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Studying under-employment, it was found that about three-fifth of the owner-cultivators and about half of the landless cultivators generally remained busy in agricultural operations from 9 to 12 months in a year. More than 40 per cent of all the cultivators were under-employed—the intensity of under-employment in the case of 27 per cent varied from 3 to 4 months and for the remaining from 5 to 9 months.

Report of the Study Group on Landless Agricultural Labourers, Government of Maharashtra, Finance Department (Planning), Bombay, 1961. Pp. 24 + xvi. Re. 0.32.

A Study Group was appointed by the Government of Maharashtra to examine generally the economic condition of landless agricultural labourers, with particular reference to the benefits derived by them under the measures taken by the State Government in the first two Five-Year Plans, and to suggest schemes other than land reforms for improving their economic conditions. The publication contains the majority report and two notes of dissent submitted jointly by two of the members of the Group.

The number of cultivating labourers and their dependents in the geographical area which is now Maharashtra was estimated at 47.33 lakhs in 1951 constituting about 14.8 per cent of the total population of the State. Assuming an increase of 9 per cent in the population in the First Plan period, this figure is estimated at 51.6 lakhs in 1955-56; at 56.75 lakhs in 1960-61 and 62.43 lakhs in 1965-66—assuming an increase of 10 per cent in the Second and Third Plan periods respectively. Pointing out that at the end of the Second Plan the per capita income of landless agricultural labour is about 28 per cent of the average for the total population of the State as against 31 per cent that prevailed at the beginning of the Second Plan, the Group has recommended fixing of the target of growth of per capita income of agricultural labourers during the Third Five-Year Plan at double the rate for the total population of the State, *i.e.*, at 33—34 per cent. The most important among the measures other than land reforms to bring about this is industrial development in rural areas based on sufficiently modern techniques of production. The main scope for immediate industrial development in the rural areas lies in co-operative industries like agricultural processing, sugar, cotton spinning, preservation and canning of fruit, etc. Thus a total industrial investment of Rs. 44.95 crores has been recommended, which is expected to raise the incomes of landless labourers to the extent of 20.4 per cent during the Third Plan. The gap of about 13.0 per cent between this figure and the targetted increase is to be filled by making suitable adjustment in other sectors, for example, milk production and poultry and additional construction through a diversified programme of public works.

In the Appendix, an attempt has been made to estimate the likely effect of the measures recommended by the Study Group on the incomes of the landless agricultural labour. The effects of the developments during the Third Plan in the other sectors, such as intensification of agriculture, grant of land, increase in construction activity and increase in tertiary activity as reported by the Planning Division of Government have also been estimated on the basis of a number of assumptions.

In the notes of dissent submitted by the two members, it is emphasised that the basic approach to the problem of improving the conditions of landless agricultural labourers should be through radical land reform measures and the recommendations of the majority are not likely to make much difference in the conditions of agricultural labourers.

Second Five-Year Plan Progress Report, Rajasthan, 1956-61, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur, 1962. Pp. 222 + LXXIX. Rs. 5.

This volume while critically reviewing the progress of the plan activities in the various sectors in the State of Rajasthan during the Second Plan period, also deals with the progress during the last year of the Plan. It is divided into three sections and the first section throws light on the overall impact of the plan schemes on the economy of the region and its inhabitants. In section II, the progress of the plan activities in various sectors—agriculture and community development, irrigation, power, industries and mining, roads, social services and miscellaneous schemes—has been reviewed and the difficulties and bottlenecks experienced in implementing the schemes have also been discussed. The last section presents detailed statistical data on various aspects of the economy of the State during the Second Plan period.

Of the total outlay of Rs. 105.27 crores on the Second Plan of the State, the share of agriculture and community development was 16.18 per cent, of irrigation 26.72 per cent, of power 18.99 per cent, of industries and mining 5.48 per cent, of roads 8.95 per cent and of social services 22.72 per cent. The total expenditure during the Plan period amounted to Rs. 102.74 crores or 97.60 per cent of the total provision. The annual break-up of expenditure incurred under the Second Plan revealed that there was a rising tempo as the plan progressed. As against the proposed share of the State Government for financing its plan fixed at Rs. 31 crores which was to be raised through measures of additional taxation, public borrowings, small savings as well as receipts on capital accounts and other unfunded transactions, the State Government actually raised Rs. 39.93 crores through such measures, leaving a balance of Rs. 62.81 crores to be financed by the Central Government through loans, subsidies and grants. This particular feature is indicative of its earnestness in raising funds for financing its plan programme.

Reviewing the economic trends and achievements during the Second Plan period, the report points out that the price trends in the State alike whole of the nation, showed signs of inflation and deflation. The general wholesale price index of Rajasthan (1952-53 = 100) was 96.9 in April, 1956 and rose to 107.8 in November, 1956 and reached to peak of 120.4 in February, 1959, after a steep decline to 99.5 in February, 1958. During 1959-60, the general index oscillated between 115.6 and 120.4. A rising trend in prices was noticed during 1960-61, the general index moving from 118.4 in May, 1960 to 128.6 in December, 1960. Inflationary pressures were also felt in the retail prices. Though various ups and downs were noticed in the food situation due to crop failure and inflationary effect on prices, the general food situation during the Plan period was reported satisfactory. The index of agricultural production (1952-53 to 1955-56 = 100) increased from 109.6 in 1955-56 to 126.86 in 1960-61. Continuous efforts were made by the State Government to ensure a fair price both to the producers and consumers.