INTRODUCTION
The present study is an attempt to analyse the economic development of Indian agriculture and the new social climate and temperament expected to pervade the rural life during the period of India's First Five Year Plan. In other words, the main objective of this study is to find out the actual increase in agricultural production and improvement in the economic well-being of rural population in the period. However, we are not only concerned with a single, once-for-all development which exhausts itself, but something which is initiated and expected to go on so that each phase contains the germs for future expansion. During this continuing process of economic development of basic interest are the changes that are expected to take place in institutions, organizations, beliefs, attitudes and their inter-relationships, since economic development implies important changes, not only in relative quantities of labour, capital and natural resources, in their efficiency, and in the ratios of output to input of these factors, but also modifications in economic structure and economic relations.

A well-developed agriculture, an essential element of balanced national economic growth, has always been a source of strength and a foundation of prosperity for every economically advanced country in the world. The agricultural and non-agricultural sectors of the economy are tied to each other by means of a number of economic relationships, and in the process of economic development they exercise profound influence on each other. On the one hand, agriculture supplies many of the essential requirements such as raw materials for industrial sector and foodgrains for the industrial labour force. On the other, the agricultural sector is an important market for the goods produced
by the industries, both for consumption by individuals and for the rise in the agricultural operations. Though both sectors are equally important for balanced economic development, the common experience is that their rate of development begins to differ widely over the period of development. The non-agricultural sector normally grows faster than the agricultural sector in a developing economy. Therefore, the problem of maintaining an appropriate developmental relationship between these two sectors invites a most careful analysis of the actual situation and its future possibilities.

After independence, the Government of India and States' Governments engaged themselves in the task of the formulation and implementation of schemes designed for a planned development of the Indian agriculture. The First Five Year Plan stressed the need of a rapid development of agricultural sector together with an accelerated pace of economic development of Indian economy as a whole. In other words, the First Plan aimed at the introduction of important institutional, structural and organisational changes with a view to promote higher efficiency in the agricultural sector. Some of these institutional and organisational changes brought about during the First Plan period relate to the introduction of Panchayati Raj in rural areas, and the establishment of Community Development Projects and National Extension Services on an all India basis. Structural changes related to the strengthening and expansion of irrigation facilities and provided for larger investment meant to increase the size of agricultural production and the development of industries ancillary to agriculture and also fostering widespread co-operation among the rural community.
Since the main objective of the present study is to determine and evaluate the progress of agricultural sector during the First Plan period, it was felt necessary to draw the picture of the state of Indian agriculture preceding the First Plan. The First Chapter therefore, deals with this period and provides the necessary background to a realistic study of the results obtained during the First Plan. In this Chapter, vital information such as the size of population and its dependence on agriculture, the contribution of agricultural sector to total national product, the trend rate of different crops, the pattern of land utilization and per acre yield is condensed for necessary reference.

The Second Chapter deals with the aims and nature of agricultural planning in India as embodied in her First Five Year Plan. It covers a study of policies, programmes and investment allocation undertaken both by the Union and the State Governments during this period.

In the Third Chapter, attention has been focussed on the actual rate of economic growth in the agricultural sector due to its planned development in the First Plan. The main query is that how far projected targets were attained? How different policies were maintained and what has been their success? What has been the actual size of physical inputs and the corresponding supply of agricultural commodities due to specific improvements? In other words, it is an attempt to obtain definite information about the actual success and failure of the historical First Five Year Plan.
The Final Chapter is devoted to an appraisal of the official agricultural policies during this period in order to determine their contribution toward the development of the agricultural sector. In other words, it incorporates our main findings regarding the role of developmental planning in the context of specific requirements of Indian agriculture.