CONCLUSION

In a country like India where agriculture supports more than 70% of the vast population it contributes even now after the completion of the Sixth Five Year Plan and thirty years of efforts towards industrialisation of the country, roughly little less than half of its national income. Inspite of the expansion of cities and towns and urbanisation, 80% of the population in India live in the rural areas and here the growth in population still accounts for much higher a rate compared to cities and towns. So, the development of such an area hardly needs any justification. Inspite of our six five year plans the rural India has stayed where it was. What is grown in the rural areas is unemployment, heavy pressure on land and appealing poverty. Inspite of all our efforts under planning and various specific schemes more and more of the wealth generated in agriculture, forestry, minerals and other rural resources is being siphoned off. The cities and towns are developing at the cost of the rural villages. All these 30 years we have experienced the difference between the precepts and the practice. We have been advocating the cause of rural development, eradication of poverty and reduction in the economic, social and other disparities.
But our planning has been oriented towards big industries and cities. We have started our planning with the ideal of Mahatma Gandhi of establishing the self-sufficient, self-content village and self-servient village economy. Our strategy has been therefore to bring about institutional reforms like abolition of zamindari and jagirdari system and providing land to the tiller thereby if not completely liquidating at least minimising the landless rural class. It was our hope that these reforms would be implemented wholeheartedly and would lead to desired results. Unfortunately this did not happen our strategy of community development, setting up of development blocks did succeed in its impact is the beginning but later many snags that developed compelled us to explore other strategies. The area approach and the growth centre approach which brought forth the Command Area Development Programmes and the Drought Prone Areas Programme no doubt are well conceived programmes suited to the needs of the rural settings of India. The latest of our strategies towards rural development is the Integrated Rural Development strategy. This strategy has been devised to revolutionise the rural life by bringing about socio-economic transformation in the country side through the eradication of backwardness, ignorance, unemployment and poverty within a time frame.
It embraces all those programmes and strategies which aim at the improvement in the levels of human living.

The programmes set under IRD envisage the optimum utilisation of human and natural resources for the material upliftment and overall betterment of the life of all sections of rural people. It is therefore, under this programme all activities which promote welfare and well-being have been co-ordinated.

In the present study the rural development strategies have been reviewed and the development achieved with reference to the objectives set under the Command Area Development Programme and Drought Prone Areas Programme have been studied and evaluated.

The Command Area Development Programme in the Anantapur District has been implemented with the World Bank aid. But it is surprising to find that the amount allocated by the World Bank as an aid could not be fully utilised, and the target set remained unachieved. The biggest handicap has been the lack of coordination between the various agencies and authorities charged with the implementation of the programme.
In the other Programme namely Drought Prone Areas Programme the details make it clear that even the formulation of plan was not done with due care and study. Proper survey of water resources was not undertaken. As a result much effort and money was wasted in constructing small tanks which remained dry and many bore wells were dug unsuccessfully causing huge wastage of money and effort. The idea of percolation tank came much later. Similarly the milk cattle distributed have not reached the real needy. This study as well as other studies have been however shown that the programme of sheep breeding, poultry and piggery have by and large succeeded in achieving the target set. However the study reveals the existence of a wide gap between the initial allocations releases and actual expenditures which shows lack of proper project planning and absence of purposiveness in the allotment of funds, losing sight of priorities to match the availability of funds and very little delegation of authority to local managerial and implementation levels. Consequently, motivators to achieve the physical as well as the financial targets at the district level and the commitment that goes with it have both suffered.

The gap between the targets and achievements was greatest in Minor Irrigation works where the delegation of
powers to Executive Engineers were too limited in relation to what was expected of them. Under the DPAP the best performance by far was registered in soil conservation and forestry where works were taken up on job basis with a great degree of decentralisation.

The Integrated Rural Development Programme is only three years old. It presupposes that the integration will help to eliminate delay and deficiency arising from lack of cooperation and co-ordination between different levels of functionaries and functional agencies. The basic tenet of the integrated development therefore is cooperation and co-ordination, integration and balanced development. It envisages the type of structure and organisation which may lead to an efficient fulfilment of functions and the achievement of goals set. The study covering a period of three years shows that the close coordination and the lack of organisational framework has been responsible for the short falls in the achievement of the IRDP Programme in Anantapur District.

