INTRODUCTION
The process of economic growth involves a significant change in the economic activities over different regions or areas along with a change in the structure of the economy. This process reflects a spatial dimension in the process of growth. It has been successful in some areas where as some areas have continued to remain backward in the sense that the pace of development has been far below than the rate of development in other areas. This has led to think whether, there has been something wrong in the design of development pursued in the earlier years or there is a need for a special kind of design of development for such backward areas. Therefore when development over different areas occurs, unequally, it becomes a crucial from all angles-political, economic, social and ethnical considerations. An unchecked and uncontrolled process of growth, leading to regional imbalance, results in numerous economic, social and cultural problems. These problems take a serious shape and subsequently become hard to eliminate. The inequalities, lead to incomplete utilization of resources and to a growth of public costs involved in functioning of its economy. In the developing countries, the regional factors cause many economic and social-problems. Regional imbalances lead to under-utilization or even to non-utilization of economic resources both natural
and human. In countries like Pakistan (East vs West) and Indonesia (Java vs Other Islands) regional economic and political problems proved too critical and in fact resulted in the bifurcation of Pakistan in 1971. In India also there is regional imbalance in north and south. Similarly within the states there is imbalance, e.g. Uttar Pradesh is divided into Western Uttar Pradesh, Central Uttar Pradesh and Eastern Uttar Pradesh, on the basis of economic, political and resource problems.

Once the disparities are established, they get accentuated. It is a well known fact that the region or area which is already developed attract more activities, by virtue of their location in developed areas. This leads to unequal growth. Once the unequal rates of growth develop, they will tend to perpetuate themselves due to the economies of concentration. Thus even though regions get developed initially due to natural advantages or historical reasons, they will keep on growing because of the advantage of concentration.

During the process of growth due to concentration effect, the growing region also spreads some of its dynamism to other areas and leads to centrifugal effects. But such effects are
rare. More often such regions exert centripetal forces and drain the marginal areas of any growth potential they might have had. Thus the developed areas grow faster at the cost of less developed areas. If the situation is such that centripetal forces are getting accentuated equity considerations demand government intervention and government action to reduce regional disparities and to check the centripetal forces exerted by the developed regions.

Thus there is a need to reduce this regional imbalance. For this, the first important point is in term of social justice. It is believed that income inequalities can be reduced by way of reducing regional disparities. The social justice demands that all citizens are treated alike and given an equal opportunity in life. Therefore, it is important to bear it in mind that an individual should not be made worse off one area and better off in another. This is possible only when inter-regional disparities in the levels of development are ironed off. Similarly reduction in regional imbalances is crucial even from the point of accelerating the growth of the economy. There is a sort of complementarity between reduction in regional disparities and accelerated economic growth. It is empirically tested that the poor countries are characterized by large and growing regional disparities and the rich countries are generally characterized
by small and diminishing gaps. Therefore reduction of regional
imbalances is essential from the point of maintaining national
integration, political stability and unity also. If it is neglected
and unchecked then these disparities are capable for serious
dimensions, and threatening the very existence of a nation.

In the context of reduction of regional disparities, the
concept of backward area/region, its identification and
measures of the extent of backwardness, need to be
understood clearly. Any strategy adopted for backward area
development has to begin with the identification of regions
according to their differential levels of development. Next task
is to formulate policies, programmes and plans based on the
regional characters, their requirements and their capacities.
The strategy that is required is one of promoting that sector,
which is backward and whose backwardness is hindering the
overall progress of the region.

Thus in order to achieve the objective of promoting the
growth rate in backward areas/regions and to reduce regional
disparities it is essential to identify regions according to the
levels of development and to assess the relative positions of
the regions and to delineate homogeneous areas/regions, so
that for different type of regions, different strategies may be adopted.

In spite of the increasing awareness of these aspects and growing importance of micro-level plans, very little has been done in the field of regional planning in India. Systematic attempt of identification of backward areas/regions and a study of physiographic, and socio-economic structure and typology of development has not been done on the scale that could be of any operational significance. Any attempt of this problem is confined only to the state or district level.

District level studies are very lacking in the country. In the name of identification of backward areas/regions, very crude and partial indicators of development are used to identify regions at the state level or district level. In the name of district level plans, what we have some employment schemes, which cannot be taken to replace a comprehensive district plan. These programmes do not go beyond fixing some targets and these target percolate from the top administrative unit.

