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STATUS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN HYDERABAD KARNATAKA

Ashok Sharanappa Dodamani

Research Scholar, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Gulbarga University, Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India.

ABSTRACT

A three-decade struggle to seek special status for six Karnataka districts ended when Lok Sabha passed the Constitution (118th Amendment) Bill, 2012. The bill enables the President to empower the governor to establish a separate development board for the Hyderabad-Karnataka region with the provision that a report on its working would be placed each year before the provincial assembly. Article 371 will help in development of HK region. In fact the peoples' movement for regional development has really brought happiness amongst the people of Hyderabad Karnataka. The people's movement has really strengthened the democratic set up (Ratnakar, 2013:17).

Hyderabad
Karnataka
Region



KEYWORDS : Special Development Plan (SDP), agricultural sector, watershed development programme.

INTRODUCTION:

The committee had recommended establishing an appropriate institutional set-up to accelerate the process of development in different sectors of Hyderabad Karnataka. The government has established High Court benches at Dharwad and Kalburgi and ensured access to timely justice to the people of North Karnataka. Central University of Karnataka (Kalburgi), Women's University (Vijayapura), Horticulture University (Bagalkot), Fisheries Science University (Bidar), Dairy Science College (Kalburgi) and Horticulture College (Bidar) were also established in order to enhance the status of higher education and technical education in this region.

The Special Development Plan (SDP) has also been implemented in this region to enhance the social and economic status of the people who had faced lot of hardships due to lack of state intervention. The goal of balanced development in the state as a whole has not been achieved to the satisfactory level. Adequate financial resources are not earmarked for the development of the social sector and enrichment of demographic dividend in the Hyderabad Karnataka region. The programmes under Special Development Plan are implemented for the physical and financial progress of the region. The allocations under SDP have helped the backward taluks in different categories to get additional resources to accelerate the development process. The agricultural sector is developed to certain extent through the implementation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojane (Central Sector Scheme), Enrichment of soil fertility (State Sector) and Raitha Samparka Kendras (State Sector). The watershed development programme has been implemented through people's participation in the region.

The primary health centers and district health institutions are also upgraded in the region. Cluster complex was established in 39 most backward taluks with a view to provide teachers' quarters in backward taluks/regions to enable the teachers to stay in rural areas and provide quality education to children. The residential schools were also established to provide better educational services to the students. The rural housing scheme has been implemented under the Ashraya-SDP and Vajpayee urban housing schemes. The roads are also constructed in the rural areas to facilitate better mobility of the people and development of agriculture, industry and business sectors. The irrigation facilities are also extended through Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited (KNNL). The tourism sector has received funds for the development of infrastructure at various places in backward taluks. Approach roads to tourist places have also been constructed at various tourist places.

The Backward Region Grant Fund was created to redress regional imbalance in development and develop community infrastructure. The Panchayat Raj Institutions and Urban Local bodies have also received funds under the 11th Five year Plan and 12th Five year Plan. The capacity building programmes are also organized for elected representatives, officials and organizers of NGOs to facilitate active implementation of various development programmes in the region. But, the goals of participatory development and inclusive development of the women and weaker sections of society have not been effectively achieved in this region. According to Article 371(J) special status was accorded to Hyderabad Karnataka which includes Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Gulbarga, Koppal, Raichur and Yadgir districts in the year 2012.

The implementation of Article 371(J) has ensured the reservation of a proportion of seats in educational and vocational training institutions in the Hyderabad-Karnataka region for students who belong to that region by birth or by domicile. Employment opportunities are also made available to the people under this special legislation. The Karnataka Educational Institutions (Regulations of Admission in the Hyderabad – Karnataka Region) Order, 2013 provides for reservation of 70% of available seats to the children of this region. The Action Plan of 2014-15 provides for the allocation of Rs.600 crore for the integrated development of the region. The Hyderabad Karnataka Development Board is responsible for designing suitable schemes for regional development. The nomination of office bearers and members on political considerations has impeded the progress of this region.

The Future of Hyderabad Karnataka

Karnataka is a safe and peaceful State in the Indian map. This atmosphere has to be complemented with creative tasks and mission, to empower the people of Karnataka for economic prosperity (Kalam, 2005:09). Capability enhancement of poor is required to integrate them into the workings of an expanding economy. The primary focus of development policy in Karnataka, therefore, has to be on balanced growth ensuring better sectoral output employment ratio (Karnataka State Planning Board, 2008:10).

Regionally disaggregated poverty and unemployment estimates show that there is substantial heterogeneity in the degree and depth of poverty and unemployment in northern part of the Karnataka state. The broad picture that emerged from the survey show higher levels of rural poverty and unemployment problem in the most of northern Karnataka districts, that are part of the, Bidar, Bijapur, Raichur, Gulbarga and Belgaum etc districts. Highest concentration of the seasonal unemployment is also seen in the northern districts only. Recent human development report (2011) says rural poverty still remains high in numerous part of the northern part of the state (Nanjunda, 2012:12).

