SUMMARY IMPLICATION AND SUGGESTIONS

Our country is improving in science and technology and industrialisation since the day of freedom. However, till living standards in rural India are brought up to levels that can be regarded as decent for human habitation and happiness. We cannot claim to have achieved economic and social progress.

Voluntary and state contribution for the innumerable multi-facet rural efforts, spread over 30 years of freedom is too well known for any elaboration. Almost every ministry and department of the Centre and State Governments as well as numerous institutions of all kinds, have been putting forth their best to accelerate the rural development process. Several programmes have been launched by different agencies with a plurality of objectives aimed at activity, areas, sectors, processes, products, functions, selected target beneficiaries and socially and economically underprivileged groups. A large number of institutions and essential infrastructure were created for implementing strategies, policies and programmes of the five-year plans.

The sixth plan document (1980-85) declares “the development of rural areas has been one of the abiding concerns of successive five-year plan”. Beginning from the community development programme, in 1952, we have now moved into the area of Integrated Rural Development programme. Numerous projects have been launched like Desert Development Programme, The Hill Area Development Programme, Integrated Tribal Development Programme, the Drought Prone Area Programme, Command Area Development Programme, TRYSEM, NREP, Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and so on, and each working towards its set goal on assigned tasks. But none of these programmes covered the
whole country, though a large number of blocks in the country had more than one of these programmes operating simultaneously in the same area for the same target group. So, it was decided that one single integrated programme named, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) should be launched throughout the country. It is a centrally sponsored programme and the outlay will be matched on equal basis by the States.

The concept of an I.R.D. Programme was first proposed in the budget 1976-77, and a beginning was made. This programme was intended to assist the rural population to derive economic benefits from the developmental assets of each area. The programme in the present form was introduced in 1978-79, on an expanded scale. Initially this programme was implemented in 200 blocks covered by SFDA, DPAP and CADP. In view of the pathetic condition of families below the poverty line as also the socialist objectives of the state, this programme, on October 2, 1980 was extended to all the development blocks.

A few studies were conducted on impact of IRDP on rural poor in some other parts of India. But the findings of these studies may not be applicable for all the areas. Keeping this in view, the present study was carried out with a title “Impact of Integrated Rural Development programme on the socio-economic conditions of rural families”.

The specific objectives of the study were as under:

1. To study the various projects of I.R.D.P. and their follow-up in the selected locality.

2. To study the extent of utilization of the loan given to the beneficiaries for different purposes.
(3) To determine the effect of credit in the improved animal husbandry practices among small and marginal farmers.

(4) To study the loaning system and magnitude for various development activities vis-à-vis its suitability.

(5) To study the change in socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries.

(6) To analyse the various constraints being faced by the beneficiaries and officials involved in I.R.D. Programme.

(7) To suggest an improvement for the proper functioning of Integrated Rural Development Programme.

The present investigation was carried out in Uttar Pradesh. Two districts were selected on random basis. A sample of 300 beneficiaries respondents was randomly chosen for collecting information. Besides this, another group of 50 officials respondents were personally interviewed for the collection of data regarding their opinion about IRDP.

Two sets of instruments were separately constructed and used for obtaining information from two groups of respondents i.e., beneficiaries as well as officials and non-officials. The data were collected with the help of schedules constructed for the purpose. The respondents were interviewed personally. Some of valid scales designed by earlier workers, have also been used. The information were analysed and interpreted with the help of simple statistical technique like tabular analysis, averages, percentages, $X^2$ test, "t" test and mean score.