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RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NANJUNDAPPA COMMITTEE REPORT



Lokesh Yatanoor¹ and Gooru Sree Ramulu²

INTRODUCTION

The committee, using 35 indicators, categorised the 175 taluks into 39 most backward taluks, 40 more backward taluks and 35 backward taluks. The committee found that north Karnataka region was backward in general and Hyderabad Karnataka in particular as more backward. The committee recommended various programmes for reduction of regional imbalances. Karnataka government has started implementing the committee's recommendations since 2007-08. However, serious research on regional imbalances in Karnataka is scanty in general and on the High power committee recommendation and its implementation in particular. The present paper discusses district and division wise imbalances in growth and development. In recent years, the State has speeded up the process of closing this gap following the recommendations of the High Power Committee

Abstract

Regional imbalances in Karnataka have always been studied by dividing the state into North Karnataka and South Karnataka. In North again two parts can be seen, namely, Hyderabad Karnataka and Bombay Karnataka regions. To reduce the regional imbalances Karnataka Government has taken various steps like setting up Hyderabad Karnataka Area Development Board, Bayaluseeme Development Board, Border Area Development Programme, Malanad Area Development Board and so on. Government had also appointed a high power committee for redressal of regional imbalances under the chairmanship of Prof. D. M. Nanjundappa during 2002-03.

Keywords : Bayaluseeme Development Board , socio-economic, economic infrastructure.

Short Profile

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constituted by the Govt. of Karnataka to look into the problem of regional imbalances in the state. The High Power Committee on Redressal of Regional Imbalances, popularly known as Nanjundappa Committee, submitted its report in June 2002. The committee, on the basis of 35 socio-economic indicators assessed the level of development of 175 taluks in the state. These indicators are spread over various sectors like agriculture, industry, economic infrastructure, social infrastructure, and financial and technical infrastructure. Taking the State average of development of these indicators as the benchmark equal to one, the Committee prepared a Comprehensive Composite Development Index (CCDI) with appropriate weights and identified 114 taluks as backward taluks. These taluks were further classified into three groups viz., most backward, more

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backward and backward based on the value of the Comprehensive.

II. Recommendations of the Committee – Special Development Plan :

The problems of regional disparities and backwardness may be addressed in different ways. The more important strategies are -1) additional resource transfer 2) Special Development Programmes and employment generation programmes 3) promotion of private investment through fiscal and financial measures and 4) development of services and infrastructure facilities to the level in other regions. The Nanjundappa Committee framed a mix of these strategies and has made several recommendations with regard to development of social and economic infrastructure and institutional set up to speed up the development process in backward pockets of Karnataka.

Some of the specific recommendations of the Committee have been implemented: A Central University is started at Gulbarga, a High Court Bench is established at Hubli and Circuit Bench at Gulbarga, Women's University is established at Bijapur, action plans are being prepared to establish IT parks in Gulbarga, Hubli and Bagalkot. A Food Park and Textile park is in the process of being established at Gulbarga.

To implement the various recommendations across different sectors, the Nanjundappa Committee has recommended a Special Development Plan based on the resource requirement of the backward taluks. The plan is to be implemented over a period of eight years covering the major programmes in various sectors based on development requirement. The implementation of the programmes should involve the people, voluntary organizations and Self help Groups which are service oriented and are capable of mobilizing mass participation. Decentralized planning set up is thus very essential to find a long term solution to the problems of regional development.

III. Objectives of Special Development Plan

- 1) To accelerate the growth in the backward taluks through the stimulus of additional investment in various sectors and areas.
- 2) To build infrastructure to make good the identified sector backlog in backward taluks.
- 2) To establish the needed institutions/ organizations to redress the imbalances in the concerned sectors in backward taluks
- 3) To provide location specific sectoral schemes in backward taluks in order to raise the level of services in that sector to the State Level Average.
- 4) To help the planning authority in preparing Action Plans with three priorities: First priority is for most backward taluks which are to be covered in the first two years. More backward taluks shall have the second priority for the allocation of funds during the next two years. Backward Taluks shall have their allocation for the terminal period of the Eight Year Plan.
- 6) And to give a thrust to the development programmes in the 114 backward taluks to move towards a more balanced development in the State as a whole.

IV. Results and Discussion:

- 1) Sectoral Allocation of Special Development Plan as Recommended by HPCRRI.

The focus of the Special Development Plan (SDP) is on Irrigation, Rural Development and Social Services. Sectors like energy and agriculture are also allocated more financial assistance for development as these sectors play a crucial role in the development of the economy. The allocation to education health and other social services is Rs. 8025 crore. The allocation to Irrigation is Rs. 8000 crore and to Rural Development i.e. Rs. 7100 crore is higher compared to other sectors. As the Committee felt that some of the taluks among 114 backward taluks are rural in character and are dependent on agriculture they require more attention.

2) Division wise allocation of SDP outlay as recommended by HPCRRI

Thus in the total additional investment of Rs. 16000 crore, the share of Gulbarga division is maximum at Rs. 6400 crore and the share of North Karnataka is 60 % of the total allocation. This is because the extent of development deprivation is more in Gulbarga Division i.e. 8.06 (8.06/20.26 =40%), which is just equal to the total deprivation of South Karnataka.

3) Taluk wise Resource Allocation pattern as recommended by HPCRRI

Thus out of the total allocation within a District/sector, the share of most backward taluks is 60 percent, the more backward taluks is 24 percent of the total allocation and the backward taluks is 16 percent of the allocation. The Committee has recommended updation of CDI values over time and must be taken as basis for allocation within the Division/ Districts across the taluks in future.

4) Progress achieved under Special Development Plan as recommended by HPCRRI

The amount provided for various programmes under SDP has been increasing. To begin with an amount of Rs. 1571.50 crore was provided in the financial year 2007-08 across various sectors of development. The amount released was Rs. 951.44 crore against which an expenditure of Rs. 945.99 crores was made. Similarly, in the year 2008-09 the allocation was Rs. 2547.34 crore and the expenditure was Rs. 1739.41 crore. For the year 2009-10 and 2010- 11 the allocation is Rs. 2578.83 crore and Rs. 2464 crore respectively; releases being Rs. 2033.29 crore and Rs. 1170.59 crore respectively. The total allocation from 2007-08 to December 2010 works out to Rs. 9161.67 crore and Rs. 5574.14 crore has been spent.

CONCLUSION:

The Government of Karnataka appointed

a High Power Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Shashil Namoshi (now Hon'ble Shri Sunil Vallyapur) during October 2008 to implement the Nanjundappa Committee Recommendations. This Committee is also to look after the planning and monitoring of the implementation of Special Development Plan (SDP) in consultation with the various Government Departments. The Nanjundappa Committee in its various meetings held at the State level has given guidelines for preparing Action Plans and for implementation of various schemes in the 114 backward taluks. During 2007-08, all the investment made in the backward taluks is estimated under SDP, which are now being made more realistic. Meetings are also held at the District and Taluk levels to discuss with the officials and People's representatives about the requirements for development of the region. Some of the works undertaken in different districts are inspected by the Committee and suggestions are given for further improvement. The Nanjundappa Committee recommended a decentralized set up with plans being prepared at Taluka level for identifying the programmes and policies for development under SDP. The Departments are given directions to prepare the action plans in consultation with the officials at Taluka and District level.

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