"Regional Planning is an imperative to the economic development of a region". 1 Recently, its role in achieving national goals and objectives of development received due recognition. It is now increasingly realised that the benefits of development can reach the people only when they are direct participants in the planning of their destiny. There is a strong belief that macro-level planning often leads to disparities in regional and areal development, bypassing the people who are socially and economically less prepared to share the benefits of development at the national level. Micro-level planning on the other hand attempts to secure the best conditions and possibilities for an all-round development by minimising and ultimately eliminating inter-regional and intra-regional differences. It will also make the best possible use of natural endowments and human potentialities of the region to improve the quality of life. Thus, its comprehensive nature is not restricted to economic aspects alone. Its

distributive justice eliminates the differences in the levels of living and finally creates conditions for the total development of the people of a region.

REGIONAL PLANNING: SYNONYMOUS WITH REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY:

Regional planning is made synonymous with regional development policy. It can be interpreted as spatial or locational planning. The term "regional" gained currency because in a number of countries planning is associated first and still for the most part with specific regions. As D.G. Tungare rightly observes "Regional planning is planning for development of a region which is demarcated on geographical or economic considerations and is designed for the development of the resources of that region".2 The basic concept in the approach to planning is that the plans are conditioned by the given physical situation, natural resources and the levels of socio-economic development already reached and that the plans are drawn up for the development of the potential of the region with due regard to the problems of the region and

the needs as ascertained by the systematic statistical assessment of such potential. Thus in response to the requirements and problems in the socio-economic development process, the economic and social development planning is gradually embracing new areas and enriching new links and dimensions. One of these links and dimensions is regional (sub-national) development planning in its various forms and applications around the world. Its root seem to be rightly traced by the following observation of Friedmann and Alonso. 

“In the few years the nations have sought economic development as an explicit goal, it has become clear that the arithmetical of macro-economics has need of and is made powerful by the geometry of regional considerations. Not only must decisions be made on how much the scarce resources shall be allocated to a given purpose, but also on which investments shall take place. Regions and space are a neglected but a necessary dimension of the theory and practice of economic development. Without the spatial point of view, the analysis is incomplete, somewhat like a two-dimensional projection of a three-dimensional object”.

The reasons for a regional approach to planning can be summarised as follows:

1) The space in which human beings live and work, is real. To ignore space and its continuity in our planning is to ignore a basic reality.

2) Space when seen in three dimensions is synonymous with environment, spatial planning and environmental planning.

3) Space being a common denominator in all human activities, spatial planning cuts across and integrates all human activities. Hence it is easy to operate when a sectoral plan within a spatial framework but difficult to do the opposite.

4) Resources are space bound. Planning for resource development has therefore to be spatial planning.

5) Human activities and natural resources at any given stage of development are maldistributed. This distribution itself is a cause as well as an effect of the evolving of spatial structure of human activities. To minimise the adverse effects of maldistribution we have to plan for a new structure of human activities which can offset the natural disadvantages of the backward areas.

The planning philosophy of any nation, therefore, has to give due importance to socio-economic-cum-spatial planning. "Planning has to become a way of life and has to be attempted at many territorial levels, to fulfil the aspirations of even the smallest units of society and to improve the environmental quality and ecological balance, while the natural and human resources available are fully utilised for the common good".  

PURPOSE OF REGIONAL PLANNING:

While the regional approach in planning is widely accepted, its purpose is viewed with indifference by many. But whatever may be the divergent opinions on the effectiveness of regional planning, it definitely serves the purpose of providing a framework for integrated development between different sectors and regions of the economy. It also provides broad guidelines for the development of the region. Regional planning involves basically the preparation of an integrated plan for land use and settlements in the region specified. It has town or land-use planning as an integral part and in the opinion of Prof. K.V. Sundaram  

regional planning is a miniature master plan for the city. It designs the transport and traffic patterns which are responsible for the optimal movement of people, goods and services, between producing and consuming areas. It also helps to bring integration and coordination between the physical and economic and social components in a region, between the different levels of a region and between different regions, during the development process. Comprehensive regional planning, however, is still a theoretical concept that needs testing by case studies before it can be accepted universally as a goal in planning. But its implementation is strongly advocated where there are conflicts arising out of administrative jurisdictions, resource patterns and sharp contrasts in the levels of development between regions of a country which is in the process of development.

**INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Regional planning is oriented to the future and attempts to utilize the resources - natural human and others - to the fullest extent in order to develop the economy of the country as well as of each region. According to Hermansen "there exists a close interdependence between
national development and the structure and evolution of the spatial pattern of human activities*. Only when regional and national planning are hand in glove with each other, the fruits of developments are equally distributed among the regions and the gap between national and regional achievements is minimised. The economic and social development within each region is so articulated and designed that it gives rise to an environment which is conducive to the physical and mental health of the people. In other words regional planning is concerned with the ordering of human activities in supra-urban space. It aims simultaneously at economic development, social justice and environmental quality. As such regional development planning is recognised as an important tool in the implementation of development objectives. It is increasingly felt that not only certain balance is necessary between national and regional and local development objectives, but also that the national development strategy should be a general guide-post for local development, aspirations and goals. The general tendency now is, towards the absorption

of the regional development planning by the comprehensive national planning as its integral part and operational leverage, yet not necessarily towards the centralisation of planning. Thence, national and regional development planning has proved to be mutually complementary and supportive but not a substitute for each other. In the words of B.P.R. Vithal, "the complementarity of the two has not only to be appreciated but a constant working up and down would be required before such complementarity is achieved in the plan in physical and financial forms".  

"Regional planning is therefore essentially an exercise in coordination aimed at both improving the economic foundations of a region and meeting its physical and social needs, within the framework of national needs resources and potential".  Virtually identical opinion may be found in the recent U.N. Study: "Although a variety of approaches and methodologies are utilized in regional planning there is one unifying factor common to all of them: this is the comprehensiveness of regional planning, calling into play the economic, social and physical aspects of development. A comprehensive planning approach helps to avoid the


problems commonly associated with a sectoral approach in investment programmes such as preparing isolated development schemes for urban centres, developing rural programmes without regard for the inevitable urban consequences, and trying to promote industry without establishing the necessary ties with infrastructure and agriculture. 10

THE NEED TO COMPROMISE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INTERESTS:

The above discussion makes it clear that in evolving economic planning, there should be no conflict between national-regional interests and they have to be compromised. All nations have to face regional conflicts because some regions in a country are abundant in resources while others are not. Certain investments are technically inadvisable which preclude their fragmentation and distribution. Certain locations are more attractive for further industrial development since they already possess the required infrastructure such as markets, banks, transport, electric power engineering and repair services. These factors lead to differential rather than a uniform rate of growth of different geographical areas. When resources

are spread thinly for "balanced regional growth" no growth is possible. Herein comes the need of compromising regional planning and national planning. No doubt, the planning efforts of any nation, in the first instance, is restricted to national level. The first preoccupation of the government is to seek the path of accelerated economic development of the country as a whole. As a corollary of this decision the governments frequently hold the belief that regional development planning is something of luxury to be postponed till the later stage of the national development. But this is an erroneous belief because regional development, in one sense or the other, is the aim of any planning exercise and the national and regional planning should go hand in hand with each other. In support of this view Amitabha Kundu says "the need for decentralised decision-making in the context of national planning is being increasingly realised in many countries with different political and institutional set up and experiments are being made to implement it in practice".11

REASONS FOR INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL OPTIMISATION:

While national and regional planning are consistent with each other, there are at least three important reasons for the optimisation at a national level being inconsistent with optimisation at regional level\(^{12}\) (1) where there are multi-dimensional economic goals, the preference patterns of regions may be such that there will not be a consistent ordering of the goals at the national level (2) even if maximisation of output were the only goal each region's share in the re-location costs needed to achieve it, may not be equal to their share in the resultant gain (3) in either case, external economies in production, extending across regional boundaries, may not be ignored.

