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PLANNING AND PROGRAMMES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT:

The government of independent India launched planning commission putting in emphasis to constitute development plans for industrial, agricultural, educational, health, culture and scientific development in India under various planning system. The five year plan came in being to fulfil aims and objectives of planning commission. All the state government of India were directed to work out the plans under five years plans. Sufficient money was allotted to state government and developing agencies to enplant the adopted different planning with the mark objective to change this economic face of the country. As the years roll down the state was taken to constitute Panchayati Raj system. The objective was to give special prefarance to develop rural areas . The Balbant Roy Mehta committee, The Ashok Mehta committee, Hanumant Rao committee, G.B.K. Rao committee, M.M Sindhivi committee, P.K. Thungan committee, Harlal Singh Khara committee and 73 ammendment of India constitution suggested to give maximum autonomy to village Panchayats. Therefore, the 73 ammendment of India constitution in the mile stone to the development of village Panchayat.



KEYWORDS: India launched planning , economic face , village Panchayat.

INTRODUCTION

It is abvious that planning and policy making body are inter related. Planning is deciding In advance what to do, how to do, when to do. It and who is to do it.¹ Planning, in fact, is that activity which concern itself with proposal for the future with the method by which these proposels may the achieved. Today what the main crisis is economic development, the need of planning has breatly Increased specially in the developing countries. In a developing society with a backlog of poverty a

government is actively involved in the fight against poverty. One of the methods of achieving economic development and social justice is the system of economic planning. India obted for the system of economic planning for achieving socio-economic welfare of the community.² No doubt, planning process started in the India from 1952, but a measure shift was witnessed in the planning process from the fourth plan period (1969-70). The most important shift was in relation

to the pattern of devolution of plan funds to the state level. This initiated first stage of decentralization of planning process from the national to the State level in realistic sense.³ Since then the state government had been building their own machinery for planning at the state level and improving their plan methodology.⁴ at the next step was to take step to decentralize the planning process at district level. So the government of India set up a number of committees to examine the various issues

connected with grass root level planning and implementation. Among them special mention is required about the Lantwala working group on Block level planning and the planning commission's working group on district plan.⁵

It was found that the planning had so far remained purely an arithmetical exercise at the national level with emphasis on heavy industries, major medium irrigation and heavy machinery mostly feeding urban industrial complexes.⁶

In the rural areas the main beneficiaries of the development have been relatively more affluent farmers who have the resources to buy modern agricultural inputs. So the Fourth Five Year Plan suggested first time that micro level plans should be formulated to correct such imbalances between the rich and the poor produced by centralized macro level planning. Thereafter, during the fifth five year plan period a number of district level plans were prepared and implemented without unfortunately making much impact on distributive justice and conditions of the poor.

The Planning Commission, putting much emphasis on the micro planning, circulated a set of model guidelines for formulating district plans. Most of the State Government started district level plans during the fifth plan period.⁸

Justification for district level planning was given as under :

- (1) Planning in order to be effective must be related to local resources and needs.
- (2) Better use can be made of local resources if planning is done at the micro level.
- (3) Micro level plan is considered as an effective means of reducing regional disparities and removing absolute poverty at the grass root level by encouraging people participation.

It was realized later on that the planning at the district level too, was not sufficient to achieve the purpose for the rural development. So the emphasis was put on the block level plan in each state. It was felt that there was a need to reverse both the process of planning and system of administration from top to bottom upwards as suggested by the Asok Mehta Committee and Dantwala Working Group. The Dantwala working Group which was constituted for preparing guidelines for block level planning, put emphasis on deventralization. The Group expressed the view that the Block level planning should not be treated as an isolated exercise. It should be treated as a link in a hierarchy of levels from a cluster of villages below the block level to the district, regional and state level. However, it recognized the block as a unit of planning. The block was considered as a certain community of interests which was sufficiently small in terms of area and population to enable intimate contact and understanding between the planners and the people. It was expected that the block could provide an observation platform in close proximity of the beneficiary group and factors inhabiting the uplift of the weaker sections to ascertain area specific physical and human resource potential, to identify constraints inhibiting socio-economic and technological growth and to expand the area of people participation and implementation of plans.

Thus it is evident that the Dantwala committee put too much emphasis on decentralization of the planning process. The Committee envisaged that the planning team located in the district level would essentially move down to the selected blocks and prepare the block level plans in association with the B.D.O, the Panchayat Samiti, Voluntary agencies and other concerned at block level. Ultimately the block level plans presented by the team would be fitted into the district plan. In other words, it was suggested that rough planning should be done from the bottom and it should be lastly finalized by the technical planning team of the district level. It was believed that the active involvement of Panchayati Raj institutions in the planning process would provide a better climate for people's participation in the implementation of the plan. It was realized that the benefits of the plans were yet to reach the sections which were the poorest among the poor. That is why the process of planning from the grass root level was suggested. The main thrust of block level planning considering the view-points of the local people was to speed up the process of decentralization which might accelerate the development process and make planning more responsive to the needs of the weaker sections.

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