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## UNIT 9 SPECIAL AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

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### 9.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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After reading this Unit, you will be able to understand:

- difference between the concepts of regional development, planning, special areas, and special areas plans;
- types of special area plans;
- need of special area development plans; and
- policy and implementation of various special area development programmes.

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### 9.1 INTRODUCTION

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A special area development programme is part of the planning policy of India for balanced regional development which focused on the development of those specific regions which failed to keep pace with other parts of the country. It is a significant development programme that has been initiated during the Fifth Five Year Plan in order to reduce imbalances and speed up the economic development of that region. Achieve balance regional development in India, is a challenging task due to its size and diversity.

Inequality between various regions of the country has grown over time, it has introduced variation in terms of uneven distribution of resources. Economic and social development in India is studied at various levels; the most common unit is the state level. However, there are many pockets/areas in a prosperous state, which are backward and under-developed. This is particularly due to diverse geographic, economic, and social characteristics. Some areas are backward due to the landscapes, for example, hilly and inaccessible areas, distinct cultural groups i.e. tribal areas, problematic and hostile environments i.e. unproductive soil, desert areas, and drought-prone areas, and ecologically sensitive areas i.e. western *ghats*, etc. These regions need special attention according to their geographical and socio-economic environment, not only for development but also to flourish like other regions.

According to Prof. R.P. Mishra, regional development is carried through regional planning which is a technique to evaluate the potential of the sub-national areas and to develop them to the best advantages of the nation as a whole.

As we know regional development aims to remove regional disparities through socio-economic development and eradicate the backwardness of the region at par with other regions of the country. In this regard, various committees have been constituted by the Government of India from time to time to prepare reports and assess the level of backwardness in these areas. Finally, for the first time in Fourth Plan (1969-74) special area development plans were implemented in these specific areas, considering the local issues and challenges including physical, economic, and social structures. Various programmes under Special Area Development Programmes were implemented like Hill Area Development Programme, Drought Prone Area Development Programme, Desert Development Programme, Western *Ghats* Development Programme, and Tribal Sub-Plans, etc.

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## **9.2 CONCEPT AND DEFINITIONS RELATED TO SPECIAL AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES**

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Special Area Development Programmes were designed to address the development challenges of the area with distinct physical and socio-economic characteristics. The concept of regional planning is central to special area development programmes. It means to develop the backward or less developed region which is an integral part of this planning policy. In the starting phases, the planning in India followed a top-down approach, which lacked the special needs of the local areas from the plan formulation perspective. As a concept, regional planning was introduced in the later plans, particularly after the Fourth Plan. It is, therefore, necessary to understand the basic concepts of regional planning and development for acquiring a whole understanding of the special area development programme.

### 9.2.1 Region

It is a geographical and a real unit that is homogenous in nature in terms of definite criteria. These are the part of the Earth's surface, which are distinguished in some defined ways from surrounding areas, which may be due to the complex of land, water, air, animals, and men and women regarded in the spatial relationships as together constituent a definite position of the Earth surface. A planning region is a segment of territory where economic decisions apply. The concept occupies an important position in the planning as it is an important tool of national development.

### 9.2.2 Planning

It is a process of taking decisions to implement certain developmental decisions to attain overall socio-economic goals. It involves taking decisions further to the welfare of people who can live a sustainable, equitable, efficient, and healthy life together. There are two dimensions of planning i.e. formulation and implementation.

### 9.2.3 Regional Planning

Regional planning is a technique to assess the potential of sub-national areas and to develop them to the best advantage for the whole nation. It deals with efficient land use activities and settlement structure growth. It is a specific type of planning based on the regional system by including the public action aimed at social well-being. It also implies that regional planning is concerned fundamentally with society in the context of space. The basic origin of regional planning and development stems from regional inequality and intense socio-economic developmental imperatives of particular geographic areas in particular and society as whole.

Regional planning tries to fulfill regional aspirations, demands, make optimum use of regional resources, solve regional problems, involves local people in plan formation and implementation.

