Chapter 1

Rural Development

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Relative Growth of Urban and Rural Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population in millions</th>
<th>Percentage of total population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>Urban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>270.3</td>
<td>25.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>220.4</td>
<td>25.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>216.6</td>
<td>27.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>237.8</td>
<td>33.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>265.5</td>
<td>43.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>288.2</td>
<td>61.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>347.2</td>
<td>77.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>421.9</td>
<td>107.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>502.0</td>
<td>156.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>627.1</td>
<td>217.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


RURAL DEVELOPMENT

On the basis of all these situations, we require the development of rural people in particular and rural areas in broad sense. The term "Development" may be defined as an activity or process of both qualitative and quantitative changes in the existing systems, aiming
at immediate improvement of living conditions of the people or increase the potential for betterment of living conditions in future. Development is nothing but the development of human beings and therefore it is to be judged by what it does to them. It has many things to do in terms of social, economical, political, cultural, environmental etc. aspects. And, therefore, it should be a continuous and dynamic process aiming to improve all the aspects of rural society. In rural areas people of lowest strata of social ladder live in abject poverty. Development should therefore, result in (i) reduction of their dependency on external resources; (ii) increased self-reliance for many things; (iii) confidence in their own strength and potentialities for self and others' development; (iv) spirit for mutual respect and collective efforts.

The term "Rural Development" may be viewed as a strategic programme designed to emancipate the concerned rural population from the degraded life and to awaken and activate them in the process of achieving and sharing of higher levels of production and distribution. Various scholars and experts have defined the term "Rural Development" in different ways. Some of the definitions of "Rural Development" are as follows:
Desmond Anker defines rural development as, "Strategies, policies and programmes for development of rural areas and the promotion of activities carried out in such areas (agriculture, forestry, fishery, rural crafts and industries, the building of the social and economic infrastructure) with the ultimate aim of achieving a fuller utilisation of available physical and human resources, and thus higher incomes and better living conditions for the rural population as a whole, particularly the rural poor and effective participation of the latter in the development process."\(^5\)

The Rural Development Sector Policy Paper (1975) of the World Bank observed that "Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people -- the rural poor. It involves extending the benefits of development to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas. The group includes small scale farmers, tenants and the landless."\(^6\) Moreover, another publication of a World Bank defines rural development as "improving the living standards of the masses of the low income population residing in rural areas making the process of rural development self-sustaining."\(^7\) But, G. Parthasarathy in his paper, "Integrated Rural Development : Concept, Theoretical Base and Contradictions" opines that "The critical element in the rural development
is improvement of living standards of the poor through opportunities for better utilisation of their physical and human resources; in the absence of this, utilisation of rural resources has no functional significance. Making the process of rural development self-sustaining not only implies the mobilisation of capital and use of technology for the benefit of the poor but their active involvement in the building up of institutions as well as in functioning of these. While, Michael Tadaro views that, "Rural development encompasses:

1: improvement in levels of living including employment, education, health and nutrition, housing and a variety of social services,

2: decreasing inequality in the distribution of rural incomes and in the rural-urban balances in incomes and economic opportunities and,

3: the capacity of the rural sector to sustain and accelerate the pace of these improvements."

FEATURES OF RURAL ECONOMY

Rural economy is characterised by many features. It depends on the country in which the development of rural areas takes place by various programmes, schemes, plans and mainly by the human resources as a main force and other concerned parties. Following paragraphs deal with some of the features of rural economy.
Agriculture, as everywhere, is the main activity in our rural area. As per the Census of India, 1991, 74.3 per cent of the total population live in rural areas, and 78.9 per cent of the rural population are engaged in agriculture & allied activities. But even after many programmes, plans, schemes, etc. adopted for agricultural development, it remains backward and half-hearted developed as can be seen from the low level of average yield per hectare of different crops. For instance, the average yield per hectare of Rice, Groundnut, Sugarcane, Wheat, Cottonseed and Tobacco was far below to world average. (Vide: Table 1.2)\(^1\)

### Table 1.2

Average Yield Per Hectare of Selected Crops: 1988 & 1989

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>1989</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i) Rice (Paddy)</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>2,542</td>
<td>2,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>World</td>
<td>3,350</td>
<td>3,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii) Groundnut</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>957</td>
<td>988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>World</td>
<td>1,126</td>
<td>1,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii) Sugarcane</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>59,850</td>
<td>56,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>World</td>
<td>60,609</td>
<td>60,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv) Wheat</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>2,002</td>
<td>2,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>World</td>
<td>2,319</td>
<td>2,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v) Cotton (Seed)</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>World</td>
<td>1,567</td>
<td>1,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vi) Tobacco</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>1,108</td>
<td>1,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>World</td>
<td>1,464</td>
<td>1,469</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Low productivity leads to low level of income which in turn, results in poor living conditions. Land is divided and subdivided from one generation to another within the family, and creating it into a very small and fragmented holdings scattered within the skirt of the village. These holdings are purely uneconomical and insufficient for family livelihood.

Employment Opportunities:

Employment is the main source of income for the rural and urban working population. As majority of the rural people depend on agriculture and when there is no increment in land acreage, the employment opportunity decreases as time passes. Traditional rural occupations which were very much employment-oriented ruined due to the Factory Systems in nearby towns and urban areas. As a result, the dependency on agriculture is increased by higher rates and to that extent unemployment or underemployment prevailed in rural areas. Rural Employment again seasonal one and therefore not gainful throughout the year for agricultural family. At the same time, our towns and cities are also not in a position to absorb available labour for industrial and other occupational employment.
Economic Conditions:

A considerable number of rural poor come on this earth with debt, live with debt and die with debt. This happens due to their low income during their lives. For example, per capita income at current prices and at 1980-81 prices was Rs. 4252.0 & Rs. 2142.00 respectively for the year 1989-90. If we want to live with this meagre amount in this inflationary condition, we have to borrow funds from available sources even at a high rate of interest. And thus, average human being creates debt to make both ends meet. This meagre amount does not fulfil even the inevitable necessity of life.

