



GUIDELINES

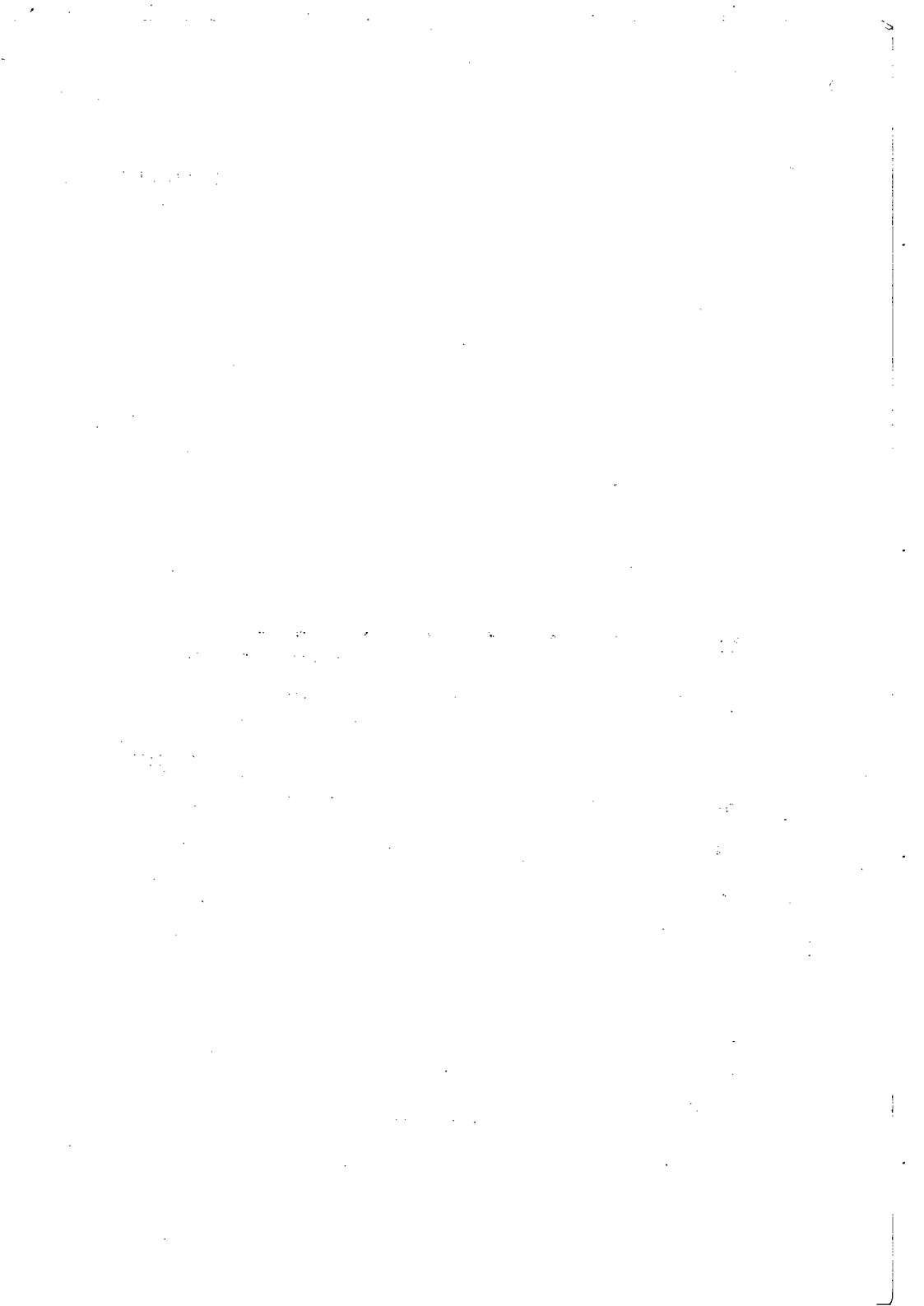
FOR

BLOCK LEVEL PLANNING

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING COMMISSION
December 1979

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I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The need for planning at the national and State levels has come to be accepted in our country for quite some time. However, this is not so when it comes to planning at lower levels, particularly, at the level of a community development block. Official policy has, no doubt, from time to time, sought to underline block as the basic unit of development administration. There have also been some sporadic attempts at formulation of block level plans. Generally speaking, however, task has still to be taken in hand systematically. These guidelines have been drawn up to facilitate this task.

