

## C (ii) Rural and Agrarian transformation in India

(a) Programmes of rural development, Community development programme, Cooperatives, Poverty Alleviation Schemes.

### Rural Development Definition –

Improving living standards of low-income rural population.

Rural Development is much broader than Agriculture's Development.

But since agriculture is the main source of employment, therefore, main focus is always on agriculture.

Rural Development aims to provide below mentioned aspects:

Economic Aspect	Social Aspect	Technical
Agricultural Productivity	Rural Housing	Transport
Land Improvement	Drinking Water	Communication
Minor Irrigation	Electrification	Small Scale Industries
Animal Husbandry	Education	Village and Cotton Industry
Fisheries	Family Welfare	
Minor Forest Produce		

## Various Phases of Rural Development –

### First Phase

#### **Community Development Programme (CDP) – 1952:**

Based on Gandhian concept of “Sevagram” → Self sufficiency.

(Sevagram, meaning "A town for/of service" is the name of a town in the state of Maharashtra, India. It is located about 8 km from Wardha. It was the place of Gandhiji's ashram and his residence from 1936 to his death in 1948.)

CDP drew inspiration from some pre-independence rural development programs with Pt.Nehru being its main enthusiast.

Village seen as a common commodity with common interests.

Broadly speaking, CDP →

- One able bodied person to give free labour from every family. So as to have feeling of collectively built resources.
- At Block Level, a BDO, a Political Leader and Media to work in tandem on a cluster.

The idea was to create Gram Sevaks for achieving:

As **Carl Taylor** puts it–

- Development
- Caste Disappearance

### **3 phases of CDP –**

- **National Extension phase** – Areas selected with little govt expenditure
- **Intensive Community Development phase** – Blocks selected high govt expenditure
- **Post Development Phase** – Previous phases assumed success, govt expenditure lessened, now more supervisory.

**By 1957 – 4 Major categories –**

- **Constructional Programs** (schools, roads etc.)
- **Irrigation** (wells, tubewells, pumps etc.)
- **Agriculture** (waste land dev, soil, manure etc.)

- **Institutional Programs** (youth, women, dispensaries, smokeless chulhas etc.)

But it Failed.

### Reasons of Failure:

- 1) Projects on Paper
- 2) Upper caste, Upper class dominated
- 3) Caste inequality rose
- 4) VKRV Rao → Waste of money

### Critique –

1. Created Community dependence on govt
2. Interests of landed class not same with service and other classes
3. Bureaucracy lacked social service ethos
4. Development top-down. Slow.
5. Land owners more benefitted.
6. Great emphasis on Economic aspect. Little on social and technical.
7. Dominant castes hijacked top positions and diverted subsidy benefits.

### Second Phase

- **Land Reforms** (early 60s) – Already covered
- **Green Revolution** (mid 60s) – Done

### Third Phase

- **Post GR** - Done
- **Area Centric Prog** (70s) –
  - Draught Area Dev Prog

- Hill Area Dev Prog
- Command Area Dev Prog
- **Employment, Poverty Alleviation (80s) –**
  - 20 point programme
  - Comprehensive Child Dev Prog
  - National Rural Employment Scheme
  - Crop insurance etc.

### **Critique –**

- Slogan – Growth with redistribution. But growth was missing.  
(Slow economic growth)
- Class conflict took caste form. Politics re-focused on caste. Many parties came up.  
(Caste in politics)
- Rural Labour Enquiry Commission – Half of the population is in perpetual debt.  
(High debt)
- Social Work Research Centre – Agri workers employed for 3 months only.  
(Seasonal employment)
- Subsidy approach increased dependence on state.  
(Dependence)

### **Broadly:**

- Govt. Dependence
- Caste not same
- Class not same
- Bureaucratic hurdles
- Seasonality of employment
- Urban – Rural Plans not synergized
- Top – Down

### **Fourth Phase – 90s**

Discussed in **Post Independence Post LPG Phase .**

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### Cooperatives

#### Evolution of Coops in India –

Existed before Independence as well. Coop. started in Germany, 1890s.

