Social Security measures in other Countries

If the concept and working on Social Security measures are to be properly understood in full appreciation of prevailing and different aspects a comparative and comprehensive study on this subject is to be properly conducted.

Social Security in its modern standardised form is a recent concept though its origin could be traced to ancient times. The International Labour Conference adopted a convention on minimum standards of Social Security in 1952 which has influenced a variety of Social Security measures all over the world. During the 70s there has been in general pragmatic programme and growth in social security in many of the countries of the world. In developing Countries where the economy is already more structured, the Social Security Institutions have become very firmly established and occupy an extremely dominant and influential position both Politically and Financially.

It is a plain proposition that the progress and improvement of Social Security measures have become spectacular, phenomenal in advanced Western Countries in view of their sound and well-based economic stability which other countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America lack in perceptibly and consequently the extent of social security measures prevalent in these countries is not so much appreciable barring of course of a few
notable ones. In this connection the vital role of may specially be mentioned and it was indeed a potent force in 1970 under the leadership of Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

Economic Development in South Asia

The Caste system, though a part of the Hindu Social Structure has influenced the Social Structure of the entire subcontinent including those practicing the other religions - Islam, Buddhism and Sikhism. With industrialisation the caste system is weakening no doubt, but it remains still as an impediment to Social and economic mobility.

It is agonising to state that 1/4th of the people of India do not have more than one meal a day; even that food mainly consists of inferior cereal like bozra and jowar. Clothing is still a luxury for many and even in bitter cold poor people do not wear enough clothes. In rural area 6/7 persons live in one roomed ill-ventilated mud huts. Many basic amenities such as pure water for drinking and bathing are not available for rural people even upto minimum requirement.

This tragically low standard of living causes ill-heath and reduction in the physical capacity of people for sustained hard work.

Generally most of the countries of South Asia exhibit
all the classic symptoms of economic underdevelopment in low productivity, low per Capita income, population growth and receding economic development. With their scarcity and shortage of capital along with their abundant supply of labour, these countries may be said to be suffering from a number of structural imbalance. This is not however a recent phenomenon because it has its roots in the pre-Independence period.

However, after much stress and awful sufferings, these countries have got independence and after the political independence some of the countries notably Korea, Burma, Vietnam (besides Japan, China and India etc which have been separately treated elaborating in other pages) have adopted ambitious plans for economic and social development to strengthen the economy at its base and to initiate institutional changes needed to make the economy more dynamic and more progressive and thereby to arrange for better amenities under social security scheme in modest measure. Development is a continuous process and it touches all aspects of community life. The benefit of economic development must accrue to the relatively poor or less privileged classes of society and there should be progressive reduction of concentration of income, wealth and economic power. The problem is to create a milieu in which the small man who has so far little opportunity in participating in the immense possibilities of growth through organised efforts can be made to put in his best in the interest of a higher standard of life
for himself and increased prosperity for the Country. The space of advancement is slow but a steady and better future is hoped for years to come though remnants of colonial relationship still stands as a great hindrance to their economic development.

South East Asia's Social Security measures and its impact on Indian subcontinent.

Conflict has been the daily fare in various parts of South East Asia since the beginning of War in Asia in 1941. Old empires have been over-thrown and new ones are on the make. There have been revolutions and counter-revolutions. The great powers have been involved in major wars directly or by proxy. The price of violence has been the squandering or drying up of source of South East Asia's prodigious wealth, while millions of new mouths have clamoured for food and low living standard has been further eroded.

Much of the conflict and insecurity that has reigned in this area since World War No. II was probably inevitable. The high rate of birth and human folly have created unrest. What is happening all over South East Asia is a revolution of one kind or another. There occurred either a national revolution inspired by the search for new standards to replace those
super-imposed by Western powers on traditional societies that are ill-adopted to meet the challenge of a fast changing world. With undesired and violent intervention of the Western powers South East Asia has become one of the World's major theatres of conflict. The undue involvement of the big powers has complicated an already complex situation and made it more perilous. But inspite of these stupendous trials and tribulations it is quite heartening to note that most of the small countries within this region have made commendable strides in the act of bringing social and economic rejuvenation as detailed in the following pages. The small South Asian States both being Asian and less developed in economic field have much affinity and similarity with the conditions of our country. And as such their problems and prospects need to be closely studied and if necessary guidelines may be accepted for our benefit.

No body will deny that destabilisation of South East Asia will ultimately and irreparably damage the equilibrium of the entire region. However, in this respect, two great powers Japan and China stand not on equal footing with other underdeveloped countries of this vast region. At present the prime concern of all peace loving countries of Asia is the maintenance of peace in the region although a glimmer of hope in that direction is not yet in sight. In a situation of such uncertainty the best way is to make every individual effort to strengthen oneself. This is why it is essential to maintain
the internal unity, economic development and national defence in the region. Hence the key point lies in the question of how successfully the South East Asian countries can utilize the available opportunity for the purpose of peaceful co-existence and mutual prosperity of South East Asia.

What could be the role of India in bringing about a durable peace and stability in this turbulent region? Must not we should forget for a moment that instability and insecurity of this vital region can never bring peace, prosperity and wealth to India.

India’s co-operation with the countries of this region has been instrumental in strengthening India’s position in the political, economic and security fields. Despite outward difference the countries of this region are based on the assumption common to India; and independent internal and foreign policies cannot grow without self-reliance and national security. To face the prevailing challenge, each state should try hard to develop people’s power and unity. Potential solutions lie in social progress and economic betterment against economic pressures on population and poverty. These are the burning issues which need careful study for country’s economic regeneration intricably connected with the future of West Bengal as well though in an indirect and remote manner.

Lastly a brief reference in this connection about SAARC seems relevant. The newly set up SAARC is aimed at regional socio-economic-culture co-operation among the number states and at the
same time maintaining regional cohesion and balance. India being the largest partner among the seven is expected to play a dynamic and responsible role in default of which the purpose of the SAARC might not be achieved.

U.K. (United Kingdom)

In 1942 halfway through World War II, Sir William Beveridge produced the famous report which laid the foundation of British Welfare State. It was a declaration of intent that after the searing struggle against Nazism, the ordinary people of England would be given a better deal with the State stepping in to solve the problem of poverty 'from the cradle to grave.' The Government responsible for Beveridge Report was the all party coalition headed by Sir Winston Churchill and the concept of welfare state has remained a tripartisan and permanent feature of British life.

No other country in modern times has made a more courageous attack on the problems of poverty as the U.K. Britain has a long tradition of Social assistance as old as the poor Laws of the Elizabethan period.

It is to be admitted that under the present system the structure of social security has got its inspiration from the earlier scheme of social insurance embodied in National Insurance.
Act (Part-I) 1911 which came into force on 15.7.1912. Besides there were several acts passed from time to time such as Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, the old Age Pensions Act, 1908 and the Contributory Pensions Act, 1925. National Assistance Schemes and Voluntary bodies help those who fall outside the scope of these benefits.

Sir William Beveridge took up the task of undertaking a broad survey of existing Schemes of Social Insurance and allied services including W.C. and of making recommendations on their basis accordingly.

The Beveridge plan was in fact a massive reconstruction and unification of Social Insurance Schemes and the purpose of which is to bring every man, woman and child in the country in a comprehensive scheme of Social Security. It was a unified national scheme of income maintenance to cover risks arising from variety of factors. This novel and well thought plan was universally hailed as a monumental document that had revolutionised the current trend of thought and practice in the sphere of social services all over the world. No doubt, therefore, it was a most important landmark in the development of Social Insurance in Britain and all countries associated with her.

The National Insurance Act passed by Parliament on 30.8.46 on the basis of Beveridge Report has fully accepted the principle of Universality and has brought almost the
entire population of the country within its scope.

The Great Britain state is now responsible through various Social Central and local authorities for a range of services covering "Subsistence for the needy, education and health services for all, housing, employment or maintenance, the care of the aged and handicapped persons, care for children, nutrition of mothers and children and sickness, maternity of mothers and children and sickness, maternity and industrial injury benefits, widows' and retirement pensions and family allowance." And to specify more the following benefits are within the scope of the Social Security Scheme - unemployment to be met by unemployment benefits, disability to work by disability benefits, loss of livelihood due to lack of training by training benefits, retirement from occupation by retirement benefits, marriage by marriage grant, guardian benefits to a widow for meeting the expenses of her children, funeral expenses by funeral grant, childhood provided by children benefits and medical aid hospital, care for physical disease. So justifiably it is affirmed that total security is granted to the people of Great Britain from 'Cradle to grave.'

Insured persons are divided in three categories/classes:

Class I Employed Persons
Class II Self-employed persons
Class III Non-employed persons
The contribution is payable at a flat rate for all adult insured persons of the same sex within the same class and graduated according to income. The rates prescribed for Class - II insured persons are lower than those prescribed for Class - I insured persons. The rates of contribution for Class - III are nominal.