1.2 In the recent past, considerable thinking has been done with regard to various aspects of block level plan. The Planning Commission had constituted a Working Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. L. Dantwala to draw up detailed guidelines for block level planning. The Group gave its report in 1978. Separately, the Union Department of Rural Development prepared a brochure on the methodology for planning and implementation of integrated rural development. There have also been attempts by individual State Governments and organisations to frame block level plans. The National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, has given considerable thought to preparation of development plan for a selected block. Necessary cognisance has been taken of all these reports, documents and experiences while formulating the present set of guidelines.

1.3 The country, as a whole has at present over 5000 blocks. While eventually it will be necessary that a development plan is drawn up for each block, it is obvious that formulation of such plans cannot be taken up simultaneously in respect of all blocks. A phased programme is unavoidable. In this context, it is suggested that to begin with, efforts should be made to draw up plans in as many blocks as considered feasible by State Governments out of the 2000 blocks which have been identified for integrated

rural development during the current plan period and 300 blocks every year to be selected additionally for area planning for full employment. In each block taken up for block level planning and integrated rural development a nucleus of funds annually has been assured and this will facilitate execution of developmental activities conceived as part of block plan.

1.4 Each area development plan must necessarily have a time horizon. This is also true of a block level plan. In this regard, it is possible to argue in favour of different time horizons for different blocks. However, it appears that the balance of advantage would lie in preparing a plan for a block where the terminal year coincides with the terminal year of the Five Year Plan. Taking into account the fact, that three years of the Sixth Plan would have been already over before the present exercise bears fruit, it is suggested that the block plan may be prepared with a seven-year perspective in view i.e. from 1981-82 to 1987-88, synchronising with the remaining two years of the State's Sixth Plan and the full five year period of the State's Seventh Plan. This synchronisation of the state plan and the block plan is administratively useful and functionally it will be necessary.

II. NEED AND SCOPE OF BLOCK LEVEL PLANNING

2.1 The need for block level planning must be recognised as arising out of several compelling considerations. Firstly, a national and even a state plan is necessarily macro in character and cannot be a substitute for a micro plan for a given compact area. There are many activities which are more appropriately planned taking a compact area like a community development block as the unit for planning. Such activities are those which require detailed and intimate knowledge of local conditions and local requirements and often envisage an element of popular participation also. In such cases, a block level plan helps to serve as a guide for appropriate locational decisions. Secondly, the national plan objective concerning removal of unemployment and a significant reduction of under-employment in a period of 10 years requires detailed planning for relevant households which constitute the target groups. This can be attempted meaningfully only under the umbrella of a block plan. Finally, each community development block has its productive potentialities in terms of agriculture and animal husbandry, rural industries and allied sectors. This requires intensification of extension efforts in all these directions. Such intensification cannot be in terms of a generalised package of practices. It must be grounded in an intimate knowledge of local resource situation for which a block plan can serve as ready instrument.

2.2 Block level planning should aim only at tasks which a block level planner may be able to handle at his level of responsibility and competence. For instance, certain laudable objectives like bringing about an egalitarian structure of ownership of assets or reorienting the existing institutional organisational structure will more appropriately fall within the sphere of responsibility of national/State planning rather than of block level planning.

Therefore, taking a realistic view, the tasks and functions of block level planning may be listed as below :

- (i) To identify the growth potential of the block area in terms of the local land, water and other resource situation ;
- (ii) To identify the human resource situation and in particular, the agricultural and non-agricultural families which are either unemployed or significantly under-employed ;
- (iii) To review the on-going development activities and their relevance to (a) the need for optimizing production; and (b) generating employment ;
- (iv) To formulate special programmes for the rural poor and the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes population designed to improve their economic conditions ;
- (v) To formulate a package of schemes/programmes which will seek to optimise production and also augment the duration and productivity of employment of the poor and the under-employed and to alleviate residual unemployment through additional schemes including public works ;
- (vi) To identify gaps in the social infra-structure regarding the Minimum Needs Programmes relating to health, medical facilities, drinking water supply, housing and education and devise measures for filling the gaps.

III. MACHINERY FOR BLOCK LEVEL PLANNING

3.1 Who should do planning at the block level? A uniform and dogmatic answer to this question seems neither necessary nor desirable. In varying circumstances, different approaches may have to be adopted. Some of them are discussed below.

