

PREFACE

India nurtured “protectionism” for almost four and a half decades before embarking on the economic reforms programme in the early nineties. Protectionism was perhaps justified in India’s cradling years, but it seems it had continued for a much longer period than what was actually necessary. This becomes evident when one looks at the enormous gains that have accrued to the economy so far, after the economic reforms were initiated.

Today, India is experiencing an unprecedented surge in upward mobility in the economic sphere. It is marching ahead in all the sectors. It is no more a land of snake charmers and elephants. Even the worst of opponents of economic reforms cannot deny the fact that the economic scenario in India today is vastly different from what it was a decade and a half before. Gone are the days of shortages and people waiting in long queues for getting even food grains. An era of plenty has ushered in. Many of the things, which were the monopoly of the rich in the past, have now become toy-like-thing even for the common man. The craze for foreign things is over. Quality of life of every Indian has improved.

Undoubtedly, the credit for ushering in the revolutionary change in the Indian economic scenario goes to the originators of economic reforms. The economic reforms programme, which is underway, has made everyone realize the immense potential and economic power of the market-driven economy, especially for India. The dormant Indian economy has been awakened from its slumber and has already become dynamic, innovative and energetic and may soon emerge as an economic power. India has already become the biggest future fear for native workers across the United States and Europe because of outsourcing of work to India.

Though economic reforms undertaken so far have benefited our country in many ways, there are some strong opponents to the reforms programme. Their strong contention is that the economic reforms programme has led to “jobless growth”. Has the economic growth reforms programme really led to “jobless growth”? Can it be possible when the investment is going up by leaps and bounds in many sectors? The answers will be found in this report.

The report is the outcome of the efforts put in by Shri J. Nagarajan, Senior Social Scientist, who not only conceived the project but also shouldered the responsibility of drafting the report. In drafting the report, he was ably assisted by Shri C.A. Lokesh and Shri P.P. Tuteja who also took upon themselves the responsibility of drafting some of the chapters of the report. Shri H.L. Poddar, Research Officer, who has since retired, was associated with the study in the initial stages and helped in a big way in drawing up the tabulation plan and in deciding the format as well as the contents that should go into the report.

I would also like to place on record my appreciation of Shri M.L. Chotani, Town and Country Planner, for the painstaking efforts put in by him in going through the entire draft report and making valuable suggestions for being incorporated into the final report.

Shri B.K.Bharti, Senior Research Officer, in addition to supervising the work of computerization and scrutiny of data, assisted in generating analytical tables required for drafting the report. He also made brief analysis of some of the tables that have gone into this report.

The work of collection, compilation, computerization, scrutiny of data and generating analytical tables required for drafting the report was shared by Shri R.S. Meena, Shri C.A. Lokesh, Smt. Aruna Pathak and Shri P.P.Tuteja. Smt. Amarjeet Kaur rendered secretarial assistance of exemplary nature.

It is hoped that this report would be found interesting, informative, thought provoking and useful for policy-makers, administrators, planners and researchers.

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