Infrastructure of Rural India:

Our Rural people suffer from many basic requirements for their lives. Inadequate and/or irregular power supply, poor transportation facilities, scarceness of communication amenities, medical and other facilities are, even today, not up to the mark. In contrast to this, all the facilities, amenities in various fields are available fully in our urban and city areas. For instance, only 19,184 primary Health Centres were working in our rural areas as on September, 1989. This is nothing but every 30 villages there is an availability of only one primary Health Centre. Similarly, number of Hospitals and Dispensaries in urban and rural areas indicates that there are vast differences in availability.
of this facility. For example, 6732 hospitals and 14,286 dispensaries were working for urban areas and 3099 hospitals and 13,209 dispensaries were existed in rural areas. Moreover, insofar as drinking water is concerned, about 2,30,000 villages in 1985-86, i.e., 39.00 per cent of total villages in our country were problem villages. In other words, these were villages which come under the following three categories:

* Villages where drinking water is not available within a distance of 1.6 k.m. (1 mile) or a depth of 15 m. (50 ft.);
* Villages where the sources of supply are prone to endemic cholera or guineaworm infection; and,
* Villages where the sources contain excess of chloride, fluoride or iron in the water. Same is the condition for Post Office services available in villages. Only 1,30,987 post offices were working in rural areas, i.e., only 22.61 per cent of the total villages having this facility and in contrast to this 3,768 towns and cities availed the facility of 16,249 post offices. In other words, per town/city there exist 4.31 post offices.

5: Social and Cultural Scenario:

Human beings are social animals and they have their own cultural attitudes and retain their own socio-religious identities. Our Hindu society is divided into four classes,
viz., (1) Brahmins, (2) Kshatriyas, (3) Vaishyas and (4) Shudras. These are again divided and subdivided into many castes and subcastes. The same principle is applied to other religious people. The backwardness of rural society is existed everywhere in the world. However its degree may differ. Many non-economic factors account for the miserable life of rural people. They are still under the predominant influences of caste and religious customs and traditions, values and beliefs resulting in extravagant expenses on avoidable social and religious functions, and it definitely affects adversely the family life and normal developmental activities of the family. For observing social, cultural and religious ceremonies they borrow the funds and bear heavy debt burden. The rigid caste system still followed in certain remote rural and tribal areas prevents them in the choice of occupation and mobility of labour. Women in certain lower class communities are considered inferior and do not have equal status in society. In spite of the different development programmes and plans, schemes, in operation in rural areas rural inhabitants do not get enough incentives and motivation for their growth and progress and are still guided by superstitious beliefs and age old rigid religious and social customs and traditions.
GANDHIJI'S IDEAL VILLAGE

The thoughts and reflections of Mahatma Gandhi on different aspects of rural development are known from his writings, speeches, and correspondences with his co-workers and public men. He had very pragmatic and realistic views on village development, village industries, co-operative efforts, basic education, social reforms and trusteeship ideology, etc. Sevagram in Maharashtra became an important centre for Gandhiji for initiating different schemes of rural upliftment. His views on different aspects of rural development are briefly discussed below.

A village of his dream is not "a collection of unsanitary dwellings constructed on a dunghill" as described by Lionel Curtis. On the other hand, he prescribed the following conditions for the ideal Indian villages.

* There should be orderliness in the structure of the village.

* The lanes and roads should be orderly and must be kept absolutely clean so that "in the land of barefooted pedestrians," nobody need hesitate to walk or even sleep in the streets.

* The lanes should be macadamized and have gutters for draining of water.
* Temples and mosques must be kept beautifully clean so that visitors feel an air of tranquil holiness about them.

* The villages should be filled with shade and fruit trees.

* They should have a dharamshala, and a small dispensary.

* Washing and privy arrangements should be such as not to contaminate the air, water and roads of the village.

* Every village should be self-sufficient so far as its food and clothing requirements are concerned.

* Every village should be capable of defending itself from robbers or wild animals.

* It should have recreation facilities and a playground for adults and children and a reserve for its cattle.

* If space is left over, the village should grow money crops except tobacco, opium, etc.

* The village should maintain a village theatre, school and public hall.

* It should have its own water works, ensuring a clean water supply.

* Education should be made compulsory up to the final basic course.

* Caste, with its graded untouchability, should not be practised.

* As far as possible, all activities should be conducted on a cooperative basis.
Non-violence, with its technique of satyagraha and non-cooperation should be the sanction of the village community.

There should be a compulsory service of village guard, to be selected by rotation from the register maintained by the village.

The government of the village should be conducted by a Panchayat of five persons, annually elected by adult villagers possessing the minimum qualifications.

Since there should be no system of punishment in the accepted sense of the term, the village panchayat would be the legislature, judiciary and executive combined.

Two panchayats should jointly elect one leader, and they should form a working party. Fifty such working parties should elect a second grade leader. Parallel groups of two hundred panchayats should continue to be formed till they cover the whole of India, each succeeding group of panchayats electing a second grade leader. All second grade leaders should jointly serve the whole of India and severally for their respective areas. The second grade leaders might elect a chief, whenever they deem necessary, to regulate and command all the groups.
The existing political, economic and social set-ups however, hardly permit to have an ideal village as per Gandhiji's Philosophy, yet some of the points should be considered in developing the rural areas.