### 9.2.4 Programmes

This is a set of related activities with certain long-term goals. In the planning process, the programmes are linked to a set of activities with a defined objective and achieve targets to attain the long-term developmental needs of the country or the state. Programmes are specific in terms of their intent, objective and long-term target. The time factor is also an important factor in the formulation and implementation of programme planning. Each programme differs in terms of structure and approach. In regional programmes generally, local people through village *panchayats*, local groups, and schools involved in environmental conservation like afforestation and maintenance cultural heritage in particular.

### 9.2.5 Special Area

These are areas with distinct characteristics in terms of the physical setting, geographical location, social structure, cultural setting, and economic groupings. Special areas have their own special needs and developmental requirements due to unique characteristics. Normal plans and programs can't address the development imperatives of special areas; hence, for such areas, special plans are formulated and implemented from time to time to address the challenges and issues of regional development inequalities. In special areas, the ecological condition of the region is the main criteria for formulating programmes for achieving a dynamic balance of socio-economic development through resources exploitation and utilization for the purpose of human development.

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## 9.3 SPECIAL AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES: POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

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Special Area Development Programme is an important programme of planning progress of Government of India, which was started in Fourth Five Year Plan. It is a strategic plan of the special requirement to deal with problems of the various regions due to their distinct geo-physical structure and location like mountain, desert and socially economical backward region like tribal.

Brief discussions on some of the special area development programmes are as follows:

### 9.3.1 Hill Area Development Programme (HADP)

The Hill Area Development Programme was introduced during Fifth Five Year Plan for designated hill areas. In India, total of 17 percent area and 11 percent of the population comes under the hilly region. From a planning point of view, the hill area is divided into two groups on the basis of the total hill area. The first category belongs to those states which are entirely hill like Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachala Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. This region is termed as 'Special Category States' in which emphasis is given on infrastructure development, social and community services.

Apart from this, those hilly areas, which form part of larger states where limited parts are hilly and underdevelopment termed as 'Designated Hill Areas'. Mainly:

- i) Two districts of Assam – North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anglong.
- ii) Eight districts of Uttarakhand – Dehradun, Pauri Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal, Chamoli, Uttarkashi, Nainital, Almora and Pithoragarh.
- iii) Darjeeling district of West Bengal.

- iv) Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu.
- v) 163 Talukas of Western Ghats area Covering parts of Goa, Karnataka (40 talukas), Kerala (29 talukas), Maharashtra (162 talukas) and Tamil Nadu (29 talukas).

The HADP was introduced mainly for these designated hill areas in 1974-75 to remove interstate imbalances in the level of development. It was recommended by a committee of the National Development Council (NDC). There are many characteristics of the hilly region which are responsible for the formulation of this specific development plan, like terrain of hills, socio-economic and cultural diversity, population pressure, deforestation for commercial as well as household purposes, low productive of land due to soil erosion and road expansion, shifting cultivation, overgrazing, and mono culture forestry, etc.

Primarily, the planning approach of HADP has been economic development with sustainable use of natural resources of the area covered under this programme. The HADP programme started with basic objectives of Socio-economic development of the hills and their inhabitant with ecological development and to promoting the basic life support system through infrastructural development.

Under the HADP programmes, special Central Assistance is given to designated hill areas in order to develop these ecologically fragile areas. The strategy of the programme is based on a separate sub-plan approach for all hills areas in the concerned state. The HADP cell was established to formulate the Plan and implementation of the programmes.

The approach and strategy of HADP evolving for more than four decades from beneficiary-oriented in the Fifth Five Year Plan to eco-development. Ecology was the main central point in the seventh Plan with a focus on eco-restoration, eco-preservation, and eco-development. The eighth Plan focused on the productive sector of the hill economy especially in modernizing agriculture practice and small-scale industries of household, cottage, and village levels. Again, eco-preservation and eco-restoration were conceptualized with a focus on sustainable use of bio-diversity. The main objective of the Tenth Plan was based on the need and aspirations of the local community and their active participation in the design and implementation of strategies for the conservation of bio-diversity and sustainable livelihoods. The Watershed Development approach continued in further plans and it was implemented through HADP and WGDP to preserve fragile eco-systems in a sustainable manner and based on environmentally friendly technologies.

