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SATURDAY 3 Measures to Reduce Poverty

The following measures can go a long way to reduce the inequalities of income. They are:

1. Accelerating the Growth Rate: - The Growth rate achieved so far has not been able to remove any significant dent into poverty. We must, therefore, aim at much higher growth rate of 9-10 percent per annum and curb below the area of 5-6 percent year growth rate. China and Indonesia have achieved outstanding success in reducing poverty rate with their high growth. Data from Thailand has invariably established poverty.
2. Control of population growth - The most important remedial measure to combat poverty is to control the rapid growth of population in our country. Increasing the literacy among the rural people, social persuasion, effective implementation to stop child marriage, it will improve the per capita income and create a surplus in the economy.
3. More employment opportunities: - By creating additional employment opportunities in the rural as well as urban areas, we can reduce poverty in India. This public works should be started on extensive scale. Cottage and small-scale industries should be encouraged. Effective utilization of resources will undoubtedly generate income in the economy and poverty will be removed to some extent.

9. Equitable Distribution

- (1) persons belonging to poor families must be provided employment.
 - (2) free Healthcare and education should be provided to the poor.
 - (3) Labour Legislation should ensure better wages.
 - (4) Goods consumed by the poor should not be taxed.
 - (5) Goods required by the poor must be subsidised.
- (5) Increase in industrial production! - They raise the industrial productivity, there should be fuller utilization of the plant capacity.
- (6) Change in the Technique of production! - Prof Gunnar Myrdal was the opinion that Capital intensive technique of production as prescribed in Western Countries was ill-suited in India. In fact, intermediate technology which is mid-way between labour intensive and capital intensive technique, should be adopted in India. It will lead to more employment and help eradicate poverty. This will remove industrial unemployment and urban poverty.
- (7) Price Stability :- To alleviate poverty in India, price level must be stabilised. If prices continue to rise, the standard of living of the poor will further deteriorate. Therefore, government must adopt policies and measures that are aimed at controlling inflation and bringing about price stability.
- (8) Social Security :- The provision of social security to industrial workers in the form of provident fund, old age pension, gratuity, leave and admissibility etc.