CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The over all analysis of the study reveals the fact that there is an inverse relationship between agricultural productivity and level of regional development in Bihar. That is higher levels of development are not associated with the higher levels of agricultural productivity and vice versa. Negligence of agricultural sector in Bihar's planning, lack of irrigation facilities, obsolete method of farming, indebtedness and illiteracy among farmers, nominal use of HYV of seeds, meagre amount of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, lack of land tenure system based on social justice and lack of credit facilities have all combined to put agriculture and consequent regional development in low key in Bihar. It is unfortunate that major portion of agricultural land is still owned by privileged castes/classes of the society who are not only inexperienced cultivator but very often act as petty neo-Zamidars employing landless labourers for paltry wages and pocket the major share of produce. The urbanites in many cases earn, while earning their livelihood in the cities may simultaneously own land in the villages, and enjoy the benefits of neo-feudal system.

In North Bihar plain where per hectare production is comparatively higher the socio-economic standard of population has been recorded low while the reverse is true in case of Chotanagpur plateau. It may have been due to the nature of occupational structure of population and variations in levels of sectoral development of economy in the two major regions of Bihar. Agriculture is the mainstay
of population in northern Bihar where intensive subsistence agriculture is in practice in which all working members get employment in the agricultural peak season and remain without job in the agriculture slack season. The production in North Bihar is relatively higher due to alluvial soils deposited by the rivers in their flood plains in monsoon season. Therefore, in the rabi season farmers generally get good returns inspite of low level of inputs. But their socio-economic status remain low due to high density of population, lack of secondary economic activities, very low level of per-capita production and devastating floods nearly in every monsoon season in which millions of people are rendered homeless and these flood cause great loss of life and property. In the southern part of Bihar, the soils are thin due to hard rocks, less fertile and in undulating and rugged topography the rainfall is less effective and it is very difficult to develop the means of irrigation. The tribal population that dominates in rural areas practice subsistence agriculture and do not like to use modern techniques of agriculture and they generally produce the coarse grains. Consequently, agricultural productivity is low in Chotanagpur plateau as compared to Northern Bihar plain. But, the level of socio economic status of population is high. It has been due to development of infrastructural facilities caused by large scale mining and metallurgical industries that attract a number of migrants in the form of engineers, technicians, and skilled and semiskilled labourers from various part of the country and also from abroad. It is a fact that the socio-economic status of the population engaged in secondary and tertiary economic activities is generally high, though the level of agricultural productivity may be low in particular
For long, electricity generation in Bihar has remained grossly inadequate; electricity is also high priced. In consequence, though the aluminium industry in the country depends on Bihar for high grade bauxite ore, the units are located outside the state. Among the many factors which have hindered Bihar's economic progress, the lack of an adequate road system has been one of the most important. The quality of the surfaced roads in the State has not also been satisfactory as a large proportion of the road suffers from narrow width and inadequate facilities for two way traffic.

The following strategies may be adopted to develop agriculture and minimize the inequalities in the level of regional development in Bihar.

The consumption of modern inputs as high yielding varieties of seeds, chemical fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides, and use of biofertilizers is very low in Bihar. The financial position of farmers is also very poor so they are not in position to use these inputs in agriculture on a large scale. Therefore, government has to provide these inputs to farmers on a subsidized rates and train them to utilize them. By modern inputs the agricultural productivity cannot be increased until water is provided by assured irrigation. In North Bihar plain the devastating floods bring a great havoc in every monsoon season. Constructing dams and reservoirs on these rivers on the one hand the devastation by floods may be controlled on a large extent
and on the other hand by the construction of canals the water may be provided to the farmers in the dry season. Moreover, by generating hydroelectricity from these dams the electricity may be provided to the farmers to operate their tube wells and small scale agro-based and cottage industries.

The labourers in rural areas get employment in agricultural peak season and generally they remain without job during long agricultural slack season. Therefore, they are forced to migrate to the various parts of country. It may be observed, that the trains connecting north Bihar plain to the Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujrat and various other industrial centres, these trains are generally over crowded by the agricultural labourers from Bihar. Thousands of them travel in these trains by sitting on the roofs of the compartment and in railway jerkings a number of them are died. If the small scale agro-based industries as sugarcane, oil, floor, pulse and rice mills are developed in rural areas it will not only provide jobs to redundant agriculture labourers in agricultural slack season but will also on a large extent neutralize the cause of their outmigration to other states where they face a number of problems and also increases the problems of government and workers in these states.