3.2 Perhaps the ideal solution would be that planning for the block should be done by the block itself. However, in the present circumstances, the block staff are inadequate both in numbers as well as capability. Even for purposes of implementation, it would be necessary to supplement the existing block level machinery suitably. As constituted now, the block planning machinery can be utilised only for some limited collection of data and monitoring and cannot be utilized for the core planning functions. If the existing set-up at the block level is to be transformed into a machinery for block level planning, it would require not merely some numerical increase in personnel, but would also necessitate some administrative adaptations. For instance, it would mean that all functionaries of the line departments are brought under the control of a Senior Chief Block Officer so that effective coordination would be possible at the block level. In some States, steps have already been initiated in this direction. For instance, a Class I Officer is being appointed in one State as the Chief Block Officer. He will have an adequate complement of manpower from different departments as part of the block team and will exercise coordinating and supervisory authority similar to that of a Deputy Commissioner vis-a-vis district staff. Each block will have a block level agency which will have a corporate character and whose funds will be non-lapseable. Such a strengthened block level set-up can be considered for being entrusted with the formulation of initial draft block plan which can be finalised after its being appropriately vetted at the district/State level.

3.3 The Dantwala Group has recommended the creation of a peripatetic planning team at the district level to undertake block level planning functions. According to this Group, this team should consist of a Chief Planning Officer and the six technical officers : (1) Economist/Statistician, (2) Cartographer/Geographer, (3) Agronomist, (4) Engineer, (5) Small and Cottage Industry Officer, (6) Credit Planning Officer. At this stage, it may not be possible to have the above multi disciplinary team for all districts. For the present, a three-member planning team consisting of an Economist/Statistician, a Credit Planning Officer and a Small and Cottage Industry Officer may be deemed as the core staff for block level planning. The above core staff may be funded from the I.R.D. Budget.

3.4 At the State level, the State Planning Boards will have an important role of providing more detailed guidelines, supervising and overseeing the preparation of Block Level Plans, providing the necessary orientation and training to the block level planning personnel and making necessary arrangements for monitoring the block level programmes.

3.5 While, in most cases, the main brunt of block level planning will have to be borne by the official machinery, wherever possible, the services of suitable voluntary agencies must be utilised. The State Government may do so with due discrimination. The selected voluntary agency must have adequate minimum experience of rural development work and expertise in formulation of developmental schemes. Wherever a voluntary agency is assigned the responsibilities of block level planning, it will have to be suitably supported by supply of data and other experiences by various official agencies. In certain other cases, the State Government may be able to involve professional institutes or other bodies such as agricultural universities in the formulation of block plans. Such institutes/universities would have to undertake this work in close cooperation with the officers of the State Government. Formulation of a plan and its implementation cannot be meaningfully separated. Hence those who have to eventually implement the plan should be closely associated with its formulation.

IV. BASE LINE SURVEY

4.1 A base line survey of the situation in the block is an essential starting point for the formulation of a block level plan. This is essential for two reasons. In the first place, it provides a bench mark survey against which further progress made in the development of the block can be measured. Secondly, a baseline survey also facilitates an assessment of the prevailing situation and identification of the gaps and therefore facilitates the tasks of formulation of the developmental programmes and schemes to be included in the block plan.

4.2 The type of resource inventory which is required for block level planning should be relevant to planning at the level we are talking about i.e. block level. For example, if there are substantial iron ore and coal deposits, the resource inventory for block level planning need not concern itself with resources of such a nature. Further the resources inventory should lead to certain specific action programmes which can be built into the block level plan rather than merely stating certain possibilities which may or may not be germane to the block level planning at all. For example, for the purpose of block level planning, it is no use stating that because of forest resources, a paper mill is a possibility. Planning of such a project should really be done at the State level and will be done at the State level if not at the national level. To be more specific, resource inventory should, really concentrate on identifying potentialities which can be best exploited at the block level.

4.3 For a typical block, a base line survey may be prepared on the basis of a questionnaire which may have four parts. Part I may deal with physical and biological resources. This would cover agriculture and land use, the situation with regard to soil conditions, land utilisation, area under crops, irrigation and other

relevant details including levels of use of agricultural inputs etc. The Second Section of Part I may deal with activities allied to agriculture such as animal husbandry, dairying, fisheries, sericulture, forestry etc. Another section in Part I may deal with the situation on the industrial front. Part II of the baseline survey may deal with human resources. This section would seek information on the population, in particular the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population, literacy, occupational patterns, rural artisans and other relevant details.

