

SYMPOSIUM ON 'INTER-REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN GROWTH RATES'*

Chairman : DR. P.V. SUKHATME¹

Convener : SHRI S.D. BOKIL²

In his opening remarks the Chairman stressed the importance of the subject. During the last 30 years of planning the country as a whole had made considerable economic progress and there was considerable expansion of the National Product. However, different regions had not made progress at the same rate. In consequence some parts of the country continued to be backward while a few had made spectacular progress. The Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics is particularly concerned with the growth rates with reference to Agriculture. What is necessary is not only to measure and compare the growth rates for different regions but also to find out the causes for imbalances and possible remedies. He was therefore, looking forward to the prospect of hearing the participants in the symposium, on this vital subject.

A number of papers had been presented for the symposium. Some of the contributors could not be present. However, the summaries of the papers received as well as presented are given below :

Regional Disparities in Growth Rates of Agricultural Developments in Eastern India

By

S.N. SEN³

Agricultural development in the country is characterised by marked regional variations. The Eastern States of India dominated by kharif crops have recorded consistently lower rates of growth as compared to the Rabi crop regions. The critical study on the transformation in Indian agriculture with special reference to Eastern India required examination of those specific factors which might

¹ Professor of Biometry, Maharashtra Association for Cultivation of Science, Pune.

² Scientist S-3, I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi.

³ Joint Director, Statistics and Evaluation, Government of Bihar, Patna.

*The symposium was held during 34th Conference of the Society at Lucknow on 23rd December, 1981.

have promoted more rapid changes in areas such as Punjab and Haryana and also to examine the shifting strategies in agriculture between the Fifties and the Seventies with adequate emphasis on the institutional and technological factors.

In regard to foodgrains production, performance of the eastern region during the period 1966-67 to 1975-76 has not been much inferior to the rest of India, the respective growth rates being 1.44 and 1.60 per cent. However, the growth rates differed significantly among the states, ranging from 0.32 per cent for Orissa to 2.07 per cent for Bihar. Examining the relative contribution of cropped area and productivity to output growth of rice, it is observed that in the rest of India growth came mainly through productivity improvement while in eastern region, excepting Bihar, expansion of cropped area was the major source of increase.

The emergence of wheat as a second most important food crop has come through expansion of acreage. However, the contribution of capital and knowledge could not be underrated, as during the green revolution period productivity improved at a higher rate in the Eastern India compared to others.

Regarding foodgrains output, increases in factor productivity characterized its growth in Bihar. In all the other three states increase in production came mainly through increases in land area.

According to some the preponderance of small farms in the Eastern region acts as a barrier to the adoption of new technology. Punjab and Haryana confirm such belief where the share of small farms in total operational area is much smaller than in the eastern states. But situation in Tamil Nadu contradicts such views where yield raising technology has made some headway in rice cultivation, pushing the yield from 1500 kg/hectare in the pre-revolution period to 2100 kg/hectare in post-revolution years, though small farms (below 1.0 hect.) account for 17 per cent of total area under plough.

Some others hold the view that preponderance of small tenancy and high ground rent constitutes a formidable barrier to the adoption of new technology. It is true that in the eastern Region, near destitute tenants (cultivating less than 1 hectare) account for a high proportion of leased in land while Punjab and Haryana big tenants account for the greater proportion of leased area. But the question is whether the technological tardiness observed in the Eastern Region can be explained by such contrast. In Tamil Nadu also a majority of tenants operate small land area but that has not acted as a barrier

to the introduction of new technology there. The rental arrangement in Tamil Nadu is, however, different from that in the Eastern Region. In the former, majority of tenants operate under fixed rent (cash or kind) as against share cropping in the latter. This induces them to employ more resources to maximise return. It is not the tenancy as such but the imperfection and share-lease system which may stand in the way of adopting new production techniques.

Examination of statewise data on fertilizer consumption energisation of pumpsets and electrification of villages shows that in these respects the Eastern states are way behind other states like Tamil Nadu and Haryana.

Over a period of 100 years or so the relative importance of investment in railways is more in Eastern Region while that in irrigation and navigation is more in the other regions. The spread of net work of railways has had disastrous consequence on the irrigation natural drainage system and the life of rivers in the Eastern region. The investment in irrigation was also meagre. On the other hand, the Northern and the Western regions had more investments in irrigation. Although vast potentiality of ground water resources exists in Eastern region the rate of development of irrigation remains inadequate all through.