As stated earlier 7 types of the following benefits are within the range of the Act:

1. Unemployment Benefit
2. Sickness Benefit
3. Maternity Benefit
4. Widows' Benefit
5. Guardian Allowance
6. Retirement Allowance
7. Death Grant.

To be eligible for each of these benefits an insured person has to fulfill certain conditions.

Equipped with such comprehensive and extensive Social Security benefits Great Britain is truly known to be an Ideal Welfare State after the War.

The Ministry of Social Security maintains a net work of local offices throughout the country for carrying out day to day administration.
Again, the National Insurance Act of 1965 consolidated the provisions of the National Insurance Act of 1946-64. The National Insurance payments are paid as long as situation requiring them lasts. Most of the benefits are paid by means of Vouchers cashable in a Post Office. But the unemployment benefit is paid in cash by the unemployment exchanges in which the unemployed people should go for help in seeking work or fresh employment.

The present practice after implementation of Beveridge Plan for over 35-years has undergone a great deal of change compared to the previous one. It is now costing £ 40 billion annually which is 5 times as much (in real terms) as the Labour Government of Mr. Attlee spent on it in 1949. Over the years both benefits and the number of beneficiaries have soared.

To-day all unemployed or sick adults receive benefit in cash and in payment of their costs for as long as they are in need. All parents receive a payment of £ 6.85 for every child, while those who live on Social Security got extra cash for their children. Young people leaving school who do not find work immediately receive a benefit of £ 17.30 weekly even though they live with parents. Everybody is entitled to some form of pension and in addition all benefit from the free National Health Service, free education and a variety of other social services. But the more serious question has come to the fore - 'Can we afford a system which encourages idleness and irresponsibility
and discourages initiate and enterprise? asked the Chancellor. But to Labour Party this is nothing but a heartless statement because after all Government is supposed to be the custodian of people's every possible security specially, social and economic. The firm and solemn commitment for an Welfare State will have to be upheld. No drastic change needs to be introduced just at the moment.

Drawing a compromise on this vital issue having country-wide impact Mr. Norman Fowler Secretary of State for Social Service remarks, "it would be an abdication of responsibility to hand down obligations to our children which we believe they cannot fulfil. The aim would be to ensure that working people are not worse off than those who live on state benefits. All other benefits like death and maternity grants housing benefits - all should have the ostensible object of rationalising the system rather than saving money."
After thought over the Social Security Scheme in Great Britain

Through the National Health Service and the Social Security system the basic needs of the life are available to all without payment. Since it was inaugurated in 1948 a vast system has evolved to administer this high minded enterprise for which millions of the poor and needy benefit. Aprie "Saw the introduction of the most fundamental reform of Social Security in the 40-years of its existence."

During the last 3 decades, the system has been continually tinkering with to meet new needs or avoid abuse.

Mrs. Thacher, the British Prime Minister, was determined to do something about it in her Third term of office. So, came the reforming Social Security Act produced within months of the New Parliament. The new legislation has three announced purposes. Holding cost is one of them, perhaps the most important. Social Security expenditure is now running at almost £50 billion annually. It now accounts for a third of the total government expenditure and has been rising year by year with no cost control for possibility of forecasting expenditure. To provide for such astronomical expenditure government could call for high taxation which Mrs. Thatcher regarded as unbecoming the capacity of the economy to pay for any Social Security system.

The second objective was simplification. Rules and regulations to provide for every conceivable situation had not only
made the system too cumbersome and complex but also called for an ever growing bureaucrat army to administer it. The third reason is the application of ruler's political philosophy. The present government sees social security as only a safe blanket for those in genuine need, not an a universal system of hand outs which locks recipients into dependency.

The new Act is designed to make it more difficult to call on the state to provide money for those who can do something to help themselves. It aims to encourage people, particularly the young to work to improve their position by their own efforts. The method has been made more stringent. People with savings of more than £6000 will not be eligible for social security while other provisions restrict housing benefits and such amenities as free school meals. There will be no more single payments and instead a fixed sum of money will be paid to a social fund out of which loans rather than grants will be made for essential purchases. Families with children will do better while young people and future pensioners (to encourage private pension scheme) will be losers.

It will take many months to determine how many losers there are and whether in practice the reforms will be seen to be beneficial or an immoral denial of compassion for the needy.
Latest Development in G.B. on Social Security

The introduction of Social Security in Britain proverbially a conservative and pragmatic nation, is a product of compelling circumstances created by the acute need of the time and the people just after the devastation of war and impact of emergence of socialist society elsewhere.

The gradual withdrawal of the State from direct participation in economic activity in Britain. Under conservative rule is not a surprise nor it is based on an ideological desire to do away with socialism. That is only one of the ostensible reasons. The main reason is the desire to correct distortions which crept into Britain's economy/excessive state participation.

Planning is really a process of setting up priorities and then making suitable allocations to priority sectors according to available resources. And in conformity with this understanding Britain denationalised some of the major and vital industries keeping in view the stability of State and welfare of the people.
The Social Security Act, 1935 was the first remarkable piece of Social Security legislation which ensured the overwhelming population provision against loss of earning due to old age or death of the bread-earner. The Social Security Act also encouraged the State by a system of Tax off-set device to set up unemployment insurance Laws according to broad federal standards. There is also a Federal State programme to assist categories like the blind, the aged, dependent children and permanently and totally disabled persons. Federal grants-in-aid are also available for strengthening the material and child health services for crippled children and child welfare. Workmens' Compensation Act provided compensatory aid during the period of enquiry. But social security measures in U.S.A. it is to be pointed out, are intended only to provide minimum standard of living and are not designed to secure absolute protection to the individual against disasters.

The Social Security Act of 1949 broadened the pattern of pension payments and survivors' benefits to the retired workers after the age of 65 and for woman 60. The primary insurance benefits, Wives' benefit, Widows benefit, Child's benefit, Widows' current Insurance benefit, Parents benefit and Lump sum death benefit all these are included within the scope of this Act.

The Social Security Programmes in U.S.A. have been characterised by rapid expansion, significant improvements and widespread public acceptance.
In the United States of America there are variety of Social Security measures which are federal or state run or sometimes jointly by both. In some cases the Federally set standards and grants given to the State programmes for assistance include unemployment sickness and disability due to injury.

Four separate social security programmes provide financial security to the American workers and their families. The old age and survivors' Insurance (OASI) programme pays monthly cash benefits after a worker retires or dies. Disability Insurance (DI) programme pays monthly cash benefits after a worker becomes disabled, the Hospital Insurance (HI) Programme pays for part of the costs of physician's services, out patient Hospital services and other related medical and health services for voluntarily insured, aged and disabled individuals. Health Insurance covers persons over 65-years and persons who have been disabled for at least two years. The cash benefit provisions of the programmes are designed to replace partially the income that is lost. When a worker retires Unemployment Insurance Programmes are designed to provide cash benefits as a matter of right to unemployed workers who must fulfill certain eligibility conditions. One W.C. Legislation is the first form of insurance meant to provide cash benefits and medical care when a worker is injured in connection with his job and also monetary payments to his survivors if he is killed on the job.

Unemployment compensation is administered by each state with
the Federal Government setting standards. This system is financed by a federal tax on pay rolls and by federal treasury.

There are union negotiated welfare Plans in the system of Social Security which usually cover Health Insurance supplementary benefits for retirees, laid off employees and a host of other benefits financed by the employees in the U.S.A. are beneficiaries of private pension and welfare plans. Their rights are protected under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

Major legislative changes were introduced in U.S. Social Security programmes on December 21, 1977. It imposes higher social Security Contributions on more than 100 Million contributors to National Retirement programme and on their employers. The legislation was designed to meet the financial problems facing the U.S. system. According to the new Law benefit amounts would be on an average - 5% lower than those paid previously due to revision of the benefit formula. However, it provides improved benefits for retired persons over 65 years of age who continue to work.

Though already stated the features of social security as pointed out by the Economist Dr. W. N. Lutten are as such 'Social security was designed to protect workers and their dependents from the loss of income due to workers' old age, death or disability. The three types of benefits are payable
to worker; benefits for the dependents of a retired or disabled workers and benefits for the survivor's family of a deceased worker including a lump sum death benefits."

He further stated, "Social Security is a form of income insurance, not welfare. Eligibility and benefits are based on workers' work, experience and earnings not on need. The benefit received is based on the workers' average monthly earnings in covered employment."

The basic requirements for social security benefits:

1. A family member must have worked in employment that is covered by the Social Security System;

2. That person must have worked long enough in covered employment to have become fully insured.

It deserves special mention that the foundation of Social Security Schemes was laid down in the New Deal Policy which was adopted by the Late President Roosevelt after the great depression of 1929 in U.S.A.

