both for the State as well as for all India. The poor make up 16.3 per cent of the total population in rural AP, and expenditure on consumption is around 13.5 per cent of the total consumption expenditure. The district-wise variations for poverty ratio are high and low for the ratio of female/male literacy rate.

3.6 Workforce

The working population of the State is 348.94 lakhs, of which 78.61 lakhs are cultivators and 138.31 lakhs are agriculture workers representing 10.31 and 15.25 per cent of the total population respectively. Work force participation rate among males and females in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh declined during 2004-05 as compared to 1999-2000, whereas in
urban areas of A.P it increased. Work force participation rates in general are high in Andhra Pradesh as compared with the all India rate.

According to the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) 66th Round Survey conducted during 2009-10 Labour Force Participation rates both rural and urban areas of Andhra Pradesh were higher when compared with the all India rates. Work force participation rates in Andhra Pradesh among males in rural areas have increased, whereas that of females has decreased in 2009-10 when compared with the rates in 2004-05 while in urban areas it has decreased for both males and females. Work force participation rates in general are high in Andhra Pradesh when compared with all India.

Apart from the quantum of employment, quality remains a concern in the state. Problems such as wage rate, seasonality, job insecurity, illiteracy, occupational hazards etc., continue in the state. Around 94 per cent of the workers in A.P. are in the unorganized sector and in fact, the state reports high incidence of employment in the unorganized/informal economy. Further, demographic dividend, which is one of the sources of future economic growth in Andhra Pradesh, is expected to increase the working age group and reduce dependency ratio. Reduction in dependency ratio is likely to increase savings and investments. Shifting the workforce from Agriculture to the non-farm sector is an ideal way for enhancing the income levels of the poor by creating quality non-agriculture work opportunities through skill development in rural areas. The growth of employment has picked up significantly in Andhra Pradesh while there is decline in growth at the National level in the recent past as compared to the previous period.
Further, the pace of growth of employment is also quite impressive in Andhra Pradesh.

3.7 Unemployment

Unemployment rates based on the usual principal and subsidiary status in Andhra Pradesh and All India have shown oscillatory trend during the period 1993-94 to 2009-10. The rural and urban unemployment rates in Andhra Pradesh as well as All India have increased from 1993-94 to 1999-2000. However, from 1999-2000 to 2004-05, the rural and urban unemployment rates in Andhra Pradesh have decreased. The rate of decline in respect of urban unemployment (from 39 to 36) was sharper as compared to that of the rural unemployment (from 8 to 7). The rural Unemployment rate has however increased (5 points) from 7 in 2004-05 to 12 in 2009-10 whereas the urban unemployment rate has decreased by the same quantum (5 points) from 36 to 31. Similarly, at the All India level, the urban unemployment rate has fallen sharply (9 points) from 45 to 34 whereas the rural unemployment rate has marginally declined (only 1 point) from 17 to 16.

3.8 The Rural Economy

Agriculture is the mainstay of the rural economy in AP and Karnataka, and agriculture related activities support the largest proportion of people and provide the largest share of total income to the people. But rice mills, flour mills, and oil presses sit side by side with motor repair shops, provision stores, drug stores and small hotels in the small rural towns. There are also granite and limestone mines in these parts, which provide
employment to local labour by exporting the produce. By and large, private enterprise is dynamic in these rural towns. Transport industries are therefore important, but road links are not always good. Local produce markets in district towns and tehsil towns are often controlled by market operators, and there are established codes of conduct which ensure the exploitation of those who either don’t know or do not have the ‘clout’ to get a good deal. Commission agents buy produce on auction, and small farmers who venture to sell directly here have little negotiating power and have to take the offered price. Larger farmers have the leverage to negotiate good price with commission agents, often withholding their produce from the market till they get the right price (most usually done in cotton).

3.9 Agriculture

Known as the rice bowl of the South, Andhra Pradesh has an excellent conducive climate for growing food and non food crops. Paddy, pulses, oilseeds, millets are major food crops while tobacco, cotton, chillies, vegetables, fruits, are other commercial and horticultural crops. The state is a leading producer of many of these crops. More than 77 per cent of its crop is rice; Andhra Pradesh produced 17,796,000 tonnes (19,616,732 short tons) of rice in 2006. Agriculture has been the chief source of income for the state’s economy. Andhra Pradesh is an exporter of many agricultural products.

With more than half of the State’s population still dependent for their livelihoods either wholly or significantly on some form of farm activity, expansion of farm incomes continues to be the potent weapon for reducing
poverty. Rapid and sustainable growth in agriculture has been identified not only as a key driver for economic development but also for achieving self sufficiency and ensuring food security to the people. Over the decades, Andhra Pradesh has witnessed a gradual transformation in the agriculture sector. The nature of the transformation itself has undergone change overtime.