The land tenure system introduced by the then East India company in the Eastern region continued till independence whereas in other regions of the country comparatively improved system of land settlement was adopted. The permanent settlement had deleterious effect on the maintenance of the old irrigation system. Another growth retarding factor is the low land-man ratio in the Eastern region. Extensive denudation of forests associated with the accelerated urbanisation is one factor which needs to be explored in detail.

A striking feature of East Indian agriculture is the low proportion of irrigated area in spite of large potentialities. The spread of HYV rice is very slow due to lack of controlled irrigation and drainage during monsoon. Again Eastern states have dearth of credit and mechanised cultivation is also negligible.

In order to obtain maximum income from the farm and to generate capital formation in the agricultural sector for accelerated re-investment a change in the present cropping pattern is also essential. Popularisation of small commercial farming in line with the small scale industry is also necessary so that the benefits of science and technology may reach to the cultivators including those at the marginal level,

Inter-State Disparities in Growth of Foodgrain Production in India

By

M.S. BHATIA⁴ AND P.P. SINGH⁵

Shri P.P. Singh made the following observations

The New strategy for agricultural production, built around modern methods of cultivation, has helped to boost agricultural production in the country. The total outturn of foodgrains shot up from 55 million tonnes in 1949-50 to 132 million tonnes in 1978-79. New technology mostly helped to raise the productivity and production of principal cereal crops of wheat and rice. However, its impact has not been uniform over different foodgrain crops. Pulses production has also been stagnating.

In case of wheat, growth of production was over 5 per cent in all the major growing states except Madhya Pradesh where it was of the order of 3.17 per cent during the period 1967-68 to 1978-79. A most note-worthy aspect in India is the gradual spread of wheat cultivation to predominantly rice growing areas, such as East Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and other North-Eastern States.

A remarkable change that has taken place in the country is the cultivation of rice on a large scale in non-rice consuming states such as Punjab and Haryana. The rate of growth of rice production in Punjab and Haryana was as high as 18.60 and 12.50 per cent respectively. Other states where the growth is also higher to moderate are Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. In contrast, the growth rate has been particularly low in the States of West Bengal, Karnataka, Bihar, Kerala and Orissa.

The States which have higher proportion of irrigated area, larger areas under high yielding varieties, and higher level of fertiliser consumption per unit of area have higher rates of growth of productivity as also of production. This calls for more investment on irrigation and greater extension efforts for higher use of fertiliser and HYV, particularly in the States of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal for a balanced growth of agricultural production in different states.

More emphasis on research and development is needed in case of pulses the growth of which is almost stagnant.

⁴ Assistant Economic and Statistical Adviser, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi.

⁵ Deputy Director (Agri. Census), Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi.

Growth Rates of Some Important Oilseed Crops in India

By

O.P. KATHURIA⁶ AND D.V.S. RAO⁷

The production of rapeseed and mustard has increased in the country partly as a result of bringing new areas under its cultivation in a number of states and partly with adoption of irrigation and plant protection measures. The production and productivity of castor has also increased as a result of introduction of some improved varieties. The cultivation of castor crop which has good potential both for industrial use and export of its oil needs to be encouraged in Gujarat state. There is need to extend irrigation facilities to oilseed crops as in most states their cultivation continues to be done under water-stress conditions. Past experience has shown that whenever the Government has provided price support to a crop, its production increased substantially. In view of continued scarcity of oilseeds, it would perhaps be appropriate, if the Government extends its policy of price support for some of the major oilseed crops also. Only through adoption of such measures can then be a possibility of increasing the production of oilseeds to meet the demands of our ever-growing population and also conserve the foreign exchange resources which the country has been spending for the last many years on the import of edible oils.

Inter-Regional Disparities in Growth Rates in Respect of Livestock and Allied Fields

By

K.C. RAUT⁸

There are various indicators to study the growth rates in livestock sector. In addition to the livestock numbers, other important indicators are the composition of stock, level of production, per capita availability etc. In India, there is considerable disparity in respect of livestock and related aspects between different regions. Since adequate data are not available to study critically the disparities between regions, attempts have been made to examine a few indicators taking Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh representing different regions in the country. Considering the bovine population during the previous Censuses, it was observed

⁶ I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi.

