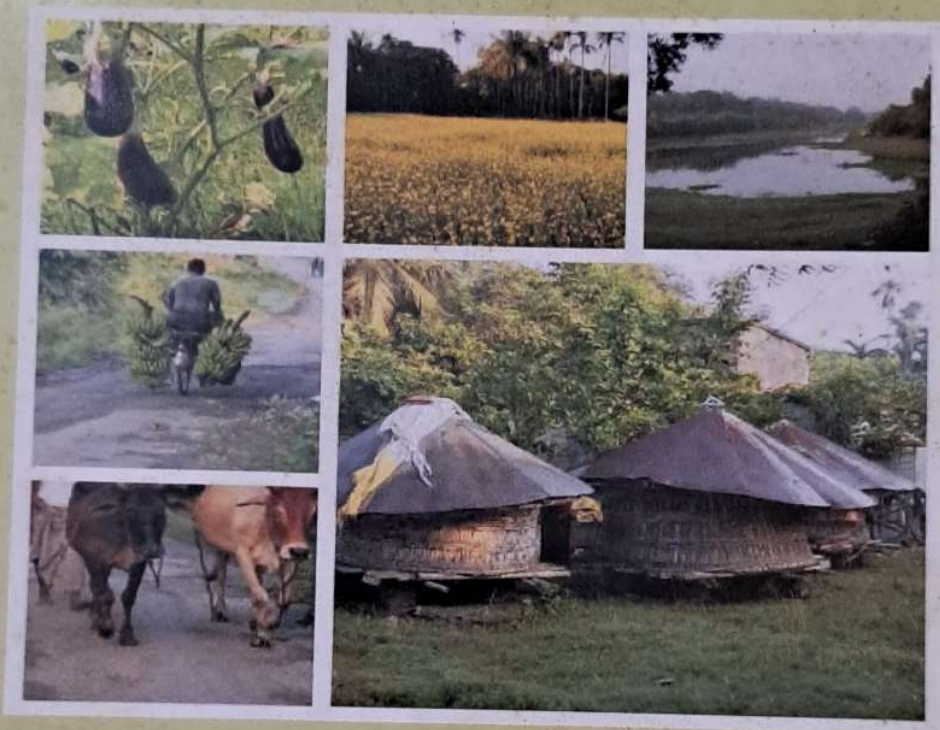


RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA- PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS



EDITED BY
DR. SUKAMAL DATTA

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An Analysis Of Budgetary Allocations And Expenditures On India's Rural Development Schemes In The Present Millennium

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In a densely populated and agrarian dominated economy like India, the issue of rural development is of utmost importance. Even though structural transformation of the economy and society may be an indicator of economic progress and development, yet the role of rural development in the overall transformation process cannot be ignored given the fact that a overwhelming proportion of people in India still directly and indirectly relies on agriculture and allied activities for their livelihoods and that the degree of urbanization is still low in the country. In successive Five Year Plans, policy emphasis has vacillated from one sector to other. For instance, while the 1st Plan laid a lot of emphasis on rural and community development, the 2nd Plan laid heavy emphasis on the development of the industrial sector. Again, in the mid-1960s, with the heralding of the technology of green revolution, Indian agriculture received a new impetus. It needs to be stressed that in an ideal policy framework, agricultural development and rural development should be closely tied; development of one cannot occur without the development of the other.

It is against this background, the present paper attempts to trace the place and importance of rural development in India from the angle of policy framing. The paper attempts to trace the importance and place of rural development in terms of policy making from the angle of several changes that were effected while revamping and renaming relevant ministries and departments at the central level since independence. There are, indeed several other ways to analyze the importance of the issue. In the present exercise, the focus will, however, primarily be to understand the priority of rural development in India in terms of budgetary allocations over the years, with special reference to the new millennium. During this phase several key programmes have been initiated and/or expanded, of which

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