

NEHRU'S ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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After India attained Independence, under the leadership of Nehru as Prime Minister the Government took vital measures aimed at eliminating economic backwardness which remained after colonial rule. As the Chairman of the National Planning Committee he took a direct part in the preparation and execution of the Three Five year plans for the development of India. Not only did he take part in the preparation of the plans but he gave new direction to planning for development in India as he was very much interested in eliminating social and economic inequalities in the country. He was of the opinion that the social and economic evils can be overcome only through socialism in India.

Planning as an Instrument of socio-economic development in India goes back to the year 1934, Sir M. Visvesvarayya published his book Planned Economy of India. In 1938, the first attempt to formulate an analytical plan for India was made when the National Planning Committee was setup under the Chairmanship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Due to various reasons, in 1948, that the committee could release a series of reports of Planning in India. After Independence, the All India Congress Committee appointed an economic programme committee with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as Chairman in November, 1947. The economic programme committee headed by Nehru submitted a detailed report on 25th January, 1948 and recommended the permanent institution of a Planning commission. As a result of the Committee's recommendation in March, 1950, the planning commission was set up by the Govt. of India, under the Chairmanship of Jawaharlal Nehru to prepare a plan for the 'Most effective and utilization of the Country's resources'.

The India Planning process for economic development, owes a great deal to Nehru. The three five year plans which were formulated and implemented during Nehru's period were aimed at eliminating the evils of social and economic injustices in the country. A systematic analysis of the three plans will definitely throw light on Nehru's vision of the future of Indian economy during his tenure as the first Prime Minister of the largest democratic country in the World and on his as a person concerned about social and economic oppression.

Nehru was attracted by scientific socialism. He pointed out that, "some people seem to make fine distinctions among socialistic pattern, and socialism. They are all exactly the same thing without the slightest difference". Nehru saw to it that all the essential features of Socialistic pattern were incorporated in the Indian Five Year Plans. He had the concept of Democratic Socialism in India, viz., removal of poverty, reduction of Inequalities of Income and Wealth, Equal opportunities for all, mixed economy, endeavour to check concentration of economic power and growth of monopolistic tendencies, and the over riding importance attached to social gain as against private profit.

Strategy of Development Planning in India:

The Five year plans is a technique of transformation of an under developed economy into a self-generating economy only from the Second Five Year Plan onwards. The First Plan was not a plan in the strict sense of planning. It consisted of only a few projects which gave top priority to agriculture for obvious reasons. It was during the period second plan period that there was a clear enumeration of the strategy of economic development of having industries was synonymous with industrialization. He felt that we need a number of textile mills but our idea of industrialization will be limited. Instead, industrialization in a process which produces steel, it produces power. They are the one, Once you have got the base, it is carry to build. The strategy governing planning in India is the Industrialisation and that means the basic industries being given the first place. Nehru was very clear in his mind that industrialization meant development of heavy Industries. The Second Plan stated his in unequivocal terms.

In the long run the rate of industrialization and the growth at National economy would depend upon the Increasing production of Coal, electricity, iron and steel, heavy machinery, heavy chemicals and heavy industries generally which would increase the capacity for capital formation. The heavy industry must therefore be expended with all possible speed. This strategy of development planning has been described on Nehru Mahalanobis model.

Nehru's Development Model:

Nehru's development model stresses more on heavy industry. Some of specific achievements of the Nehru model is as follows:

1. Agricultural production has increased due to application of modern inputs and the country has become self sufficient in food grains.

2. An Impressive industrialization in the capital goods sector in which leading role played by the public sector. India is now self-sufficient in consumer goods production and also in some basic goods like steel, cement, fertilizers etc.,

3. The priority given in the first three plans to heavy industries has made possible development of Infrastructural facilities in the form of irrigation, power, transport and communication.

4. Science and Technology has developed to cater the needs of modern industrial structure in the country.

CONCLUSION:

Nehru was very much attracted to democratic socialism. At various times, he tried to convince the Congress Party that it is only through socialism that India's problems can be solved. Nehru's vision of an independent India has been sufficiently reflected in this framework of our Five year plans.

His notion of an independent country was one in which the industrial base is capable of producing basic goods which would make a country free from capital good dependence and foreign aid. To this end, he worked in collaboration with Prof. P.C.Mahalanobis, to evolve a strategy which has been described as the Nehru Mahalanobis Heavy Industries strategy.

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