CHAPTER SEVEN

CONCLUSION

Inspite of all the governmental support to the Lambadies, the expected progress of the community has not been achieved. An introspection would show that both on the side of the government and the tribals themselves there are shortcomings which have come in the way of their progress. T. Gopal Rao has examined one aspect of it (Tribal Welfare Administration - Reading Material. Published by the Institute of Administration) from the point of administration. In such developmental activities there should be organisational integration. This means that there should be inter-personal relationship between the tribes and the personnel. Some of the problems encountered could be enumerated. Each department becomes a water tight compartment without proper co-ordination with other departments. The field functionaries become more loyal to the Project
Officer than the programme. Because of influences there is a growing tendency towards 'matter of fact' approach. Gopala Rao cites the Panchayat Raj as an example at the lower level of virtual stagnation for the 'last three decades', since many of them have developed pessimism or lethargy. There is no delegation of financial powers, the Accounts wing always being treated as "speed breaker". The Village Development Officers, forest guards, police, excise constables and the like approach the tribals with prejudice. They go to them with an impression that they are lethargic, cunning, drunkards, and 'sons-in-laws' of Government. This negative approach leads to insulting and illtreating the tribals. This attitude must be given a go. The officials posted in tribal areas must be given much more incentives than what they are getting. The corrupt officials should be weeded out and younger and more efficient officers should be appointed with the help of state level and district level Screening Committees.
On the part of the tribals themselves the major defect is their illiteracy and ignorance of the rules with which the government protects them and promotes their well-being. Although the Village Development Officers and others taunt the tribals, there is some truth in their accusations. First, being habituated drunkards, whatever money they get they spend on arrack shops. Even the little earnings of the tribal women are taken by them. Naturally, whenever the government gives them benefits like the milch cows, not much time is left in disposing them. The part played by the middlemen, although the authorities do not accept this, is disastrous. Naturally, the benefits do not reach the beneficiaries in full. Greater efforts ought to be made, therefore, by giving them good education.

Kurnool district is not considered as a Scheduled Area and hence the tribals of Nerniki thanda do not get all these benefits.