4.4 The baseline survey may have another part which may deal with infrastructure and institutions. This may seek information about the availability and distribution of electricity, the network of roads, banking and credit facilities, facilities for distribution of agricultural inputs, facilities for marketing, social infrastructure such as education, public health, drinking water supply, housing etc. This may be identified as Part III of the baseline survey.

4.5 In undertaking the baseline survey, a proper balance should be struck between the need for adequate information and the need for avoiding compilation of over-elaborate inventory/data.

4.6 One of the most important information which the block level planners must consider relates to information concerning the number of families below the poverty line. This will need a household survey to be conducted.

4.7 An illustrative list of minimum essential statistics to be maintained at the block level is indicated in Annexure. It would be necessary to lay out this information in appropriate performance/schedules, broadly taking into account the requirements of the blocks which have been chosen for planning exercise.

V. FINANCES FOR THE BLOCK PLAN

5.1 The preparation of block plan must be anchored to some clear financial base. If this is not done, the plan may turn out to be a grandiose document with a listing of all possible demands and needs of a given area.

5.2 What should be the method of determining the financial size of a block plan? The answer to this question is not easy. In respect of the financial size of the state plans, over the years, certain general principles have emerged and act as guideposts. Even then the subject is not free from controversy. In regard to block plans, the methodology of determining financial size will have to be evolved as more experience is gained. However, some indication can be given at this stage in the light of the available experience.

5.3 The financial size of a block plan may be broadly composed of the following components:—

- (i) Untied grants from the State towards financing of the block plan.
- (ii) Central grants under IRD as a centrally sponsored scheme.
- (iii) Provision under the State sponsored schemes to be implemented at block level.
- (iv) Local financial resources of block samities/market committees etc.
- (v) Institutional credit.

5.4 As far as the first component is concerned, it is on the analogy of the central assistance to the States towards financing of the State plans. Every year, on

the basis of the Gadgil Formula or any other formula, a certain amount of untied aid flows from the Central Government to the States and forms part of the State Plan resources. It will be necessary for the States to move towards the direction of evolving a similar arrangement for dealing with block plans. To begin with, it is suggested that a certain percentage of the overall State Plan outlay, say 10 per cent, as the State Government may decide, may be annually pre-empted and earmarked as State assistance towards block plans. This amount may be distributed among the blocks equally if the blocks are more or less homogenous in character. If the blocks are uneven, the distribution of State assistance to the blocks may be on the basis of population. The amount needed for this purpose will have to be found by the States out of the overall State plan and will have to be shown under a new head called "State Assistance Towards Block Plan".

5.5 If the above approach is adopted, it will mean that a typical block will be assured of a reasonable quantum of annual finance, may be typically of the order of nearly Rs. 10 lakhs. This amount may be supplemented from the provision of those schemes which are state sponsored but which are essentially capable of implementation at the block level. Some State Governments have experience of what are known as divisible schemes in respect of district plans. This is essentially delineating district sector schemes and the state sector schemes broadly on the principle of whether an individual scheme or sphere of development is demonstrably of benefit to a particular district and would promote the socio-economic interest of the people belonging to the district, or not. Thus, schemes like major and medium irrigation, power generation and distribution, the large and medium industries, university education etc. are indivisible items and would lie in the "State Sector Schemes". On the other hand, agricultural production, soil conservation, minor irrigation, small-scale and rural industries, primary and secondary education, water supply and sanitation etc. are divisible items and may be classified as "District Sector" Schemes. In the context of block

level planning, a similar concept may have to be extended to block level schemes.

5.6 The size of the block plan will partly depend on the local resources. This may to some extent be mobilised by the block samitis wherever they exist. Wherever there are well-established agricultural produce market committees, their surplus resources may have to be tied to block priorities and, for this purpose, suitable provisions may have to be made in the law governing the market committees.

5.7 Lastly, the flow of institutional credit will have an important role in financing the block plan. Bulk of institutional credit will necessarily go directly to individual beneficiary and hence may not be technically part of the block plan. However, wherever a local organisation such as market committee or a co-operative institution raise a loan for a common facility, it may be reckoned as having raised finance towards block plan. At present, borrowing of State enterprises are treated as State Plan resources. Similarly, borrowings of local institutions for corporate investment inside the block may be recognised as part of block financial resources.

