Chapter XII

PROBLEM AND SUGGESTION

A critical examination of the main findings of the present study reveals that the agricultural labourers in general and the land less agricultural labourers in particular suffer from the problems of under employment, low wages and poor standard of living. The seasonal nature of agricultural operations compel them for this situation. The absence of cottage and small scale industries also resulted into the problem of low employment, low wages and poor standard of living of the agricultural labourers both with land and without land. The working condition of agricultural labour in general is unhygienic, resulting in to inefficiency of these workers. The low wages and low income of these categories of the rural poors have brought them under indebtedness. The illiteracy, inefficiency and lack of organisation among the agricultural labourers have resulted into their low bargaining power which in turn resulted in to low wages and low income of these people. During peak hours of agricultural operations, they have to work even for more than 12 hours a day which is not at all desirable. The poor resources base of withland agricultural labourers did not allow them to adopt modern farm technology which requires higher investment in the form of HYV seeds, fertilizers, assured irrigation structure etc. The study of income distribution reveals that the agricultural labourers in general lead a very poor standard of living. They spent major portion of their income in fooding and practically incurred very meagre expenditure on health, education and other hygienic conditions. Majority of the agricultural labourers have no saving rather suffer from dissavings, compulsory basic education to the children of agricultural labourer is urgently needed.
To overcome the above problems, it is suggested that the minimum Wages Act should strictly be followed in the rural areas. The working condition of agricultural labourers needs larger improvement. The development of agro-based small scale industries, agro-processing industries, cottage and other small scale industries in the study area may go a long way in increasing the employment and income level of the agricultural labourers. The landless agricultural labourers should be provided with timely and adequate credit facilities through farm financing institutions at differential rate of interest so that they may adopt modern farm technology for increasing their level of production, income and employment through intensive agriculture on one hand and increased production on the other. Greater emphasis is needed for increasing efficiency of agricultural workers through better education of the labourers children and hygienic working conditions in the rural areas. There are several rural development programmes initiated by central/state Govts. like Jawahar Rojgar Yojna. Integrated Rural Development Programme etc. But these programmes have not yielded much to the benefit of agricultural labourers and need greater attention for generating more income and employment opportunities to this category of rural poor. Effective measures are needed to improve their standard of living and education level. The consumption credit by the financial institutions may be given to these people during lean period of employment. No doubt the higher income and employment opportunities through development of agro-based cottage industries, employment oriented Govt. development programmes, Cheap credit facilities and adoption of subsidiary occupations may improve the standard of living of agricultural labourers to a larger extent.

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