RECONCILIATION BETWEEN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL INTERESTS:

Inconsistency between regional and national optimisation need not be a hindrance to integrate national and regional planning. According to Banamali De, by taking into

consideration the following factors, a reconciliation may be arrived at between national and regional planning. The following factors:

1. The fact that the resources of the nation are limited.
2. The need to balance the aim of removing regional disparities with that of enriching the whole economy.
3. The criteria to have equitable distribution of income over regions or over individuals.
4. The defining of the determinants of a region and the criteria of measuring disparities between the regions.
5. The advisability to industrialise a region even if it is less advantageous compared with other regions.

**Scope of Regional Planning Differs from Region to Region:**

Even though, regional planning has become an accepted policy in all the countries, the scope of regional planning will be different in different countries and in different regions of a country depending upon differences in natural resource endowment, locational advantage and other factors. Therefore, regional plan indicates for each region its optimum pattern of development and for the nation an economic map showing which activities should be...

located in which region and how activities located in different regions should be related. Regional planning is greatly concerned with locational aspects, because location plays an important role in the economic growth of regions. Locational decisions have the same effect on economic growth as decisions relating to choice of technique. But the economic consideration of returns on investment has to be balanced against social and political considerations by the planners. The formulation of a regional plan must make sure that each region contributes to the national growth process in accordance with its natural and human resources through its own optimum development.

LEVELS OF REGIONAL PLANNING:

For regional development policies to be effective planning is needed on at least three levels. 14 (1) At the level of national economic planning, it is necessary to set the stage for specific plans to individual regions. Policy decisions at national level on the rate of growth of the national product are basic inputs in any regional analysis. For example, to persuade businessman to expand

their productivity in the less prosperous areas, it is essential that the national business prospects should be sufficiently encouraging to induce in the businessmen, a strong desire for expansion. There is then, in a mixed economy, where private enterprise is still important, a need to create a favourable national economic environment if the policy of location of industry is to be effective.

(2) The second level of planning is regional economic planning proper. This will involve an understanding of the operation of individual regional economies. (3) The third level of planning is town and country planning, concerned largely with the design of the social infrastructure. This level of planning, in determining the layout of urban areas, the design of a transport network, and the design of public utility services on a local basis, plays an important part in making the less prosperous areas more attractive. Town and country planning for instance, is a source of external economics for firms deciding to set up business in these areas. "From the regional point of view" according to W. Birmingham and "all three levels should be co-ordinated".15

15 Ibid., p. 108.
whatever may be the levels of regional planning, the question that arises is, what should be the appropriate unit of regional planning? one of the criteria to decide it is, that it must have unified characteristics for services and facilities. it must be large enough to be integrated into national policy while not being too far away from regional interests. some compare the various levels of authority to a pyramid wherein the apex, is the central authority, the middle, the regional authority and the bottom, the local authority. it is not however satisfactory to consider regional development as a sub-division of national development nor should it be identified with special projects to help less favoured regions. regional development is rather a system in which national and regional interests are integrated into a single development policy. planning at national level is concerned with macro economic factors on the basis of quantitative analysis. regional planning however combines national and individual interests and thus integrates both the macro and micro levels. thus regions are agents intimately connected with the formulation and actively charged with the implementation of the national plan. in the process of development, the region
fulfils two roles: the first which could be called vertical, provides the link in the planning of sectoral production, and the second, namely horizontal, makes possible that integration of all factors, economic and others, which together determine the course of development. "A region" thus, in the opinion of V.L.S. Prakasa Rao, "need not be delimited by natural geographical boundaries or administrative boundaries for purpose of planning".16

TWO TYPES OF SPATIAL PLANNING:

1. ADAPTIVE TYPE

Having realised the close interdependence between national development and the evolution of spatial pattern of human activities, T. Hermansen says that "unless we plan to change the spatial structure of these activities, the basic social, economic and environment goals of planning will be inadequately achieved and a move forward in one sector may retard progress in other sectors".17 Spatial planning can be of two types: Adoptive and developmental. Adoptive spatial planning is based primarily on a recog-


nition of the impact of general trends of development on the spatial system. The evolution of the latter is conceived as a response to the pressure and requirements of national economic development. "The task of adoptive planning is then to streamline the process of spatial evolution so as to achieve at any point in time a spatial structure which matches the needs of the industry for efficiency and growth".18