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN FIVE YEAR PLANS**

Agricultural and rural development have been given higher priority since the beginning of our planning for the country. In each Five Year Plan the high proportion of total public sector outlay is allotted to agriculture, allied activities, and community/rural development, major and medium irrigation projects, flood control and village and small industries.

All the activities which directly or indirectly contribute to the rural development, accounted for 46.6 per cent of the total First Five Year Plan outlay in the public sector. In the second plan, the share of rural development in the total plan outlay declined to about 25.00 per cent. This was mainly due to the exclusion of outlay on power for rural development. Another reason for the decline was the relatively high priority given to the heavy industries in the second plan which was at the expense of rural development. From the second to seventh plan, the share of rural development in the public sector plan outlay has varied within a very narrow range, i.e., from 21.88 to 27.10 per cent. (Vide: Table : 1.3).
<table>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Total Outlay</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>4642</td>
<td>8577</td>
<td>15779</td>
<td>40097</td>
<td>12601</td>
<td>97500</td>
<td>120000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Agriculture, Allied Activities, and Community/Rural Development</td>
<td>290 (14.8)</td>
<td>549 (11.8)</td>
<td>1099 (12.7)</td>
<td>1107 (16.7)</td>
<td>2320 (14.7)</td>
<td>5229 (14.0)</td>
<td>1815 (14.4)</td>
<td>14349 (14.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Major and Medium Irrigation including Flood Control</td>
<td>583 (29.7)</td>
<td>430 (9.2)</td>
<td>665 (7.8)</td>
<td>471 (7.1)</td>
<td>1354 (8.6)</td>
<td>3914 (9.8)</td>
<td>1260 (10.0)</td>
<td>10350 (10.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Village and Small Industries</td>
<td>42 (2.1)</td>
<td>187 (4.0)</td>
<td>241 (2.8)</td>
<td>126 (1.9)</td>
<td>243 (1.5)</td>
<td>611 (1.5)</td>
<td>189 (1.5)</td>
<td>1780 (1.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Sub Total (2 + 3 + 4)</td>
<td>915 (46.6)</td>
<td>1166 (24.9)</td>
<td>1995 (23.3)</td>
<td>1704 (25.7)</td>
<td>3917 (24.3)</td>
<td>9754 (25.9)</td>
<td>3264 (27.1)</td>
<td>26479 (21.88)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) Seventh Five Year Plan, 1985-90.
(3) Figures in brackets indicate the percentage of total outlay.
In terms of Rs. amount, outlay on rural development has increased from Rs. 915 crores in the First Plan to Rs. 39,379 crores in the Seventh Plan. On the whole the total outlay on rural development from the First to the Seventh Plan amounted to Rs. 83,605 crores which is about 23.98 per cent of the aggregate public sector outlay of the Seven Five Year Plans.

During our five year plans Central and State governments have prepared and implemented various schemes, programmes, plans and projects specifically meant for rural development and resulted into the improvements and developments of the various areas and dimensions of our rural India. Some of the popular schemes, programmes and projects are discussed below in following paragraphs.

1: **Community Development Programme**

The Community Development Programme was formally inaugurated on 2nd October, 1952. It was aimed to secure the total development of the material and human resources of rural areas and to create local leadership and self-governing institutions. The main intention was to raise the levels of living of rural people through a number of programmes, such as minor irrigation and soil conservation, programmes for improving the effectiveness of farm inputs, supply systems, and schemes for providing agricultural extension services to farmers. Various activities under
this programme are covered and deployed for each block. They are as under:

(a) Agriculture and related matters.
(b) Communications.
(c) Education.
(d) Health.
(e) Training.
(f) Social Welfare.
(g) Supplementary employment, and
(h) Housing.

Insofar as its working is concerned, one could easily find out both the sides of the coin, but despite the criticisms and limitations of the programme, it would be fair to say that Community Development Programme was instrumental in laying down the sound foundation for the further growth and development of our rural economy.

22: Intensive Agricultural District Programme:

This programme was started in 1960. The immediate goal of this Intensive Agricultural District Programme was to achieve rapid increases in agricultural production through a concentration on financial, technical, extensible, and administrative resources. The programme was also intended to provide lessons for extending such intensified agricultural production programmes to other areas. The main characteristics of this programme are

(i) to take measures for speedy increase in agricultural production, (ii) to emphasise on profitability of farm
level; and (iii) to apply the package of improved practices meant for individual crops and the use of improved seeds, fertilizers, pesticides proper use of implements, soil, and water resources.

Seven State governments selected seven districts for the implementation of the IADP. In Tamil Nadu State -- Thanjarar district, similarly, Andhra Pradesh -- West Godavari, Bihar -- Shahabad, Madhya Pradesh -- Rajpur, Uttar Pradesh -- Aligarh, Panjabs -- Ludhiana, and Rajasthan -- Pali. The Government of India approved the implementation of this programme in these seven districts in June 1960 and suggested that the scheme be implemented in one district in each of the fifteen states of the country. 140 community development blocks with 14,038 villages and a total gross cropped area of about 45 lakh hectares were covered in these seven districts.

3: Special Group and Area Specific Programmes:

The Small Farmer Development Agency (SFDA), the Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers (MFAL) Programme, the Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), the Desert Development Programme (DDP), Hill Area Development Programme (HADP), Tribal Area Development Programme (TADP), Crash Scheme for Rural Employment (CSRE) and Food for work (FFW) Programme are some of the special programmes introduced during the seventies in our country for the
well-being of the "Weaker Sections" of our rural population and backward areas of our country. The objective of these programmes was to solve the problems of rural poverty and its backwardness. Under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) civic amenities and community facilities like elementary education, drinking water, hospitals, roads and electricity were launched in the Fifth Plan. Under the head of Special Group and Area Specific Programmes, following schemes and programmes are touched in brin .