The great depression of 1930s finally made the nation responsive to the needs of the ailing people. It bought a change in the sentiments as well as in the physical conditions because the consequent misery was so widespread, acute and prolonged that it was considered beyond the reach of an individual to make sufficient provision from his own resources. The calamities were not
his making but from nature of social and economic system over which he had no control. And as such it was considered essential that the society should come forward. Under pressure Roosevelt in 1934 created the committee on Economic Security and its studies and recommendation led to the passage of the celebrated Social Security Act of 1935, a revolutionary and unprecedented step in economic front of U.S.A. for the betterment of people at large.

Several amendments since then have been made in the Act to enlarge the coverage, scope of the Act as well as to raise administrative efficiency.

Social Security benefits in U.S.A. though not comprehensive and suffer from several deficiencies, there are many things to learn from the system prevailing to U.S.A. with regard to this system.

It is true that American prosperity has not been able to solve all the economic ills facing America. But now the government is trying to deal effectively many of the problems by many beneficial measures including social security the programme of which the Government has been vigorously assisting in recent years in conformity with the realisation that 'Social Security' measures and opportunity to disadvantaged persons must increase and these include adequate health care, freedom from discrimination in finding jobs and adequate income protection for unemployment or serious injury in course of work.
B.C. Tandon said, "However due to trade union movement lately the Americans became increasingly concerned with the welfare of their national. They began to believe in the merits of social security measures and developed faith in greater economic security even if it meant less freedom. A wave of humanitarianism and wage for Social Security measures could very well influence the Americans who formerly were more individualistic.

Most Americans are now more determined 'to create an entirely different American system of social welfare which will be stronger more equitable, more generous, more libertarian, less bureaucratic and more nearly in keeping with the special trait of American people. With a little imagination the voluntary institutions of an open society might be converted into more efficient instruments of social welfare than all the clumsy and dangerous weapon of collectivism.

Allen Schick stated in his writing "Making Economic Policy in contrast" that, "The Social Security evolved so as constantly to expand the fraction of the population eligible for its benefit. And in this regard specially on question of emergence of social security concept and its implementation very appropriate is the remark of Fraser Reekie - "Man in contrast the other living organisation, has not only the ability, to adapt himself to many different natural conditions but can also change his environment and has enormous technological powers to do so". So U.S.A, like other country
formulated social security scheme and in years it expanded to meet the needs of the people. During 1960s there was gradual but material progress in building a comprehensive scheme of private social security through collective bargaining out of the piecemeal fringe benefits beginning from the War Labour Board days.

The programme consisted of 2 major components -

(1) off-sets against wage losses due to illness death, old age and unemployment and

(2) insurance against the costs associated with illness or to put it differently health insurance, sick pay pension, supplemental unemployment benefits and life insurance.

In this connection opinions vertically differ. On social security - one opinion is "in truth the social security programme as it was enacted in 1935 was extraordinarily weak and ineffectual by the standard of welfare legislation in other Western Nations", while the other one is more compromising and coherent.
A comprehensive modern plan of Social Security was introduced originally in Germany. Since 1881 Social Security was adopted by Reichstag as a social policy at the instance of Emperor William. It later found a great support in Prussia. Sickness Insurance was started in 1883, compulsory W.C. Act in 1884, old age and invalidity pension Scheme in 1889 and unemployment in 1925.

The German Social Insurance system was established as the first comprehensive legislation on protection of workers. Wage earners came under Compulsory Insurance through wage Earners' Sick Insurance Act, 1883. Employers and Employee were required to provide against certain contingencies by paying contributions. Social Security in Germany is divided into a number of independent branches which together make up the total Social Insurance programme.

Statutory Sickness Insurance system provides benefits in the form of early detection of diseases. Sickness benefits include hospital treatment, care and curative and supplementary establishment home care, Cash sickness benefit, maternity benefits, death grants and benefit for dependants.

The purpose of Accident Insurance Scheme is not limited to providing Social Insurance by providing Social Insurance cover for the victims of an accident and his dependents, but also to prevent occupational accidents under the occupational safety Act.
of 1934. Employers are required to appoint Industrial Medical Offices and occupational safety specialists. There is also provision for payment of compensation by the Federal Government for the chosen list of occupational diseases. Occupational diseases are placed on the same footing as employment accidents.

The purpose of the statutory pensions insurance system is to maintain improve and restore the insured person's earning capacity and to provide pensions to insured persons and to his survivors. The national employment service is responsible for occupational placement, Vocational counselling etc. On 1.10.74 a Rehabilitation Benefits Alignment Act came into force, the purpose of which is to promote rehabilitation of the handicapped by extending certain benefits to them.
Sweden was one of the first countries to make a start with Social Insurance. Swedish Social Insurance schemes include:

1. National Pensions
2. Children's Allowance
3. Sickness Insurance including maternity benefits
4. Industrial Injuries Insurance
5. Unemployment Insurance.

The principle of comprehensive coverage of all citizens has since become a basic characteristic of Swedish system of Social Security. The employers do not contribute to any of the Social Insurance Schemes proper, except for the Industrial Injuries Insurance Scheme, which is almost entirely financed by the employers. The reason for this is that Sweden's objective is to apply their social security schemes to the entire population and not to gainfully employed persons alone. The national pensions are payable at the same rate to all pensioners, regardless of their income or economic status.

It is rather surprising that a small country like Sweden is one of the pioneering nations which introduced so many and so beneficial measures of Social Security for the economic security and prosperity of all the people irrespective of any kind of considerations.
It provides different social insurance benefits to the people under old age, invalidity and survivors insurance, medical care and sickness insurance, industrial injury insurance schemes, unemployment insurance scheme and parents Cash benefit etc. Majority of the Swedish employees are covered by State subsided voluntary Unemployment Insurance Scheme.

Sweden introduced a new Act on unemployment relief from July 1, 1977 under which the pension benefit from the employment injury scheme will cover part of the loss of income not compensated by the General Pension Scheme. The benefits are designed in principle to put the injured person in the same economic position as if he had not been injured. The Act is based upon the principle that injuries incurred at work constitute grounds for higher compensation for loss of income compared to other kinds of injuries.

Since 1952 all children below the age of 16 are entitled to a childrens' allowance payable to them irrespective of the income of the parents. Supplementary allowances are granted to widowers and widows for taking care of children under the age of 10.

The sickness insurance in force in Sweden is voluntary. The voluntary insurance societies in Sweden date back from 1880.

Sickness benefit is payable for loss of capacity to work owing to sickness. There is no limit of duration of medical benefits.
Large group of the Swedish population enjoy other social benefits for their maintenance in time of sickness or old age, in addition to those provided under various Compulsory Schemes.

Other notable features of Swedish Social Security Schemes are:

(a) Various Social Security Schemes are interconnected and form a strong bulwark against common risks to income insecurity and

(b) Social Insurance Schemes are strengthened and supplemented by a well organised provision of Social benefits.

As Sweden is regarded to be one of the ideal countries in so far as the introduction and sincere implementation of Social Security measures is concerned some salient remarks of David E Woodsworth made in his writing 'Social Security and National Policy' are to be mentioned here for the guidance of our country as well as of other developing nations.

"The intension of Swedish Social Policy is clear: to do everything possible to involve as many people as possible in gainful work but at the same time to provide for contingencies of loss of work income by a series of programme designed to reduce the gap between wages and no wages income. Sickness benefits and unemployment insurance now approach full wages. However, the gap remains large for vulnerable groups: old people, the disabled or handicapped, widows and children. How large the gap is or how
rapidly it is closed is a matter of detailed examination by the various Swedish authorities. There is lot of catching up to date partly by raising the basic benefits, partly by ensuring that they do not slip back with increases in the cost of living. This is to be done by making benefits as generous as possible. Swedish researchers investigate and identify the needs of various populations and take special steps to meet those needs. .... The Swedish authorities have paid great attention to the issues of maximization of resources and equalisation of their distribution."

This assertion on realistic approach should serve as a great lesson to us and to all concerned.
France - Her achievements in matter of Social Security

On the question of Social Security benefits conferred on the working people France deserves special mention.

In France the state becomes the animator of its role of the protector through special approaches. With new methods of production and management new Social problems have cropped up. As a result of emergence of new force there has been necessity for a fresh look at the double movement of industrial development and social action.

From 1880 to 1970 the state gradually assumed the responsibility of collective functioning under Social Planning and transforming it gradually into a welfare state.

During 1970-87 the State has doubled social benefits to its citizens in a more comprehensive manner like many other advanced states of West. The quantum of the benefits and their continuity at a greater scale are both in appreciable standard. Virtually the state has gradually assumed the role of both father and mother of the citizens who entirely depend on it for all kinds of service. Even after so much loss of life and property and enormous sufferings and tribulation connected with the Great War No.2 the performance of France in the matter of social security is quite commendable and worth mentioning. Wide provision for the old and aged and equally liberal accommodation on question of health, education and employment for the working class made Frances' position quite spectacular. She stands examplary in many respects.
Though a small island at one corner of the globe New Zealand has a highly advanced system of social security. Of course the pace of social reform in New Zealand was accelerated only after the great depression. New Zealand has had a unique tradition of state intervention which has immensely helped the development of social insurance.