The D.M.Nanjundappa committee has done an extensive and elaborate study on regional imbalances, but it could not focus much on the socio-cultural dimensions on developmental processes. The most revealing observation of the committee is the acute backwardness of the Hyderabad region. Discrimination based on prioritization of caste, creed and ethnocentrism definitely hinders the developmental processes. Social institutions should take even much responsibility on harmonization of Inter-caste, inter-group, inter-religion relationships and extend the awareness of fraternity. Government and NGO's should take initiative to improve the socio-economic taking into consideration socio-cultural diversities of the region (Prabhakar, 2010:16). The committee suggested that 40 per cent and 20 per cent of

the special development plan fund should be spent on different sectors of these divisions to reduce regional imbalances (Shiddalingaswami and Raghavendra, 2010:19).

The developmental strategies in Karnataka require social development and environmental conservation since there is a positive linkage between them. Improvements in environmental status will reduce income inequality and vice-versa. Improvements in literacy, health care deliveries and thrust on income generation have their direct and feedback impacts in reducing the extent of poverty. Therefore, the summary package of development across the districts can be literacy, health care, employment and income generation, and environmental preservation. They will in turn reduce both income inequality and the extent of poverty, and also contain the population problem. The Hyderabad Karnataka districts do require interventions on social, developmental and environmental fronts simultaneously (Kadekodi, 2000:08).

CONCLUSION

Inter-state economic disparities in India have sharply risen in the post reform period, bringing back the issue of regional disparities into the debate on Indian political economy. However, taking the entire post reform period (1991-2009) the pattern of investment has remained highly skewed in favour of the richer states. The capita revenue capacity of richer states like Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra is almost double that of the poorer states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The system of fiscal transfers in the country must address this situation taking into account the totality of the flows. There is a strong case for another reorganization of the Indian states into smaller units based on objective criteria. The resources they will get from the centre through Finance Commission devolution or Planning Commission grants will go directly for the benefit of people residing there, instead of the present system when allocation of resources to districts largely depends on the discretion of the state government. Political sagacity demands that a rational and objective view of these issues is taken and timely action initiated instead of waiting till the time when the situation takes a violent turn and goes out of hand as has happened in Andhra Pradesh recently (Singh, 2012:20).

The Twelfth Five Year Plan also lays emphasis on faster; more inclusive and sustainable growth across all the regions of the country. But, the social sector has not received adequate funds for the attainment of social democracy and economic justice in Hyderabad Karnataka region. The focus, however, needs to be on education, health, agriculture and industrial development of the region. The policy makers and other stakeholders of the region are required to allocate adequate funds, design area-specific programmes and implement target-group oriented development schemes in the region in order to achieve the goal of inclusive development in the new millennium.

The districts of Gulbarga, Yadgiri, Raichur, Koppala, Bellary and Bidar will benefit from this decision. These districts are among the most backward regions of the country with Human Development Indices (HDI) below the sub-Saharan levels. The soil fertility in the region is extremely poor when compared with other districts of the state consequence of which agricultural productivity is less.

These seven districts (Hyderabad-Karnataka region) were ruled by the Nizam of Hyderabad before India became independent and hence retained the name of Hyderabad-Karnataka. The seven districts were subsequently merged into Karnataka during the unification of the states in the post-independent period. With the Centre according special status to the region, the seven districts will have more access to funds from the Union government for human resource development, social welfare programmes, agricultural activities, reservation in government jobs, quick approvals for development projects, and speeding up of irrigation projects in the region.

Hyderabad-Karnataka Region) Order 2013, which provides for reservation of 70 per cent of the available seats in Hyderabad-Karnataka Region and 8 per cent seats in State-wide institutions, the Karnataka Public Employment (Reservation in Appointment for Hyderabad-Karnataka Region) Order 2013, which provides for the creation of a local cadre and reservation in the Hyderabad-Karnataka region as: Group A Junior Scale — 75 per cent, Group B — 75 per cent, Group C — 80 per cent and Group D — 85 per cent, besides reservation of 8 per cent of the posts in the State-level offices or institutions or apex institutions.

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The migrant labourers from Hyderabad Karnataka are becoming the main labour source to the construction sector in the cities and the construction works of the cities are pulling these labourers because of high wages. Migrated labourers are coming to Maharashtra region in good number for employment to fulfilling their financial as well as social needs. Most of the labourers are landless labourer and agricultural labourers only few have own land holding but they find it very difficult to survive because of this adverse environment in agriculture sector, Therefore they migrate. Since majority of these migrant labourers have come from poor background and low socio economic status, the migration has helped them to improve not only their financial status but also their educational, social status. In this way they felt that the migration has helped them to get included in the development process.

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