CHAPTER EIGHT

THE FINAL PERSPECTIVE

In a developing country, the industries have to take a great part in eradicating poverty, unemployment and economic disparity. From our discussions in the earlier chapters we have seen it clearly that the contribution of the plywood undertakings to Assam's economic development is indispensably great. In matters of creating employment and utilisation of forest resources these plywood undertakings located in the districts of Sibsagar and Dibrugarh have done a lot. Ply products now have very commendable markets, there is even better scope of expansion of its markets. The new methods introduced by the different plywood research centres may also help considerably in the better growth of these industrial undertakings. Well utilization of Assam's forest resources in such undertakings will help the amelioration of the State's economy and will create confidence in the minds of the local people who consider themselves lagging behind other states of India.

The nature of supply of plywood raw materials from the neighbouring states though at time cause serious concern yet a better understanding between these states might help the ply undertakings of this region.
The supply of ply-logs, if remains undisturbed for all the years to come. We can foresee a very high prospect for these undertakings. We now like to suggest some measures for the future growth of these undertakings.

MEASURES SUGGESTED FOR GROWTH

In our foregoing discussions we have analysed the problems and prospects and now like to pin-point our attention on the measures outlined below:

(I) To meet the needs of ply-timber afforestation of ply-timber areas should be urgently taken up. The new trees may yield timber suitable for these undertakings after an expected period of 45 years. As the growth of the ply timbers take a long time, so it is necessary that systematic and planned afforestation only can help these undertakings located in these two districts of Sibsagar and Dibrugarh.

(2) Deforestation of ply timber areas must be checked. It is learnt from the news papers, all most every day that there is illegal and unauthorised felling of trees and at the some times there are smugglings in wood. Such malpractices should be curbed down with strict hands. Government should take stern measures against all such unauthorised felling of the trees. The local people should also be vigilant.
(3) As the head quarters of these industrial undertakings are located far away from the site of production, so necessary care and attention to these undertakings do not come timely. We suggest that the head quarters of these plywood undertakings be shifted to the production sites or to some near by area in a gradual process if not immediately. The distance between the site of production and the head quarter must be minimised to make production more effective.

(4) A better understanding with the neighbouring states like Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland should be worked out so that these undertakings may get supply of ply timbers unabated for a period of another 25 years or more.

(5) The transport system in these region needs quick improvement. New roads should be built to link the forest areas with the production sites.

(6) Public may be invited to invest in ply undertakings, these undertakings should accept short-term deposits from the public to gear-up the industry in the peak periods. Banks and other financial Institutions like the AFC should come foreward to help these undertakings more effectively.
(7) The pricing policy should be changed effectively. The price of the plywood products at present is very high; particularly because of the high cost of raw materials like, timber and chemicals. To make the products of the industry more acceptable to the common people and to make it more competitive in the foreign markets, the industry should reduce its prices. Therefore, Government should take necessary measures to supply the materials at considerably low rate to the industry and compensatory measure like tax-relief, granting of subsidy and short and long term loans be made available to these undertakings.

(8) The recruitment policy for all grades of workers including the managerial positions should be remodelled so as to meet the newer demands and conditions. In appointing labourers the local people of these two districts should have priority.

(9) With a view to increase the number of ply-trees, ply-utilisable trees may be planted as shade trees in tea gardens. Such plantation would help the tea and ply industries equally well. The industrialists who own tea and plywood industries simultaneously, like the Jayshree Tea Co. (Ltd.), may take the lead in this respect.
The roadside planting of trees is a common feature in our country. If the ply-oriented trees are given preference in matters of planting the result will be beneficial to this industry. The Forest Department of our state should take initiative in this plantation.

Possibilities of more intensive use of lesser known species in the manufacturing of plywood should be explored. The Research Centre at Tinsukia may study the species and suggest ply-oriented trees for growing.

Resins for plywood industry should be made cheaper and easy of availability so that low cost resins may help in the lowering of the price for plywood. The Assam Petro-Chemicals Ltd. may help in this respect.

In matters of products, more stress should be given in manufacturing flush-doors and block-boards, which are gaining wider demands, day by day.

Plywood and other wood based panels should be treated as integrated industry to reduce wastage of natural resources.

A common experience, of the mill-owners is the high price of power in Assam; every effort should be made to reduce the power charges to a favourable minimum.
We strongly feel a plywood technology consultancy service should be introduced to import technical assistance and information to the plywood manufacturers as well as to traders.

A trade centre for plywood products duly supported by storage depots for plywood products in Calcutta may offer additional facilities to the producers as well as to the consumers. This will help greatly in securing a fair market, specially outside the state.

The formation of Forest labour co-operatives will do much needful to the labourers working generally in the Assam Forests and specially in the plywood undertakings in Assam. Generous schemes should be introduced through such co-operative societies to benefit the workers working in the remote undertakings.

The whole affair of the plywood industry in Assam should be approached more rationally and with much more sympathetic understanding. Therefore, a plywood commission should be set-up for the study and analysis of the present condition of the plywood undertakings and to suggest more tangible ways and means for the future development. Such a commission should consist of representatives drawn from the Governments of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, the mill owners, workers,
consumers, transporting agencies, the IPIRI and the general public. The commission should formulate some definite policies, plans and programmes for the coming fifty years (1984-2034). We hope that the APMA would take the necessary initiative for the formation of such a commission. The best work of the commission, will be to devise a happy policy of unabated supply of ply-logs from the neighbouring states and mainly from the Arunachal Pradesh, to the plywood undertakings of these two districts of Dibrugarh and Sibsagar.