

PLANNING FOR INDIA

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B.Sc. (Econ) (Lond), B.Com. (Lond)

The booklet examines the question of economic planning for India with special reference to the Bombay Plan. It draws an informative comparison between Russian conditions on the eve of the first Five-Year Plan and Indian conditions as they obtain today as also between the actual achievements in Russia of the first two Five-Year Plans and the objectives aimed at by the fifteen year Bombay Plan. The implications and problems of economic planning are fully analysed and the conditions under which it may attain success indicated.



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Commerce (Bombay)—On the whole, a distinctly provocative and well-thought-out book which would have lost none of its appeal by being twice as long.

The Statesman (Calcutta)—This is a praiseworthy attempt to cover a very large field in a very short and lucid pamphlet.

D. P. Mukherjee in *Hindusthan* (Lucknow)—A considerable amount of reading has gone behind the making of these 76 pages and it has been nicely assimilated. I have yet to find a treatise on the principles of Soviet Planning by an Indian in which so much has been put in such a short compass.

Free Press (Madras)—The author has dealt with his subject with admirable clarity. He has pressed a great deal of valuable information into a short compass, and presented it with commendable fairness. A welcome contribution to an objective study of the most topical theme of the day.

Mysore Economic Journal—Based on facts and figures, this stimulating booklet on a topical subject merits close attention.

Calcutta Review—A great deal has been said within a comparatively short compass in this book, the problem has been treated in a truly detached way and the exposition is lucidity itself.

Dr K. B. Saha from the A. I. Radio (Dacca)—It should prove useful to all those who are interested in modern economic problems of India.

Horace Collins from the A. I. Radio (Calcutta)—For those interested and concerned in economic planning for India, Mr Ghose has rendered a valuable service.

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

At the time of the publication of the Bombay Plan in January, 1944, the authors stated that the problem of distribution and the allied question of the role of the State in a planned economy were under examination and would form the subject of a separate report to be issued at an early date. This report was issued in December, 1944. Since then the Government of India have also announced the outlines of their industrial policy in a communiqué issued in April, 1945. On many important issues the industrial policy tentatively formulated by the Government of India bears a close resemblance to the recommendations of the authors of the Bombay Plan. This is probably to be explained by the fact that Sir Ardeshir Dalal, who was a signatory to the first part and had made valuable contribution towards the preparation of the second part of the Bombay Plan until his assumption of office, was appointed in August 1944 as the Member for Planning and Development in the Government of India and has been primarily responsible for the enunciation of the Government's industrial policy. Part two of the Bombay Plan and the Government of India's industrial policy are examined in a new chapter in this edition. No other material alteration has been deemed necessary in the rest of the book.

There is a wide recognition of the fact that a planned development of the country holds the key to any adequate solution of the problem of poverty within a measurable period of time. It is no wonder that public interest in economic planning not only

continues unabated, but has probably been enhanced by the termination of the war in Europe. Unfortunately the machinery and the conditions necessary for the formulation and implementation of an economic plan are far from satisfactory. A wide chasm still separates aspirations from achievements. This gap must be immediately bridged if progress is to be achieved and the high hopes, which the publication of the Bombay Plan and the activities, however inadequate, of the Government of India have evoked, are to be fulfilled even partially.

Calcutta
May, 1945

B.C.G.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

THE publication of the memorandum embodying a scheme for the economic development of India, popularly known as the Bombay Plan, has evoked country-wide discussion and enthusiasm. Much of this enthusiasm may be ascribed to the fact that the Plan has introduced a ray of light and hope into an atmosphere of unrelieved gloom and depression. It has challenged the almost fatalistic belief that poverty is our birthright. It indicates a way out of the present misery and degradation towards a condition of things which would make life worth living, instead of the burden it now is for the vast majority of Indians. It is small wonder, then, that enthusiasm for the objects of such a plan is unbounded. But an object which remains merely a pious aspiration is of little avail. It must be realized in practice. Enthusiasm is undoubtedly a great asset, but by itself will not carry us to the goal. It must be tempered by an adequate appreciation of the magnitude of the task that the implementing of a plan will involve.

It is also necessary that we should fully comprehend the implications of an economic plan and the conditions under which it may attain success. This booklet attempts to clarify some of these implications and conditions, so that their proper understanding may help us as much in the final framing of the plan as in preparing ourselves for the heavy sacrifice that its execution will entail. In examining the implications and problems of economic planning, with special reference to the Bombay Plan, I have

delved unreservedly into the rich treasure-house of experience that is provided by the Russian Five-Year Plans and for sufficient reason. Russia on the eve of the Five-Year Plans was a backward agricultural country in many respects similar to, if not worse than, the India of today. Russia again is the only country in the world where economic planning has been deliberately and consciously pursued so as to transform a country with a weak and agrarian economy into a powerful industrial nation within the short compass of just over a decade with such success that she commands today the respect and admiration of the whole world. Her experiences of economic planning should therefore prove of inestimable value to us.

I must finally acknowledge my debt of gratitude to my friend, Mr Kiran Basak, for the valuable assistance I have received from him.

Calcutta
May, 1944

B. C. G.

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