(a) The Small Farmer Development Agency (SFDA): The Small Farmer Development Agency Scheme was sanctioned during the year 1970-71 and actual implementation started during the year 1971-72. The objective of the SFDA was to ensure the viability of the small farmers. An autonomous agency registered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1904 was established at district level to implement the SFDA projects. With the implementation of these programmes, the focus of rural development programmes shifted from more growth to growth with social justice. These agencies are entrusted with these programmes and expected to make adequate arrangements for the supply of necessary inputs at subsidised rates and credit for the same.

During the Fourth Plan, the SFDA projects were started in eighty seven areas in the country. Each
project was expected to cover during the Five Year period approximately 50,000 families of identified small farmers defined as those who owned land holding ranging from 2.50 to 5.00 acres.

(b) The Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers (MFAL) Scheme: Like the SFDA the MFAL scheme was also started during the year 1970-71 following the recommendations of the All India Rural Credit Review Committee (1969). It aimed to assist the marginal farmers (with land holding below 2.50 acres) and agricultural labourers to improve their productivity and income through a variety of activities like multiple cropping, increased use of new inputs, water harvesting techniques, minor irrigation, livestock, poultry and fishery among others. Each project aimed at covering over the five year plan period, 15,000 marginal farmers and 5000 agricultural labourers -- those defined as owning a homestead and deriving more than 50 per cent of their family income from agricultural wages.

During the Fourth Plan, MFAL Schemes were started in eighty one areas.

(c) Drought - Prone Area Programme (DPAP): The Rural Works Programme was initiated during the year 1970-71, with the intention of the execution of rural works and employment generation programmes. An attempt was also made to mitigate the conditions of scarcity in drought-
prone areas. It was realised with some experiences that a mere rural works programme would not help in attaining these goals. The programme was sought to be re-oriented on the basis of an area development approach and was redesignated as the Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) at the time of mid term appraisal of the Fourth Five Year Plan.

The basic objectives of the programme are:
-- To reduce the severity of the impact of drought;
-- Stabilising the income of the people, particularly weaker sections of the society; and
-- Restoration of ecological balance.

(d) Desert Development Programmes (DDP): The Desert Development Programme (DDP) was launched during the year 1977-78 as a Central Sector Scheme with 100 per cent financing by the Centre.

The D.D.P. aims at checking further desertification of the desert areas and enhancing productivity of local inhabitants.

(e) Hill Area Development Programme (HADP): A third area-specific programme that was launched as a central sector scheme in the Fourth Plan was the Hill Areas Development Programmes (HADP). Two central sector hill area development projects - one for pauri Garhwal in Uttar Pradesh and one for Nungba subdivision of Manipur - were sanctioned during the Fourth Plan period and were continued in the Fifth Plan.
(f) Tribal Areas Development Programme (TADP): A special programme for the development of selected tribal areas was initiated during the year 1970-71. Under this programme, six pilot tribal development projects in (i) Srikakulan district of Andhra Pradesh; (ii) Singhbhum district of Bihar; (iii) Dantewada and (iv) Konta Tehsils of Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh and; (v) Ganjam and; (vi) Koraput district of Orrissa, were sanctioned by the Government of India for the economic development of these areas. Two more projects in Orrissa (Keonjhar and Phulbani) were sanctioned as part of the programme during the Fifth Plan.

(g) National Rural Employment Programme (NREP): Rural unemployment and under employment conditions result into a severe conditions for rural livelihood, specifically for the vulnerable sections of the rural population. For the solution of this condition a multi pronged strategy is required at rural areas. A supplementary and complementary employment opportunities during the off-season should be provided by this types of strategies and programmes so a gainful employment and so as livelihood become a mark for good livings in rural areas. According, a NREP, MNP, etc., Programmes were started by the Government.

Under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) the availability of certain public services, facilities and amenities represents "real income" and constitutes part
of the standard of living were included. It is particularly with respect to these community facilities and civic amenities that rural people are at a great disadvantage. Duly recognising the need for provision of these facilities and services in rural area, the Government of India developed and launched the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) in the Fifth Plan. The MNP included: (i) elementary education; (ii) rural health; (iii) rural water supply; (iv) rural roads; (v) rural electrification; (vi) house sites for the landless labourers; (vii) environmental improvement of urban slums; and (viii) nutrition.

Operation Flood: (1st and IIInd)

Operation Flood-I (OF-I) was intended to create eighteen Amuls in India. It was launched by the newly formed Indian Dairy Corporation (IDC) on 1st July, 1970. The IDC is a Government of India owned organisation set up to serve as a "finance and promotion house" for the programme. OF-I was originally to conclude in five years but was extended to 31st March, 1981. Concurrently, Operation Flood-II (OF-II), was launched on 2nd October, 1979. OF-II was intended to cover 155 milksheds in twenty two States and four Union Territories in the country and has an outlay of Rs. 485.50 crores.
Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP): The IRDP is the single largest anti-poverty programme currently underway in all the community development blocks in the country. It was launched during the year 1978-79 in 2300 selected blocks in the country and was extended to all the 5011 blocks with effect from 2nd October, 1980. It aims at providing income generating assets and employment opportunities to the rural poor to enable them to rise above the poverty line once and for ever. The IRDP in effect seeks to redistribute assets and employment opportunities in favour of the rural poor.