#### First Plan –

- Only recommendary in nature.
- Small and Medium farmers to be encouraged for coops.
- CDP had cooperativisation in agenda.

#### Second Plan –

- More concrete.
- A 10 years horizon for bringing half of the agri under it.
- Myths created that China achieved tremendous success in agri because of coop. Myth broken after Mao's death in 1976, their agri growth rate less than India's.
- Still, India under Nehru emulated Chinese example of coops and envisioned institutional changes in agriculture which didn't ask for much financial outlay. Nehru pressurized but states wary.

#### Third Plan –

It mellowed down the ambition. 10 pilot projects per district.

Targeted coops in:

- Credit
- Marketing
- Distribution
- Processing

## Structure and Significance of Coops –

Various type of coops.

80% with agri.

60% for credit only.

Broadly, 2 groups –

- **Credit Societies**
- **Non-credit Societies**

Both **further** into two –

- Agricultural Societies
- Non-agri societies

**For supervision and financial assistance–**

State coop banks and Centre Govt. banks.

## Coops essential because –

A B C D approach

**A – Accessibility**

**B – Bureaucratic hassles to be decreased**

**C – Class conflicts to be decreased**

**D – Development -> illiterate, Poverty, women**

- Accessible by small and cottage industries.
- Reduces bureaucratic and political hassles.
- Softens class conflicts.
- An institution for illiterate, poor and unskilled.

97th Amendment -> 19 (1) ( C )

243 (B) -> Cooperatives

Coop. word added after Trade Urbans

### Limitations-

#### Daniel Thorner:

- Coops formed as a result of evading LR by rich and influential families. Evading ceiling and tenancy laws. Land tilled by bogus members, mainly wage labour. Also cornered subsidies - Evading LR
- State coop farms had poor quality land given to landless and lower castes. Extremely high cost of running them proved fatal for their success - Poor quality land's high cost Dominant caste Public money to -> Private
- Reinforced the unjust Indian social structure when dominant caste overtook leadership positions.
- A case of public money given to private investment.
- A very small percentage (less than 10%) of credit to small and marginal farmers - Very less small farmers
- A large bureaucracy crept into coops as well - Bureaucracy crept in Populist Policies
- Populist policies to write-off debts burdened exchequer and eroded the viability of rural credit instis.

#### World bank Study on Operation flood : Anand Pattern-

- Paid rich dividends. Need to replicate it elsewhere.
- Milk growth from 0.7% pa to 4%.
- 60% farmers small and marginal.
- **"Self-Selection"** – an imp observation – by focusing a project on a predominant activity of poor, "self-selection" is likely to result in a majority of the beneficiaries being poor thus reaching target groups.
- Milk coop reached poor irrespective of caste, religion or gender. A major politico-economic implication.
- A byproduct of Op Flood is creation of indigenous dairy equipment mfg industry and an impressive body of indigenous experts. Indigenisation considerably cheap.

- Women empowerment – along with SEWA Ela Bhatt and others 6000 Women Dairy Coop Socs.
- Demand driven education, schooling, infra etc.
- Impetus to various other brands, eg – Dhara (NDDB effort in vegetable oils).

For writing in Essays or otherwise while highlighting diversity of India-

Kurien–

A Syrian Christian from Kerala Working in Gujarat.



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### Poverty Alleviation Schemes