An analysis of land utilization pattern in the State during 2010-11 reveals that the total Geographical area of the State is 275.04 lakh hectares. Out of the Geographical area, 41.04 per cent is under Net Area Sown (112.88 lakh hectares), 22.65 per cent under Forest (62.30 lakh hectares), 8.10 per cent under current fallow lands (22.29 lakh hectares), 10.08 per cent under Land put to Non- Agricultural uses (27.71 lakh hectares), 7.37 per cent under Barren and uncultivable land (20.26 lakh hectares) and remaining 10.76 per cent under other fallow land, cultivable waste, permanent Pastures and other grazing lands and Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves not included in the Net Area Sown (29.60 lakh hectares).

The area as well as production of food grains for the year 2011-12 are expected to show a decline in comparison with the previous year, viz, 2010-11. While the area under food grains is expected to be 70.60 lakh hectares as against 80.29 lakh hectares in 2010-11, showing a decline of 12.07 per cent, the total production of food grains for the year 2011-12 is estimated to decline by about 30 lakh tones over the previous year - a decrease of 14.81
The area under food grains in Kharif 2011-12 is expected to be 43.06 lakh hectares while it was 45.81 lakh hectares in 2010-11 - a decline of 6 per cent. Similarly, the production estimate of food grains in Kharif 2011-12 is also expected to marginally decline from 98.52 lakh tonnes in 2010-11 to 98.03 lakh tones, a decline of 0.5 per cent. The estimate of the area under rice in Kharif 2011-12 is expected to be 28.69 lakh hectares while it was 29.22 lakh hectares in 2010-11. Similarly, the production estimate of rice in Kharif 2011-12 is also expected to be 77.46 lakh tonnes while it was 75.10 lakh tonnes in 2010-11.

The estimate of the area under foodgrains in Rabi 2011-12 is expected to be 27.54 lakh hectares while it was 34.48 lakh hectares in 2010-11. Similarly, the production estimates under food grains in Rabi 2011-12 is also expected to be 75.02 lakh tonnes while it was 104.62 lakh tonnes in 2010-11. The estimate of the area under rice in Rabi 2011-12 is expected to be 11.37 lakh hectares while it was 18.30 lakh hectares in 2010-11. Similarly, the production estimates under rice in Rabi 2011-12 is also expected to be 41.73 lakh tonnes while it was 69.10 lakh tonnes in 2010-11. Unfavourable seasonal conditions like drought, floods and heavy rains in the State during the decade have contributed to fluctuations in the area and production of food grains. With the cultivation of High Yielding Varieties, improved seed and cultivation practices, the production of food grains however in general maintained an increasing trend.
3.10 Landholding Distribution

Agriculture production is almost exclusively carried in private individual holdings in Andhra Pradesh. In the year 2008-09, marginal holdings, which are less than one hectare of area, constitute 61.59 per cent of the total holdings and control 22.69 per cent of the gross cultivated area. Small holdings with the size range of 1.0 to 2.00 hectares area constitute 21.91 per cent of the total holdings and control 25.75 per cent of the cultivated area. In the total holdings, less than 2 hectares area constitutes about 83.5 per cent and area operate about 48.44 per cent of the cultivated area. Medium and semi-medium holdings in the size range of 2.0 to 10.0 areas constitute about 16.04 per cent in the total holdings and operate about 45.51 per cent land under cultivation. Large holdings (above 10 hectare) constituting only 0.46 per cent in the total holdings and control 6.06 per cent of the area under cultivation.

3.11 Irrigation

In Andhra Pradesh about 40 per cent of the State’s gross cropped area is irrigated and its contribution to state agricultural production is about 60 percent. Irrigation has also resulted in alleviation of poverty in upland and backward areas. Andhra Pradesh is endowed with rich water resources and it is appropriately called a river state. Three major rivers, namely, Godavari, Krishna and Pennar drain 70 per cent of State’s land area of the state. The water potential of Andhra Pradesh is estimated to be 7.78 m. ha (i.e. 2746 TMC). The major rivers are seasonal and more than 90 per cent of the total flows occurring between June and December depending on the rainfall
which varies from year to year. The ultimate irrigation potential from all the
sources is estimated to be 9.50 m. ha. This includes 7.30 m. ha. from
surface water and 2.20 m. ha from ground water. The gross area irrigated in
the State increased to 71.53 lakh hectares in 2010-11 against 57.65 lakh
hectares in 2009-10 showing an increase of 24.08 percent. The net area
irrigated in the state increased to 50.34 lakh hectares in 2010-11 as against
42.15 lakh hectares in 2009-10 showing an increase of 19.43 percent.