The IRDP's target group consists of the poorest of the rural poor, small and marginal farmers, agricultural and non-agricultural labourers, rural artisans and craftmen, Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) families who live below the poverty line. The Government of India manual has decided the target group of beneficiaries as:

-- Small farmer;
-- Marginal farmer;
-- Agricultural labourer; and
-- Non-agricultural labourer.

The objectives and activities of each programme are presented briefly in the following fractional columns:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Starting year of the programme</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. C. D. P.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>- to secure the total development of the material and human resources of rural areas and to develop local leadership and self-governing institutions</td>
<td>Agricultural and Related Matters Communications, Education, Health Training, Social Welfare, Supplementary Employment &amp; Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. I. A. D. P.</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>- to achieve rapid increases in agricultural production through a concentration of financial, technical, extendible and administrative resources.</td>
<td>(1) Adequate and timely supply of credit based on the production plans and made available through strengthened co-operative societies; (2) Adequate and timely supply of production requisites such as fertilisers, pesticides and implements channelled mainly through co-operatives; (3) Arrangements for marketing and other services through co-operatives so as to enable the cultivators to obtain a remunerative price for their marketable surplus; (4) Adequate storage facilities for supplies such as seeds, fertilisers, implements and pesticides and for the farm produce so that the cultivators do not have to travel long distances to procure supplies, and market their produce; (5) Intensive educational efforts, particularly through crop demonstrations, to disseminate knowledge by improved agricultural practices; (6) Strengthening transport arrangements to ensure mobility of supplies and staff; (7) Village planning for increased production and strengthening of village organisations like co-operatives and panchayats; (8) Analysis and evaluation of the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Special Group and Area Specific Programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Starting year of the programme</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) S.F.D.A.</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>- to ensure the viability of the small farmers.</td>
<td>It acted as a catalyst in identifying small farmers, investigating their problems, and helping them to obtain inputs from various developmental organisations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) M.P.A.L.</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>- Its objectives was to assist the marginal farmers and agricultural labourers to improve their productivity and income through a variety of activities.</td>
<td>Crop husbandry, multiple cropping, increased use of new inputs, water harvesting techniques, minor irrigation, livestock, poultry and fishery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) D.P.A.P.</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>The focus on the execution of rural works and employment generation in an attempt to mitigate the conditions of scarcity in drought-prone areas.</td>
<td>(1) To reduce the severity of the impact of drought; (2) Stabilising the income of the people particularly weaker sections of the society; and (3) Restoration of ecological balance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) D.D.P.</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>1977-78</td>
<td>At checking further desertification of the desert areas and enhancing productivity of local resources to raise the income and employment levels of the local inhabitants.</td>
<td>Afforestation, water harvesting rural electrification and animal husbandry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme</td>
<td>Plan</td>
<td>Starting year of the programme</td>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) H.A.D.P.</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>1969</td>
<td>reducing the intra and inter regional differences in the distribution of benefit from agricultural development.</td>
<td>- New agricultural technology, supply of seeds, land development, irrigation, dairy animals, poultry and sheep to increase of their production, marketing and cold storage facilities, link road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f) T.A.D.P.</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>The economic development programmes related to tribal agriculture, horticulture, land reclamation, land development, soil conservation measures, control of shifting cultivation, minor irrigation, development of animal husbandry, encouragement of forest based industries, debt redemption, land restoration, land records and survey.</td>
<td>- Programmes for imparting training in agro and forest based industries were taken-up so as to create opportunities of gainful employment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(g) N.R.E.P.</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Problems of rural unemployment and under employment.</td>
<td>A series of special employment programmes followed the Rural Works Programme, Crash Scheme of Rural Employments, Employment Guarantee Schemes, National Rural Employment Programme, Rural landless Employment Guarantee Programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(h) M.N.P.</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>The availability of certain services, facilities and amenities represents real income and constitutes part of the standard of living.</td>
<td>- elementary education; rural health; rural water supply; rural electrification; house sites for landless labourers; environmental improvement of urban slums; and nutrition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme</td>
<td>Plan</td>
<td>Starting year of the programme</td>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Operation Flood I &amp; II</td>
<td>IV V</td>
<td>1970 of I 1979 of II</td>
<td>Of was aimed at creating a virtual 'flood' of rurally produced milk producers in eighteen milksheds in ten states organise Anand Pattern Development.</td>
<td>(1) Growth of milk processing and marketing in four metropolitan cities, (2) Storage and Long Distance Transport Facilities, (3) Feeder Balancing dairies and milk chilling plants. (4) Resettlement of City - kept Milch Animals in Rural Areas, (5) Increasing Milk Production and Development of Improved Milch animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. I.R.D.P.</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>1978-79</td>
<td>The single largest anti-poverty programme currently underway in all the community development blocks in the country.</td>
<td>(1) Intensive Agriculture District Farmers Development Agencies, (2) the Small farmers and marginal farmers development agencies; (3) Drought Prone Area Programme; (4) Command Area Development (5) Antyodaya Programme's.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROGRAMMES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

It is an inevitable to have more specific and intensive programmes for rural development as 74.3 per cent of the total population of our country dwell in rural India and they require more and more gainful and beneficial schemes and programmes which can ameliorate their living conditions. Following are such programmes discussed in separate paragraphs:

(1) Education;
(2) Health;
(3) Water Supply;
(4) Roads;
(5) Electrification;
(6) Housing;
(7) Nutrition; and
(8) Special Livestock Production Programme;
(9) 20-Point Programme;
(10) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana;
(11) Rural Industrialisation.

