Chapter 6: Planning and Sustainable Development in Indian Context

Exercises — Exercises

Q1 Regional planning relates to: (a) Development of various sectors of economy. (b) Area specific approach of development. (c) Area differences in transportation network. (d) Development of rural areas.

(b) Area specific approach of development. Because development is uneven across space, regional planning takes a spatial view and draws plans to reduce regional imbalance. Option (a) describes sectoral planning instead.

Q2 ITDP refers to which one of the following? (a) Integrated Tourism Development Programme (b) Integrated Travel Development Programme (c) Integrated Tribal Development Programme (d) Integrated Transport Development Programme

(c) Integrated Tribal Development Programme. Under the Fifth Five Year Plan, Bharmaur was designated as one of the five Integrated Tribal Development Projects in Himachal Pradesh to improve the Gaddis' quality of life.

Q3 Which one of the following is the most crucial factor for sustainable development in Indira Gandhi Canal Command Area? (a) Agricultural development (b) Eco-development (c) Transport development (d) Colonisation of land

(b) Eco-development. Intensive irrigation caused waterlogging and soil salinity, so five of the seven proposed measures aim to restore ecological balance, including afforestation, shelterbelt plantation and pasture development, especially in fragile Stage-II.

Q4 What are the social benefits of ITDP in the Bharmaur tribal region? (Answer in about 30 words.)

ITDP greatly raised literacy; female literacy rose from 1.88 per cent in 1971 to 65 per cent in 2011. It also improved the sex ratio, reduced child marriage and narrowed the gender gap in literacy.

Q5 Define the concept of sustainable development. (Answer in about 30 words.)

Sustainable development, as defined by the Brundtland Report 'Our Common Future' (1987), is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It balances ecological, social and economic aspects and pleads for conservation of resources.

Q6 What are the positive impacts of irrigation on Indira Gandhi Canal Command Area? (Answer in about 30 words.)

Canal irrigation kept soil moisture longer and, with afforestation and pasture programmes, greened the land and reduced wind erosion and canal siltation. Cultivated area and cropping intensity rose, and agricultural and livestock productivity increased; gram, bajra and jowar gave way to wheat, cotton, groundnut and rice.

Q7 Write short notes on drought-prone area programme. How does this programme help in the development of dryland agriculture in India? (Answer in about 150 words.)

The Drought Prone Area Programme was initiated during the Fourth Five Year Plan to provide employment to people in drought-prone areas and create productive assets. At first it stressed labour-intensive civil works; later it shifted to irrigation projects, land development, afforestation, grassland development and basic rural infrastructure such as electricity, roads, markets, credit and services. The Planning Commission identified 67 drought-prone districts in 1967, and the Irrigation Commission (1972) used the criterion of 30 per cent irrigated area to demarcate them. These areas lie mainly in the semi-arid and arid tracts of Rajasthan, Gujarat, western Madhya Pradesh, Marathwada, the Rayalseema and Telangana plateaus, the Karnataka plateau and interior Tamil Nadu. The programme has largely developed agriculture and allied sectors, with focus on restoring ecological balance between water, soil, plants, and human and animal population. It promotes integrated watershed development at the micro-level, which conserves moisture and supports dryland farming. Since population pressure pushes cultivation onto marginal lands and degrades them, alternative employment opportunities are also needed.

Q8 Suggest the measures of promotion of sustainability in Indira Gandhi Canal Command Area. (Answer in about 150 words.)

Seven measures are suggested, five of them aimed at restoring ecological balance. (i) Strictly implement the water management policy: protective irrigation in Stage-I and extensive irrigation of crops and pasture development in Stage-II. (ii) Avoid water-intensive crops and encourage plantation crops such as citrus fruits. (iii) Implement Command Area Development programmes effectively, such as lining of water courses, land levelling and the warabandi system of equal water distribution, to cut conveyance losses. (iv) Reclaim areas affected by waterlogging and soil salinity. (v) Undertake eco-development through afforestation, shelterbelt plantation and pasture development, particularly in fragile Stage-II. (vi) For social sustainability, give land allottees from poor economic backgrounds adequate financial and institutional support for cultivation. (vii) For economic sustainability, develop other sectors alongside agriculture and animal husbandry, diversifying the economic base and building functional linkages between basic villages, agro-service centres and market centres.