5.8 In the light of the various considerations mentioned in the previous paragraphs, the block planner has to estimate the financial resources for the plan in the context of the proposed seven-year perspective. The first two years of the current plan period while the next five years represents the period covered during the Seventh Plan. Estimation of the financial resources during the remaining two years of the current plan period would be relatively firm estimates, as compared to the subsequent five years of the Seventh Plan period, which must necessarily be based on tentative assumptions.

VI. CONTENTS OF BLOCK PLAN

6.1 The range of planning function at the block level is determined by the size of its geographical limits and qualitative appraisal of its human and material resources. One of the first task of the block level planning is, therefore to demarcate the canvas of block level planning from that of district and State level planning. Major components of block level plan are indicated below :

- (a) Programmes aiming at optimising the production potential of the area in the various sectors e.g. agriculture, animal husbandry, forests, village and small scale industries etc.;
- (b) Special production programmes for the target groups in the area in the light of the resource potential ;
- (c) Manpower planning and skill development in relation to the production programmes ;
- (d) A programme for the provision of basic minimum needs ; and
- (e) Programme for institutional support.

6.2 The formulation of the above programmes will need close collaboration with the functionaries of the concerned departments and agencies of the State Government such as the District Industries Centre as well as various credit institutions. The block planner has to establish the necessary linkages with such departments, agencies and institutions and thus eliminate the contradictions, inconsistencies, discrepancies and overlaps among the schemes and render them mutually compatible and supportive to each other with a view to increasing their overall developmental impact in the area.

6.3 Block level planning is not merely planning for the efficient production of goods and services using the local resources to the maximum, but also achieving equity in the distribution of such goods and services, to all villages. In order to achieve this objective, spatial planning, whose emphasis will be on the integrated development of the infrastructure of the area as a whole, is necessary.

6.4 Spatial planning implies a systematic effort to locate facilities (roads, schools, factories, houses etc.) in such a manner that all people can use them to maximum advantage. If this is not done consciously, infrastructure investments of sectoral programmes would be made in haphazard locations and they may not converge in desirable combination at the most optimal locations. Such convergence can affect large economies in movement of men and materials and better utilisation of facilities. In unplanned development an agricultural market and an agricultural processing functions may be located in different places; or a middle school and health sub-centre in different villages. One need not converge in desirable combination at the most optimal location to build facilities in a single location so that the farmer who comes to sell his produce in the market place can also get his goods processed at the same place and may pick up some medicines. Against this, when locational planning is not inter-sectorally integrated, villages may compete with each other and ultimately none of them will be able to achieve viability, nor will all sections of the people be able to obtain adequate service. Thus, in order to achieve optimum growth of infrastructure with social justice in spatial planning, it is necessary to rationalise the locations of the various sectoral infrastructure investment programmes.

6.5 In the block situation, there are three types of activities which require locational decisions :

- (1) The key projects and supporting subsidiary projects that are identified in the area in the productive sectors of the economy.

- (2) The provision of basic infrastructure which will include electricity, buildings, roads, marketing yards, warehousing, processing facilities and agricultural services of various kinds and social infrastructure for the provision of the basic minimum needs to the population like schools and dispensaries.
- (3) The setting up of organisations such as cooperatives, service societies or agencies at the grass roots which cater to the poorer sections.

6.6 The first mentioned activity needs to be concentrated in a few specific locations which may be called "rural growth centres". The activities mentioned in (2) and (3) will have a servicing role and will be dispersed in as many locations as necessary, so that they are accessible to the local population within a reasonable minimum distance. These will be "rural service centres". Thus the convergence of rural growth centres and service centres will constitute an essential part of area planning.

6.7 As already stated, one of the most important objectives of block level planning is to deal with the problem of unemployment and under-employment in order to increase the incomes of the people below the poverty line. The planning team should be given a directive to the effect that, while preparing the individual sectoral plans and the final integrated plan, the major objective of augmenting employment for increased incomes especially for the weaker sections—small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, village craftsmen, scheduled castes and tribes, etc.—should constantly be kept in view. If there are policy implications to the adoption of this guideline, they should be clearly spelt out. The implications may pertain to the desired direction of land reforms, farm mechanization, upgrading of technology, reorientation of credit and marketing institutions etc.