⁷ I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi.

⁸ I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi.

that the increase in 1977 over 1966 was about 4.9 per cent. There was increase of the order of 29 per cent in Haryana, 13 per cent in Orissa, 6 per cent in Uttar Pradesh and 4 per cent in Kerala, but there was decrease in bovine population of the order of 2.2 per cent in Gujarat. Substantial increase in bovine population in Haryana was due to about 52 per cent increase in buffalo population as compared to only 9.6 per cent for cattle. In Uttar Pradesh, the increase in buffalo population was of the order of 22 per cent although there was decrease in cattle population of the order of 1.3 per cent. In Gujarat, the increase in buffalo population was 10.6 per cent but decrease in cattle population, about 8 per cent.

While the bovine population is steadily increasing the proportion of cattle and buffaloes is changing for the country as a whole as well as in different regions. For every 100 bovines the proportions of cattle and buffaloes during last three Censuses (1966, 1972 and 1977) worked out to be 77 : 23, 76 : 24 and 74 : 26 respectively. Such proportions have been examined for the States mentioned earlier. It is observed that the trends in the ratio of cattle to buffaloes in the States of Gujarat, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are in the same pattern as for All-India meaning thereby that the proportion of cattle is decreasing and that of buffaloes increasing, In the States of Kerala and Orissa, the changes are marginal. In all the States excepting Haryana, the proportion of cattle is higher as compared to buffaloes. In the case of Haryana, there were more cattle upto 1972, but reverse trend was observed in 1977 Censuses. There was substantial reduction in the number of adult males in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

One of the indicators of cattle wealth in area can be judged from the indicator 'milch stock per 1000 human population'. These estimates have been worked out for 5 different states mentioned earlier. The number of milch animals (both cows and buffaloes) during the period 1972 and 1977 increased in Kerala and registered marginal increase in Orissa, remained same in Haryana, but decreased in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. The number of milch stock per 1000 human population was 178 in Haryana, 151 in Orissa, 128 in Uttar Pradesh, 110 in Gujarat and only 58 in Kerala according to 1977 Census. Examining these figures separately for cows and buffaloes, the pattern differed in different States. There were more milch buffaloes in Haryana and Gujarat both during 1972 and 1977, and the number of cows was substantially more as compared to buffaloes in Orissa and Kerala. In Uttar Pradesh, there were 68 cows and 66 buffaloes per 1000 human population in 1972 but during 1977 there were 61 cows and 67 buffaloes.

The extent of cropped area per pair of working males at two points of time *i.e.* in 1972 and 1977 was examined. The figures differ widely from State to State. In 1972, the average cropped area per pair of working males varied from 2.6 hectares in Orissa to 10.2 hectares in Haryana. In 1977, the cropped area per pair of working males increased in all the States although in varying degrees. This shows that there was better utilisation of draught, power even when the utilisation of tractor was more. It is striking to note that in Kerala, one pair of draught animals was being utilised for 9.5 hectares in 1972 and increased to 16.8 hectares in 1977. Intensive cultivation and reduction in the number of draught animals might be the reasons for such trend.

The extent of grazing area per 100 bovines varied substantially in different states (0.7 hectares in U.P., 0.9 hectares in Haryana, 0.8 hectares in Kerala, 5.6 hectares in Orissa and 10.3 hectares in Gujarat). In each of the five States, the area decreased in 1977 as compared to that in 1972.

The average milk yield per cow/buffalo in milk in different States at different points of time were examined. Since the milk yield surveys in these States were not taken up earlier at the same point of time, the figures may not be comparable between States but the extent of increase or decrease in the level of production in a State can be seen in addition to comparing the figures between States in recent years. It is observed that there is considerable disparity in the level of production of both cows and buffaloes in different areas. Haryana being the breeding tract for Haryana cows and Murrah buffaloes, the level of production for both the species is higher as compared to other States. The lowest level of production was observed in Orissa. In case of cows, there was increasing trend in the level of production in Gujarat, Haryana and Kerala, but marginal difference was observed in Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. Similar trend was observed in the case of buffaloes as well.