The Bihar is the State in India where the literacy rate in 1991 census has been recorded the lowest. Therefore due to illiteracy and ignorance the farmers spend money on superstitions and traditions and do not have the money to invest in agriculture. They also do not have access in financial institution to get loans and subsidies. Therefore,
any plans of agriculture and other development may not bring the required results until the rural population is educated and the farmers are trained to develop agriculture and to avail the facilities provided by government to develop agriculture and raise their socio-economic status.

New land reform should be intacted either to restore land to the actual tiller or manage the same field through State/cooperatives to improve the conditions of agriculture in the region so that agricultural productivity and the development in true sense may be achieved.

The physical as well as cultural environment of Bihar is most varied. In view of local variation on physical conditions and uneven distribution of the components of modern agricultural technology, it is not possible to put any single plan of agricultural transformation of Bihar as a whole. Because a plan suitable for one region may be quite unsuitable for others. As the overall analysis of the present study reveals the fact that there is underdevelopment of agriculture and regional development in most of the areas of the State, cause by spatial variation in terrain and socio-economic status of population. Therefore, it is the need of hour to increase the agricultural productivity of various crops for feeding teeming millions of population by diffusion of green revolution technology in interior backward area of the state. It may be possible when the state is divided into various micro agro-climatic zones and establishing agricultural research institute in each zone where high yielding varieties of seeds of crops have to be developed. suited
for a particular agro-climatic region after considering the cultural background of the population.

Chotanagpur plateau is the store house of the minerals where a number of ferrous and nonferrous minerals are found in a very small area. The industries based on these minerals have been developed in various parts of the country by the government for bringing regional equilibrium in industrial development of the country.

In most of these industries the unskilled and low paid workers are from Bihar. These workers are inhumanly treated. It is a great injustice that the minerals are transported from Bihar to other states and the poor workers who have the claim over these minerals are running behind to get jobs in those industries where they are used. The recent political instability in the form of Jharkhand movement and various naxilites groups has been due to injustice to them related to the royalty of minerals and their utilization outside the state of Bihar. If you want to develop the Southern Bihar and to provide jobs to the unemployed redundant labourers it may be recommended that processing of the minerals have to be done in the area where they mined and most of metallurgical industries based on Chotanagpur plateau have to be established in various parts of the Bihar, considering the geographical factors and the level of the socio-economic status of population. The most of the job in these industries have to be provided to the native population according to their educational level and technical knowledge.

The topography of southern Bihar is rugged and undulating where inspite of high rainfall there remains scarcity of water throughout the whole
year because rainwater is drained out very soon and it cannot percolate on a large extent as underground water due to hard nature of rocks. However, this water may be stored in reservoirs on very low investment of money and may be used during dry seasons.

The tribal population that dominates in Southern Bihar is having low literacy as compared to the rural population of north Bihar. Therefore, there is need of persistent efforts by government and NGOs. to raise the literacy level of tribal population and to diffuse inputs and technology of green revolution in the remote backward area of Southern Bihar. As, it has been pointed out in the beginning that level of socio-economic development is higher in Southern Bihar as compared to Northern Bihar, but if we compare only the population engaged in agriculture then level of regional development in Southern Bihar is much low because various civic and infrastructural facilities are mainly concentrated in the urban areas and they are totally under the clutches of the people, engaged in secondary and tertiary economic activities. Therefore, it is the need of the hour that specific programmes have to be launched to develop the rural tribal population so that this section of the population may be brought into the mainstream of the nation.

As a consequence of these steps there would be overall development of the region in which agricultural as well as the industrial sector of the regional economy will develop and prosper simultaneously. The incomes obtained from the development of industrial sector should be used on education, health facilities and leisure resulting in social as well as cultural development.
However, nothing could be achieved and above mentioned remedial measures will remain ineffective until the exponential growth of population is checked.