

# REGIONAL PLANNING IN THE NATIONAL PLAN

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THE OBJECT of this paper is to present the principal issues relating to regional planning in India. It is divided into two parts. Part I describes the issues, the thinking relating to them, and the experience with some regional-planning policies, during the period of the three plans. Part II describes the politico-administrative structure within which planning is done in India, and the contribution of regional-planning techniques to improving efficiency of planning through this structure. The question of planning-regions has been discussed briefly, and the regions which can be easily incorporated within the politico-administrative structure, and some others which may need to be added for particular planning purposes, have been mentioned.

## *Part I*

### *Location of Economic Activities—Balanced Regional Development*

A national plan has certain overall goals, which are stated in terms of growth-rate or rate of increase in national income, increases in employment and output in agriculture, industry and other sectors of the economy, expansion of power, transport and communications, housing and various social services. These goals are achieved through development activities—factories, dams, power stations, roads, schools, hospitals, etc. Regional planning is concerned with the locational aspects of planned development—where the factories, power stations, or schools, are to be located, where the increases in agricultural and industrial output are to take place, and what combination of development activities is to be located in a particular region. It is also concerned with the development of different regions of a country. The two are inter-related, because the decisions relating to location of projects made by governments or by businessmen are the major factors in the economic growth of regions.

The issues of location of economic activities and economic growth of regions are of central importance in planning for developing countries like India; their importance arises from economic, social