The concept of comprehensive Social Security introduced in New Zealand found good support in the I.L.O. recommendations (1944) on income security and medical care and in the Social Security (Minimum standards) Convention, 1952. The convention divides the field of Social Security into 9 divisions like - (1) Medical Care, (2) Sickness Benefit, (3) Unemployment benefit, (4) Old age benefit, (5) Employment Injury benefit, (6) Family benefit, (7) Maternity benefit, (8) Invalidity benefit and (9) Survivors' benefit.

Social Security in New Zealand comprises a universal health service and a comprehensive system of a State assistance in the form of Cash Benefits to those who may suffer want through old age, sickness, widow-hood, orphanhood, unemployment or other exceptional conditions.

The basic enactment for Social Security Scheme in New Zealand is the Social Security Act, 1938 which provides:
(1) Payment of superannuation benefits and or other benefits designed to safeguard the people of New Zealand from disabilities of all kinds.

(2) Medical and Hospital treatment.

(3) To promote the health and general welfare of the country.

Prior to the above enactment there already existed a few notable acts which may be deemed to build foundation of comprehensive legislation. There are - (1) Old age Pension Act, 1889 and the scope of which was extended to widows and dependent children in 1911, (2) Family pension was introduced in 1976 and Invalidity Pension in 1963.

Unemployment benefits were introduced in 1939, The average duration of benefits has been 8-weeks. New Zealand's economy is largely based on its primary industries. Both unemployment and sickness benefits become payable after a 7-days stand down period. But this period is frequently waived in order to avoid hardship.

Due to increased government expenditure on the introduction of social security measures rather than increasing the rate of existing taxes the government has introduced special taxes for creation of social security funds which would be supplemented from government revenue.
With the avowed object of keeping pace with other nations the Commonwealth of Australia during the last four and half decades has made decisive progress in providing Social Security to its citizens.

'The Social Security services in Australia are generally financed by one simple method and are embodied in one Act namely the Australian Social Services Consolidation Act, 1947. This great piece of enactment covers old age pension, invalidity pension, widows' pension, maternity allowance, child endowment, unemployment benefits, sickness benefit and funeral benefits.'

The arrangement for implementation is made in the following manner which proved to be very much effective.

All payments of pensions, allowances, endowments and benefits under the Australian Social Security Scheme are financed out of a statutory National Welfare Fund. This fund is made out of social service. Contributions on a guarantee scale and assessed on the basis of taxable income ascertained in accordance with the Law Governing Income Tax.

'It is no wonder that Australia with a fairly high standard of living has a comprehensive Social Security system. Certain other factors such as a compact population, and absence of other safeguard like trade guilds as in other countries have also adequately aided this development.'
Japan is a small island country, poorly endowed with natural resources and supporting a large population of 118 million. Yet despite these limiting conditions and devastation of its industrial structure during World War II, Japan has emerged boldly from war ruins and has managed not only to build its economy but to become one of the leading industrial nations in the world today. And it is much more spectacular and surprising when we take into account the stern fact that for some years after the nation's defeat in World War II the Japanese economy was almost totally paralysed from war time destruction, experiencing a severe food shortage, runaway inflation and rampant black marketing. But Japanese people with undaunted courage and sagacity and with boundless love for the nation set about re-building their war devastated economy. Aptly said Dr. Henry Kissinger, Ex-Foreign Secretary of U.S.A., "Japanese attitudes of love of country, duty and endurance are remarkable. The Japanese received sorrow and catastrophe with amazing discipline."

Worth noting is the fact that various social reforms carried out after the war helped share a basic framework of subsequent economic development.

With the collapse of many of the old patterns of communal life in the nation's towns and villages after the war, the new
local administrative measures have been taken to improve and broaden the well being of the local community.

And the Japanese people after long spell of trial, tribulation and tremendous sacrifice have come to realize the 'importance of a humanistic and spiritually worth-while life' which was often forgotten in the past amidst the nation's single minded economic endeavours. Corresponding to this change in awareness comes recognition of the need to re-examine family and community ties and other basic aspects of the people's daily life as the nation faces the challenging task of adopting its culture life style to a changing world. Every Japanese nurtures one motto in mind - 'Enrich the nation, strengthen the people'.

The concern of both the government and the people alike is now directed towards providing broader social welfare programme and creating a living environment better suited to the pursuit of healthier and more satisfying modes of life.

In view of above and more so far Japanese unique position and progress the activities and achievements of this sun's land and neighbourly country have been discussed more comprehensively particularly in her commendable move for implementing social security measures with utmost sincerity and determination.

Through out their long history the Japanese people have shown a unique aptitude for assimilating and adapting new ideas to their particular cultural milieu. This aptitude stems from the history and geography of Japan which have created an unusually
homogeneous people. Over the centuries they have developed institutions, customs and characteristics that have given them a strong sense of national identity and common purpose.

Japan to-day belongs to all major world forums, actively pursues diplomacy for peace, and is contributing to greater mutual understanding as an active member of the community of Nations. So, rightly remarked Swami Vivekananda in 1893 after his visit to Japan: "The Japanese are one of the cleverest people of the world. The world has never seen such a patriotic and artistic race as the Japanese."

The last decade of the twentieth century is witnessing Japan's spectacular development in socio-eco-political fields while the people of Japan are facing the challenges of national reconstruction with dexterity, determination and capability.

Japan's labour management system underwent a re-organisation after World War II with the enactment of new Labour Legislation along democratic lines. These Labour Laws include detailed provisions concerning the securing of modern and democratic labour management relations as well as employment practices.

The Trade Union Law stipulates worker's right to organise and to bargain collectively, thereby guaranteeing labour unions the right to engage in democratic labour movements.
Japan's Social Security Measures

The Ministry of Health and Welfare and its social Insurance Agency have the major administrative role in the nation's social security programmes. Local governments on prefectural and municipal levels provide the day-to-day Social Security services through their Welfare Departments, Welfare Offices and various counseling centres.

Japan's Social Security programmes are basically a combination of income security mainly provided through Social Insurance and Public livelihood assistance, medical care security through health insurance, and public welfare, including services for the aged physically and mentally handicapped and children lacking a normal home life.

These various welfare programmes cover a wide range of aspects in the people's daily life and are now approaching the same high level as those of the advanced welfare states of Western Europe Scandinavia and other advanced countries as far as coverage and kinds of programmes are concerned. The secret of this achievement lies in the good habit of Japanese to save something at any cost. Perhaps two prominent religions - Buddhism and Shintoism, were instrumental in promoting such savings habit among the Japanese.

Social Security projects have been high on the Government's list of priorities. In the 1981 budget (initial), the government allocated $8,837 billion for social security
purposes or 19.8 per cent of the total general Account Budget.

Total payments for the nation's Social Security Programs for fiscal year 1980 amounted to $24,604 billion ($108.5 billion) comprising $10,658 billion (or 43.3 per cent of the total) for medical care and $13,946 billion (56.7 per cent) for various cash benefits under income security and welfare service programmes. This total represents a 12.3 per cent increase over the previous year and constitutes 12.7 per cent of total national income for the same fiscal year, the ratio itself showing an increase over the previous year's 8.9 per cent.

Total payments for fiscal 1980 were 7.0 times as large (in nominal value) as the corresponding figure for fiscal 1970 and 15.3 times that of fiscal 1965 showing the overall expansion of social security programmes in recent years. This upward trend reflects the improvement and expansion of social security measures from fiscal 1971 and the maturing of pension system (relative increase in beneficiaries).

Of total social security benefits, cash benefits have surpassed medical care benefits since 1975 and even surpassed medical care benefits since 1976 indicating a change in the structure of Japan's Social Security System. By individual system, the weight of pensions showed an upward tendency while the proportions of medical care insurance registered downward trends.
As a result of the Japanese employment system of lifetime employment and the seniority wage system coupled with a traditional tendency in Japan to attach great importance to human relations, non-obligatory welfare programmes undertaken by companies for their employees over and above the scope required by law are quite extensive both in scale and variety.

Life Insurance in Japan has a maturity period of about 30 years in most cases and at the end of this period, a sum about equal to the total premium payment plus interest is paid to the policy holders in a lump sum by way of a fund for old age security. Private Life Insurance Policy holders are also accorded generous tax benefits by the government. As there are many farmers and self-employed persons besides company employees, private insurance plays no small role in private stability for the people's life in addition to the public social security system.

