

## Summary of the Gokhale Institute Studies

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**Title :** *Evaluation Study of Minor Irrigation Schemes in Maharashtra State, with Special Reference to Drought Prone Areas of Beed and Osmanabad Districts of Marathwada Region, by C.S. Gajarajan, Mimeograph Series No. 28, September, 1988, pp. iv+130, Rs. 60/-*

The study, undertaken at the instance of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), is the result of a survey conducted in Beed and Osmanabad districts of Marathwada region in the State of Maharashtra. At the outset, it may be stated that the orientation of major part of the study has turned itself into one that required greater attention to persistent drought situation affecting the project implementation more than the assessment of normal economic benefits. For, there has not been any appreciable degree of success achieved in the surveyed areas. Right from 1982-83, the year in which the works of the individual schemes were expected to be completed, the districts under reference have been afflicted by successive draught conditions. However, in order to obviate this situation of basing the study entirely on the sample of preoptimal stage of investment, further confounded by drought conditions, the study presents the results of the supplementary survey undertaken to reflect the conditions of normal year with full development benefit stage of investment. This supplementary effort has enabled the study to estimate the financial rates of return over a period under normal situation as also under the condition of droughts recurring with a four year frequency. In the following are given the salient features of the study and the conclusions.

1. The successful implementation of minor irrigation schemes in Maharashtra assumes special significance, for the State does not have abundance of surface water sources. The estimated potentiality of groundwater is quite vast and the State can exploit the same for years to come. In Beed district, area under forest accounts for just 1.9 per cent and in Osmanabad it is only 0.09 per cent of the total geographical area. Incredible but true that Greater Bombay district has more area under forest than Osmanabad district.

2. The schemes under the purview of the study formed a part of the ARDC Credit Project-III Minor Irrigation Programme in 27 districts of Maharashtra State, 1981-82.

3. It was observed that the overall response to the M.I. scheme under reference in the selected districts was very lukewarm, judged from loans actually sanctioned by Land Development Banks against physical target approved by NABARD (about 45 per cent for schemes involving wells and wells with pumpsets).