2. DEVELOPMENTAL TYPE:

Developmental or active spatial planning on the other hand sets itself a more ambitious task. Based on the recognition of the interplay and feedback relations between economic development and spatial evolution, it seeks to identify and achieve within a dynamic and historical context a pattern of evolution of the spatial structure that at any point in time is judged to be most efficient from the point of view of promoting a sustained process of rapid economic development. In this way "the spatial organisation of the economic and socio-cultural activity is conceived as a means to promote long-term development ... rather than viewing spatial organisation

18 Ibid., p. 2.
as something which should be adopted to existing trends of development".19

REGIONAL PLANNING: WHAT IT INVOLVES:

1. STATE INTERVENTION:

"Regional Planning starts from the possibility of purposive external intervention shaping social activities and regulating the pace and direction of the movement of social and economic organisations in order to achieve given goals through stated means and procedures within a given time".20 Ecological regional studies are of utmost importance to the planner in framing his strategy, defining his objectives and appreciating the limits of interventionist action. However the basic postulate of the regional planner is possible effectiveness of external intervention and also the desirability in human and social terms of such intervention. The agent of such intervention is largely the state or some organ of the state.

19 Ibid., p. 3.
2. UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE DEPRESSED AREAS

A regional planner has to understand specific problems chiefly affecting the depressed areas or the relatively backward areas. They present a special problem of economics which, to a significant extent, has been uninfluenced by forces which brought growth or diversion in the rest of the economy. "The metropolitan regions through high concentration of population and economic activity also present another set of special problems in relation to provision of socio-economic overheads and even maintenance of law and order". In relation to such set of problems the general term regional planning has relevance because, it is a distinct geographic area with certain homogeneity in terms of economic characteristics or socio-economic structure which presented the special problems.

3. TREATING REGIONAL PLANNING AS A COUNTRYWIDE EXERCISE

During the postwar period and especially in relation to the underdeveloped countries planning has been taken up as an exercise which is country-wise and not related to

particular problems of specific areas. In India and many other under-developed countries the efforts made are of this character. In this context it does not appear appropriate to talk of regional planning unless, somewhat different connotation is given to the old term. Where the economic development of a whole country is being planned by the government of the country the planning areas tend to be identified with administrative divisions. For instance, in India, planning is carried on at separate levels by the national government for the country as a whole and for each state by its government. Even within the state also Indian planning is related to district administrative regions. The latest developments in devolution and extension of local self government have resulted in the creation of the Zilla Parishads, the planning activities of which have become co-terminous with the boundaries of the district. Thus there is a division of plan powers and activities as between the state and the district. Geographic considerations are most powerful in state planning as well as in district planning. Sometimes, the concept of a region cuts across some of these areas. Climatical geographic regions and homogeneous agricultural regions cut across, district boundaries. Any government
should tackle the problems of a particular geographic or agricultural region by adopting a particular planning approach in relation to them.

4. MAINTAINING OF PROPER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS OF THE COUNTRY:

According to Prof. D.R. Gadgil in regional planning sufficient attention has to be shown to the relation between planning and administrative divisions of the country.22 This has two aspects. One is the study of a meaningful area or regional division of each constituent unit—the country, the state or the district. Such study indicates how best the planning authority can analyse its planning problems in terms of areas and integrate programmes meaningful in a state or a district plan. The other problem is to think in terms specifically of geographic regions and to indicate how, their potentialities and requirements can be incorporated in the plans of particular administrative areas.

5. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SPILL-OVER EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT:

In planning for the development of backwardness of regions and remedies sought for them a large number of factors which may be historical, institutional, and political have to be taken into account. A study of the extent of spill-over effects of economic development of any centre or region has shown in some cases that those effects are limited only to the confines of surrounding area and not far from the area. But it is different in the case of Bombay. The effects of development in terms of urban and industrial economy have spread far into the hinterland as seen in growth of vegetables and farming in areas distant from Bombay. "In some areas, as one finds in India, imitation is quick and innovation spreads quickly. In other areas this does not happen to anything like the same extent. The planner, if he is, in fact, attempting to do regional planning has to take account of them". 23

6. LOOKING INTO THE DISTANT FUTURE:

As the planner looks to a fairly distant future, he has to study the existing situation in relation to

ultimate objectives and ability that he possesses to transform the situation in the desired direction. The spatial planning of centres of economic activity at various levels and the related facilities - pattern, must be appropriately fashioned now, if the distant aim of the dispersal of industry to distress regions has to be achieved in the long run.

In the ultimate analysis, the main justification for detailed regional planning lies in the fact of significant local variations. It comes into its own, only when it is realised that the particular local situations, structures and patterns of action and reaction must be taken fully into consideration in a large number of aspects of not only plan programmes but also of plan strategy. Regional planning is thus worthwhile only when it is based on adequate information, put in a meaningful frame, and when it proceeds progressively supported by greater and greater inputs of investigation, research and analysis.

**AIMS OF REGIONAL PLANNING**

There are four principal aims of regional economic planning. They can be stated as: (1) The planning

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of economic development and investment in accordance not only with the need to promote the overall progress of the national economy but also with the diverse needs and potentialities of the different regions and with the geographical distribution of the population and manpowers. (2) The maintenance and encouragement of the social and cultural basis of the life of the regional populations, including the preservation and best use of natural, cultural and resources. (3) A reduction of the imbalance between regions in the distribution of economic activity and in the levels of income, prosperity and welfare. (4) The planning of the physical environment and infrastructure including housing, communications and other forms of fixed capital in accordance with consistent and coherent national, inter-regional and regional aims and with the economic resources available.

The emphasis on these objectives varies according to circumstances and needs but it is impracticable to treat economic, physical and social planning in isolation from each other. Regional Planning is, therefore, essentially an exercise in coordination aimed at both improving the economic foundations of a region and meeting its physical and social needs, within the framework
of national needs, priorities and potential. But such obstacles as shortage of trained personnel, lack of adequate regional administrative machinery and lack of funds, fear of unleashing the centrifugal forces - to mention only a few, are inhibiting or debilitating the attempts at supplementing national planning by regional planning. Singh, T. feels that the subject is multidimensional by its very nature and should be dealt with accordingly.25

STRATEGY FOR REGIONAL PLANNING:

In order to realise the aims and objectives, a strategy for regional planning has to be evolved. According to B.P.R. Vithal, "the first step is to take a rough inventory of the resources of the region on the basis of which the common problems of development of the country could be identified and possible goals of specialisation spelt out." The next step is to indicate a strategy of development for the region within the overall strategy for the nation as a whole. In this context, after collecting the data, analysing it, and indicating the strategy

the national level authorities would be able to indicate, with the technical expertise available to them, the objectives with regard to various areas and broad priorities. In respect of each area the primary activity to be developed will have to be indicated. Based on this overall perspective and the priorities indicated by the authorities at national level, those at the regional level should be able to take more informed decisions relating to priorities and should be able to work out their plan within the physical and financial constraints. Similarly when the plans are consolidated at the national level, the implications of the proposals received from the various regions should be better appreciated and integrated into the state priorities.

Where certain stages in the preparation of regional plans are purely technical and require institutional arrangements for the collection of the basic data on the one hand and for consultation with the technical and administrative officials at various levels on the other, the preparation of the regional plans and the evolution of a strategy can be finalised only after consultation with the people's representatives also, at various levels. Just as the administrative machinery has different
echelons, so also are the people's representative institutions available at different levels. The process of consultation will therefore have to be one that would be going up and down these various levels. A broad strategy for instance could be evolved initially by consultations at the regional or national level, so that the preliminary work is commenced on this basis. "This would then have to be modified to suit actual existing conditions at different levels by consultations with people's institutions and representatives at those levels. The final process of integration into a regional plan and a national plan will again have to be done by consultations at the national level."  