Family solidarity still remains relatively strong in Japan contributing in large measure to the stability of the people's lives. For instance, it is still usual for old parents to live with their children. A 1981 survey showed that 76.8 per cent of the population aged 65 or over was living with their children. In many cases, moreover, children living separately from their aged parents give them financial aid. This strong sense of solidarity also exists among blood relations, such as brothers and sisters who are often ready to
help each other in time of emergency or hardship contributing to the comprehensive stability of the people's lives to a great extent.

The Social Security system of Japan, in general, depends in large part on social insurance for both pension schemes and medical care. Social Insurance is basically divided into an occupational one for employees of Public and Private Organisations and Community Insurance for others including the self-employed. Occupational Social Insurance for both pensions and medical care is further divided into numerous categories depending mainly on the different grouping of the insured's occupation and the organisation he belongs to.

The different social insurance programmes were established at various times during the past century, starting with pension schemes for military personnel and Central Government employees instituted in the last 1800s. Thus, the whole social insurance system in Japan at present is a cumulative and inevitably very complex one.

Japan's medical care security system centres on health insurance system and the public assistance programme for medical care as financed by the general revenues of the national and local government.

Since 1961, the Japanese people have been universally covered under some kind of health insurance programme, which
provides medical treatment, free of charge or with the payment of a small fee, to the insured and their dependents, in addition to various health related allowances.

The present health insurance system consists of eight different plans, reflecting the fact that Japan's social insurance system was largely formed and developed on a group by group basis based on place of work. Roughly, the present system is divided into employees insurance for employed persons and community insurance for other regional residents.

In employees insurance there is first of all the extension of health insurance system for employed persons in general. This general insurance plan for employees is further classified into two groups or categories - namely government managed health insurance mainly for employees of medical and small-sized enterprises with government serving as insurer and a society managed health insurance for which a Health Insurance Society jointly organised by management and employees of a big enterprise or of a group of enterprises in the same trade serves as insurer.

The community health insurance programme is called the National Health Insurance and it is for those persons who are not covered by any other abovementioned insurance plans for employees. It is managed by either local authorities (cities, towns or villages) or the National Health Insurance Association.
each formed by a group of persons engaged in the same occupation such as doctors or carpenters.

Cash benefits supplied under the health insurance system include sickness and injury allowances and maternity allowance to compensate for the loss of income due to temporary incapacity. Health insurance societies and mutual associations provide additional benefits to cover that part of medical costs which is not met by standard health insurance set by law.

The costs of health insurance are covered mainly by premiums and subsidies from the national treasury.

As for National Health Insurance, the premium is fixed according to the income assets number of members etc. of the household covered, although standards differ from local government to local government.

Japan's income security programmes consist mainly of old age, survivors (widows and orphans) and disability pension plans fall under various social insurance schemes. Also a children's allowance is provided to cover special expenses.

The elderly over 70 widows with children and the disabled who were not covered by any contributory pension insurance plans or otherwise not qualified to receive these pension benefits as of November 1, 1959, when the National Pension Insurance Plan was established, are entitled to receive benefits under the noncontributory welfare pension plans. The welfare pension is entirely paid out of the national government's General Account Budget.
In any society, the physically handicapped are considered social burden. But Japan has demonstrated exemplary contribution in this regard. Social Security measures for the handicapped include not only accommodation but also welfare measures.

Welfare facilities are established and managed by national and local government, statutory private social welfare bodies and other organisations. The National Government pays or subsidises the costs of building and/or running these facilities. In some cases fees are collected from those persons admitted to the facilities who can afford such payments.

In Japan, the elderly population requiring more than average social welfare assistance is still small compared with Western nations. As of 1981 people aged 65 or over numbered 10,940,000 or 1.28 per cent of the total population (comparable recent figures are 15.9 per cent for Sweden 15.3 per cent for Federal Republic of Germany and 11.2 per cent for the United States).

This enables Japan to spend a smaller portion of its total national income on social security benefit. Indications are, however, that the aged population will soon show a sharp rise which in turn will bring about a substantial increase in payments for both medical care and pension.
In brief, the Japanese system of Social Security has been considered to consist of four major parts:

1. Social Insurance Scheme;
2. Public (Social) Assistance;
3. Public Health and Medical Care;

In fact, the effectiveness of the Japanese move for Social Security is based on their having learned that living together cannot be based on adversary relations, but must have a foundation in common interest and mutual trust. Social imbalance may impair social cohesion. And great care is taken to avoid destruction or damage to the unity and common purpose. The industrial harmony of Japan is usually attributed to history and traditional values. Aptly said Mr. Peter Drucker "When a defeated humiliated and almost destroyed Japan began painfully to rebuild the question was asked - what are the right rules for a complex modern society and one that is embedded in a comparative World economy and dependent on it? - the idea of finding common ground with opponents and of settling conflict in a bond of common interest and unity." Dr. Ram K. Vepa speaks of Japan with unbiased mind. Courtesy and politeness one meets everywhere in Japan. Cheerfulness prevails all around. Individually Japanese are reserved and uncommunicative. There is abundance of patience,
goodwill and friendliness not merely towards foreigners but even amongst themselves. The sense of restraint and discipline mark all their lives whether at home or in office. And that is why Japan has ranked as one of the new industrial nations of the world for more than half a century and has achieved phenomenal economic development against formidable odds and which the world recognises. In conclusion, frankly do I admit that comprehensive treatment over Japan and her manifold and unconceivable achievements have been made with utmost respect due to the following salient and sublime features though already mentioned elsewhere in nutshell:

(a) Japan is a wonder to world and a pride to Asia.

(b) Japanese people have set up unprecedented example of courage skill and sagacity in their unique act of re-emerging as a powerful nation after untold suffering amidst ruins, ravages and repression continuing for decades.

(c) Their unimaginable act of adoptibility and limitless tolerance have brought about progress, prosperity on profound and solid establishment undreamt of previously.

(d) They have transformed adversity into prosperity for the very reason that defeat and subjugation in war opened the broader way for further development of social legislation including comprehensive social security benefits. Various social security measures were enacted and promptly
put into effect during the period of occupation (1945/52). It is no mean achievement secured against so much odds and obstacles.

Unhesitatingly and unquestionably it should be admitted that had the other Asian people assiduously followed the steps of Japan, the face of the whole of Asia would have been different and distinctly brighter. India being enmeshed in poverty and prolonged and acute economic crises will be much benefited should we the Indians, in general and Bengalees, in particular take lessons with open heart from Japan and her patriotic people.
Resurgence of China after prolonged period of trial, tribulation continued economic stagnation along with deeper financial crises is also a great and memorable event in contemporary history of the world. Ravages of war, exploitation by a handful of stronger and wealthier section, combined on slaughter of draught, famine and crises almost at all levels put the Chinese people on the verge of precipitation. And against such formidable odd and deprivation how China has come to today's stable position is indeed a wonder, a miracle too. From that stand point and more from an unbiased review chinese performance is equally glorious like that of Japan. Prestige, potentiality and stability have grown in volumes to the credit of Asia even against mounting adversities and immeasurable sufferings those two countries are subjected to. Both have over-come successfully the trial but China's case is all the more commendable for her surging and higher member of population along with untold want and wanton scarcity prevailing through out the country for over a few decades.

China is a very ancient land; profoundly inspired are her people— with noble and lofty teachings of Lord Buddha.

This high place accorded by the Chinese leadership has imported a distinctiveness to the Chinese development model which had all the ingredients of what later came to be known as basic needs for strategy of development. Consequently China
has a unique record among the developing countries of the world of attaining a remarkable economic development along with Social Justice which is in sharp contrast to the experience of a large number of third world countries - China evolved a new economic system and pioneered a new social transformation leaving behind the old one. This is also a great and adventurous achievement.

The unique feature of economic development of China is that she has achieved high growth rate with social justice which is so much talked about these days. It is the achievement in the field of social justice and income distribution which have attracted the attention of the outside world.

The present Chinese Republic was formed in 1949, two years after India became independent. At that time conditions in China were worse than in India, the former having endured more than three decades of devastating war. But we are yet to recover from the indirect impact of the 2nd world war mingled with social convulsion and economic instability.

Political rights seem to be a mere hoax unless accompanied by economic rights. A man suffering from economic exploitation or living below the subsistence level can not be expected to exercise his economic rights freely. Thus he must be assured of first all his economic rights like the right to work and then other rights will follow. In other words he should perform his responsibilities faithfully more so when country is a
socialist one in order to make his rights real and effective. Chinese leaders also have made themselves highly concerned with the welfare of the workers and the preservation of human initiative. In the old Society things were very much different.

The reasons for phenomenal advancement of the Chinese are mainly the following:

1. to rely on the initiative of the masses;
2. to develop one's strength to the utmost;
3. to view agriculture as the base and industry by applying the criteria of equality, speed and economy.