6.8 Keeping constantly in mind the directive in regard to the priority attached to employment generation in block/district planning, the sectoral planner should try to devise projects/programmes which would help to augment the duration of employ-

ment of various categories of persons—men, women, self-employed, wage labourers—in their existing occupations. For example, in the agricultural sector, if irrigation potential exists, duration of employment of all persons engaged in cultivation can be augmented through increase in the intensity of cropping. Consistent with the accent on employment generation, the planners' endeavour should be to ensure that more than proportionate share of additional water availability accrues to the small farmers.

6.9 Even after all efforts at augmenting employment in the existing occupations through additional investments, development of infrastructure, & institutional reforms are made, there may be a lot of unsatisfied demand for work (unemployment). There may be a hard core of the chronically unemployed persons, who have no worthwhile productive assets or skills and no stable occupations. For them, a special public works programme for providing transitory unskilled employment will be necessary. Such a programme should be conceived primarily as a programme of utilising surplus manpower for conservation of the environment, that is conservation, improvement and full utilisation of the soil and water resources of each local area. This should constitute an important element of the block-level planning. A block level plan should contain a shelf of projects together with estimates of their cost and employment potential. It will then be possible to open and execute such works on a systematic basis as and when need arises. Assistance now available under the 'Food for work' scheme should be fully utilised for taking up public works programme on a much bigger scale.

VII. DIRECTIONS AND SUPERVISION

7.1 In order that work of formulating block level plan is properly handled, it will be necessary to provide a continuous direction and guidance to those concerned with it. For this purpose, States may consider setting up special cells in the State Planning Boards which should supervise and monitor block level planning and serve as a clearing house of information and agency for supervision and guidance in this regard.

7.2 Before the plan of each block is treated as final, it will be necessary to subject it to a proper scrutiny. For this purpose, perhaps, the most appropriate arrangement would be for a district planning committee to scrutinise the block plans and thereafter forward them to the State.

7.3 Another aspect which will need attention at the State level concerns training for block level planning. The objective should be to develop a training programme which will help to impart necessary skills to those who will engage in block level planning. This training should clarify principles and procedure of block/area planning. It should develop skills for project formulation for bankable schemes. The training course should also focus attention on the methodology concerning identification of weaker sections and the formulation of programmes which have the requisite employment orientation.

7.4 The Block Plan is not to be prepared in isolation. It must be closely coordinated with State Plan. Many of the programmes and schemes adopted for the development of the block will require to be supported by suitable action at higher levels, particularly through the extension of the super-structure, the provision of essential inputs and suitable administrative interactions and adaptations. Such link actions and coordinative arrangements have to be identified during the block planning process.

ANNEXURE

List of minimum essential statistics to be maintained at the block level

Note : The base year for information, should be the first year of the Sixth Plan i.e. 1978-79. For analysing the trends, information for previous five year period (i.e. 1973-74 to 1978-79) may be used.

Part I—PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

A. Agriculture and Land Use

1. Soil and Soil Conditions—Types; problem areas.
2. Land utilisation.
3. Area; Production and yield of major crops.
(including Area under HYV and improved seeds.)
4. Irrigation—Source-wise and crop-wise irrigated area; Irrigation Projects : Completed and ongoing—Area benefitted and number of beneficiaries.
5. Supply of inputs—Seeds; fertilizers; pesticides and agricultural implements.

B. Activities allied to Agriculture

6. Animal husbandry—Number of Animals; Average Milk yield; egg-production; breed improvement programmes.
7. Veterinary services—Number of veterinary hospitals/dispensaries; A. 1 Centres—Extent of coverage in the block; unserved areas.

8. Fisheries—Total water spread in the area (lakes, reservoirs, tanks, ponds etc.); fish production; potential for augmentation; number of families engaged.
9. Sericulture—Plantation Area; Seed farms and production.
10. Forestry—Area; forest types; plantations and Production.
11. Minerals (of local significance only); Type; deposits and utilisation.
12. Industries—Number of units; employment; capacity; production; Separately for Large and Medium, Small scale and cottage industries.

Part II—HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Population—Rural; urban; male and female.
2. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes—Rural and Urban; male and female.
3. Literacy—male and female in per cent.
4. Pattern of Working Force—Number of Workers in different industrial categories; male/female.
5. Beneficiaries under special programmes (MFAL, SFDA etc.)
6. Small farmers; Marginal farmers and landless labourers—classification of agricultural families according to size of holdings; number of families without land.
7. Artisans—Number; skills possessed and trades.

