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Q6(a)

Examine the importance of Development Planning in India Mixed Economy, and analyze its problems and prospects

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2019 · Sociology GS 2 · 20 marks · Visions of Social Change in India

Visions of Social Change in India: Idea of development planning and mixed economy; Constitution, law and social change; Education and social change.

Core demand of the question

- Examine the importance of Development Planning in India **Mixed Economy**, and analyze its problems and prospects

Revision summary

Planning directed industrialization in a **mixed economy**.

It made poverty a state problem, not only a private fate.

Class and caste shaped who took the gains.

Displacement was built into big projects.

After 1991 planning survives as infrastructure and welfare steering.

Introduction

Development planning in India's **mixed economy** was the state's way to industrialise, irrigate, and promise justice without a full socialist seizure of property. It mattered as a social project. Its problems were class capture and later market drift.

Body

Importance

- **Five-Year Plans** sequenced steel, power, and community development so a poor agrarian society could aim at a national future.
- The **mixed economy** kept a public commanding height beside private capital, a heterogenetic modernizing state in Yogendra Singh's sense.
- Planning named poverty and regional balance as public duties, not only as charity.

Social content

- **A. R. Desai** read **planning as a bourgeois path**: rich peasants and industrial houses gained more than mazdoors.
- Caste decided who entered IITs, factories, and canal commands. The plan was never a caste-blind machine.
- Displacement of Adivasis for dams showed the nation as a good that local people paid for.

Problems

- Licence-permit delays, public-sector slack, and target fetishism became textbook critiques.

- Green Revolution success was regional and class-skewed.
- After 1991 the planner became a partner of markets; inequality and informal labour grew beside GDP talk.

Prospects

- NITI-style steering, infrastructure, and rights-based welfare (work, food, education) are the afterlife of planning.
- Prospects depend on whether planning can still discipline capital for land, ecology, and care, not only crowd-in investment.
- **Mixed economy remains:** the state still claims to steer, now with private platforms.

Flow diagram

Five-Year mixed economy -> Industry irrigation
Five-Year mixed economy -> Class caste unevenness
Liberalisation -> Steering as infrastructure welfare

Conclusion

Development planning was important because it made directed change a republican duty in a **mixed economy**. Its problems were uneven class-caste gains and displacement. Its prospect is a slimmer but still political steering of growth toward inclusion.

Facts & figures

Mixed economy

Public commanding heights with a private sector, the Nehruvian formula.

Five-Year Plans

Institutional form of development planning.

A. R. Desai

Critique that planning served a bourgeois agrarian-industrial bloc.

NITI Aayog

Post-Commission form of indicative steering.