Said Chairman Mao Tse Tung: 'In our economic and financial set up we must overcome such evils as disunity, assertion of independence and lack of coordination and must establish a working system which is unified and responsive to direction and what permits, the full appreciation of our policy and regulations.'

The core of system of ideas of the exploiting classes is egoism, selfishness. As a result of thousand years of existence of the system of private ownership this egoism has a deep seated influence. The old social system has been eliminated but still in-variably remnants of old ideas reflecting the old system remain in peoples mind for a long time and they do not easily give way.
Success demands a unity of conception and action and a correct estimate of the nature of viable transformation and their interdependence.

Chairman Mao said: The new social system has only just been established and requires time for its consolidation. It must not be assumed that the new system can be completely consolidated the moment it is established, for that is impossible. It has to be consolidated step by step.

The Socialist system is to-day faced with the challenge of reforming political economy while maintaining commitment to ideology. And the process of meeting the challenge is neither simple nor predictable.

Within the present frame-work oriented by a new system of Government China has given utmost attention to the welfare of the people. So many beneficial measures have since been introduced keeping in view the lofty aim in ultimate and countrywide economic solvency with desired betterment to each individuals. This is practically the product of Revolution.

Before 1949 there was no social security scheme worth the name functioning in China. With the establishment of peoples Democratic Republic in 1949 attention was given to programmes of social welfare. The first law of social security was passed in 1951. But this law was governed for individual labourers only. There are different systems and modes of operation of social security scheme in China for industrial and agricultural sectors.
China and her Social Security

The major schemes effective in the industrial sectors are:

(a) old age invalidity, death pension scheme;
(b) Sickness and Maternity Benefit Schemes and
(c) work injury Compensation Scheme.

In 1971 the costs of Labour Insurance and Welfare of worker including medical and health expense subsidy travelling allowance and for hardship cases pensions and cultural and educational expenses were equivalent to 30% of the aggregate amount of wages paid.

Agriculture Sector

In agriculture sector emphasis was given by the government since the establishment of communes in 1958 and symbolized by the system of 'Take agriculture as the base and industry as a leading sector.' Social Security Schemes have been gradually coming up in the countryside. Following the policy of economic decentralisation and insistence on mobilising local resources for local needs, social security programmes have also been totally decentralised both organisationally and financially. As part of "walking on two legs" policy, the system generally followed is for the state to pay the salaries of the
staff and share the other working capital while the communes provide the fixed assets like building. According to the article 14 of Draft resolution of the weibsing commune 'Every member may have two days' leave per month and woman members four. Payments during treatment is to be half wages for three months.

Apart from these leave pensions and subsidies to those unable to work and homes of rest for the aged and nurseries for the children are also mentioned in the draft resolutions.

The organisational base of all such social security measures is the production team of the communes. This comprises the neighbouring 30-40 house holds on the average. According to Joan Robinson these households are generally interrelated and till the lands of their fore-fathers. The Chinese have thus retained the content but changed the form of the traditional joint or extended family system. The ideological education and the changed social context have resulted in the retention of the collective advantages of such a system. The disadvantages of lack of stimulus to work and low modification to improve one's level of living have been minimised by making work the primary duty of every individual and providing opportunity for useful employment.

Thus the social security system of China is different from other Communist Countries. The characteristics of the Chinese social security system are:
(a) Stress on Agricultures;

(b) Discarding the traditional concept of social security and concentrating efforts on the basic insecurities to be found in an agricultural country (there are natural disasters, malnourishment, inadequate medical care and illiteracy).

(c) Using labour intensive with cheap techniques during gestation period and

(d) Starting from Universal Coverage with how so ever modest facilities and building them up a path which due to size of the country and numbers is involved with a lower yield and unspectacular growth.

Besides, there is a happy concurrence and a clear understanding between the rights as well as responsibilities of the citizens of China.

The 1978 Constitution of New China sanctions the following rights to the inhabitants.

1. The most important right of the Chinese Citizens is the right to work (Art.18). The state guarantees employment to all because of collective ownership of the means of production. In such a state there is remote possibility of exploitation and unemployment. The state not only guarantees employment to all but also provides for payment according to quality and quantity of work. It has also passed various legislations for improving the working condition of the labourers and promoting their welfare.
2. Right to rest and leisure (Art. 49).

To translate this right into reality the state has fixed the hours of work in trades and industries and provided for annual paid holidays and weekly days of rest. The state provides, besides above, material facilities like Libraries, health resorts, sports tour programme etc., for rational employment of leisure.

3. The Chinese people both with civilians and Army men are assured of free medical service in case of illness and disability. They have also the right to maintenance in old age; in sickness and in case of complete and partial disability by an expensive net work of social insurance embracing not only the person immediately affected but also his family member (Art. 50).

The citizens have been guaranteed the right of remedy against unlawful action of any person working in any organ of the state or other public institutions leading to the infringement of their fundamental rights.

It is to be assumed that the prospects of the socialist state depend mostly upon the awareness of the responsibilities on the part of the people.

They are to conform to some ethical rules of societies in order to enjoy its fruits; with a desire to live in a socialist state and to enhance its prosperity the citizens of
China must protect Socialist property honour labour laws and social ethics and safeguard state secrets. Chairman Mao's belief in the dominance of human will and politics over superiority in armaments reflected in his famous saying - 'Man is more important than weapon.' And service to humanity is above everything. This is the teaching of Buddhism and that is also the dictum of the new regime of China which emerged out of immeasurable sufferings and sacrifices, connected with the order the people faced with undaunted courage and determination.

'In a fundamental sense' said the American Economist Alexander Eckstein, 'Chinese economic development since 1949 is the product of both continuity and change. As revolutionary as the changes have been in the past 25 years, The actual course of development can be much better understood against the background of China's heritage.'

The performance of the China's economy is appraised in terms of its quest for stability, the pursuit of economic growth, the degree of self reliance attained, the improvements in economic distribution and the way in which all of these form what one might turn a Chinese development model.

China's economic position can perhaps be most clearly demonstrated by the simple fact that the country's agriculture feeds to-day approximately 1/4th of the world population in 7% of the globe's cultivable land.
The Chinese inherited a predominantly agrarian economy subject to acute population pressure. In fact twin factors of agrarian backwardness and demographic pressure have profoundly conditioned the determining aspects of China's economic development and its economic policies since 1950. But at the same time the people's Republic inherited from the past a hard working disciplined and frugal people who formed the pool of human resources, and equally strong and dynamic leadership the country got for motivating the people to pursue collective and national goal.

Most admirable features of the Chinese economy are:

1. decreasing import dependence.
2. to avoid dependence on others.
3. growing decrease of disparity in income.
4. gradual introduction of social welfare measures.

The fundamental challenge confronting Chinese leaders in the coming decades will be to maintain the tempo of economic growth, to build a strong and modernising China while preserving socialist values and making adequate Social Security arrangement for workers both industrial and agricultural.

If China's far reaching experiments were to succeed it would indeed be a historical contribution to the process of modern economic growth.

In this connection Chinese novelist Han Suyin's remark is worth mentioning 'China is adopting a socialism suited to
its needs. The conflict between the old and the new is no secret. All isms of the past be it capitalism and Marxism need to be rethought and reformed. It is not possible to copy other people's pattern. We have to fashion it ourselves based on our experience. We must do what we can with what we have. Today it is necessary to have a new thinking, a new philosophy and a new humanism we should explore relationship between development, technology and culture."

In fact, the practice based on the principles of self management and social contracts enables the system to retain the benefits of collective security and competitive efficiency.

China's economic upliftment measures on a pragmatic approach

In previous pages the economic progress of China has been discussed. Here is given a graphic idea of China for discussion on South and S.E. Asian countries. The illustrious diplomat Mr. Henry Kissinger, U.S. Ex-Foreign Secretary said of the Chinese people, "The Chinese people are obviously a great people. They have the longest un-broken record of Government in one area in any of the existing Civilization and Secondly 800 million people representing 25% of the human race are a factor that can not be ignored for their diligence,
endurance and pragmatism. The Chinese are never known to be a demonstrative lot. Everyone in China is in favour of economic reforms which have brought a good deal of prosperity in the countryside. The leaders also nurture a pragmatic view on Chinese Socialism in the form of development of Community economy for the allround welfare of the people at large. China's efforts are engineered to build Socialism meant for bringing social welfare and economic society." Song Tingming, Director, State Committee for Re-structuring the Economic system, China, said, "Our Socialism is changing all the time. It is not the closed socialism not even the poverty socialism of the past."

The Chinese economists tend to have discarded the traditional paths and ideas. Consequently rural economy freed from relentless control planning has produced better income for farmers and small rural industries. The urban reforms are better than the rural and they two appear to paying off and that is creating a broad, popular and enthusiastic base for voluntary expression of people's will and endevour. Can not all these reforms serve as a guideline to our economic reconstruction?

