PREFACE

The study proceeds on the assumption that regional planning has gained a place of eminence from the middle of the twentieth century. It is attempted in varying degrees and dimensions in almost all the countries at present. Whatever the country is, socialistic or capitalist, the aim of removing spatial inequalities has become a common phenomenon.

The term regional planning is treated as synonymous with regional development policy. An attempt is made to trace briefly the evolution of regional development planning in Rayalaseema, an economically backward region in Andhra Pradesh. There was an attempt at it, even during the British rule, and was continued after Independence and formation of separate Andhra State by constituting the Rayalaseema Planning and Development Board (RPDB) in 1969 and Rayalaseema Planning and Development Committee (RPDC) in 1974.

The present work, largely inspired by observation of Profs. A.J. Brown and E.M. Burrows "that regional economic problems are matters that worry people and Governments", is a modest attempt to study the actual working of the RPDB.
and RPDC. They were merely proposal making bodies having no statutory powers in matters of finance or implementation of schemes. Both of them survived for about five years each, and they were vested with the responsibility of making recommendations for the development of the region. The RPDC, the last of the two ceased to function from March 31, 1979, the end of the Fifth Plan Period. There was no attempt to revive it since then.

This study, besides giving the particulars of the formation and functions of the BPDB and RPDC analyses their working as proposal making bodies. It restricts itself to judge their performance by the nature of the action taken by the Government on the proposals made by them.

The organisation of the dissertation is as follows: The first chapter contains broadly the attempts to define a region, to find out reasons for regional backwardness, and to justify the need for Government intervention in removing regional imbalances. The second chapter deals with regional planning and its being an integral part of national planning. The aims of regional planning and the issues involved in formulating it are discussed in detail. The third chapter tries to trace the course of regional planning
from the First Five Year Plan to the present Sixth Five Year Plan. It ventures to give a few hints for the development of backward regions to be considered for inclusion in future attempts of development at regional level. The evolution of regional planning in relation to Rayalaseema, during the British rule, after Independence and after the formation of the separate Andhra State and the creation of the Ceded Districts Economic Development Board (CDESC) in 1941, the Rayalaseema Development Board (RDB) in 1949, the Rayalaseema Planning and Development Board (RPDB) in 1969 and the Rayalaseema Planning and Development Committee (RPDC) in 1974 and the details of their membership, functions and powers, are given at length, in the fourth chapter. The subsequent two chapters are devoted to the study of the actual working of the RPDB and RPDC, by analysing the nature of the proposals made by the members, the sectors in which they have shown interest and the allocations they have suggested to be made for different sectors. The main task of these chapters is to classify and analyse the type of action taken by the Government on the proposals made by the members, with a view to find out the responsiveness of the State Government and the effectiveness of consultation between the Government and the RPDB and RPDC.
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