

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. What were the key controversies regarding development in India?

[CBSE Sample Paper 2015]

Ans. The strategy of development in early years raised two key controversies in India. These included:

(i) Agriculture vs industry: Debate between planners as to which of these two was to be given priority in planning, agriculture or industry. Few thought that without a drastic increase in industrial production there could be no escape from the cycle of poverty. They argued that Indian planning did have an agrarian strategy to boost the production of food grains. The state made laws for land reforms and distribution of resources among the poor in the villages. Besides few also argue that even if the government had spent more money on agriculture, it would not have solved the massive problem of rural poverty.

(ii) Public vs private sector: Two models of development— capitalist and socialist. But the Indian model of mixed economy was criticised by both left and right groups. India did not follow any of the two known paths to development – it did not accept the capitalist model of development in which development was left entirely to the private sector nor did it follow the socialist model in which private property was abolished and all the production was controlled by the state. Elements from both these models were taken and mixed together in India. That is why it was described as ‘mixed economy’. Much of the agriculture, trade and industry were left in private hands. A mixed model like this was open to criticism from both the left and the right. Critics argued that the planners refused to provide the private sector with enough space and the stimulus to grow.

Q.2. Write a short note on Second Five Year Plan.

Ans. The second Five Year Plan was launched on 1st April, 1956. It was much bigger and bolder plan than the first. It was observed by the planning commission that the second five year plan has to carry forward the process initiated in the First Plan period. It must provide for a larger increase in production, in investment and in employment. The principal task was to ensure an increase in national income by about 25 percent over the five years, to increase employment opportunities at a rate sufficient to absorb the increase in the labour force, consequent on the increase in population and to take a major stride forward in the direction of industrialisation so as to prepare the ground for more rapid advance in the plan period to come.

Q.3. State the main arguments in the debate that ensued between industrialisation and agricultural development at the time of the Second Five Year Plan.

Ans. At the time of the Second Five Year Plan, some controversial issues rose in reference of relevancy of agriculture over industry. J.C. Kumarappa, a Gandhian Economist proposed an alternative blueprint for rural India. Second Five Year Plan emphasised on industry in place of agriculture for rural India. Bharatiya Lok Dal leader, Chaudhary Charan Singh also commented that the planning leading to creation of prosperity in Urban and industrial sections at the cost of rural welfare. Others debated that without an increase in Industrial sector, poverty could not be alleviated. Indian planning did not have an agrarian strategy to boost the production of food grains. It also proposed programmes of community development and spent large sums on irrigation projects and failure was not that of policy but its non-implementation, because of the politics of land owning classes. Moreover, they also argued that if the government had spent more money on agriculture, it would not have solved the massive problem of poverty.

Q.4. How was Planning Commission of India set up? Mention its scope of work.

Ans. Planning Commission was set up as:

- It consists of Prime Minister as its chairman.
- Some ministers or incharges of economic portfolios.
- The members of planning commission have a high public image, along with an administrative and educational background.

Its scope of work:

- To resolve contradictions between societies.
- To bring socio-economic change.
- It was to provide a controlled and faster growth rate.