(1) Education

Education plays an important role in the development of human beings and it assists in creating a positive understanding in the net-work of communication. It develops a sense of maturity and belongingness. It also helps in the operations of the various plans and programmes for the development of any dimension of human beings. And, therefore, primary education is made compulsory both for boys and girls in the age group of...
6-11 years. The Government of Gujarat has been making all efforts to provide at least one primary school in each village so that the basic literacy necessity can be within the reach of every rural area. After the formation of District Panchayats in Gujarat, the function of primary education has been transferred to the District Panchayats in the rural areas.

The following Table 1.4 would indicate the rate of literacy among the male and female rural population at All-India level, Gujarat State level and Kheda District level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Persons</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>2280</td>
<td>1516</td>
<td>764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(36.36)</td>
<td>(66.49)</td>
<td>(33.51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>1210</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(44.76)</td>
<td>(64.46)</td>
<td>(35.54)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kheda</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(53.44)</td>
<td>(64.29)</td>
<td>(35.71)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) Figures in brackets indicate the percentages of Total Rural Population.
Table 1.4 indicates that the percentage of rural literacy in Kheda district was far superior in comparison to the State and All-India level. For example, 53.44 per cent of the rural population of Kheda district was registered as literate persons in comparison to 36.36 per cent at All-India level. However, the percentages of male and female rural population throughout all the three levels remained the same with very minor changes.

Various studies\textsuperscript{15} in India too suggest a positive relationship between education and agricultural productivity:

* Agricultural productivity and use of modern inputs are positively related with educational level of farm workers.

* General education up to the secondary level among cultivators has a significant impact on the diffusion of technology and improving agricultural productivity.

* Correlation between agricultural productivity and the secondary education becomes stronger with the use of new technology and modern farm practices. In fact, the level of education is relevant for diffusion of innovations on the degree of sophistication of innovations.

In rural society education facilitates eradication of socio-cultural barriers that impede changes and development; improves health and nutrition status of the infants, child and mothers by reducing the incidences of
malnutrition and mortality; raises the quality of life; increases farm productivity by promoting adoption of modern agricultural practices and technology and helps in the modernisation of agriculture; and promotes employment opportunities in non-agricultural and non-household industries.

(2) Health

How can a man think with his head when his body is weak? Health is every thing for human being. All the activities of human being totally rest on the good health. A minimum 2400 calories per day per capita for good health is required to sustain our body and work at work places. The worth of our rural people, as everywhere, are not at the mark and satisfactorily as per medical requirements. Due to the many diseases bad climate, dirty houses, non-nutritious food, oduousious and dirty water, and other bad habits the rural uneducated people donot possess good health.

The Health Survey and Development Committee; which surveyed the causes of low state of health in India pointed out the following important ones:

(a) Lack of proper medical care;
(b) Lack of hygienic environments conductive to healthful living;
(c) Lack of adequate diet and poor nutrition;
(d) Lack of general and health education; and
(e) Lack of proper housing.
As per the Census Report of Kheda District - 1981 there were 30 hospitals, 151 dispensaries, 245 family planning centres, 18 primary health sub-centres, 165 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and 1169 community health works in the district.

In Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) a total provision of Rs. 971.41 crores has been made for Rural health. Similarly, in the Sixth Five Year Plan, a total provision of Rs. 577 crores has been made for rural health. (Vide: Table 1.5) The slogan insofar as health of people is concerned "Health for all by AD 2000" was prepared for the purpose. 18

Table 1.5

Outlay on Minimum Needs Programme in India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Sixth Plan Rs.in crores</th>
<th>Seventh Plan Rs.in crores</th>
<th>Percentage of total outlay of Sixth Plan</th>
<th>Percentage of total outlay of Seventh Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Elementary Education</td>
<td>905.00</td>
<td>2984.56</td>
<td>15.58</td>
<td>23.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Adult Education</td>
<td>128.00</td>
<td>467.28</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>3.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Rural Health</td>
<td>577.00</td>
<td>971.41</td>
<td>9.93</td>
<td>7.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Rural Water Supply</td>
<td>2007.00</td>
<td>4418.48</td>
<td>34.56</td>
<td>34.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Rural Electrification</td>
<td>301.00</td>
<td>550.23</td>
<td>5.18</td>
<td>4.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Rural Roads</td>
<td>1165.00</td>
<td>1531.00</td>
<td>20.06</td>
<td>12.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Rural Housing and Slums</td>
<td>505.80</td>
<td>640.82</td>
<td>8.72</td>
<td>5.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Nutrition</td>
<td>219.00</td>
<td>1140.72</td>
<td>3.72</td>
<td>8.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5807.80</td>
<td>12668.50</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: (i) Sixth Five year Plan 1980-85.
(ii) Seventh Five Year Plan, 1985-90
(3) Water Supply

Water, one of the basic necessities of human being vital to our livelihood and most important for farmers to use with fertilizers and seeds. Accordingly, the highest priority was given in all the Five Year Plans in our national planning to provide the drinking water in rural areas. The figures in Table 1.5 show the total outlay on Minimum Needs Programme in India, for Sixth and Seventh Plans.

In spite of the considerable efforts in the direction of rural water supply schemes during the Plan Periods, it is a well-known fact that there are still problem villages which suffer from want of good drinking water as mentioned earlier.

Even after the completion of Five Plans, the Government of India has proposed in Sixth and Seventh Plans to create additional sources and more number of water collection points for benefitting rural poor, particularly Scheduled Casts, Scheduled Tribes and landless agricultural labourers. Moreover, Drought-Prone Areas, will receive greater attention in the provision of safe drinking water.