METHODOLOGY FOR REGIONAL PLANNING:

'Planning in stages' approach to regional planning developed by Prof. Tinbergen, is the appropriate methodology for developing countries. Essentially the approach is concerned with introducing the element of space in the national plan by making the region a planning

27 Ibid., p. 11.

unit, and by taking explicitly into account (1) the difference in production costs in different regions which reflect the differences in factor endowments; (2) the differences in transportation costs which reflect difference in distance and the degree of mobility of the factors of production; and (3) the differences in income targets which reflect different regional interests. After thus introducing spatial dimension into the national plan the 'planning in stages' approach strives to achieve the objectives of the plan such as maximising the productivity of resources and increasing the level of employment.

The introducing of three spatial elements results in various types of complicated planning models where, within the framework of a national development plan the optional increases in production by sector and by region are determined; optimal in the sense that production and transportation costs for the country are minimised while regional income targets are satisfied.

**SURVEYS, STATISTICS AND ANALYSIS:**

The ECAFE Secretariat suggests\(^29\) that formation of regional plans should be preceded by (1) surveys, (2)

\(^29\) ECAFE Secretariat in its paper presented on "Comprehensive Regional Development Planning" to the Sixth International Seminar on Development Planning: Regional (Subnational) Planning, Quito (25 September 1971), p.15.
preparation of maps on specific aspects of development of the region such as forestry, geology, hydrography, location of major developments etc., (3) statistical data on agricultural activity and yields, livestock, landscape pattern, occupational pattern, urban pattern, urban and rural relationship; (4) regional income and social accounts; (5) industrial location analysis to determine in what region or regions a particular industry would achieve the lowest total cost of producing and delivering its product to market; (6) strategic connections of the region commodity and money flow analysis; (7) industrial complex identification study of locating an industrial complex in one/some identified nodes; (8) transport planning; and (9) project planning to ensure that existing projects and economic activities are linked up and integrated within the region and between regions and to formulate new projects which would utilize regional resources with necessary complementary imports and promote integration between activities and regions.

FORMULATION, PRESENTATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL PLANS:

1. FORMULATION:

Formulation of interacting regional plan frames within the national (aggregative and sectoral) plan frame
is indeed a complex process. There is the question of 'Planning from Below' and 'Planning from Above'. Prof. Frisch advocates planning from above to prevent incorrect decisions with regard to the optimal use of scarce resources. Perhaps to allow regional initiative and a sense of participation and optimal use of human and material resources, planning may start from below but there should be interaction.

2. PRESENTATION:

A regional plan should clearly indicate (1) Economic Plan that takes into account (a) regional gross domestic product - overall sectors - rate of growth; (b) plan investment/output by sectors; (c) projects/programmes; (d) domestic resources on the basis of economic growth; and consumption and inflow of capital; and (e) scheme of financing - public/private. (2) Physical Plan consisting of (a) land use - in relation to the planning patterns of industry and urban hierarchy; (b) industry - interindustry relation, present and planned in their agglomeration in one locality and interdependence between different locations of economic activity within and outside.

the region and an analysis of the impact on urbanisation
rur-urban integration, increase in the level of employ-
ment and diversification. (3) Population patterns of
urban/rural, present pattern, growth trends and the impact
of the planned pattern of regional development. (4)
Settlement patterns of urban/rural taking into account
population and occupation patterns. (5) Transport and
Power network taking into account the settlement patterns
in the regional plan, and (6) Social development pro-
grammes, taking into account the settlement, patterns - rural
and urban for which social amenities will have to be pro-
vided and the industrial development patterns.

3. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

A variety of measures has to be adopted for the
implementation of regional development plans. The for-
mation and implementation of sound industrial location policy
is of crucial significance. Looked at in terms of rela-
tive advantages in resources markets, human skills, ameni-
ties, climate, transport facilities and cost and the rest
of it, a region can hope to attract according to its re-
lative advantages and disadvantages with regard to input-
output access only labour intensive industries or processing
industries or assembly operations or intensive recreating activities and so on. An active regional policy of the Government can enhance a region's locational advantages very substantially.