The World Development Report 1988, praises China for maintaining steady growth rates among the low income countries despite the worsening environment of early 1980s. China's performance on population control is quite praiseworthy. China stands out better with gross domestic savings of 34 per cent of GDP in 1986. The age long ills like nutritional deficiency, infant mortality and illiteracy have also been remarkably subdued.
Unlike Japan China is still predominantly an agrarian country and many of her related features stand in common with India. Like China India needs most prudent budget policies, reduced cost of raising revenues, efficient and effective public spending, strengthened in government and policies the public finance consistent with alleviation of poverty. China should in that respect be accepted as a noble example for comprehensive approach to public finance reform so essential to provide consistent policy advice and to implement sustained reform. To implement the dream of to-morrow we need like China a unique integrated multidimensional approach to multitudes of programmes with involvement of community. Pragmatism is the very essence of China's simple and unsophisticated mode of life.

Asked by Celebrated Historian Edger Snow to relate the cause of success of Chinese revolution Mao Tsetung said, three things are needed – (1) two meals a day, (2) minimum cloth supply for men and women and (3) provision of shoe for 650 million of people. How pragmatic and significant is the statement of Chairman to whom Chinese people will ever remain grateful for economic rejuvenation from opium slumber. In case of social security as has been arranged for working women in china a few words may be added for our guidance.

Factory Managers say that it is unprofitable to employ woman because they have to be given maternity leave which ranges from 15 to 180 days. In order to stop this trend the All
China Women's Federation has suggested a novel Scheme to the Government of China. According to this proposal, the factories who are paying wages to workers in maternity leave should be compensated up to half the amount by the factory which employs a husband.

So says the Chairman of the said Federation:

"We are trying to make people see that women's role as mothers is an invaluable contribution to society and the future, for which they need all support instead of being discriminated against."
The evolution of society takes place when traditional behaviour pattern is replaced by pressures created through internal strife or foreign invasion.

Political independence for bulk of the newly independent countries was achieved after the end of the second world war culminating in the defeat of the Japanese forces in various sectors; Japan had ultimately to surrender against massive and extensive damage and destruction caused by atomic bomb blust. But this independence became superficial as the economic dependence continues due to abject poverty and acute scarcity all around.

Therefore, the involved countries had to face negative growth rate, drain of resources, huge foreign debt and unstable economy due to continued dominance of rich capitalist countries.

But South Korea stands as a notable exception. Inspite of dependence and allied other deterrents, South Korea has achieved tremendous and spectacular economic success.

The end of world No. II divided the country. The Korean peninsula was partitioned along the 38th parallel into Soviet and American sphere of influence. The end of the war led to the loss of Korea's external markets and raw material sources.
The South had two thirds of population, half the arable land including 70 per cent of the rice growing areas and light industrial infrastructure.

But the dictatorship of General Park saw the emergence of the Korean economic miracle. A stiff devaluation was announced to encourage exports and restrictions on external trade were eased. In 1973 a massive plan for the growth of capital intensive industries like ship building, steel, machinery and petrochemical etc. was introduced.

By any reckoning S.Korea's economic success is a splendid one. In 1953 agriculture formed 47% of the gross National product and manufacturing 9%. And in 1981 these were 16% and 30%. The population grew from 28 million in 1960 to 40 million in the early 1980s and the labour force underwent a significant transformation. In 1960 two third was engaged in agriculture and in 1982 two third was engaged outside agriculture.

Within two decades South Korea, one of the poorest nations, became a reasonably prosperous one. Life expectancy increased and universal literacy was achieved. Real Wages were increased by about 75% since 1971. It has a larger GNP than Switzerland and a per capita income greater than Portugal’s. The per capita income which was a meager $ 67 in 1962 rose to a phenomenal $ 5,290 in 1990 and is expected to rise in a few years. Low wage is alleged to be the reason of such prosperity. But that is not the fact, wages have risen much faster than in
most developing countries, by over 7% annually since the early 60s. Not only that, tremendous improvement was achieved towards realisation of Social Security Schemes particularly in health, hygiene, housing and un-employment.

In fact, "the basic developmental forces which pushed the country ahead among other factors are socio-eco-cultural element and utilisation of international market through productive capacity of the economic forces."

In fine, must not we forget that this very small country after prolonged war ravage and devastation has risen from rags to riches. So higher is the stage of economic upliftment that not long ago boldly she took up the responsibility for the tremendous task of organising international sports and games with so much initiative and dexterity that it gained worldwide praise and reputation.

This indeed unmistakably demonstrates economic solvency of this truncated state of South East Asia.

Almost all the foreign visitors in a voice appreciated the unique welfare activities of the State in different directions for the benefit and betterment of the people achieved within so short span of time.
Perhaps it will not be out of place or beyond the orbit of pertinence if some plain truth is told in connection with our economic policy though it has become a subject of much controversy and an object of deep concern to many.

South Korea has some common national features similar to us:

1. Like West Bengal South Korea stands truncated and divided;

2. This state also had to stay under foreign subjugation though not for so longer period like us.

3. Koreans had to suffer a deal of privation and untold sufferings under foreign domination with loss of life and property beyond measure.

But still the Koreans have grown prosperous within the ambit of capitalist or open market and within short span of time by dint of courage, patience and undaunted determination compatible to the tribe they belong.

Any big plan or project meant for the welfare of the people can be fulfilled by three indispensable requisites like —

1. A stable people
2. A stable economy
3. A stable government

From that point of view too we do not lag far behind. So why should not we be able to move on and embark upon a journey on a new path with untiring efforts aided by utmost endurance and genuine sagacity along with a spirit of sacrifice. However time will tell what is inevitable.
NORTH KORIA

1. The 2nd World War found in its wake, a radical transformation in the political map of South East Asia. Most of these countries of this region achieved independence from the chains of imperialist powers after World War No. II. These countries had a number of drawbacks - low agricultural output, economic under-development, poverty of the people, excessive dependence on agriculture and lack of modernisation.

2. But inspite of all these basic drawbacks, Korea, specially North Korea has since emerged as a truncated state achieving splendid development both in agriculture and industry. The people of this ancient land are endowed with patience and perseverance. Their power of endurance knows no limit. So is chosen North Korea for study of her people's economic social and cultural performance. Despite devastating Japanese domination and severe loss and injury in men and materials caused by South Korean invasion engineered under the direct patronage and active help of U.S.A., the gallant North Koreans stand undaunted and extra ordinarily determined.

3. After being freed from Japanese subjugation, the people of Korea began to carry out democratic reforms for which it was possible for them to liquidate the economic foundations of landlord-capitalist and other reactionary classes and economic power of the people and turn the Northern half into a powerful revolutionary democratic basis (King Sung).
Democratic reforms were initiated in virtually all spheres of social life. They included among others the agrarian reforms, nationalisation of major industries, democratic protection of labour, the equality of sexes and democratisation of the judicial, educational and cultural affairs.

On 5th March 1946, the 'Law of Agrarian Reform' was promulgated to meet the legitimate demands of country's social development and the peasants' centuries old desires for land. On the principle that only the tiller has the right to land' the law made it clear that the land formerly owned by the Japanese occupiers, the land of the landlords shall all be confiscated without compensation and distributed free to the landless and poor peasants. This agrarian law was enthusiastically supported by the peasants. This is, indeed, a really revolutionary and scientific solution of the peasant and agrarian question, wherein we still lag behind.

Along with the Agrarian Reform, the nationalisation of the major industries was an important task to be performed simultaneously. All the establishments, owned by country's capitalists and the agents of foreign aggressors, were confiscated without compensation as per the 'Law on nationalisation of Industries.' When Socialist relations of production came into being during this period, a number of democratic reforms were introduced including the 'Labour Law' (June 1946)
to provide the working class with democratic freedom and
Rights and Law on sex (July 1946) aiming at the social eman-
cipation of women. With determination and sagacity when the
country was speedily progressing, came as a rude blow the
South Korean aggression on June 25, 1950. After heavy loss of
men and property, the Chinese Volunteer forces joined the
patriotic Korean soldiers and were successful in thrashing
back and gallantly driving away the enemy.

After a brief respite, the Korean people started to
workout by three years plan for postwar Rehabilitation and
Development of National Economy (1954-56), its basic aim was
to recover the pre-war level in all spheres of National Eco-
nomy and to organise and mobilize the entire people in the
struggle to fulfil it. In this phase, the Korean people while
rebuilding the devastated national economy conducted an all out
struggle for social transformation of old production relations
in towns and country. President Kim Il Sung rightly and forcefully remarked. "In our country the socialist trans-
formation of agriculture, landcrafts trade and industry was
all undertaken on a full scale in the postwar years and was
almost completed simultaneously". As a result of rapid imple-
mentation of the plans, Korea formerly a backward Colonial
agrarian state, turned into a sound socialist industrial state
with modern industry and advanced agriculture. In 1974, the
Supreme Peoples Assembly enacted a law abolishing the tax
system. Art 33 of the Socialist Constitution States. The tax system of the old society shall be abolished completely. North Korea has become the first country in the world to abolish the tax system completely.