Many schemes, Important ones being–

- **20 points programme** – Controlling poverty, inflation, lending, crime control, irrigation, rural employment, SC/ST specific programs, women/children specific etc.
- **Integrated Rural Dev Program (IRDP)** – 1982. From 20 selected districts to entire country. Self-employment schemes. Targeted approach based on – (i) Number of poor households. (ii) Resources available. (iii) Time-span for results. Limitation – (i) Leakages. (ii) Finding “guarantor”. (iii) Misallocation of loans. (iv) Little knowledge of schemes.
- **TRYSEM** (Training Rural Youth for Self Employment) – Age 18-35. Priority to SC/ST. But inadequate stipend and low level of skills given.
- **Food for Work Prog**
- **MNREGA** – (with social impacts)
  - **Right based** - Work given in time bound guarantee (15 days) (liability on State).
  - **Women Empowerment** – 1/3 persons have to be women.
    - Work Site facilities – Crèche, water, shade etc.
    - Work within 5 kms (otherwise 10% extra).
  - **Decentralised Planning** – 50% of the work to be allotted to Gram Panchayats.
  - **Labour Intensive Work** – 60:40 ratio of wage and material. Machinery prohibited.
  - **Public Accountability** – Social Audits.
  - **Transparency** – All records available to anyone on payment of a fee.

### Evaluation of MNREGA–

- Low quality Asset created
- Policies generally arm chair. Does not resonate with ground reality.

- Populist approach. Less emphasis on 3Es. (Efficiency, Economy, Effectiveness)
- No focus on rural-industrialisation.
- No coordination among various programmes.
- Improper delivery of funds. /Ghosh Beneficiaries
- No effective awareness building measures.
- Increased dependence of masses on state
- Women given work (48% of total)

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### Green Revolution and Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture:

Imagine the changing mode of production in Indian agriculture to be like this:

- The initial MoP of agriculture in Indian sub-continent can be imagined to have started as Asiatic MoP (Primitive communism)
- Then British arrived, changing it to Semi-feudalistic type. They commercialized the agriculture.
- Presently, LR, GR are moving it towards capitalism.

### What happened in Green Revolution:

- Breakthrough in agricultural production in 1960s
- Application of HYV seeds
- Chemical fertilizers
- Assured Irrigation
- Agri machinery used

### **William Wiser:**

- Indian feudalism different from European (Jajmani) (Dependencies were there)
- Indian agri -> feudalistic but changing to capitalistic

### **Multidimensional effect of GR:**

1. Increased agricultural productivity
2. Self sufficiency in food grain production

### **Andre Beteille:**

It created a new faith in the dynamism of Indian farmer to absorb technology

### **Rudolph & Rudolph**

Called GR Farmers to be Bullock Capitalists. That, GR farmers were “Progressive Farmers”.

### Sociological implications of GR:

1. Increased inequalities (increased class based division of society)
2. Displacement of tenant cultivators
3. Introduction of machinery led to displacement of service caste groups
4. Rural – Urban migration
5. Rich getting richer and poor getting poorer
6. This economic influence got extended to political sphere also
7. Search for exclusive political identity – Khalistan in Punjab
8. Intensified Patriarchy; increase in dowry demands, increased female infanticide, great gender imbalance, cross regional demand for brides (Kerala, Orissa, Assam to Haryana)
9. Worsening of regional inequalities (Bihar, E. UP, Telangana, Vidharbha → relatively undeveloped); resulted into inter caste conflict (Bihar), farmers suicide (Vidarbha & Telangana) and agrarian unrest

### Some Views:

1. **PC Joshi** : it has contributed for the rise of capitalist agriculture and offered an economic foundation for the rise of big bourgeoisie in the country side.
2. **Kathleen Gough**: domination in economic base lead to domination in the superstructure of social life
3. **JPS Oberoi**: affluence gave rise to the search for an exclusive political identity – Khalistan
4. **Deepankar Gupta**: GR contributed for the intensification of caste consciousness; W.UP – Jats, Punjab – Sikhs, Haryana – Jats
5. **Lakshmi Menon**: worst victims Women – intensified patriarchy
6. **AR Desai**: Indian Agriculture was:
  - Before British -> Semi Feudal
  - During British -> Peasantry
  - After Independence -> Agrarian
7. **Utsa Patnaik**:
  - 1990 afterwards -> Indian agri became Capitalistic & Commercial.
  - Increase in Conspicuous income
  - Increase in Farmer Suicides.