Soil conservation, Horticulture, and Forestry are the core sector under the hills programme. The participatory approach involved NGOs, Schemes for income generation and gap-filling infrastructure schemes such as the cultivation of bamboo, medicinal plants, and agro-forestry to enable people to

earn for livelihood. The action plan of the planning strategy of HADP are as follows:

- i) Development of land use plan for the forest area as well as cultivated areas.
- ii) Conserve soil and water to increase the productivity of the land by using vegetative methods and changing cropping patterns.
- iii) Promote non-land-based economic activities to uplift the poor people for their income generation and to ensure environmental protection.
- iv) Forestry, Plantation, horticulture, poultry, apiculture, animal husbandry, village and cottage industries to encourage and explore indigenous resources for eco-development.
- v) Development of biosphere reservoirs, national parks, wildlife sanctuaries' for eco-restoration and preservation.
- vi) Emphasis on a small scale high-value industry such as electronics, fibre optics, furniture, carpet weaving, and drugs and pharmaceutical.
- vii) Promote tourism industries.
- viii) Economic upliftment of tribes in isolated locations and settlements.
- ix) To evolve a comprehensive human settlement policy and discourage migration.
- x) "Area-based Approach" adopted and integrated plans to be prepared for all watersheds and high priority watersheds shall be chosen for treatment.
- xi) Use of scientific interventions will be encouraged i.e. application of remote sensing, etc.
- xii) Promotion of Non-Conventions Energy Sources i.e. Solar, Hydro, Bio-Gas etc.
- xiii) Prevent *Jhum* cultivation and rehabilitating the *Jhumias* in such plantation agriculture, making them progressively owners of the plantation estate,
- xiv) To ensure people's participation in all development, involving NGOs, local people in managing societal resources at the local level.

In Ninth Five Year Plan the Special Central Assistance (SCA) available for HADP is now divided between designated hill areas under HADP and the designated talukas of Western Ghats development programme in the ratio of 60:40. The SCA is divided on the basis of area and population both giving equal weightage. In Eleventh Five Year Plan, total Rs. 211.48 crores were allocated for implementation under the HADP in the Nilgiri district. The major part of funds for core sector such as soil conservation (22.51%), welfare of SC (26.3%)/ST (11.02%, forestry (18.44%), horticulture

(11.39 %,) development of local bodies (rural 18.64% & urban bodies 24.94%) and roads sector (13.63%) were allocated. An outlay fund for Twelfth Plan was 316.80 crores for spending at the rate of 63.36 crores per year.

The strategy of implementation of HADP has changed over time. Emphasis has shifted from individual-oriented schemes towards an area-based approach. The Nilgiris has adopted the “watershed-based Plans” since “Area Based Programme” such as soil and water conservation measures can be taken up more effectively. Under this scheme, the resources information of watersheds was gathered and analysed through Remote Sensing Techniques based on which, ISRO, Bengaluru have delineated watershed boundaries of Nilgiris District and boundaries verified with the coordination of Agriculture Engineering, Horticulture and Forest Departments. The Nilgiris District is drained by major rivers like Bhavani, Moyar and Kabbini, which are the tributaries of Cauvery and Pandian. The entire district has been delineated into 75 major watersheds based on the drainage pattern. Soil conservation, Horticulture, and Forestry are the core sectors under this Programme. Besides, importance is also accorded to the welfare of the SC/ST, Human Resource Development, Development of Local Bodies, Roads, Tourism, INDCO Tea Factories, Khadi & Village Industries, and Sericulture, etc. by providing substantial funds.

The entire watershed in order of annual crop coverage and aspects are prioritized with the ten-watershed identified as High Priority Watershed. For better coordination and implementation of the schemes under various sectoral heads, the delineated watershed has been further sub-divided into Micro-Watershed, each covering an area of 300-500 Ha. The activities of the core sectors have been integrated with those of the other line Department to stabilize the ecology besides involving the local people along with NGO by adopting integrating watershed approach from the year 1995-96. 60% of the total funds have been allocated to identify priority watersheds on an integrated watershed basis and 40% for other than watershed works which include 15% for maintenance of assets created under HADP and 10% towards establishment costs.

In order to involve the farmers and local people in planning for their own needs, the NGO takes up Participatory Rural Appraisal meetings in which the watershed communities take part to express their views and suggest corrective measures.