In recent years we have been made more aware of the problems of agricultural development especially the self-sufficiency in agricultural production in general and food-
production in particular. The achievement of self-sufficiency implies that the level of domestic production is at least adequate to meet the basic needs of the existing population. Secondly, development of agriculture is of a great importance for the overall economic development of a country like India, where more than 70 percent of people directly or indirectly are engaged and dependent on agriculture as well as its large share in national income.

But this sector of economy has different dimensions of problems i.e. explosive growth of population and slow rate of growth of food crops production as well as regional variations in levels and growth of food-grains production. The most aggravating and serious situation in agricultural economy is an uneven distribution of agricultural land which causes widespread poverty and food problems among a certain group of farmers which is known as disadvantaged groups in rural community. Thus the problem of food production and to achieve food self-sufficiency level is a complex one. A number of investigation programmes have been made by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, National Council of Applied Economic Research, Planning Commission, Food and Agricultural Ministry and various other organizations and research institutes, but still the problem is to be solved.
Considering all these aspects, the author selected Eastern Uttar Pradesh to study the levels of development in different districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh during the period 1981 to 1998.

**OBJECTIVES:**

In the present work, an attempt has been made to study the regional co-operation for the social well-being of the people of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Eastern Uttar Pradesh is taken as the study area because it is one of the most important agricultural area of Uttar Pradesh and about two-third rural population is engaged in agricultural activities. Keeping this in mind, a detailed study of Eastern Uttar Pradesh is undertaken to see the socio-economic development in different fields such as the regional poverty, availability of basic needs of the population, development of economies and the use of resources and potential of the region and growth of the regional self-reliance in different districts of study region. The basic aims of the study are:

1. To identify the factors responsible for inter-districts variations in the regional development and trend of planning.
2. To study the development of agriculture and infrastructural facilities in Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

3. To study the socio-economic development like industries, education, health, co-operatives, banks, communications, power and transportation etc. in the study region.

4. To estimate the levels of production of food crops and to find out the per head share of food grains with the positive and negative areas of food availability.

5. To assess the demand and supply of food grains in Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

DATABASE:

For a successful planning and analysis of various problems data are essential. Regional development is a complex problem, therefore collection and sources of data should be reliable and upto date to achieve accurate conclusion for decision making and future planning. Without the knowledge and clear understanding of the comparatability of data over time as well as pit falls and the gaps one may lead to faulty results.

In the present study, the data has been obtained from the published literature, government reports and state
statistical bulletins, district statistical bulletins, daily and weekly newspaper; unpublished records of the public administration and semi-government agencies. The sources of data utilized in the present study are enlisted below:

1. Survey of India Topo-sheets.
2. Census of India.
5. Economics and Statistics Division, State Planning Institute, Uttar Pradesh.
6. Districts Gazetters of different districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh.
7. Department Districts Head Office records.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Methodology in any study is generally continued by the objectives and database of the study. For the present work a number of methods, analysis and techniques have been used. For instance to measure the regional disparities and social-
economic development “Composite Index” technique has been used. This technique has been used to determine the levels of development in different districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. For this, author has selected nine sectors namely:- agriculture, industries, education, transport, health, communication, banking, power and co-operative societies. Data of these nine sectors is collected for the years – 1981, 1991 and 1998. Similarly, to find out the level of food self-sufficiency in different districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh percent growth rate of area, production and productivity of cereals and pulses for the period of 1981 to 1998 is calculated. On the basis of this calculation it is estimated that whether the districts have per head surplus production or they have deficit production. On the basis of these results future suggestions have been made to remove the regional disparities and to achieve self-sufficiency in the study region.

**HYPOTHESIS:**

1. Developed areas are self-reliant in food grains.

2. Development is uneven.

3. Levels of infrastructural development are reflected in the socio-economic conditions of the people living in area.
4. Inter-districts disparities exist in the levels of development.

The present work is divided into two parts and five chapters.

Part one comprises of Introduction and chapter first and second. Chapter first deals with the problems related to backwardness while chapter second deals with the concept, strategy for regional development and planning and role of planning.

Part two includes chapter third, fourth and fifth. Chapter third makes an attempt to analyse the physical features, drainage, climate and soils of the study area. Chapter fourth is devoted to study the socio-economic development in different districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, the last chapter presents the concept of food-security, supply and demand of food grains and surplus and deficit in food availability in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. On the basis of above study, conclusion and further suggestions have also been made for the entire region.