## Changing Powers structure in Rural Areas

**Earlier:** In the hands of Zamindars.

**After Independence:**

**MNS** -> Dominant caste based on

- Numerical
- Economy
- Political Power

**Y. Singh** -> 4 Phases

- **Leadership based:**
  - Pragmatism + Reconciliatory b/w castes.
  - Orenstein -> Mumbai village study
- **Factions developed b/w castes:**
  - Brothers contesting against each other
  - Studies to quote: **Harper** -> Tottagadi, **A Beals** -> Namhalli
- **Regaining by Dominant caste:**
  - Jaats in UP
  - Patels in Gujarat (Andre Beteille)
- **PRIs & its Impact:**
  - Empowering women, SC | ST

**Jeffrey & Jeffrey:**

Book "Dev. Failure & Identity Political"

- Class based identity
- Caste based identity
- Interest based identity
- Increasing Democratisation

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### Problems of Rural Labour

#### Composition ->

Rural labour comprising of agricultural & non – agri labourers and artisans.

#### Earlier ->

**Jajmani:** Traditionally upper castes dominated lower serving caste under patron–client relation via Jajmani System (William Wiser - characterized by regulated frustration)

Then

**Britishers:** Exploitation → Britishers introduced private property through land system and made system more exploitative. It created class of landowners, sharecroppers, land labourers (increased indebtedness, socio – economic exclusion)

After Independence

**LR, GR:** Their own problems -> Patriarchy, Suicides, etc.

Numerous measures by govt. including LRs, GR. But failed schemes further aggravated the problems of Rural Labourers.

- Biggest sufferers were women and children.
- Increased farmer suicide
- Poverty, deprivation
- Corruption in govt. schemes
- Poor wages
- Unequal land access led to conflicts

**Anand Chakravorty** (Power faction) – hegemonistic domination by rich farmers.

**Solution:** Needed comprehensive integrated targeted approach by govt.

## **Bondage**

### **Rudra + Bardhan:**

- Unattached
- Attached
  - o Extremely
  - o Fully
  - o Semi

**Supreme Court** said in Asiad case, where there was use of child labour to complete the projects in time:

- Anyone who's paid less than minimum wages is a bonded labour.

Also, Highlighted recently by Kailash Satyartho's Bachpan Bachao Andolan.

### **Types of Bondages Witnessed:**

- Debt based
- Kinship based
- Widowhood based
- Marriage based
- Displacement based

### **Economic causes:**

Main cause poverty

- Extreme poverty of people
- Inability to find work for livelihood
- Inadequate land holdings
- Lack of alternative small-scale loans for the rural and urban poor
- Natural calamities like droughts and floods
- Absence of rains
- Meager income from forest produce
- Inflation and constant rising prices

### **Social Causes:**

- Unequal access to opportunities because of social disabilities
- High expenses on social occasions like marriage, death
- Caste based discrimination
- Lack of concrete welfare schemes
- Non-compulsory and unequal education system
- Indifference and corruption among govt. officials

### Religious causes:

- Arguments used to convince the people of low castes that religion enjoins upon them to serve people of high castes.
- Illiteracy
- Ignorance & Immaturity
- Lack of skill and professional training sustain such beliefs.

### Broadly Speaking:

Bondage originates mainly from economic and social pressures.

### T. Brass

- Deproletarianisation of agri. Workers
  - o Workers are dispersed
  - o Can't organize
  - o Become Bonded.

### S. Jodhka

- Workers keeping getting attached voluntarily
- Constantly into relations of mortgaging (and they keep returning the debt with their labour)

### Policy Initiatives:

- Article 23 -> Forced Labour prohibited
- Bonded Labour System ( Abolition) Act -- it includes
  - o Identification
  - o Release
  - o Action against offenders
  - o Regular meetings of vigilance committees
  - o Conferring of judicial powers to executives, magistrates

### **But there still lies problems in:**

- Identification
- Economic rehabilitation



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### Migration:

#### Definition:

Migration is a livelihood strategy and a means to cope with distress arising from drought, flood and lack of employment opportunities locally.

