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Role of Government in the Growth of the Country

Lesson Plan

Contents

- ▶ An overview of the government helped the growth of India
- ▶ Understanding the areas in which the government intervened to step up India's growth and development

Objectives

- ▶ To understand India's concerns in economic growth and development
- ▶ To learn about the focus on various sectors that caused concern
- ▶ To know about the programmes, schemes and activities that helped development and growth
- ▶ To appreciate the intervention of government in the development of India and its economy

Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Globe
- ▶ Pictures, charts, atlas and wall maps
- ▶ Blackboard
- ▶ Internet

Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Explain the status of each sector when India obtained Independence, the areas of concern and the action taken to improve the economic situation of India.
- ▶ Explain also the development of various actions over the last decade—the growth of education, transport, poverty alleviation, science, medical facilities, communications, tourism and hospitality industries, etc.
- ▶ Students should be encouraged to know the latest developments—not just about the diversity of caste and religion, but of the many schemes for poverty alleviation, health insurance, etc.

Background and Reading

- ▶ Read the lesson aloud and explain, sharing the aids, etc., pausing to examine and explain the data in the boxes.

- ▶ Particularly focus on the development of India after the opening up of the economy in the 990s—and the last decade—and now the possibility of greater foreign investment in India.

Rebuilding India's Economy

- ▶ India's economy had to be rebuilt after Independence—difficult task—tremendous progress in the last 70+ years—second fastest growing economy.
- ▶ Despite this, widened gap between haves and have-nots—rich and poor.

Role Played by the State Government

- ▶ Important role in growth of a nation—maintain law and order; provide civic amenities; attend to basic infrastructure; work towards poverty alleviation and welfare of poor; sustain economic growth—requires provision of basic amenities like water, electricity, good roads, adequate housing, education, communication facilities and financial institutions—social welfare along with economic prosperity.
- ▶ To bring balanced distribution of resources and ensure all people benefit from the process of development—India started five-year plans.
- ▶ Planning Commission of India—set up with Nehru as Chairman in 1950—now replaced by Niti Aayog with Prime Minister as Chairman.
- ▶ Total of ten five-year plans and six annual plans—annual plans brought out when it was not possible to have five-year plans due to some internal crisis—members would decide how much government resources were to be allotted to each sector.
- ▶ Major portion given to development of agriculture—other sectors include transport, communications, electricity, irrigation, industries, and poverty alleviation.

Agriculture

- ▶ Our country's backbone—largest economic sector.
- ▶ Indian agriculture suffered during British rule—measures implemented by five-year plans to develop this sector:
 - Land reforms—land taken from rich zamindars and redistributed to landless labourers.
 - Cooperative banks started to give credit to farmers at acceptable rates and safeguard them from moneylenders.
 - Irrigation projects introduced to provide water to farmers for their crops instead of depending only on the monsoons.
 - High yielding seeds, fertilisers and pesticides made available at subsidised rates.
 - Farmers' produce sold in the market at best price—arrangements for storage and sale made by government.
 - Officials sent to villages to help, guide and educate farmers about new techniques that can be adopted to increase output.
 - Farmers taught to use machines to plough the land and thresh grain.
 - Credit facilities given to farmers to buy new machines and equipment.
- ▶ Due to government support, India able to bring about Green Revolution—agricultural production went up—touched 108 million in 1971-72—in spite of this, average yield of crops less than other nations—but we are self-sufficient in food.
- ▶ Schemes and programmes initiated by government in rural sector—National Food for Work Programme, Community Development Programme, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, etc.—to provide employment to the poor.

- ▶ Other programmes–Integrated Rural Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, Indira Awas Yojna, Rajiv Gandhi Water Mission.

