PREFACE

Poverty has been one of the Persisting social evils haunting the rural masses in Indian villages. Nearly fifty per cent of the population lives in rural areas and the task of uplifting these masses and to provide social and economic justice is the constitutional responsibility of National, State as well as Local Governments. The idea of democratic decentralisation and the consequent creation of three-tier structure of Panchayati Raj with village Panchayats at Grass-roots level is a progressive achievement in the history of rural development in India. Democracy and development have become the twin desiderata of rural development in the country. Since then series of efforts have been made and sequence of developmental programmes have been launched to bring transformation in rural areas. The latest programme announced by the Central Government which is a 'Gift from Above' in 1989 is Jawahar Rozgar Yojana which is a novel programme giving healing touch to the Indian villages which are suffering with the wounds of financial scarcity, acute
poverty and unemployment.

The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has come to stay with all the backward Indian villages and is now being implemented and administered by the Village Panchayats all over the country. More than 440 lakh families which are below poverty line are intended to benefit from this programme. The existing schemes known as National Rural Employment Programme and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme have been merged into this new programme of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana which in turn is to provide employment to at least one member of each poor family for a minimum of fifty to hundred days in a year in the vicinity of places of their residence. The expenditure under this programme which is a centrally sponsored scheme is shared between the Central and State.

Anantapur is one of the backward districts in Andhra Pradesh and is also brought under the coverage of the new development scheme Jawahar Rozgar Yojana along with other backward districts in the country. The 346 Village Panchayats grouped into 63 Panchayat Mandals kept under three Panchayat Divisions are now implementing the programme and undertaking various developmental works like laying new roads, repairing
damaged roads, construction of school buildings, water tanks, completion of incomplete works, Social Forestry, irrigation wells and so on. Since 1989-90 to 1992-93 more than 2694 lakh rupees have been received and 2651 lakh rupees have been spent on various works in the district.

PROBLEM:

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana received focal status in the programmes of Rural Development in the drought prone districts like Anantapur. This programme emerged as an unforeseen help from the Central Government to the suffering villages for employment generation for the rural folk and socio-economic development for the whole village. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana which is designed and launched with some avowed objectives is subjected to strong criticism at various levels in respect of its performance, operational aspects and the attitudes of various agencies involved in the execution of the programme. There is also an animadversion about its financial management, problem-touch, monitoring and so on which stood as obstacles for the smooth and effective execution of the programme. The frequent allegations levelled by the villagers, officials as well as non-officials on each other in respect of the totality of programme reveal that some sort of cinicism
prevail in the implementation of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

**SCOPE OF THE STUDY:**

Hence, an attempt is made in this thesis to study the various Rural Development Programmes in the country as well as in Andhra Pradesh, the Rural Development Programmes which are in operation in Anantapur District, the contents and components of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana as a Rural Development Programme, the working of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in Anantapur district as well as in Anantapur division and various other problem-areas and trouble-spots in order to suggest suitable measures to make the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana a more effective purposeful rural development programme in the district.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

The objectives of the present study are six fold in character:

1) To study the importance of Rural Development Administration and various agencies and approaches involved in Rural Development.

2) To analyse various Rural Development Programmes implemented in India, Andhra Pradesh and in Anantapur district.
3) To examine the contents and characteristic features of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana as a Rural Development Programme.

4) To evaluate the working of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in Anantapur district.

5) To test the perceptions of various persons involved in the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in Anantapur district.

6) To investigate the problem-areas and trouble-spots in the functioning of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and offer suggestions for improving its effectiveness.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The present study is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data is collected by means of field survey for empirical analysis. Personal interviews were conducted with the officials, non-officials and other General Public in the district to know about various aspects of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Discussions were held with the Village Panchayat Sarpanches to know the problems and prospects involved in the Yojana. To make on-the-spot study personal visits were also held to various places where works are undertaken and executed under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.
The secondary data was collected from the primary records of the Zilla Praja Parishad, Office of the District Rural Development Authority, Mandal Development Offices, Village Panchayats and Office of the District Development Office, Anantapur. The data was collected from monthly, quarterly and yearly performance reports prepared by the District Development Officer, Anantapur and various Village Panchayats under study. The Manual on Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is also made use of for the present study. Various books and journals pertaining to the subjects like Rural Development Administration, Local Self-Government and other related areas were studied. Finally national and regional newspapers, Brochures, Pamphlets and other published and unpublished literature on the subject were also made use of.

PLAN OF ANALYSIS:

Though the present study is descriptive in nature, certain tables, figures and appendices have been presented for analytical purpose.

PLAN OF THE STUDY:

The present thesis has been organised into six chapters.
CHAPTER - I  INTRODUCTION

It deals with the importance of Rural Development Administration and the various agencies and institutions concerned with Rural Development in the country.

CHAPTER - II  RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN INDIA

It deals with various Rural Development Programmes launched in India since independence and their objectives.

CHAPTER - III  RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN ANANTAPUR DISTRICT

It deals with similar development programmes meant for rural areas in Anantapur district.

CHAPTER - IV  JAWAHAR ROZGAR YOJANA - A RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

It deals with the characteristic features and contents of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and its various rules and guidelines.

CHAPTER - V  JAWAHAR ROZGAR YOJANA IN ANANTAPUR DISTRICT

It deals with working of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana as a rural development programme in Anantapur
district and a case study on Anantapur division.

CHAPTER - VI  PROBLEMS & SUGGESTIONS

It deals with various problem-areas and trouble-spots in the working of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and its executing agencies and the various suggestions to overcome the problems and weaknesses. Finally the thesis ends with conclusion.