Utilising the estimates of average milk yield per milch animal, population of milch animals and human population, the per capita per day availability of milk in a few States was worked out at two points of time *i.e.* 1972 and 1977. As compared to the requirements of 284 gms per day, the per capita availability of milk in all the States considered, excepting Haryana, was less than the requirement. There was increase in the per capita availability to milk from 1972 to 1977 in Gujarat, Haryana and Kerala, but almost stagnant in Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. The per capita availability of milk in Orissa as well as in Kerala was very less. In Kerala, in addition

to milk and fish, the per capita availability of egg in comparatively more.

In the context of significant change in composition of bovine population it may be observed that the States where the draught power is decreasing need to be cautious. Although one can think of mechanisation, the draught power cannot be completely replaced, particularly because of shortage of fuel and enormous increase in its price. While formulating plans for intensive cultivation, one should think of energy requirements also, particularly through draught animals. The per capita availability of milk is more in the States where the proportion of buffaloes is higher. In some areas, the level of production has not gone up in spite of various improvement programmes. In order to enhance milk production, effective breeding programme, improved feeding and management should be ensured.

Some aspects of inter regional disparities in growth rate in agriculture

By

P.N. BHARGAVA⁹

The exotic varieties were developed and introduced in mid-sixties. During the earlier period, its cultivation was limited to about 7 million hectares. From 1969-70 onwards, the area increased steadily and reached 41 million hectares in 1978-79. The total foodgrain production also increased from 99 to 131 million tonnes during the period. With the development of necessary infrastructure in the countryside, the outlook of agricultural development also changed at national as well as regional level. The growth in agriculture in a region depends on the principal input factors like the new areas brought under cultivation, the extension of irrigation facilities, rise in the total consumption of fertilizers etc. To assess the inter-state disparities in growth of these factors, the data on these aspects was examined alongwith the area, production and productivity for wheat and rice for two periods, namely 1969-71 and 1976-78/77-79. For the presentation of the results, the entire country was divided into 8 agro-climatic regions taking into account the soil and climatic conditions. (List given at the end). The salient results of the study are as follows.

It was observed that at national level, during the period, the gross cropped area increased by 3 per cent and about 12 per cent

⁹ I.A.S.R.I., New Delhi,

of additional area was brought under double cropping. The increase in the irrigated area was about 18 per cent. The total consumption of fertilizers was 124 per cent more in 1977-79 as against 2069 thousand tonnes in 1969-71. The rise in total production for wheat and rice was 53 and 28 per cent respectively during the period.

The growth in the basic input was quite substantial in the majority of the states falling in the regions 4, 6 and 7. In these states, cultivation of wheat is predominant. In the other regions where rice is the principal crop, the growth is comparatively of a lower order. The examination of data suggests that wherever additional irrigation facilities have increased, the area under double cropping and the extension of cultivation to new areas have also risen. In the states like Punjab and Haryana, where irrigation facilities were available to about 75 and 45 per cent of the area in the year 1969-71, the additional area brought under irrigation was about 40 per cent in both of these states. The corresponding increase in the double cropped area was also more than 40 per cent. Similar increases though of a smaller order were also observed in Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra and M.P. In other states like Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh where the increase in irrigated area was very marginal, the corresponding increase in double cropped and new area brought under cultivation was therefore of a low order.

The consumption of fertilizer which is also directly related to the increase in the facilities of irrigation in an area, it is observed that the total consumption of fertilizer in Punjab and Haryana has also increased by about 117 and 200 per cent respectively during the period. The corresponding increase in the rate of consumption of fertilizer per unit of gross cropped area was 46 and 23 kg/ha respectively. In the areas like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh though irrigation facilities have not increased but the consumption of fertilizer per unit area has increased by about 25 kg/ha. In the states like Rajasthan, Maharashtra, M P. Orissa and Bihar, the rate of consumption of fertilizer per hectare in 1977-79 was still lower than that of the All India average.

During the period, there have been some changes in the area and production under wheat in different states. A significant increase in area under wheat was observed in West Bengal, Bihar, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. In these regions, the corresponding increase in production 85, 102, 70 and 127 per cent respectively. Among these areas, the productivity in Maharashtra and Bihar has increased by 35 and 65 per cent respectively. In the major wheat

growing areas like Punjab, U.P. and Haryana, the increase in area was less than 30 per cent and the corresponding increase in productivity was around 20 per cent for Punjab and U.P. The corresponding increase for Haryana was only about 5 per cent.