(4) Roads

The importance of Road transport from the view point of economic, administrative, cultural, social and daily purposes hardly needs any special emphasis. The provision
of excellent roads sufficient in all respects is to be made for the development of rural areas and roads should be connected with nearby towns and cities. From the viewpoint of co-operative dairies, roads are one of the important needs for both the dairies i.e., district dairies and village dairies.

The villages with a population of 1500 and above and 50 per cent of the total number of village in the population group 1000-1500 will be connected with roads. This was the provision in 6th Five Year Plan. 19

Though the 'rural roads' programme is the State Sector and in implemented by the State Government/Union Territory Administrations, a close watch on the progress of this programme is being kept by the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction at the Centre. At present there is no centrally sponsored scheme for Rural roads.

The total road mileages in the year 1971-72 was 2019.80 kms., which increased to 5388.80 kms. in the year 1988-89.

During the Seventh Five Year Plan period, the rural areas will receive greater attention for roads. The outlay of Rs. 1531.00 crores are earmarked in the Seventh Plan for rural roads programme. (Vide: Table : 1.5)

(5) Electrification

The use of electricity in human lives is very much common. Many operations industrial as well as
## Table: 1.6

Rural Roads in Kheda District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>National Highway</th>
<th>State Highway</th>
<th>Major District Roads</th>
<th>Village Roads</th>
<th>Other Roads</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage increase during the per load (In km.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1971-72</td>
<td>71.30</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>2019.80</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1975-76</td>
<td>71.30</td>
<td>665</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>2469.80</td>
<td>122.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1980-81</td>
<td>71.30</td>
<td>678</td>
<td>883</td>
<td>822</td>
<td>629</td>
<td>3083.80</td>
<td>152.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1988-89</td>
<td>71.30</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>1263</td>
<td>2505</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>5388.80</td>
<td>266.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Statistical Information, Kheda District Panchayat, p.148.
non-industrial are done by the use of electricity. Our rural activities are not an exception to this. Accordingly, the Government of Gujarat has been making continuous efforts since its inception to electrify the rural areas as rural electrification has brought about many changes in the social structure, living conditions and style and outlook of the village people. The spread of television and radio network and use of modern means of amenities become possible because of availability of electricity to the interior part of rural areas. Agricultural production is increased and cropping seasons are extended because of the availability of a dependable source of irrigation by the use of electricity on wells.

During the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90), an outlay of Rs. 550.23 crores are provided to the Rural Electrification Corporation for rural electrification schemes already sanctioned in the various states. (Vide: Table - 1.5) An envisages of electrification of 98,000 villages and energisation of 16,00,000 pumpsets under this scheme are sanctioned or to be sanctioned in various states.20

The analysis of data presented in Table 1.7 discloses that while during the year 1981, 1648 villages were electrified in Gujarat State, only 75 villages were electrified during the year 1990.
Table: 1.7
Number of Villages Electrified in Gujarat State
(From 1980 to 1990)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>As on 31st March</th>
<th>Number of villages electrified by G.E.Board Licensee Total</th>
<th>Percentage increased during the year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>10723 144 10867</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>12371 144 12515</td>
<td>115.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>13285 144 13429</td>
<td>123.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>13965 65 14030</td>
<td>129.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>14865 65 14930</td>
<td>137.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>16070 65 16135</td>
<td>143.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>16892 65 16957</td>
<td>156.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>1987*</td>
<td>17586 65 17651</td>
<td>162.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>17802 65 17867</td>
<td>164.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>17850 42 17892</td>
<td>164.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>17855 42 17897</td>
<td>164.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Revised.

Housing

Housing is one of the basic needs of human being and ranks next only to food and clothing in importance. A certain minimum standard of housing is essential for health and civilised existence. The structure and location of houses and facilities available in human shelter and its surroundings have a strong impact on the State of human being's physical, mental and social well-being. The caste division in Indian rural society greatly influences the distribution of houses and thereby the quality of housing as well as the surrounding environment. In most of Indian villages, the sharp division on caste lines has given rise to segregation in housing. This results in houses of mostly upper castes to be situated in better developed settings while poorer sections predominantly consisting of scheduled castes scheduled tribes are pushed to the periphery of the village.

Rural Housing is one of the most important problems of our national planning. Again, it is a state problem. During the First Five Year Plan some steps were taken towards the improvement of living conditions in villages.\textsuperscript{21} A high priority on the provision of free house sites and assistance for construction of houses for the landless workers in the rural areas was given in the Fifth Five Year Plan. Under the Sixth Five Year Plan a provision
of Rs. 55.00 crores was made for rural housing, out of which Rs. 14.50 crores were allotted for the year of 1981-82. The Planning Commission has estimated 3 million of houses to be required in Gujarat State for its landless rural families and accordingly, 1.87 million families were allotted house sites by 30-6-87.

During the Seventh Five Year Plan the rural areas will receive greater attention for housing. The outlay of Rs. 640.42 crores are earmarked in the plan for rural housing programme. (Vide: Table : 1.5)

(7) Nutrition

Nutrition is important for human health. It is also a protective force against the attack of various diseases. A person gets this from the food; milk, oil, ghee and vegetables he takes. Insofar as our rural people are concerned and specifically poor rural are concerned it is very much difficult to have nutritions food, milk, etc., as their low income prevent them to get this. The programmes for nutrition introduced in rural areas in the early sixties were executed by the Department of Rural Development with the assistance of UNICEF.

By the end of March, 1980, 3.2 million children and pregnant women and nursing mothers were covered by the Special Nutrition Programme. But this programme was failed because the implementation was not closely linked with other rural development programmes like health,
drinking water, employment, housing, etc..

In Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) the total provision of Rs. 1104.72 crores has been made for Nutrition.

