

## Block Level Planning : Some Observations

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

In December 1954, the Parliament adopted a resolution that "the objective of economic policy should be a Socialistic Pattern of Society." The Directive Principles of State Policy set forth in the Constitution states:

"The State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people securing and protecting, as effectively as it may, a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of national life".

Also according to Directive Principles the State shall direct its policy towards securing 'the right to adequate means of livelihood' to every citizen. It further stresses on directing the policies so that the "ownership and control of material resources of the community are so distributed as to best subserve the common good" and "the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment". Also 'the right to work' was tacitly recognize under article 41 which stated "The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work ...."

In short, these may be considered as the background against which the exercise in 'economic and social planning' began some 30 years ago in India. The planning process adopted was a centralised one. The administration in the nation both at the central as well as the state level is divided into a number of sectoral oriented departments by and large following the principle of homogeneity within and heterogeneity between. A number of semi-autonomous bodies with specific objectives have also been created by the government over these years. For the purpose of overall planning in the country, the Government of India constituted the Planning Commission in 1950.

The plans in India are prepared in three stages. In the first stage, it is a *long-term perspective plan*, usually