As in an indicative plan much of the investments in industry, construction and transport have to flow from the private sector for balanced regional development, a considerable improvement has to be made in integrating the private sector with the aims and policies of the national plan. Leon Moses says that "Locational policy of the Government either in the form of stimuli or deterrents should be consistent, continuous and well publicised in order to promote steady flow of private investments in the designated regions".31

TASKS OF REGIONAL PLANNING:

1. COORDINATION OF LOCAOTIONAL DECISIONS:

In regional planning, the location decisions are important. The general contemporary trend is towards foot-loose industries as well as towards gradually easing rigidity of location determinants.32 The spatial approach to


development planning is identifying the potential development poles which are usually towns and industrial complexes evidently endowed with backward and forward linkages which means the capacity to induce expansion to the input-delivery activities or to those directly oriented for final demand. This should be the objective of both the national and regional development planning. In some cases there are regional objectives which determine the selection of projects and their functions so that they are fitted into the region.

2. CO-ORDINATION OF TARGETS:

The links between national and regional planning are manifold. If the national planning is taken as the main instrument of national development policy, regional planning should be subsidiary instrument which per se does not preclude sufficient degree of autonomy and responsibility entrusted with the local bodies. Investments are among the most important factors of dynamics in the spatial structure of an economy. In majority cases, an investment project starts the chain reaction in the surrounding space. The participation of local people, and their initiative is really crucial factor in this matter. Local support for,
and response to the planned venture may encourage compe-
tition or apathy between one area and the other. All
these factors have to be taken into account in coordina-
ting the targets of national and regional plans.

3. COORDINATION IN TIME:

Coordination between regions' and national eco-
nomy's development is usually determined by the time-
horizon of a national plan. Certain investment projects,
because of their size and costs, require a period of
time more than one plan (river projects, urban industrial
complex development etc.). Therefore the regional deve-
lopment plans have to be linked-up with the national plans.
The national perspective is supposed to suggest about how
much and according to what time-table, whereas the re-
gional perspective, not necessarily bound to the same time-
horizon, is supposed to suggest about where and why the
development objectives so visualised might be achieved
thus emphasizing the physical aspects of general develop-
ment. The perspective vision viewed from different angles
requires mutual interflow of guidance and information.
Proper regional perspectives would form a solid basis for
assessment of general national perspectives. Sufficiently
strong functional links between the national and regional development projections would enhance the chances for lowering the degree of uncertainty, usually high in the long-term considerations. In brief, according to L.S. Bhat, "the success in the development strategy and policies aimed at industrialisation and re-structuring the national economy according to modern patterns is being increasingly determined by the knowledge of the time-factor involved in the process. Its ignorance or negligence would produce adverse effects and the future costs of their correction are likely to wipe out the benefits expected to accrue therefrom". 33

Regional planning, as discussed so far confirms the idea that it is an exercise in the spatial development of a country. It implies (1) an accurate formulation of the needs of a region within the overall context of the needs of the nation as a whole and a precise knowledge of what the people want in each region (2) an accurate assessment of the limits and opportunities imposed on the national and resource endowments of each region and (3) an appropriate choice of policies and strategies for the

development of a spatial pattern of human activities which can lead to autonomous processes of socio-economic change in the desired direction. 34

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR REGIONAL PLANNING:

1. DEVELOPMENT OF BASIC RESEARCH:

The basic achievement of regional planning should be an all-round development. Then the approach to regional planning cannot be perceived within the narrow confines of individual academic disciplines. It has to be integrative cutting across several of the disciplines concerned with man and his environment. Basic research in regional planning must uncover the laws, principles and processes underlying human behavioural patterns while at the same time applied research uses them to design an environment which will meet the changing needs of the region.