The nutrition component of Minimum Needs Programme comprises the Special Nutrition Programme and the mid-day Meal Programme. Special Nutrition Programme covers pre-school children below 6 years, and pregnant women and nursing mothers. The scheme provides supplementary feeding (300 calories with 8-12 grams of protein per child and 500 calories with 20-25 grams of protein per mother) per day for 300 days in a year. The Seventh Five Year Plan target is to expand Special Nutrition Programme so that besides continuing nutritional support to 11.00 million beneficiaries, it covers all the additional Integrated Child Development Service Project. Mid-day Meal Scheme is for school children in the age group of 6-11 years. It offers supplementary food consisting of 300 calories and 8-12 grams of protein per child for 200 days in a year. Seventeen million students were getting nutritional support at the end of the Sixth Plan. The Seventh Plan lays down that measures be taken to line Special Nutrition Programme and Mid-day Meal with other inputs like health, water supply, hygiene and sanitation.
Special Livestock Production Programme

Livestock is an important part of the wealth of our country. Livestock are capable of making a large contribution to the development of rural economy and thus help in raising the standard of living of rural people. The development of livestock is necessary:

* to increase in the supply of milk, meat and eggs which are essential to balance the present poor supply and diet;
* to improve the draught animals to help the cultivator in his industry in a more efficient way; and
* to increase the quantity and quality of by-products such as wool, hair, hides and skin to raise their income.

This programme was launched during 1975-76 on the basis of the recommendation of the National Commission on Agriculture. The main objectives of the programme are:

(i) To provide employment opportunities to the rural poor and to supplement their income;
(ii) To increase the production of animal products like milk, wool, eggs, etc., through crossbred, heifer rearing and setting up of sheep, poultry and piggery production units; and
(iii) To take up health, marketing and insurance cover schemes also.
This programme has been operation in 183 districts in 21 States and 4 Union territories. 30 per cent of the beneficiaries selected under this programme are come from Scheduled Caste/Tribe categories.

(9) **20-Point Programme**

The 20-Point Programme, first initiated by the Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on July 1, 1975, with a view to ushering in a new era for the poor and the downtrodden, is refurbished on January 14, 1982. The announcement of New 20-Point Programme is, however, a logical extension of the 20-Point Programme announced in 1975. In the words of Prime Minister: "This agenda for the nation has been dovetailed into the overall plan of development. It pinpoints the areas of special thrust which will show immediate tergible results for various segments." This programme is a multi-pronged attack on poverty. Some of the points are ameliorative in nature, and some others aim at breaking the stagnation with a view to generating growth and welfare in rural areas. Growth is possible by the strengthening of infrastructure, the mobilisation and utilisation of resources, and by increasing productivity through various strategies, including investment in human capital and also by agricultural and industrial development.

This programme is conceived as a process aimed at uplifting the rural people, their economy and institutions from a state of stagnation or low productivity equilibrium into a more dynamic state of change towards a higher level
of living and a better quality of life. This programme is again revised in 1986 and mainly concerned with the agricultural and rural development. This would be visualised from the picture of following diagramme.

(10) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana

This scheme is started on April 28, 1989 by the Government of India. The scheme will be administered by village panchayats to implement rural employment programmes all over the country benefitting 440 lakh families below the poverty line.

Assistance from the Centre to the scheme will be to the tune of 80 per cent. During the year, 1989-90 the centre would provide Rs. 2600 crores as assistance. All the existing rural wage employment programmes now stand merged into this scheme.

Funds would be allocated to States in proportion to the size of the population which falls below the poverty line. Further devolution of funds to district will be determined in terms of criteria of backwardness such as the share of SC and ST in the total population of the district.

Special consideration will be given to meeting requirements of distinctive areas like hills, deserts and islands. This scheme aims at placing in the hands of village panchayats around the country, adequate funds
to run their own rural employment schemes in the interests of the vast masses of rural poor who constitute the bulk of rural India.

In the last seven years rural employment programmes have reached only 55 % of village panchayats in the country. The yojana will reach every single panchayat.

On an average a village panchayat will receive about Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 to take up employment oriented projects to provide employment for 100 days in a year near the villagers' home.

A scheme to provide employment to nomadic tribes is incorporated into the programme. Nearly, 30 per cent of employment generated is reserved for women.

More importantly, every beneficiary will know how much wages he is receiving and how many days of work he is entitled to. For the first time the underprivileged sections of the rural society will share a common pattern on the basis of equality and not as nominated members of upper echelons. Such elected body will be provided funds for implementing the schemes.

(11) Rural Industrialisation

Industrialisation in any area plays an important role in creating additional employment opportunities, balanced growth, developing markets nearer to the demands, designing and constructing new social set-up, etc, etc.
Most of the activities relating to industrialisation are generally take place in big towns and cities. However, government takes care to develop industries in rural areas too, but the basic requirements for industries hardly available there and therefore, the required growth of industries in rural areas, even after the eight five year plans, is difficult to find in our country. The rural cottage industries, small scale industries, tiny industries and rural based industries must be developed considering the requirements of each area, the problems of rural youth unemployment/under employment, uses of local raw-materials, indigenous craftmenship and spare land and other infrastructure could be solved easily. This will definitely help in developing the rural areas and rural people and thereby improving the standard of living of rural people. Moreover, this tempo of industrialisation again will push and motivate the local educated youth to go for entrepreneurship and ultimately the result would be economic and industrial growth and development of rural India. The most important problem of migration of rural people and therefore the overflow of cities would be automatically solved. This is the most important problem cited by the Census of India, 1991.
REFERENCES:


13. Ibid., p.70.

