PREFACE

In late forties UNO classified the countries into three categories such as developed, developing and underdeveloped. The latter two are characterised by lack of physical goods and services resulting in the lower standard of living for their people. Unemployment and poverty are conspicuous by their glaring existence in such economies. At times they are so poor that the people in these economies are constrained to starve for want of food and are compelled to live in abject poverty. People used to think of such things as their destiny.

But gone are the days of such thinking and complacency. Now a days, especially after the II World War there has been an awakening that men are equal and naturally it followed that there could be no dissimilarity of living. Hence modern day governments, bound by the concept of welfare state, have been hectically endeavouring for the emancipation of the poor and the generation of employment for all the able bodied persons, because UNO in one of their resolutions recognised that “poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere”. So for the maintenance of world peace and order, poverty alleviation and employment generation have been widely recognised by the world governments. Hence, there are vociferous attempts the world over in these fields.

In post-independence period the concept of welfare state has ushered in India. Indian government stands wholly committed to the programme of poverty alleviation and employment generation and this has time and again been reiterated in the Plan documents of government of India. There has been a dispute in economic development literature whether growth be given precedence over distribution or vice versa. Every argument has its plus and minus points. Unless you produce you have nothing to distribute. On the other hand if you produce only, and do not distribute equitably, poverty alleviation and employment generation remains a daydream only.
India’s economic development experience has been circumscribed and conditioned by socio-economic-politico and geophysical structure of its society. Beyond any doubt it could be forcibly stated that growth has precedence over any other thing. But the development attempt should not be imbalanced lest it leads to economic inequality. Economic equality warrants that every citizen must get an equal opportunity to share the fruits of planned development.

In India planned economic development started with the launch of The First Five Year Plan in the year 1951, followed by a series of Five Year Plans with two plan intervals of 1966-69 and 1990-92. Tenth Five Year Plan has started very recently on 01-04-2002. In the initial phase of Indian Planning, the question of poverty alleviation, equitable distribution of wealth and the direct employment generation took the back seat. It was thought by the planners that the growth and its ‘trickle down’ effect would automatically take care of the poverty alleviation and employment generation. During the whole planning process manpower planning was conspicuous by its absence. India should have had its own institutions such as education, social overhead services etc., but these Indian economic institutions have alien foundations quite incompatible with the indigenous problems and thus cropped up the aberrations in the Indian Economic Planning. Consequently, Indian planning and planers came under scathing criticism on account of gross neglect of employment orientation of their economic policy and planning. To remedy these maladies, Government of India has been making hectic efforts. In the domain of economic development employment has been attached equal significance with that of production. The real emphasis on the generation of employment and poverty alleviation started in late 1970s with the launch of Integrated Rural Development Programme in the year 1979, Self Employment Scheme For Educated Unemployed Youth (1983) and Prime Minister’s Rozgar Yojana (1993) to name a few, and a series of target oriented self-employment and poverty alleviation programmes later. All these programmes have been treated as supplemental programmes and the Eighth Plan says that the dependence on these supplemental programmes should gradually
 decrease, "The main thrust should be on the acceleration of the rate of employment growth over the years so that the need for special programmes declines in successive years and tapers off by the end of the decade. Continuing necessity of such programmes on a large scale would, in fact, imply failure of the employment oriented development strategy that is envisaged as the main plank of the Eighth Plan."

Of late the scholars have started busying themselves with the evaluation of these governmental programmes. One of the humble attempts comes in the form of the present Research Undertaking of the analysis of PMRY scheme. The present researcher has put in his humble efforts to probe into the background, the present implementation of the scheme and the weaknesses of the scheme and the agencies involved in its implementation. The researcher has made a humble effort to come forward with the suggestions to remedy the problems associated with the scheme and its implementation and in the process came up with some innovations which in all humility he claims to be his humble contribution to the knowledge in the field:

1. A Model of Apex Monitoring Authority with Quasi-Judicial powers.
3. Theory of Nominal Entrepreneurship in relation to women entrepreneurs.
5. A Model Of Unified Single Agency For Implementation Of Self-Employment And Poverty Alleviation Programmes (Except Wage Employment Programmes)

It is high time that Government of India (and the State Governments as well) parts with its borrowed conceptual framework of Indian Planning and evolves a new framework based on new vision for the new economic and social order in 21st Century and a smooth transition to this end. There is much to be expected in this connection from the Government of India, State Governments, NGOs, Development
Institutions, Social and Economic Reformers and the whole of the Indian community. If all these work in unison it is not difficult to work out a new vision, which is a desideratum for the 21st Century.

Place: Amravati.
Date: 15th August, 2002.

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