It is a change of place of residence for a comparatively long period.

Migration is Voluntary, whereas, displacement is Forceful, Permanent.

Migration is a livelihood strategy.

#### 4 Main streams of Migrating:

- Rural – urban (most important, only this will be discussed)
- Rural – rural
- Urban – urban
- Urban – rural

#### Different types:

- **Translocatory** : to settle down
- **Circulatory** : migrate repeatedly and for varying duration.
- **Step Migration** : Migrate in graded steps from small to large settlements.

#### Why Migrate: Reasons of Migration:

Ashish Bose explained it from demographic perspective.

- **Push factors:**
  - Economic
  - Natural
  - Social -> Caste based disabilities, etc.
  - Political -> Riots, conflicts
  - Lack of resources , unemployment , overpopulation , droughts , floods etc.
- **Pull Factors:**
  - Better employment opportunities elsewhere
  - Better Education facilities elsewhere
  - Better trade opportunities elsewhere, etc.

- A means to more freedom.
- **Socio-Economic factors:**
  - Small landholdings
  - Depressed economic conditions
  - Poverty
  - Failed LRs
  - Regional disparities
  - Failure of poverty alleviation schemes
  - Virilocal/Patrilocal pattern of residence -> Girls migrate to husband's home

### Impact/Consequences:

- **Family:**
  - Functionally joint family arrived
  - **I.P. Desai:** Traditional joint families are replaced by functionally joint family.
- **Caste:**
  - Diminished caste identity
  - Weak caste solidarity and caste panchayats .
  - **Andre Beteille:** Class ties are much more important than caste ties
- **Women:**
  - Status improved
  - Divorce more
  - Remarriage
  - Increase in marriage age
  - **Karuna Ahmed:** Still women cluster in low status occupation.
- **Mobility:**
  - Increased
  - **Ashish Nandy:** Urbanization has supported caste mobility
- **Ethnic Minority:**
  - Increased
  - Society becoming multi-ethnic

### Problems caused by migration:

- Pollution
- Crowding
- Corruption
- Unemployment
- Crime

- Juvenile delinquency
- Slums
- Drug addiction
- Alcoholism
- Begging due to population explosion in urban areas.

### **Migrants not a homogeneous group.**

Huge **variations** in:

- Age
- Gender
- Educational level
- Occupational status
- Skills
- Earnings
- Linguistic and cultural background.

As a result, different levels of vulnerability and inclusion exist.

For example: North–Easterners often find it tough in Delhi, whereas Punjabis better fit in.

Migrants with poor skills and education are hugely vulnerable and suffer from deprivations and exploitation in the places they migrate to.

### **Solutions:**

- Restructuring of village life (PURA) (Rurbanisation – MS Ghurye)
- Improve agriculture as a means of livelihood
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation of Land reforms
- Taking GR to Eastern India - BGREI
- MNREGA (Providing employment opportunities)
- Better infrastructure, electricity, water, education in villages, Bharat Nirman, OFCN

### **Y. Singh**

In India this process of migration to urban areas is characterized by “over urbanization” where there is **Migration without Industrialization**.

Migration has increased continuity between rural & urban Areas.

## UNESCO Report:

U.N. Report -> Social Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India

Titled "Social Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India".

It highlights that:

- Internal migrants a neglected segment of population
- A third of India's population categorised as internal migrant by the census
- Half of them participate in the workforce
- Visible everywhere in big and small cities, rural areas
- Prominently employed in the construction and textile sectors, at brick kilns and salt pans
- Also in commercial and plantation agriculture
- Informal sector as vendors, hawkers, rickshaw pullers and daily wage workers, domestic workers

They contribute to the rising GDP of India and send remittances to their families back home, to be spent on food, education and healthcare.

Remittances by internal migrants amount to about Rs 60,000-70,000 crore.

But financial inclusion has not spread much among migrants yet — less than 50 per cent of the remittances are sent through formal channels.

States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha and Uttarakhand are the major recipients of internal remittances.

