

management of public sector state corporations and the land under their control, to help improve seed production.

- Growth of foodgrain production has fallen short of population growth during the last decade. As a strong effort in expanding foodgrain production, a National Food Security Mission has been launched in the first year of the Eleventh Plan which aims at increasing cereal production by 18 million tonnes and pulses production by 2 million tonnes.
- Farmers need assured linkages to efficient markets with transparent pricing and modern logistics. In several states the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Acts have been amended to allow private markets to be set up in competition with the existing mandis. Contract farming is also being encouraged by many states, to provide a mechanism for improving linkages between farmers and markets through the active involvement of the private sector, which also serves as a supplier of key inputs and extension advice.
- The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has already done commendable work in extending rural connectivity and this programme will continue during the Eleventh Plan. The Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) has ambitious plans to extend rural electrification to unserved rural areas. This will help the farmers in the eastern states to utilize ground water at more reasonable costs.

Conclusion : These developments suggest that the economy is now at a point when it can achieve sustained economic expansion that has the potential to bring significant improvement in the lives of our people. If this momentum can be accelerated in the years ahead, it will put India on the path to becoming one of the key players in the world economy over the next two decades. Problem of poverty can be tackled through higher GDP growth, expansion of employment and generation of supplementary income through secondary occupations. The Eleventh Plan has analysed the trends in poverty and it reinforces that there will be poverty reduction by 10 percentage.

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