Rice is one of the predominant crops for the regions 1, 2, 3, 5, and 8. In these regions, marginal increase in production was observed while in the non-traditional areas, phenomenal increase in area and production was observed. This is mainly due to the availability of controlled irrigation in such areas. It is also quite interesting to note that the average yield of Punjab and Haryana have registered an increase of about 60 and 80 per cent and is almost equal to that for Tamil Nadu.

LIST OF 8 AGRO-CLIMATIC REGIONS

<i>Region Number</i>	<i>Areas comprising the Region</i>
1.	Humid Western Himalayan region comprising the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Kumaon and Garhwal Division of Uttar Pradesh.
2.	Humid Bengal—Assam Region comprising the States of West Bengal and Assam.
3.	Humid Eastern Himalayan region and Bay Islands comprising Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Meghalaya and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
4.	Sub-humid Satlaj—Ganga Alluvial plains comprising the States of Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh Plains and Bihar.
5.	Sub-humid to Humid Eastern and South Eastern uplands comprising the States of Eastern Madhya Pradesh (District Balaghat, Mandla, Shahdol, Sidhi, Surguja, Raigarh, Bilaspur, Raipur, Durg and Bastar), Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.
6.	Arid Western plains comprising the States of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
7.	Semi-arid Lava plateaus and Central Highlands comprising the States of Maharashtra, Western and Central Madhya Pradesh (remaining districts of Madhya Pradesh) and Union Territory of Goa, Daman & Diu.
8.	Humid to Semi-arid Western Ghats of Karnataka Plateaus comprising the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Union Territories of Pondicherry and Lakshadweep Islands.

Inter-District Variations in Growth Rates of Area, Production and Productivity of Wheat in Western Rajasthan

By

B.S. GUPTA¹⁰, S.P. MALHOTRA¹¹ AND VISHNU TAIMNI¹²

Wheat is an important rabi cereal crop in Western Rajasthan. It has been observed that there is high degree of variability in production levels in this area. This necessitated a study to investigate the dynamics of area and production of wheat in different districts of Western Rajasthan. The study was split into two periods 1956-57 to 1965-66 and 1966-67 to 1977-78 so that the impact of green revolution, if any, can be studied. In specific the objectives of the study were (i) to estimate and compare the compound growth rates in area, production and productivity of wheat in different district of Western Rajasthan separately for two periods, viz., pre-green revolution period and green revolution period and (ii) to study the dynamics or production with area and productivity.

Inter-district variation was found in the growth rate for all the three variables in both the periods. The study revealed that growth rate in productivity during green revolution has been lower than that of area in all the districts except Sikar and Sirohi. This is due to increase in area and shifting of area from other crops to wheat. The extent of green revolution has varied from district to district. It is also observed in Western Rajasthan that the growth rate of area is more whereas the productivity is less when compared to Rajasthan State as a whole. This is obvious from the fact that the Western Rajasthan is an arid tract.

Inter-Regional Disparity in Irrigational Development and Its Impact on Agricultural Growth in Rajasthan

By

A.P. GAUR¹³

Irrigation is the most important input in the process of agricultural production. Much of variation exist in the soil type, cropping pattern, agroclimatic conditions etc. in Rajasthan state.

^{10, 11, 12} Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur.

The growth of irrigational facilities in all the regions are not uniform which has resulted in economic disparity. Although the state has 13.8 per cent of the culturable area but its surface water potential is just one hundredth of the country's resource, even if all the water resources of the state are exploited, a large portion of cropped area will remain rainfed. In this study, the following objectives had been considered: (1) To study the regional development of irrigation facilities by different sources and growth rate of gross irrigated area, (2) To study the regional growth rate for cropping intensity and net area sown, and (3) To find the relationship between double cropped area and gross irrigated area.

The state has been demarcated into four homogeneous regions according to agroclimatic conditions, cropping pattern, soil type, namely, Western, Northeastern, Southern and Southeastern regions. The data from 1956-57 to 1976-77 had been used for this study. The analysis showed that wells and tubewells were the main source of irrigation in all regions and a remarkable increase had been observed from 1.95 per cent to 3.25 per cent in Western, 12.41 per cent to 16.21 per cent in Northeastern, 16.39 per cent to 21.46 per cent in Southern and 9.92 per cent to 13.31 per cent in Southeastern region in net irrigated area to net area sown in 1976-77 over 1956-57. Canal irrigation had been developed only in Northeastern and South eastern regions while other two regions had not been benefited. A phenomenal growth in tank irrigation had been observed in Southern region. Per annum growth of gross irrigated area had been found to be 5.02, 3.54, 2.58 and 11.27 per cent in Western, Northern, Southern and Southeastern regions respectively.

