

## Decentralized Planning in Assam

The planning commission of India introduced the decentralised planning in the country for the first time during the seventh plan. In Assam the decentralised planning was introduced on 1st April 1986.

Although in other states the decentralised planning was extended to the district level but in Assam the same plan was decentralised upto the subdivision level. The Subdivisional planning and Development Council was formed in every subdivision of the state with the public representative from different levels. This development council prepares various development plans for agriculture, irrigation, elementary education, road building, social afforestation, fishery, industrialisation, community development etc. of different subdivisions of the state. The council is entrusted to submit the required estimates of developmental work of different departments and then prepare and implement subdivisional plan as per the approved outlay.

Decentralised planning is very much important in a country like India where majority of our population live in rural areas. This type of plan raises the involvement of people in implementing the plan. Moreover decentralised planning is being prepared in the light of the local problems on the basis of local resource ~~problems~~ potentials. Thus decentralised planning is considered an important strategy in respect of planning in economic development.

(PTE)

## Objectives of decentralised planning:

The following were the three important objectives of decentralised planning

1. Effective implementation of poverty eradication programme.

2. Ensuring balanced regional development for meeting minimum needs of the people.

3. To ensure active public participation in the development process of different sectors.

Thus the main objective of decentralised planning is to attain balanced development process of different sectors throughout the country with the active participation of the people and to eradicate poverty.

Thus under the present system, the planning machinery was restructured up to the grass root level. District development committee was also formed

taking the deputy commissioner as its ~~secretary~~ chairman, and all the heads of development department as its members.

At the district level, implementation of all development schemes are being kept under the jurisdiction of deputy commissioner.

Development commissioners of different departments have also been entrusted to organise development work of different departments.

In the mean time various schemes of the seventh five year plan are implemented through Subdivisional planning and Development Councils in Assam. The Annual plans of 1990-91, 91-92 are implemented through these councils. Annual plans of the Eight five year plan were also implemented through these councils.

The structure and strategy of decentralised planning has undergone change with the

Seventy third Constitution Amendment Act 1992.

The government passed the Assam Panchayati Raj

Act 1994 and accordingly state finance Commission

was formed. A three tier Panchayati Raj

system was formed with Gaon Panchayat at the

village level, Anchalik Panchayat at the

subdivision level and Zila Parishad

at the district level. The rural development

programmes are done through elected

bodies of Gaon Panchayats.

In Assam the Subdivisional Planning

and development councils are given the

task of preparing the annual plans of each

subdivision of the plans as per directions

of the Central government.