

REPORT OF THE  
TASK FORCE FOR THE STUDY OF  
ECO-DEVELOPMENT IN THE  
HIMALAYAN REGION



सत्यमेव जयते

PLANNING COMMISSION  
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## FOREWORD

The Sixth Five-Year Plan has outlined an integrated approach for the development of the hill areas based on sound principles of ecology and economics. Hill areas present some very special agro-ecological and socio-cultural features. These features have to be specifically taken into account in the formulation of programmes in the hill regions, so that there is compatibility between plans and the need for sustainable development.

2. Experience of development planning during the past has underlined the fact that unless programmes based on the concept of development without destruction are evolved for the conservation and proper utilisation of the resources of the hill areas, not only the problems of the hill areas will continue to remain unsolved, but the economy of the plains may also be adversely affected. For example, what we do or do not do in the Himalayan region to-day will have considerable impact on the future of agriculture in the Indo-Gangetic plains. Development of the resources of the hill areas is hence necessary both for enabling the population living in these areas, who are by and large very poor, to have their share of the benefits accruing from modern science and technology and for safeguarding the security and health of the crops cultivated in the adjoining plains.

3. In order to look into the problems, potentials and strategy for development of the Himalayan region, a "Task Force for the Study of Eco-Development in the Himalayan Region" was set up by the Planning Commission. This Report of the Task Force dealing with "Socio-Economic Development", "Transport Planning", "Post-Harvest Technology" and "Coordinated Research on Action Oriented Basis" in the Himalayan Region has focussed on a few important problems and suggested action programmes for being undertaken by the students and staff of Universities, by the people and by Government agencies. The relationship between action and reaction has been highlighted, as for example the inter-relationship between road construction and land slides and post-harvest technology for fruits and forest conservation. It is hoped that this report will be of use to State and Central Governments, Universities and to all interested in protecting the fragile eco-systems of the Himalayan region. Some of the suggestions contained in the report are worthy of immediate implementation, while others may be of value in the preparation of the Seventh Plan.

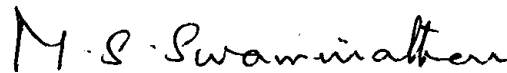
4. Past experience has indicated that unless an integrated approach based on a systems analysis is introduced into developmental planning for the hills, eco-catastrophes will continue to occur. While various committees and groups have made recommendations from time to time on how to arrest further damage to the Himalayan eco-system and how to repair the damage already done, a high level institutional mechanism for converting ideas into reality at the field level is yet to be developed. The Task Force is, therefore, of the considered view that a Himalayan Eco-

Development Commission should be set up as soon as possible with the Prime Minister as its Chairman. This will facilitate speedy and coordinated attention to the numerous ecological problems which transcend State boundaries.

5. I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the wholehearted co-operation received from all members and participants of the Task Force. Particular thanks are due to the Chairman of the Sub-Groups set up by the Task Force in its first meeting, viz. Shri J.S. Lal, ICS (Retd.), Shri A.D. Moddie, Dr. S. Kedarnath and Dr. K.G. Tejwani.

6. I would also like to record on behalf of my colleagues in the Task Force and myself our thanks to Shri D.D. Joshi, Member-Secretary of the Task Force, for organising the work with competence and dedication.

March 25, 1982  
Planning Commission  
New Delhi



(M.S. SWAMINATHAN)

**REPORT  
OF  
"THE TASK FORCE FOR THE STUDY OF ECO-DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE HIMALAYAN REGION"**

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NEW DELHI  
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