Social Upliftment And Social Security

Under the Socialist system, all the working people not only receive distributions of amenities according to the quality and quantity of work done but also secure enormous benefits from the society. They are provided with all basic living conditions, ranging from food, clothing, housing to the education of their children, health care and good working conditions. A brilliant achievement indeed. It stands as a living example to all other under-developed countries. In 1972, 11 years education was made universal, free and compulsory.

All medical benefits are free. The average life span in Korea is about 80 and child mortality rate is one of the lowest in the world.

All these are noble remarkable and spectacular achievements for a small state ravaged by repeated war devastation, foreign subjugation and forced vivisection. Now, it is indeed a prospering country. The secret of such marvalous progress
is hinted at by President KIM II Sung when he says - "The master of the revolution in each country is its people themselves. Therefore, people of each country should solve all problems arising in course of revolution and construction by their own efforts, adopting an independent and creative attitude."

No doubt the achievement of North Korea is quite praiseworthy and India should be gratified as a vast country in Asia and be inspired for economic advancement.
Malaysia And Singapore

Postwar Singapore saw vital changes in respect of the welfare of the people - the expansion of medical and health service; the provisions of more school and perhaps most important of all, was the building of modern housing in order to replace the slum dwellings in which so many people had to maintain somehow sub-human existence. In the matter of amelioration of the housing problem and building of new houses the Housing Board could claim distinction.

Independence ushered in a new area of vitality and change for Malaya and everyone living in the country in the years since 1957 has been benefited. On the material side there are: (1) programme for rural development and (2) beginning of a planned policy of industrialisation. These are aided by (a) road and bridge building, (b) irrigation projects (c) power scheme agricultural improvements and rural education.

The full scale attack on rural poverty was only made after Independence and the ending of the emergency when Rural development, became a major aspect of government policy of the country placed under the control of PM Abdul Razak. Attention in two adjoining states of Singapur and Malaysia was focussed by many books on social and economic matters. There are more hospitals, schools and roads rather than political officers. Great and concerted efforts were made for economic progress in a planned way.
The economic development of West Malaysia after the 2nd World War has become very rapid and has involved not only the existing population of the country but to an even greater extent foreign capital and foreign labour.

Many of the inhabitants of Malaya were benefitted materially by working in the production of tin, rubber and paper industries. Dependence on primary exports meant that Malaysia was not and could not be master of her own economic destiny. To a greater extent than many other countries. She was closely involved in the economy of boons and slumps of countries on the other lid of the world specially U.S.A.

Health Services - Now there is complete eradication of Malaria in the urban area.

On economic front this Peninsular state became quite outstanding of all other tropical countries and so was able to carry out the development of tin and rubber in rural areas amidst so many odds.

Education - The numbers receiving education in English have increased. Higher education provided to all intending learners.

Other Social Security Measures - Measures were taken for higher wages and adequate cover for economic safety and security.
The changes in political condition brought about a situation in which it is economically feasible to expand the production of tin and later to introduce the growing of rubber.

The labourers are under the control of Headman who acting as a middleman uses to arrange the labour's terms of employment. The workers usually receive not poor remuneration.

The Modern Malaysia ensures modernisations of the country with modern and advanced technique.

Major problems: (1) Existing surplus of labour in economy.
(2) High rate of population increase.
By 1917, the British promised to set some sort of homeland for the Jews. In 1948 the state of Israel came into being, as was aptly stated—Jews were being given a land without people, for a people without land. From its very birth, the state of Israel had to face enormous difficulties. So the people with the faith that if any traditional community requires to survive it has to carry on four fundamental ingredients of life—land, water, culture, and leader. So the state has survived having started with her ability and strategic superiority. Now let us see how miracle can be achieved by a very small state like Israel comprising population for not even half a crore by dint of their courage, sagacity, talent, and above all, unstinted love for the land.

To save the consumption of electricity under government order every house maintains a solar heater for hot water. This has reduced the electricity cost to a substantial extent. For utilisation of solar heat towards human comfort this state has made a massive arrangement for extensive research of highest standard. This is a marvellous and unique step for developed or developing countries to meet the scarcity of power so essential to the development of both agriculture and industry. For the people of West Bengal suffering from chronic power shortage the state should seek help from Israel.
This country is also very successful in the vital task of eradication of illiteracy from the country. As per the law of the land for the children both boys and girls between the age 5 - 18 the education is both free and compulsory. And after the education military training is equally essential to each of them.

For higher education the country maintains seven universities of highest international standard.

This country's progress in medical science is both splendid and spectacular. There is no question of discrimination in case of the giving medical care and benefit to all citizens irrespective of any kind of consideration. This facility is imparted even to a wounded enemy soldier on humanitarian ground.

This state basically being a socialist one, so many social security facilities in question of good health and education with guarantee for safety and employment are made as far as possible available to the people of the state which recognises no existence of personal property and individual gain.

In one sense, this small state is a wonder. The story of Israeli's agriculture is a world wide phenomenon. And if the Israelis have not still been able to create the Biblical world of milk and honey they have had a good start at it. At least we as a nation burdened with millions of illiterate and helplessly poor, and where religious linguistic and group feelings are more dominant than national consciousness, should be impressed by three strong aspects of the character of Israelis -
the universal desire for peace, the compulsions that go to make the Jewish nation stable and the innovative and go-ahead nature of these courageous and patriotic people.

The secret of success of Israel depends on -

(a) strict adherence to economic equality;

(b) absence of material rewards to any office or occupation;

(c) immediate decision making.
Cuba

Cuba is a large long and narrow island lying length wise on the edge of the Caribbean just like a key absolutely essential to enter the big Gulf.

The Cuban historical process, matched to transcendental developments in each period, has gone beyond its actual size.

10800,000 inhabitants

Mild tropical Climate, refreshed by gentle trade wind breezes.

Education

Education is free at all levels of teaching as well as School materials, even books, None illiterate, 300000 teachers 47 advanced education Centres, 21,200 professors 276000 College Students. Over 3000000 students are registered for the over all national education System. There are university or College facilities in each province and also specialised and secondary education institutes polytechnic schools and others.

Public Health

In Cuba a health Care System deemed as unique for Latin America-covering the whole Country is available. Medical services are free for all Cubans.
The lowest infant mortality rate for Latin America and
one of the lowest world wide is found here. 107 per thousand
live births. Life expectancy is 75.2 years.

42634 in Service physicians (1 per every 274 inhabitants)
7515 Stomacologists ( one per every 274 inhabitants) 120000
nurses technicians and assistants. 15412 family doctor's take
care of 67.6% of the population. In addition 421 clinics 267
hospitals render medical Services.

Cuba's government also had set up sanitary brigades Com­
prising Common people for on the spot study of the Sanitary condi­
tions of each house hold and inspect if rules and regulations of
hygiene were being properly followed. This way the Cuban govern­
ment has sucessfully eradicated Malaria.

Cuba's theory is "The principles of Sociology demanded that man
should continue to adjust to the changing environment"

No doubt, 40 years of Communist rule at a stretch has
inevitably created some quirks in the Cuban economy. But still
this small Country has highly developed bio.technology industry
that is attracting strong interest from overseas investment.

In fact, with so much difficulty and so many troubles no
other Latin American Country has shown such economic growth as
Cuba so far achieved.
Health Care in Botswana: The Government's role in Primary health care and nursing education;

Botswana is located in Central Southern Africa, and has a predominantly rural population of roughly 1.4 million people. It gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1966. The population of Botswana was around 400,000 at the time of independence and per capita income was approximately US$ 100 in current dollars. Since that time a democratically elected government has helped the economy to achieve one of the highest levels of development in the world. In 1992 per capita income was almost US$ 3,000 in current dollars. In the last two/three decades Botswana has made dramatic strides in improving access to and availability of basic health care services. But prior to independence the position was not so good.

Four main development objectives have guided Botswana's development process. These objectives, as identified in planning documents, are rapid economic growth, social service, economic independence and sustained development. The provision of adequate
Health care for all Botswana has been an integral part of recent development plans. The authorities view health care as helping to ensure a productive workforce and thus as an important input into a successful development programme. In addition, there is broad consensus that health care is a right that ought to be available to every Botswana.

The government dominates Botswana's health care sector. The public sector employs the vast majority of the doctors and nurses. Wage levels set by the government are crucial in attracting and retaining skilled individuals for the health sector. All the nursing education programmes are run entirely by the government. Apart from these commendable features, the literacy rate in this tiny state is quite high. The people also are equally conscious of ecological equilibriums. Of course, environment performance of Bolivia, Chile, and Peru is also appreciable.