Social remittances (Urban Culture) - Returning migrants bring a variety of skills, innovation and knowledge to their areas of origin.

In the long run, migration could play a positive role.

Right policy could benefit both the areas of origin and the areas that receive migrants.

Migration cannot be stopped. It is a historical process that shapes human civilisation, culture and development.

Article 19 of the Indian Constitution grants citizens the fundamental right to move.

Urgent need to issue a universally recognised and portable proof of identity. (UIDAI, a right step)

So, imagine it like this:

- Composition
- Contribution
- Financial resistances
- Social resistances – Urban culture
- Usage
- Recognition

### **National Sample Survey (NSS)**

- Internal Migrants are deprived of Political (voting) & Economic rights (Access to schemes).
- About 15 million seasonal and temporary migrants.
- Not able to exercise their political and economic rights because rights and entitlements are place bound.
- Lacking residential and identity proofs, barred from exercising their voting rights.
- Excluded from the PDS and other government programmes.

### **Imagining from a migrant woman's angle**

- Vulnerable to sexual harassment (Domestic helps)
- Most women migrate along with their family members, many also move independently.
- Their statistical database is extremely poor.
- Usually marriage as a reason for these migrations.
- Such women do work before and after migration.
- Migrant women vulnerable to sexual harassment and trafficking.
- Urgent need to ensure safe migration for women workers particularly those joining the domestic workforce.

### **Imagining from a migrant child's angle**

- Affects regular and continued schooling
- Hampers Socialising
- Development of sub-cultural tendencies, leading to deviance
- These children could be kept in the source regional-seasonal hostels.
- Another option - set up work-site schools.

### **Problem of Urbanisation for Migrants-**

- Urbanisation inevitable. Shelter an important issue for the migrant and homeless population.
- Migration issues should be factored into city development plans - JNNURM & RAY.
- Night shelters as well as working women's and men's hostels could be incorporated in city development plans.

### **Problem of Labour Issues -**

- The Inter-state Migrant Workmen Regulation Act, 1979 deals with contractor-led movement of inter-state migrant labour, is not enforced.

- A segment of migrant workers moves along with contractors.
- Many move independently through the network of family, friends and kin.

Migration should not be seen merely as a law enforcement and governance issue. It must be integrated with development concerns.

### Summarising

#### **Problems of Migrants:**

- Identity issue : No proof of identity
- Political rights deprived
- Economic rights deprived (schemes entitlement)
- Lack of acceptability host society (North Easterners)
- Homelessness
- Vulnerability of women as domestic help
- Generally have to stay in slums
- Easy prey for criminals, traffickers, prostitution rackets
- Many become bonded labour
- Compromised family life.

## Important Points Swaminathan Report

### A Broad set of 11 recommendations

1

- Total five reports submitted. Through December 2004 - October 2006.

2

- 5th report focused on farmer suicides and farmer distress. It then recommends a National Policy for Farmers.

3

- Causes for Farmers' Distress-
  - ✓ Unfinished land reforms.
  - ✓ Quantity and Quality of water.
  - ✓ Technology fatigue.
  - ✓ Access, adequacy and timeliness of institutional credit.
  - ✓ Opportunities for assured and remunerative marketing.
- Important Recommendation-
  - ✓ Agriculture be inserted in the Concurrent List of the Constitution.

4

- Recommendations on Land Reforms-
  - ✓ Distribute ceiling-surplus and waste lands.
  - ✓ Prevent diversion of prime agricultural land and forest to corporate sector for non-agricultural purposes.
  - ✓ Ensure grazing rights and seasonal access to forests to tribals and pastoralists, and access to common property resources.
  - ✓ Establish a National Land Use Advisory Service, which would have the capacity to link land use decisions with ecological meteorological and marketing factors on a location and season specific basis.
  - ✓ Set up a mechanism to regulate the sale of agricultural land, based on quantum of land, nature of proposed use and category of buyer.