### **9.3.2 Tribal Area Development Programme (TADP)**

The number of tribal populations and their situation presents a varied picture in the country. Some areas have high Tribal concentrations like Mizoram, Lakshadweep, and Meghalaya while in other areas; the tribal form only a small portion of the total population. Tribal areas are mainly geographically hilly, forested, and dry in nature, due to this socio-economic not happened.

There are some tribal groups, which are still at the food-gathering stage, practice shifting cultivation or pursuing primitive forms of agriculture. To prevent the exploitation of tribes by other groups of society and to bring them into the mainstream, our constitution also makes provision for their socio-economic development.

Till 1976, tribal regions were far from country development and were facing various problems. After a detailed and comprehensive review, specific efforts were taken in the Fifth Five Year Plan because their needs and problem vary depending on their geographic demographic concentration. The tribal area development programme took note as an integrated programme for areas with 50 percent or more tribal concentration. The importance is given to sub-plan preparation for such areas with the aim for improving quality of life of tribes and decrease gap between the level of development from other parts of country.

Tribal area sub-plan approach: To tackle the problem of tribal communities, in the form of a tribal sub-plan, was applied for the tribal development. This sub-plan approach to tribal development has been operative in 19 States and 2 Union Territories. It covers extensive areas of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan. The tribal areas have been divided into three categories as micro (block-level), meso (sub-division/tehsil), and macro (state level). In others, wards development block was taken as the smallest unit of development in the new strategic plan. It is known as the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP). Important aspects of the tribal area development programme are as follows:

- i) Take-up as family-oriented programme and to increase productivity level of beneficiary family in the field, horticulture, animal husbandry, and small-scale industry, etc.
- ii) To liberate trials from the exploitation of land grabbing money-lending, debt-bandage, forest-labour, etc.
- iii) To improve quality of life through education and training programme.
- iv) To provide infrastructural facilities in tribal areas.

Under Tribal development programmes total of 180 ITDP units are operational. It is evident from the spatial distribution of tribal area programme that Central India is mostly covered under tribal sub-plan. The funds for the sub-plan come from a state plan, central outlay from central ministries, special central assistance, and institutional finance. Central assistance funds given for tribal programme can be divided into sector-wise i.e. education, economic upliftment, and health. Various services provided to the tribal population under this programme are free education, provision for educational equipment, school, scholarship, etc. Due to this plan, many tribal

communities of India have been improving their economic, educational, social, and cultural status.

The largest number of such projects has been in Central India. Madhya Pradesh has 49, followed by Orissa (21), Assam (19), Maharashtra (16), Bihar (14), and West Bengal (12). In all, more than two-third of the total projects are in these states. During the Seventh Plan total areal coverage under ITDP comprised 15.27 percent area of the country. Major parts of the States of Manipur (90.03 percent), Sikkim (63.49 percent), and Tripura (63.8 percent) were under such projects. The other states with large areas covered include Orissa (44.2 percent), Himachal Pradesh (43.03 percent), Madhya Pradesh (36.9 percent), and Bihar (25.1 percent).

Despite many efforts of state and central government tribal are not much benefited, due of some grass route implementation problems. It is significant to note that non-tribal is now migrating to tribal majority areas in substantial numbers. On the other hand, tribal are migrating to other areas in search of educational and employment opportunities. The tribal population may not remain in the majority for long in any administrative unit. It is, therefore, necessary to have a proactive to meet this new challenge.

There is a need to give more attention to weaknesses of tribal area programme and by strengthening that their existence and participation can be possible in main stream of the country.

### 9.3.3 Western *Ghat* Development Programme (WGDP)

The mountain regions or hill areas of the Himalayan region in the north and Western *Ghat* region in the south hold the sources, the catchment, and watersheds of several major river systems flow; they prosper in forests, plants, animals, and mineral wealth. They have very fertile and very sensitive eco-systems. The Western *Ghats* are a range of mountains along the west coast about 1600 km long and 80 to 100 km wide running continuously from Maharashtra to Tamil Nadu with an interruption in continuity in the Palghat district of Kerala. The Western *Ghats* form 8.82 percent of the country's mountainous area. Hilly eco-systems of Western *Ghats* are one of the richest flora and fauna and unique bio-diversity with 30 percent of the area under forest. The Western *Ghats* range is an important determinant in shaping the climate, economy, and social milieu of peninsular India. The western ghat region is a part of Tamil Nadu which spreading in 33 taluks of eight districts: Coimbatore, Tirupur, Dindigul, Theni, Madurai, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli, and Kanyakumari. It is 20 percent of Tamil Nadu. Western Ghat Development Programme (WGDP) began in 1975-76. This programme started with concerns with economic development programmes but the focus moved towards socio-economic, infrastructure, and ecological development.

