- Similarly, the down payment is also uniformly fixed for all types of farmers. Since the majority of the farmers belonging to the group of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes cannot afford this, the government can either reduce the margin money or completely abolish the down payment for this group of beneficiaries.
- 3. The amount of subsidy is uniformly fixed for all categories of farmers. This can be altered in two ways. Firstly, government may increase the amount of subsidy to the farmers belonging to the socially backword communities. Secondly, the amount of subsidy can be inversely graded with the size of land holding of the family.
- 4. Instead of sanctioning and distributing the amount of subsidy in the initial period of the scheme; government may sanction the subsidy amount in the last years of their instalment or after some stipulated period. This will help to reduce the default payment.
- 5. Farmers feel that the spare parts of this tractor are costlier and not available in time. Government can give assurance to the farmers for providing spare parts for at least ten years through Agro-Industries Development Corporation or by some arrangement with the reputed tractor manufacturing companies.
- Government can arrange training programme once in a year regarding operation and maintenance of the tractor with the help of the tractor producers, since new problems may occur when tractor use increases.
- 7. Government authorities or bank officials may keep all records of the beneficiaries including their original documents of the tractors till they complete their full loan instalments. This would reduce the number of defaulters and sale of tractors bought on subsidy.
- 8. To understand the real impact of this scheme on the farmers' cultivation pattern and economic conditions, it would be better to conduct a study at least after five years from the introduction of the scheme. Generally, the process as well as the period of adoption will always be more for machineries like tractors compared to the other technological inputs like fertilizers and pesticides.

Title: Impact of the National Pulses Development Programme on Small Cultivators in Maharashtra by M.P. Khare, Agro-Economic Research Centre, Gokhale Institute of Politicsand Economics (Deemed to be a University), Pune 411 004

Between 1961 and 1991, Population of the country nearly doubled from 431 million to 844 million at a compound growth rate of 2.20