3.12 Livestock and Livestock Products

Andhra Pradesh has some of the richest livestock resources in the
Country and is one of the most advanced states in Animal Husbandry
activities. The Livestock play a vital role in Socio-economic and cultural life
of our people through providing gainful employment to a large number of
small and marginal farmers and enhancing their economic status. For more
than 5 decades since the formation of Andhra Pradesh, Animal Husbandry
Sector has achieved phenomenal growth in its different spheres. Especially
with the launching of several five year plans, Animal Husbandry activities
were reoriented towards increased production of livestock products like
Milk, Meat and Eggs, besides providing adequate health care and control of
diseases. With its livestock resources and gradual enlightenment of the
farmers coupled with dedicated and sustained efforts of the Government, the
State got elevated to a prominent position in the Country in the Livestock
Sector over the years. From a humble beginning of backyard poultry it has
grown to a stage of dynamic industry, Milk production also made quantum
leap and Meat production increased substantially as well.
The Livestock population in the state as per 2007 census consists of 112.23 lakh Cattle, 132.72 lakh Buffaloes, 255.39 lakh Sheep, 96.26 lakh Goats, 1239.85 lakh Poultry besides others. There are 20 Veterinary Polyclinics, 3 Super Specialty Veterinary Hospitals, 281 Veterinary Hospitals, 1823 Veterinary Dispensaries, 42 Mobile Veterinary Clinics and 3110 Rural Livestock Units functioning mainly to attend to animal health needs throughout the State. 270.73 Lakh cases were treated, 4.10 lakh castrations were done and 478.73 Lakh vaccinations were conducted by these institutions during the year 2011-12 (up to 30-9-2011). 22 Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories (ADDLs) are functioning for the proper diagnosis of disease. With the increase in the livestock population, the production and availability of nutritious food to the people and supplemental income to the farmers has increased. Livestock activity contributes 5.6 per cent in the Gross State Domestic Product and it forms 26.0 per cent in Agriculture sector in 2010-11.

3.13 Banking

A major cause of poverty among India's rural population is a lack of access to adequate productive assets and financial resources. After independence the government of India gave first priority to agriculture in our plans, because most of our country lives in villages and they are dependent on agriculture. But most of the people living in India are poor and they borrowed money from money lenders at high rate of interest for agricultural operations. So the government has come forward and developed the economic standards of agricultural labour through the banking sector.
The number of scheduled bank offices in the State is 8,211 at the end of March, 2011. The aggregate deposits amounted to Rs.2,83,600 crores and the total bank credit extended was of the order of Rs.3,27,275 crores as on 31-3-2011. The credit-deposit ratio of the banks in the state is 115.40 per cent as against RBI norm of 60 per cent. Total priority sector advances to Net Bank Credit is Rs.1,54,227 crores (47.12 per cent) against RBI norm of 40 per cent. Agricultural advances to Net Bank Credit are Rs.83,098 crores or 25.39 per cent of Net Bank Credit (NBC) against RBI norm of 18 per cent.

3.14 Roads

Roads are one of the basic modes of transportation system and also an important priority sector of Infrastructure. Systematic development of road is one of the important pre-requisites for development and acceleration of growth in the economy. Among the different modes of domestic transportation systems, Road transport carries more than 80 percent of the Goods and Passenger traffic. The network of roads, particularly from rural to urban facilitates speedy movement of goods and services and ensures higher growth trends, social integrity and well being of the society. The productivity and efficiency of Road transport is directly linked with the availability and quality of Road network. In view of the high potential in Agricultural activity, there has been huge increase in Road network. The total R&B Road Network in the State is 70,394 Kms as on 30-09-2011. Of this, the National Highways constitute 4,730 Kms, the State Highways constitute 10,470 Kms and Major District Roads constitute 32,205 Kms and Rural Roads 22,989 Kms. The density with reference to R&B Road Network in the State is 0.23
Kms per one Square Kilometer and 0.86 Kms per 1,000 persons. Several rural habitations are not well connected with the Gram Panchayats and market places, particularly in the case of 90% of the SC/ST habitations. So, the state has taken up construction of roads (i.e., rural connectivity program) for uncovered SC/ST habitations under MGNREGS in convergence with the Panchayat Raj department. The total length of the rural roads under Panchayat Raj engineering department is 1,38,781 Kms in the State as on 01-04-2011. Out of this, Other District Roads consist of 5,506 Kms, Major District Roads 1,096 Kms and Village roads 1,32,179 Kms. The surface details of the road length are CC Roads 3,586 Kms; BT 36,441 Kms, WBM 26,395 Kms and Gravel 72,359 Kms.

Thus, it is evident that majority of the population in the State are living in rural areas. They depend upon agriculture and allied activities. Since the employment provided by the agriculture is seasonal in nature, there is a need for wage employment programmes like MGNREGS.

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References