The WGDP was initiated with 100 percent central assistance and is now shared between centre and state government in a ratio of 90:10. Under this

programme 70 percent of resources are reserved for those schemes which promoting sustainable livelihoods like soil and water conservation, forestry, and infrastructural development. Watershed is adopted as a basic treatment unit for augmentation and stabilization of production, minimizing ecological degradation, reduction in regional disparity, and opening up to greater livelihood opportunities for the rural poor. From the year 2010-11, emphasis was given to the watershed approach for WGDP implementation schemes. It is an integrated approach with local participation. During the Eleventh plan, soil and water conservation measures were taken up in 166 watersheds at a cost of Rs. 101.16 crore in which Rs. 36.63 crore was spent on the soil conservation sector and Rs. 19.10 crore on the forestry sector.

**Scope of Development:** Western *Ghats* region offers scope for the development of forest, horticulture, animal husbandry, and improving the water availability for recharging groundwater as well as for drinking purposes. The development of Western *Ghats* will also help ecological up-gradation and conserve natural resources. It has also scope for increasing the area under the plantation crops like tea, coffee, cardamom, cocoa, rubber, pepper, etc.

Development of the Western *Ghats* Region over the Plan (WGDP) periods: During the Fifth Five Year Plan, WGDP emphasizes the economic well-being of the local population in hill areas and exploitation of the resources of the hilly region. The main activities include in the area are horticulture, plantation, afforestation, minor irrigation, animal husbandry, and tourism. The Sixth Five Year Plan mainly focuses on pilot basis infrastructural development schemes. The Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan were based on a life support system to preserve genetic diversity to restore the ecological damage caused by human activities. During the Ninth Five Year Plan period the objectives for development schemes under WGDP were 'Development in harmony with the environment and 'Development without upsetting the fragile systems'. In the Tenth Five Year Plan, the focus was given on sustainable use of bio-diversity, recognizing the needs and aspirations of local communities. Under the programme, the main activities undertaken are soil conservation, horticulture, forestry, minor irrigation, rural roads, animal husbandry, fisheries, remote sensing, and palm products development. The main objectives of WGDP are as follows:

- i) Maintain ecological balance through forest preservation and conservation which is necessary for a life support system.
- ii) To preserve genetic diversity to restore the ecological damage caused by human activities.
- iii) Create awareness among the people and educate them about severe consequences of ecological degradation, therefore they play active participation in eco-development.

- iv) Checking soil erosion and denudation of area around rivers, lakes, marshes, reservoirs, and springs for soil and water conservation.
- v) Afforestation and forestry programmes for increasing tree cover.
- vi) Meeting the basic livelihood requirement like fuel, fodder, timber, and forest products like medicinal materials for the rural tribal population.
- vii) Creating a people's movement at a large scale with the involvement of women.

### **9.3.4 Drought Prone Area Development Programme (DPADP)**

A major portion of land use in India is drought-prone and falls under the arid and semi-arid categories. Arid, semi-arid, or sub-humid are the various categories to demarcate the drought-prone areas in the country. A drought is a long-term period of dry weather caused by a shortfall in the normal rainfall for a given period of time. A drought is a condition of degradation of land, depleting water resources, decreasing productivity of crops, human resources, and livestock. It is also characterized by hunger, malnutrition, out-migration of both human and cattle populations during the crisis. In India, a major portion of land mass falls under these conditions due to very scanty rainfall and extreme climatic conditions. DPAP is a special area programme for this type of region specifically designed to cater to the needs of locations affected by drought-like conditions.