5

- Recommendations on Irrigation-
  - ✓ Increase water supply through rainwater harvesting.
  - ✓ Recharge of the aquifer should become mandatory.

- ✓ "Million Wells Recharge" programme, specifically targeted at private wells should be launched.

## 6

### ● Recommendations on Credit and Insurance-

- ✓ Reduce rate of interest for crop loans to 4 per cent simple, with government support.
- ✓ Moratorium on debt recovery, including loans from non-institutional sources, and waiver of interest on loans in distress hotspots and during calamities, till capability is restored.
- ✓ Establish an Agriculture Risk Fund to provide relief to farmers in the aftermath of successive natural calamities.
- ✓ Issue Kisan Credit Cards to women farmers, with joint pattas as collateral.
- ✓ Develop an integrated credit-cum-crop-livestock-human health insurance package.
- ✓ Expand crop insurance cover to cover the entire country and all crops, with reduced premiums and create a Rural Insurance Development Fund to take up development work for spreading rural insurance.

## 7

### ● Recommendations on Food Security-

- ✓ Implement a universal public distribution system. Total subsidy required for this would be one per cent of the GDP.
- ✓ Reorganise the delivery of nutrition support programmes on a life-cycle basis with the participation of Panchayats and local bodies.
- ✓ Eliminate micronutrient deficiency induced hidden hunger through an integrated food cum fortification approach.
- ✓ Promote the establishment of Community Food and Water Banks operated by Women Self-help Groups (SHG), based on the principle 'Store Grain and Water everywhere'.
- ✓ Help small and marginal farmers to improve the productivity, quality and profitability of farm enterprises and organize a Rural Non-Farm Livelihood Initiative.
- ✓ Formulate a National Food Guarantee Act continuing the useful features of the Food for Work and Employment Guarantee programmes.
- ✓ By increasing demand for food grains as a result of increased consumption by the poor, the economic conditions essential for further agricultural progress can be created.

## 8

### ● Recommendations on Farmers' Suicides-

- ✓ The National Rural Health Mission should be extended to suicide hotspot locations on priority basis.
- ✓ Set up State level Farmers' Commission with representation of farmers.
- ✓ Restructure microfinance policies to serve as Livelihood Finance, i.e. credit coupled with support services in the areas of technology, management and markets.





- ✓ Decentralise water use planning and every village should aim at Jal Swaraj with Gram Sabhas serving as Pani Panchayats.
- ✓ Ensure availability of quality seed and other inputs at affordable costs and at the right time and place.
- ✓ Have a Price Stabilisation Fund in place to protect the farmers from price fluctuations.
- ✓ Need swift action on import duties to protect farmers from international price.
- ✓ Set up Village Knowledge Centres(VKCs) or Gyan Chaupals in the farmers' distress hotspots.
- ✓ Public awareness campaigns to make people identify early signs of suicidal behaviour.

## 9

- Recommendations on Competitiveness-

- ✓ Promotion of commodity-based farmers' organisations.
- ✓ Improvement in implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP).
- ✓ Arrangements for MSP need to be put in place for crops other than paddy and wheat.
- ✓ MSP should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production.
- ✓ Availability of data about spot and future prices of commodities.
- ✓ State Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee Acts [APMC Acts] relating to marketing, storage and processing of agriculture produce need to shift to one that promotes grading, branding, packaging and development of domestic and international markets for local produce.
- ✓ Move towards a Single Indian Market.

## 10

- Recommendations on Employment-

- ✓ India must seek to achieve two things:
- ✓ Create productive employment opportunities..
- ✓ Improve the 'quality' of employment.
- ✓ The "net take home income" of farmers should be comparable to those of civil servants.

## 11

- Recommendations on Bio resources-

- ✓ Preserving traditional rights of access to biodiversity (access to non-timber forest products including medicinal plants, gums and resins, oil yielding plants and beneficial micro-organisms).
- ✓ Conserving, enhancing and improving crops and farm animals as well as fish stocks through breeding.
- ✓ Encouraging community-based breed conservation.
- ✓ Allowing export of indigenous breeds and import of suitable breeds to increase productivity of nondescript animals.