The growth of cropping intensity is 0.104, 0.235 and 0.51 per cent per annum in Western, Northeastern and Southeastern region. The growth coefficient of cropping intensity for Southern region was nonsignificant at one per cent probability level. The study of relationship between double cropped area and irrigated area showed that one percent increase in irrigated area had reflected 1.303, 0.857, 0.701 and 0.554 per cent increase in Western, Northeastern, Southern and Southeastern regions in double cropped area respectively. The coefficients were significant at one per cent level of significance. In Western region, the irrigation facilities had not been created at par with other regions. Therefore, there was need to increased the area under irrigation which will result in increasing the double cropped area as well as enhance the productivity.

**Inter-District Variations in Growth Rates of Productivities
of Principal Crops Grown in Vidarbha Region
During 1968-69 to 1976-77.**

By

N.S. GANDHI PRASAD¹⁴ AND B.G. SAPATE¹⁵

Any attempt to achieve balanced development of a given region requires proper identification of pockets of area which are lagging behind. The identification of backward pockets of a given region can only be done with the help of a comprehensive evaluation study of the past. This country being an agricultural one any evaluation study has invariably to consider the achievements and failure in our attempts to increase total agricultural production.

In this paper an attempt had been made (1) to estimate the compound growth rates of productivities of important crops grown in eight districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and (2) to identify the districts which are lagging behind in agricultural production of selected crops.

From this study the following conclusions had been drawn.

- (1) In respect of Jowar, Chandrapur, is identified as a backward district.
- (2) In respect of wheat Akola district is found as a backward district.
- (3) In respect of rice, though Bhandara and Chandrapur district grow rice as a major crop their productivity potentials have not yet reached the levels of other districts. Technological gaps, if any, have to be identified and efforts must be made to evolve necessary remedies.
- (4) It is pertinent to note that in respect of tur crop no district had reached the Highly advanced level of productivity and the growth rate of productivity of this crop was found to be low in Yeotmal.
- (5) In respect of Gram, Chandrapur district, in respect of groundnut Akola and in respect of Cotton Amraoti and Chandrapur were found as backward districts.
- (6) Concerted efforts are needed to accelerate the rate of growth in productivity where they are found backward.
- (7) Out of all districts of Vidarbha region, Akola and Chandrapur districts need the priority attention in all respects.

¹⁴ ¹⁵ Assistant Professors of Statistics, Punjabrao Krjso Vidyapeeth, Akola,

Inter-Regional Disparities in Growth Rates

By

CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH¹⁶

Since 1945 Economic Growth has become a major social and political issue in world affairs. Nations and individuals are trying utmost for the economic welfare of the Society. These efforts have brought positive results but they have created some problems too, for example disparities in growth rates making the wide gap between haves and havenots, wider. The tremendous gap in economic well-being between the rich and the poor parts of the world is best brought out by per capita income estimates. For the less developed marketcountries as a whole, per capita output in 1963 averaged only \$ 160 compared to over \$ 1800 in the developed nations.

If we take into consideration the per capita income estimates of our country we shall find a wide gap between the different states and the gap is widening. Even the growth rates for the period 1960-1976 differ considerably from state to state. Following are the factors which create disparity in growth rates of different regions :

- (1) Vicious cricle of poverty
- (2) Socio-cultural obstacles
- (2) Repercussions of international forces
- (4) Rate of capital formation.

With reference to underdeveloped regions growth is perfectly a responsibility of the state. The basic problems of growth are (a) population growth, (b) capital shortage (c) Market imperfections (d) Lack of skill and technology (e) problem of social overheads (f) attitudes and motivation of masses (g) political stability (h) Inspriing leadership (l) administrative efficiency and honesty of purpose.

How these obstacles are to be removed is open to discussion.

¹⁶ Economics officer, Statistics Office, Basti (U.P.).