Drought-prone areas were important factors for creating a regional imbalance in the country. Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) was first time initiated in 1970-71 as the Rural Works Programme (RWP) to tackle the problem of drought regions. During the Fourth Five Year Plan in 1973-74, it was changed into an Area Development Programme. The main objective of programme is to optimum utilization of land, water, and livestock resources, development of posture, soil and moisture conservation, afforestation with more emphasis on social and farm forestry, livestock development and dairy development, restructuring of cropping pattern, improve the economic condition by increasing income of poor and deprived sections of the society.

The intense pressure of human and livestock population in the drought-prone areas has reduced the natural resources emphasizing the issues of soil erosion, falling water table, and depleting the vegetative cover. After the recommendation of the planning committee Commission, DPAP followed an integrated area development approach for the same.

Initially, this programme was started with 50-50 sharing of centre and state. From the implementation point of view, the programme was not very successful in the starting due to rigid guidelines and an ill-designed framework. Lack of people's participation and infrastructure facilities were main disadvantage of this programme. Since 1995-96 watershed approach is

being introduced and the implementation unit of this programme was changed to a watershed project. Local people are actively involved in the planning and development of watershed projects. The fund sharing ratio was also modified to 75:25. By some estimation, DPAP is being operated in 16 states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, 195 districts and 972 blocks has coverage of 74.6 million hectare area. Total outlay plan during Eighth Five Year Plan was Rs. 1000 crore, in which Rs. 500 crore was central share.

Every state has its own organizational setup for the implementation of DPAP. Through this programme main emphasis is on irrigation projects, land development programmes, afforestation, grassland development, rural electrification, and other programmes of infrastructural development likeroads, markets, servicing, processing, and credit, etc.

Other weaker sections of the society and women were also encouraged to contribute substantially. The community participation and role of watershed approach were made the central themes in the programme implementation. Besides, a unified approach and convergence of all developmental programmes and effective monitoring and implementation revived the DPAP.

Land development, water resources development, and afforestation and pasture development were encouraged. Opportunities for alternate occupations and economic diversification are also looked and developed under this programme.

### **9.3.5 Desert Development Programme (DDP)**

The Desert Development Programme (DDP) was started in 1977-78 on the recommendations of the National Commission on Agriculture (1974). Deserts are extremely arid regions where rainfall occurs less than 25 cm in a year. A desert area is characterized by no or very little vegetation, extremely low rainfall, low humidity, and extreme temperature covers both types of Deserts found in India i.e. cold desert and hot desert. Cold deserts can be found in the Union Territory of Ladakh, Lahaul, and Spiti districts of Himanchal Pradesh whereas hot deserts are found in the western part of the Rajasthan, Gujrat, and Haryana. DDP is a special area programme for such locations.

The major objectives of DDP are to controlling processes of desertification, promote of opportunities to raise the level of production through various activities like irrigation, afforestation, soil and water conservation, dry land agriculture, groundwater development, livestock development, and human resources development. Develop such degraded land on the watershed basis by considering the land, people, and livelihood of the locations. It also aims to promote socio-economic development and mitigate the adverse impact of

drought-affected areas, reduce the loss of livelihood, livestock management, and restoring the ecological balance by encouraging the local community participation.

Initially, it was implemented in an isolated manner but the later watershed approach was adopted. Since 1995 is a part of the watershed development programme. Now there are 1747 watershed projects under different stages of seven states. Initially, the fund was allocated on a 75:25 basis by the centre and state but presently it is 100 percent central assistance. At least 75% of the allocations have been earmarked for activities that would contribute towards combating the process of desertification. DDP was implemented on a sectoral basis and the proportionate weights assigned in which maximum given to afforestation and pasture development (40%), water resources development (20%), etc. the fund allocation is at the rate of Rs. 24 lakh per 1000 sq. km. with a ceiling of Rs. 5000 lakh per district. Though, for the cold desert area a lump sum provision for Rs.100 lakh per district for Himachal Pradesh and Rs. 150 lakh for Jammu and Kashmir.

