INTRODUCTION

Genesis: The Post-War II period marked by War-torn economies -- both in the east and the west -- and the unprecedented needs of rehabilitation and reconstruction, on one hand, and the upsurging tide of the demands of political emancipation and economic growth of the colonial peoples, on the other, had, as one of their corollaries, a rapid and varied governmental penetration in national economic affairs everywhere. Academic interest shot up, particularly in the fifties and the early sixties in the public enterprises, and a plethora of literature was published on them. In addition to basic Parliamentary Papers, Royal Commandments, Legislative Documents, Government Directives/Resolutions/Orders, published Annual Reports, etc., books and articles based on global, national or regional studies were produced outside India and in many parts of our country as well. We had lagged behind in this regard in that no large-scale research was ever done by any one on the public enterprises in Gujarat. I decided, therefore, to undertake this study for my doctoral research.

Background information about the region covered: Gujarat, for the purpose of this study, means the territory of the Gujarat State as was constituted on 1-5-1960.

Gujarat State is situated on the West coast of India between 20.1 and 24.7 degrees North latitude and 68.4 and 74.4 degrees East longitude. It is bounded by Arabian Sea.
on West, West Pakistan in the North-West, Rajasthan in the
North-East, Madhya Pradesh in the South-East and Maharashtra
in the South. The State, has according to the 1971 Census,
an area of 1,95,984 sq. kms. and population of 2,66,97,476
representing 5.97% and 4.87% respectively of the area and
population of the Indian Union.

The State is divided into 19 Districts, the territories
of which formerly had constituted three major regions: (a)
Kutch -- Kutch district. (b) Saurashtra -- Amreli, Bhavnagar,
Jamnagar, Junagadh, Surendranagar and Rajkot districts, (c)
Gujarat -- Ahmedabad, Banaskantha, Baroda, Broach, Bulsar,
the Dangs, Gandhinagar, Kaira, Mehsana, the Panchmahals,
Sabarkantha and Surat districts. Each District has being
sub-divided into Talukas composed of compact blocks made by
the 216 towns and cities and 18,275 villages situated there-in.

Scope and approach: The financial year 1972-73 has been
treated as the base year for the collection and presentation
of data from all the then existing public enterprises with
these constraints: (1) In the case of Gujarat State Ware-
housing Corporation, the Annual Report for 1972-73 was in
the Press, and its cyclostyled copy was not available. (2)
In the case of Gujarat Small Industries Corporation Ltd.,
the Annual General Meeting for the year 1972-73 was not
convened until April 1974. (3) In the case of Gujarat State
Textile Corporation Ltd., no Annual General Meeting was held since 1971. (4) In the case of GEB, up-to-date data could not be procured in spite of best efforts. Of course, as up-to-date information as possible has been incorporated in the discussion everywhere.

As would be appreciated, an in-depth study of all the aspects of every public enterprise in the State would be an impossible task within a limited span of time for the purpose of preparing a doctoral thesis. Hence, the following scheme of area-delimitation has been adopted:

In Part I, in Chapter I, an attempt has been made to review synoptically the histories of the growth of public enterprises in selected countries in the world so as to gather an all-pervasive concept-image; for, the structural, functional and goal-oriented variants have been spatial, timous and numerous. This is intended also to serve as a back-drop for Chapters, II, III and IV in which the organisation and the working of the 12 public sector enterprises -- excluding Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation -- born in Gujarat during the post-Independence years have been studied.

In Part II, the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation, which is the biggest and the most complex -- in more than one respect -- of all the public enterprises in Gujarat has been singled out for a critical in-depth study, in Chapters V to XI, of various aspects and problems like

Observations and suggestions in regard to the numerous facets/issues discussed have been made at appropriate places in the respective Chapters, where corrective action is necessary.

Methodology: A pilot inquiry showed that there were 13 public enterprises in the State. All of them were personally visited for discussions regarding their areas of operations, their problems and their role in the light of the set objectives, and for the collection of their Annual Reports as well as other relevant literature. The Officials in some of them were good enough to spare time for personal discussions as also to spare copies of the Annual Reports. Some were found to be rather reserved and were hesitant to part with even their published Annual Reports, much less to express themselves on any issue/s which had confronted them. As regards the detailed study of GSRTC, two on-the-spot studies for a fortnight each were undertaken by me, where I visited all the departments both at the Central Office level and at the Divisional level. There I had ample opportunity of discussing issues in detail from the top-level managers
down to the clerical cadres. Personal visits to several Depots were also made to find out the existing state of affairs there. In addition, frequent informal personal interviews were also held with the field staff of the Corporation -- drivers, conductors and line checking staff -- numbering close to 400. Numerous meetings were also arranged with the travelling public at different places on different occasions, individually and in groups. Supporting Questionnaires were also used. Insofar as the interpretation of the facts, the treatment of the subject and the conclusions drawn are concerned, all endeavour has been made to maintain objectivity.

I am satisfied that I have been able to locate and draw upon most of the important unpublished and published material relevant to the subject of my study. The sources have been enumerated in the Bibliography at the end of the Thesis.

The list of abbreviations used in the Thesis is attached as Appendix 'A'.

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