JAN 09, 2021

## Swaminathan says MSP better than loan waiver

The protesting farmers, apart from a repeal of the laws, have also demanded a law guaranteeing MSPs calculated using the C2 yardstick. The farmers will hold the next round of negotiations with the Centre on Friday

### UPSC & Swaminathan Report

- Countless Questions related with Agriculture in Mains and Prelims.

### 2018 Mains

3. न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (एम० एस० पी०) से आप क्या समझते हैं? न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य कृषकों का निम्न आय फंदा से किस प्रकार बचाव करेगा? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)
- What do you mean by Minimum Support Price (MSP)? How will MSP rescue the farmers from the low income trap? (Answer in 150 words) 10

### 2019 Mains

5. जल इंजीनियरी और कृषि-विज्ञान के क्षेत्रों में क्रमशः सर एम० विश्वेश्वरैया और डॉ० एम० एस० स्वामीनाथन के योगदानों से भारत को किस प्रकार लाभ पहुँचा था? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए)
- How was India benefitted from the contributions of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in the fields of water engineering and agricultural science respectively? (Answer in 150 words) 10



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# Sociology

## Paper - 2

### C- 2

### (Ministry of Cooperation)

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## Ministry of Cooperation

- Context: The Narendra Modi government on 6th July 2021 announced the creation of a new ministry, named the Ministry of Cooperation to realise the vision of 'Sahkar se Samriddhi' or prosperity through cooperatives.
- This is the second ministry to be created during the second term of the Modi government, after it came to power in 2019. The first new ministry to be established was the Jal Shakti ministry in 2019. However, unlike the Ministry of Cooperation, it was created by integrating two existing ministries - water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation, and drinking water and sanitation.

### Who creates Ministries?

- A ministry in the Government of India essentially overlooks one subject and comprises employed officials such as civil servants who oversee its functioning. Most major ministries are headed by a Cabinet Minister.
- Ministries or departments are created by the President on advice of the Prime Minister under the Government of India (Allocation of Business Rules) 1961, which is part of Article 77 of the Constitution.
- Under these rules, each ministry is assigned a minister by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. Cumulatively, all cabinet ministers, ministers of state and the ministers of state who have an independent charge are called the 'Council of Ministers' that aids the Prime Minister in governance.
- The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for coordination, smooth transaction of business and decision making among ministries and departments and is under the direct charge of the PM.

### Past examples of new ministries

- The creation of ministries is also not new. In 2000, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, which is now headed by Kiren Rijiju, was created.
- Another example was the creation of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in 2014.
- In 2017, the Modi government merged two ministries – urban development, and housing and urban poverty alleviation – to create the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

### Role of Ministry of Cooperation

- The ministry will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country. Further, it will work to streamline processes allowing cooperatives the ease of doing business while also enabling the development of multi- state cooperatives.

### What are Cooperatives?

- According to the International Co-operative Alliance, cooperatives are people-centred enterprises owned, controlled and run by and for their members to realise their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations.
- British India first enacted the Cooperative Credit Societies Act, 1904. In 1919, cooperation became a provincial subject and provinces were authorised to make their own cooperative laws under the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms. In 1942, the British government enacted the Multi-Unit Cooperative Societies Act, intended to cover such societies whose operations extended to more than one province. • In India, a cooperative society can be formed under provisions of the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912.

The provisions state that at least 10 people above 18 years, having the capacity to enter into a contract with common economic objectives, such as farming and weaving among others, can form a cooperative society. Co-operative societies were also championed by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

- Post Independence in 1958, the National Development Council (NDC) recommended a national policy on cooperatives with the setting up of co-operative marketing societies. In 1984, Parliament enacted the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act to declutter different laws governing the same types of societies. In 2002, the then NDA government under Atal Bihari Vajpayee announced a National Policy on Cooperatives to support the promotion and development of cooperatives.