



**LOK SATTA**

*People Power*

# Rural Development

- ➔ 2/3rds of the countries population lives in rural areas
- ➔ Support base for rural population is mostly Agrarian economy
- ➔ There is wide variation in Practices and yields of Agricultural produce in different areas
- ➔ Until few decades back Agriculture was a way of life. But due to various factors it has become a commercial proposition
- ➔ There is a shift in agriculture from self sufficiency to market economy. Baster system, Payment in kind (Grains) etc.
- ➔ Supply of good quality seed, fertilizer, pesticides and marketing in not well organised

## Rural Health

- ➔ All the villages are said to be provided with potabe water. Ground reality is something different
- ➔ Every village is covered with health link up through paramedical staff and a PHC for a group of villages. In practice the staff do not stay at their designate villages and under staffed
- ➔ Same is the case with the health needs of live stock
- ➔ Family welfare and prevention of AIDs etc., requires focus in rural areas. Many Govt. programmes are on paper only

# Education

- ➔ People prefer Private Schools (convent) to local Govt. school
- ➔ Poor standard in Govt. schools
- ➔ Universalisation of primary education is a distant dream (93rd amendment to be effective)
- ➔ Still drop outs especially girl child

# Social Problems

- ➔ Untouchability (where ever existing)
- ➔ Liquor
- ➔ Child labour, child marriages, dowry related ones, male domination

# Governmental Interventions

- ➔ There are a number of programmes targetting the poor
- ➔ Some organisations take economic criteria while others take cast and religion as basis
- ➔ Various committees and evaluation reports suggest that many of the Govt. programmes are not reaching the target groups
- ➔ Political interference, lack of transparency, target oriented rather than result oriented are some of the factors for failure of schemes

## Corrective Measures

- ➔ Janma Bhoomi Programme
- ➔ Village Secretariat
- ➔ Convergence of all schemes at village level
- ➔ Awareness

## NGOs' Role

- ➔ Proper implementation of Rural development programmes through peoples participation right from planning, implementation, and evaluation is required
- ➔ Accountability and raising voice against injustice requires encouragement



## Lok Satta and Rural Development

- ➔ Need to take up a few villages and develop them as role models of over all development
- ➔ Create awareness and supply information about the developmental activities the Govt. is taking up in rural areas and act as a facilitator to ensure proper implementation
- ➔ To act as a think tank for Govt. in rural development activities