2. WIDENING THE SCOPE OF REGIONAL PLANNING:

In developing countries like India regional planning has to be viewed more comprehensively than it has

been in the developed parts of the world. In these countries, the term "development" had to be added to regional planning and called "regional development planning".\textsuperscript{35} It widens the scope of the concept as it not only attempts to bring about structural change in social and economic spheres, but also seeks to maximise the exploitation of natural resources and to create a spatial structure of human activities which will be conducive to national, regional and local development needs.

3. \textbf{NOT CONFINING REGIONAL PLANNING TO ISOLATED AREAS:}

Regional planning has sometimes been regarded as dealing with isolated areas. E. Perroux believes that it "is a narrow approach".\textsuperscript{36} Regions cover the entire country and there is also a hierarchy of regions. One ought not to be dogmatic about the total area or population that a region should cover. There are countries in the world whose area is smaller than even a micro region of India. In such cases, the whole country becomes one manageable unit for regional planning at the national level and the sub-divisions within it become the lower-level.


regions for more detailed planning. Regional issues are present everywhere, however big or small a country may be. It is, therefore, not desirable to limit the role of regional planning to any particular level of region. It has to deal with all the regional levels - macro, meso and micro which make up the spatial hierarchical system.

4. INTEGRATING INTER-REGIONAL, INTRA-REGIONAL AND RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT:

It has frequently been argued that regions form a system and hence regional planning should be viewed from two perspectives: from the perspective of a single region and from that of a system of regions. The first approach leads to intra-regional planning and the second to inter-regional planning. While attempting inter-regional development we cannot neglect the spatial variations within a particular region. These considerations will have a chain effect on intra-regional planning too. A logical consequence of the regional approach is thus the integration of inter and intra-regional aspects.

Regional planning has to have both rural and urban development orientations. The rural and urban settlements form the basic units and starting points for all regional planning efforts. Superimposed on the spatial structure
of the rural economy is the urban economy which is marked by wide spatial differences and a rural-urban dichotomy. This situation has given rise to a dual spatial economy in the country. To remove the duality urban and rural economies have to be integrated. This can be achieved only if we divide the whole national space into a set of regions and sub-regions integrated through a system of nodes and networks. Each node will act as the hub of a region and the network will act as channels for flows. And the development of all these nodes and networks with the aim of achieving spatial integration of the national economy making progress towards the desired social, economic and cultural goals is the main task of regional planning. In this type of regional planning the plans for a particular region have to fit into the overall inter-regional plan; "any attempt at regional development of a particular region without considering the inter-regional framework can at best be called pseudo-regional planning".37

CONCLUSION:

Regional planning is indispensable to the economic progress of a region. It creates conditions for the

total development of the people of a region and eliminates the inter-regional and intra-regional differences in the country. Regional planning is always designed for the development of the resources of a region and is synonymous with regional development policy. The important reasons for introducing regional planning are, that it is easy to operate a sectoral plan within a spatial framework and it is the best means to minimize the adverse effects of maldistribution of the nation's resources. The purpose of regional planning is to integrate development between different sectors and segments of the economy, to introduce land-use or town planning as its integral part, and to bring coordination between different social and economic levels within a region and between different regions.

Regional planning and national planning are complementary to each other and the conflicting interests of the regions and the country if any have to be reconciled. But the scope of regional planning differs from region to region and in determining it, one must make sure that the concerned region contributes to the optimum growth of the nation. Regional planning to be effective must be formulated at three levels, viz., the level of national
The principal aims of regional planning are, development in accordance with the diverse needs of the
different regions, maintenance of the cultural basis of the regional life, reduction of imbalance between regions, and improving the economic foundations of a region. In order to realise these aims, a proper strategy has to be evolved by consulting the people's representatives of the area at various levels. The best methodology for regional planning is to "plan in stages" and it should be preceded by surveys, preparation of maps, and collection of statistical data for the purpose of proper analysis. The next step consists of formulation, presentation and implementation of regional plans. The important tasks of regional planning are coordinating locational decisions, targets and time-horizons. The important requirements for proper regional planning are, the development of basic research, widening of its scope to development planning, extending of planning beyond isolated areas and integrating inter-regional, intra-regional and rural and urban development.