It was also suggested for the participation of weaker sections, voluntary organization, creation of assets, and using a unified approach for effective monitoring and evaluation. DDP is being implemented in 235 blocks, 40 districts, of 7 States by covering an area of 45.8 million hectares. It includes Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan (all hot-desert areas), and Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir (cold-desert areas). The watershed approach is the key to DDP implementation. The resources inventory is the most important step before implementing it as it is crucial for understanding the area-specific problems. It is being followed since 1995-96 but still, there is a long way to go as only 5 % area is targeted under DDP is the entire country. At last, this programme was initiated to control the desertification process, mitigate the affected drought-prone areas, restoring the ecological balance in the affected areas, and raising the productivity of land water livestock, and human resources. Out of the total allocated funds, at least 75% have been contributed to combating the process of desertification.

### **9.3.6 Border Area Development Programme (BADP)**

The Border Area Development Programme was started under the Seventh Five Year Plan with the objective of balanced development of the sensitive border in the western region of the country. The total outlay was Rs. 200 crore. In this programme emphasis was given on infrastructure facilities and the promotion of a sense of security among the local people. In starting this programme covered Punjab, Rajasthan, and Gujarat states but later on extended to Jammu and Kashmir. Schemes were started in 1986-87 under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The main thrust of the programme was changed to the development of human resources, particularly school education-technical and vocational in the community development blocks adjoining the border. Programme has comprised four elements i.e. issues of photo identity cards to

the population of target areas, education, irrigation, and research studies on socio-economic development of these areas.

In the year 1990-91 and 1991-92, annual outlays were about Rs. 85 crore in both years. During the Eighth Plan, coverage extended to the Eastern region, the scope was also reviewed by which problem of the international border can take care, not for general development schemes. In the Eighth plan, Rs. 640 crore were outlaid for this programme. Later, the scope of the programme was expanded to include other socio-economic aspects such as education, health, agriculture, and other allied sectors. During the eighth five-year plan, the coverage was extended to include the Eastern States that shared a border with Bangladesh. The implementation of the BADP scheme was on a participatory and decentralized basis through the Panchayati Raj Institutions, Autonomous Councils, and local bodies. The guidelines of BADP were revised in February, 2009 and as per the revised guidelines, the BADP covers 362 border blocks, which are located along the international border and come under 96 border districts of 17 States.

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## 9.4 LET US SUM UP

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Inclusive and balanced regional development has been the basic principle of the planning policy of India. The size and diversity of India are such that ideal planning for balanced regional development is still a distant dream. Over time, inequality between regions has grown rather than diminished. The topographical bottlenecks and natural hurdles need special attention for the development of the basic amenities in some regions of the country. Development in the country has been caused variation in terms of unequal distribution of resources and adverse geo-physiography structure. Special area development programmes are directed to remove these region-specific backwardness through a more open transfer of funds in the form of SCA and set strategic plans. Many programmes like the Hill Area Development Programme, Tribal Area Development Programme, Drought Prone Area Programme, Western Ghats Development Programme, Border Area Development Programme are in tune with the holistic development of the specific region. The involvement of the different agencies for the monitoring and assessment makes these programmes successful.

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## 9.5 KEYWORDS

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**Region:** It is a geographical and areal unit which is homogenous in nature in terms of definite criteria. Region as a part of earth surface, distinguished in some defined ways from surrounding areas.

**Special Area:** It is area with special characteristics in terms of physical setting, geographical location, social structure, cultural setting and economic groupings. Special Areas which have some special needs and required

attention to address the challenges and problems of regional development inequalities.

**Regional Planning:** It is a specific type of planning based on the regional system by including the public action aimed social well-being. It also implies that regional planning is concerned fundamentally with the society in the context of space. The basic genesis of regional planning and development stems from regional inequality and intense socio-economic development imperatives of particular geographical areas in particular and society as a whole.

**Desert:** Desert is hyper arid areas with rainfall less than 25 cm a year. A desert is characterized by no or very less vegetation, extremely low rainfall, low humidity and extreme temperature. Desert is of two types based on temperature i.e. cold desert and hot desert.

**Tribal Sub-plan Approach:** A planning approach used for tribal area development programme with set of activities for achieving long term goals. It is important in planning process, to attain long term developmental needs of the country or state. Programmes are specific in terms of its intent, objective and long-term target. Time factor is also an important factor in formulation and implementation of programme planning. Each program differs in terms of structure and approach.

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## 9.6 SUGGESTED READINGS AND REFERENCES

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