

farmers could achieve only 109 per cent in Osmanabad and 147 per cent in Beed district. The low rate of crop intensity was blamed on low level of water columns in the wells. Thus, the net increase in irrigated area had not been accompanied by substantial increase in gross cropped area.

The cropping pattern adopted in the post-investment period continued to be almost similar to the one practised in the pre-development year.

The most disturbing and crucial thing about the changes in the cropping pattern was that the eventually adopted one significantly differed from the one recommended mainly in regard to the variety of the crops.

The position of incremental benefits as reflected in the generation of employment and net income on account of considerable investment in irrigation works was quite disappointing.

However, the analysis of supplementary data, reflecting the normal situation of full stage development, has revealed that the beneficiary farmers would be in a position to generate more than adequate level of incremental incomes to repay the loan instalments.

Following the low rainfall, the lowering groundwater table is causing some concern and it calls for a closer look at the estimates of the groundwater surveys, particularly in drought-prone areas. Besides, the loanee farmers ought not to have been allowed free hand in siting the wells, exceeding the diameter and such other technical matters. A better loan management during the investment period rather than target minded loan disbursement operation should ensure better recovery performance.

Apart from superficial extension work, nothing is done to follow up the technical advice to ensure strict adherence to stipulated cropping pattern and arrangement for the supply of inputs and credit infrastructure. The Land Development Bank could consider selectively lending to member-farmers against the crop hypothecation. Apart from the wilful defaulters many a genuine small farmer can be helped by the Land Development Bank if a part of the loan amount is advanced as crop loans during the gestation period to inculcate confidence and positively prevail over the farmers to adopt the prescribed cropping pattern. Also it should be possible for the Land Development Bank to deploy their most efficient staff to problem areas, especially the drought prone pockets. The continuous monitoring and maintenance of information system also need to be strengthened.

*Title : Prices and Wages in Pune Region in a period of Transition, 1805-1830 A.D., by V.D. Divekar, Mimeo Series No. 29, January 1989, pp. v+181, Rs. 80/-.*

The prices and wages situation in the Pune region for the period 1805 to 1830 may be, very briefly, summarised thus:

There were violent fluctuations in the daily prices. Lower the price of a commodity, as compared between any two regions or any two periods, proportionately, more wide were the fluctuations. During the year, after the sowing season, agricultural prices remained stationary or, fell from month to month, - their fall depending on the situation of the previous and the current year affecting the holding capacity of the cultivator. The rains of the season determined the general price level of agricultural produce of that season. In the months about December-January, the position of agricultural production of the year came to be better known and the general price level of the year came to be formed. However, even then, whatever the price level, the prices continued to fall from month to month. Commodity prices were, generally, on the higher side in the preharvesting months of December-January and on the lower side in the months of February to May.

A general trend of falling agricultural prices set in from about 1820. This was not accompanied or immediately followed by any perceptible changes in prices of other commodities or of wages.

Agricultural economy of the region was hardly prosperous any time during the period. If we take into account such contemporaneous historical developments after 1818, like general unemployment depression, stoppage of import of specie from outside and increased land revenue demands on the cultivators, the falling of agricultural prices in the Pune region from the 1820s and its probable adverse impact on the regional economy, becomes obvious and more meaningful from the historical point of view.