The lack of coordination between the planning functionaries is reflected even in the identification of the backward region, backward family, growth centre, central place and service centre. The targets set are
unrealistic on the physical as well as financial terms.

As a result the programme suffered from lack of finance in some cases, while in other cases the finance allocated has not been used. The integrated approach was to ensure internal consistency of projects and overall consistency between the projects. This has not been taken care of.

Another important objective of integrated rural development was to ensure that the existing and potential resources are put to optimal use. This was possible only when there was a proper integration of economic activities. This too has been found lacking.

The Integrated Rural Development Programme covers 16 blocks which differ from the point of view of economic potential and need. Due care should have been taken to identify and launch those programmes which were best suited and needed in the different blocks.

The Prime Minister has already announced a new Programme of action for toning up the administration, reviewing the existing economic policy and waging a relentless war on poverty, unemployment, disease and ignorance. The 20 Point Programme is being restructured to make it more effective and the Seventh Plan which is soon to be launched
is being charged with the priorities for achieving growth and social justice. In view of these stipulated changes it is hoped that in the years to come the IRD programme may not only assume greater importance but it may be made more effective. On the basis of this study the following recommendations may be offered.

The most important task in the formulation and implementation of the IRD programme lies in the identification of the needs of the area and the people. Suitable method and machinery should therefore be evolved to make a detailed survey of its area and its needs before the plan is finalised. The constraints should be properly identified and effective steps should be planned to remove all bottlenecks confronting the successful implementation of the programme. The IRD Programme has to take into account the potential sectors and the need of the target groups. The activities and sub-activities should be properly planned with realistic priorities. Similarly the necessary infrastructure, the inputs required and the linkages considered necessary should be properly taken care of. It is absolutely necessary to integrate the backward and forward linkages among various plan and non-plan schemes and special programmes such as CAD etc. So that all the available resources financial, material and man
power are properly pooled for optimising the impact of the programme. It is therefore recommended that a package approach may be followed not only in formulating the plan but also in its implementation.

For optimum productivity of the resources, an area approach needs to be followed consciously.

It is necessary to strengthen the data base to facilitate selection of different areas and different sectors for integrated development. The planning and implementation capabilities have to be developed to ensure that this may need some more modifications in the recruitment policy, so that frequent transfers of staff, particularly at key positions are avoided and sense of commitment and accountability is developed and built in the strategy and management of the programme. The system of assessment of the work of the field staff needs to be modified, so that efficiency is judged not in terms of the amount spent but in terms of projects completed, contribution made in raising the level of production, income and employment.

A system of concurrent evaluation and mid-course corrections based on detailed appraisal will have to be built into the plan framework so that schemes with greater potential of benefit, when ready, replace less lucrative
schemes. Rationalisation is needed in the procedures and norms for administrative sanction and technical clearance of the projects. The standards and procedures, cost and benefit norms will have to be related to past performance of similar projects in the area rather than the standard norms, so that the appraisal could be realistic and possible and the hiatus between unrealistic targets and actual achievement is kept as low as possible.

Recognition of the vital role of women in the socio-economic life in both agricultural and non-agricultural activities is a pre-requisite for successful rural development planning and programme implementation. Rural Development based on growth with equity will require full integration of women, including equitable access to land, water, other natural resources, inputs and services and equal opportunity to develop and employ their skills. There is also an urgent need to expand knowledge and statistical data on all aspects of women's roles in rural activities and disseminate this information to promote greater awareness of women's role in society.

In order to overcome the absence of adequate expertise with the DRDAs for identification of economic
opportunities and formulation of Projects, a technical cell under the aegis of the lead bank in each district could be set up to prepare area specific projects and bankable schemes in collaboration with the DRDAs and technical expertise can be drawn from other banks and State Governments. Since most of the beneficiaries are from among landless labourers there is greater need for non-land based activities. Particularly allied agricultural activities. Hence the IRD should be geared to provide greater impetus for such allied activities.

The war against poverty is a long drawn one. With the launching and implementation of the IRDP a beginning has been made towards a direct assault on poverty. The success of which depends on the sincerity and soundness of our approach not only in the formulation of plans and programmes but more importantly in their implementation.