Part III—INFRASTRUCTURE AND INSTITUTIONS

1. Power—Number of towns/villages electrified; tube-wells/pumpsets energized; number of household connections, power consumption by categories; number of Gobar Gas plants.

2. Roads—Length—surfaced/unsurfaced; number of villages connected, number of villages not connected and their degree of accessibility.
3. Railways—Length of Railways; number of Railway stations.
4. Post and Telegraphs—number of post offices; number of villages covered; number of telephone connections and Telegraph offices.
5. Banking facilities—number of commercial banks; co-operative societies and financial institutions; loans advanced, amount and number of beneficiaries.
6. Delivery system—number of Distribution Centres for seeds, fertilizers implements and pesticides.
7. Marketing—Number of regulated markets/village markets; total arrival of commodities; number of Godowns and storage capacity.
8. Education—Number of schools/Adult Education Centres; number of teachers—separately for boys and girls and enrolment.
9. Public Health—Number of hospitals; P.H.C.'s/dispensaries—rural/urban; number of beds provided; number of villages covered; number of nurses/midwives—trained/untrained available.
10. Nutrition—Programmes and coverage.
11. Drinking Water—Number of villages and population covered by arrangements for safe drinking water.
12. Housing—Number of beneficiaries; quantum of financial assistance; house sites distributed.
13. Panchayat Raj Institutions in the block and their status.
14. Voluntary agencies—Name; area of operation and activities.

No. PC (P) 16/3/79-MLP
Government of India
Planning Commission

Dated, New Delhi, the 29th December, 79

From

Shri S. S. Puri,
Secretary to the Government of India

To

1. Chief Secretaries, all States/U.Ts.
2. Planning Secretaries, all States/U.Ts.

Sirs,

Subject :—Guidelines for Block Level Planning

As you are aware, the need for planning at the national and State levels has been recognised in our country for quite some time. However, such recognition is generally not there when it comes to planning at lower levels particularly at the level of a Community Development Block. Official policy has, from time to time, referred to a C.D. block as the basic unit of development administration. There have also been a few attempts at the formulation of block level planning. Generally speaking, however, block level planning has not been taken in hand systematically.

2. The urgency for block level planning being taken up on a systematic basis has been highlighted by the fact that one of the accepted Sixth Plan objectives relates to removal of un-

employment and significant reduction of under-employment in a period of 10 years. For this purpose, detailed planning for relevant target groups has to be undertaken and this can be done meaningfully only under the umbrella of a block plan. Thus the formulation of block plan is crucial to the furtherance of major objectives of the national plan.

3. It may be recalled that, sometime ago, the Planning Commission had constituted a Working Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. L. Dantwala to make recommendation on the subject of block level planning. Copies of the Working Group Report have already been made available to the State Governments/U.Ts. In addition, there have also been thinking on the subject of block level planning in the form of various seminars and other pilot studies undertaken by State/organisations as well as the National Institute of Rural Development. Taking cognisance of all these experience, a set of guidelines have been prepared in the Planning Commission in consultation with the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction. A copy of these guidelines is enclosed.

4. It may be noted that these Guidelines cover only some broad and essential aspects of Block Level Planning. The Ministry of Rural Reconstruction may be supplementing these Guidelines from time to time as considered necessary. It is also hoped that the State Governments would, on their own elaborate these Guidelines further by incorporating such modifications as necessary, in the context of the geographical, administrative and other peculiarities of their respective States.

5. It will be greatly appreciated if the enclosed guidelines are carefully considered by the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations and action taken to accelerate the Process of formulation of block level plans in the light of these guidelines.

6. The reaction of the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations to the enclosed guidelines and the action taken

in this regard may kindly be intimated to the Planning Commission at an early date.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(S. S. Puri)

Secretary to the Government of India

No. PC (P) 16/3/79-MLP

Dated, New Delhi, the

Copy with a copy of the enclosures for information to :

1. Secretary, Ministry of Rural Reconstruction, Government of India, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Copy with enclosures for information to :

Deputy Chairman
Member (R)/(J)/(G)
Principal Secretary
Secretary

All Advisers/Joint Secretaries/Heads of Divisions.

Sd/-

(S. S. Puri)

Secretary to the Government of India.