Industry

- ▶ Need for well-developed industries to become a financially strong nation.
- ▶ Government set up many public sector undertakings and joint sector undertakings–National Thermal Power Corporation [NTPC], Bharat Heavy Electricals [BHEL], Steel Authority of India Limited [SAIL], Gas and Oil Corporation and Sindri Fertiliser Factory.
- ▶ Public sector industries set up for people’s welfare–no profit motive.
- ▶ Indigenous goods grew–Indian industries encouraged to import technical know-how and enter into foreign contracts.
- ▶ New government Industrial Policy announced in 1991–competition led to expansion in production of consumer goods–found that one-third people in industrial sector employed in household industries [Teacher can talk about the economic reforms opening up the economy–the efforts of then Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.
- ▶ Roads and rail links built by British inadequate–transport department important after Independence–ultra modern system blended with traditional systems developed–bullock carts and rickshaws along with jet flights.

Roadways

- ▶ Indian road link–second largest road network in the world after USA–National Highways–State Highways–District roads–their connecting roads.

NHAI

- ▶ National Highway Authority of India–set up to link all corners of India–NH 7 longest of all running from Varanasi to Kanyakumari covering 2369 km–Golden Quadrilateral a major project–4 or 6-lane expressway linking Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai [earlier about 12 km of road were constructed per day, currently 27 km or more is being constructed].

Railways

- ▶ One of the largest railway networks and the biggest employer in the world–connects people to the remotest corners of India–steps to improve railways–planning to build freight corridors; high-speed passenger corridors for running high-speed trains; metre gauge lines to be converted to broad gauge.

Ports

- ▶ 12 major and 181 minor ports–expansion of ports being taken care of by government.

Aviation

- ▶ Another major concern–increasing flights–expansion and modernisation of airports–decided to have at least 500 operational airports by 2020–transportation changing–globalisation of markets–international economic integration–led to growth of transport industry.

Telecommunication

- ▶ Private and public sector competing to give best services to people–expected to grow by 15% by 2020.

- ▶ One major problem is imbalance in availability of infrastructure–disparity in development at regional level–also negligence in developing amenities in rural areas has caused urban-rural disparity.

Conservation of Water

- ▶ Population increasing–agriculture output growing–industry flourishing–demand for water increasing–monsoon failure and climatic changes reduce water supply–industrial pollutants spoiling water–water contamination leading to water-borne diseases.

Education

- ▶ Government has played important role in spread of education–state governments started schools with nominal fees–schemes to encourage parents to send children to school–poor families prefer child to work rather than go to school–hence difficult to spread education.
 - 6-14-year-olds don't go to school for various reasons.
 - One-third children drop out before reaching class 8.
 - 35 million children of 6-14 years of age are illiterate.
 - Many girls in 5-19 years age group illiterate.
 - Only 50% primary and 20% secondary schools found in the country.
- ▶ Government schemes to counter this:
 - 19.9% planned expenditure for future education.
 - Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan–under this ₹ 13,000 crore provided to improve quality of education.
 - Mid-day meal scheme introduced.
 - Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme–130 crore provided to establish Navodaya Schools in 20 districts–funds provided for schools in backward areas.

Health

- ▶ Mortality rate has declined–rural health cannot be neglected.
- ▶ Government funds for polio eradication, rural health schemes and improved medical facilities.
- ▶ Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan–a major step to build public awareness about sanitation and cleanliness.

Social Challenges

- ▶ Lot of challenges still–like unequal economic growth, poverty, growth of population, growth of slums, unemployment, terrorism, communalism.
- ▶ India–potential to rank among most developed nations–earnest efforts to overcome the above challenges–concentrate on development plans.

Assessment Corner

Oral Assignment

- A. Ask for answers at random from the students. Confirm the right answers. Let them write down the correct answers if they like in their books.

Written Assignment

- B–D. The teacher has two options—(i) Either do these exercises orally first and then ask the students to write them down. OR (ii) Ask the students to write the answers on their own. Then the teacher can announce the correct answers to the students and they can ask their partners to cross-check them.

In either case, the answers can be written as homework and the teacher can check them in the class.

Think Tank

- F. **HOTS questions:** Discuss the questions in the class and let the students write the answers to E and F as homework. Teacher should assess individual work.