



TECHNOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT OF BUSINESS

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Abstract: *Science and Technology (S&T) has made a phenomenal impact the world over in shaping the lifestyle of the common man. If India has to go ahead, S&T must play a pivotal role in all the important tasks that lie ahead of us. Hence, the deployment of S&T as an effective instrument of growth and change becomes an imperative strategy. In order to derive maximum output from meagre resources, S&T must be brought into the mainstream of economic planning in the agricultural, industrial and services sectors. Since Independence, India has been pursuing a programme of using modern science and technology for national development. Today, India spends one per cent of its Gross National Product (GNP) on science and technology. Jawaharlal Nehru made conscious efforts to enhance and modernise the scientific infrastructure in the country by setting up a chain of national laboratories, institutes of higher technical education, universities etc. Nehru was firmly committed to building these "modern temples" for national development and thus science and technology became an important tool for bringing about a change in society.*

UNIT OBJECTIVES- After studying unit you should be able to :

- * Understand State Government's Scientific Policy Resolution
- * Describe the Transfer of Technology
- * Evaluate the Different Methods
- * Identify the Sources of Technology
- * Appreciate the Problems of Transfer Identified
- * Explain the Role of International Technology Transfer

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY- When India gained her independence after two hundred years of British rule, she was a country devastated by exploitation and neglect. While some basic infrastructure had undergone. Since the objective of a colonial power is to prop up a dominion for the primary purpose of transferring assets to the home country, India showed all the symptoms of economic hemorrhage, social and intellectual stagnation, and a collective psyche shattered by humiliating inequality and gross deprivation.

Thus, from the very midnight immortalized by Jawaharlal Nehru in his Freedom at Midnight's speech, the new leaders of the infant nation traumatized by Partition, tried to Midnigt' speech, the new leaders of the infant nation traumatized by partition tried to visualize the great future that was the country's birthright, Well they knew the trials and tribulations that lay in wait for them along the path, but the blueprint for a resurgent India was etched firmly in their minds. Being visionaries cast in the mould of men like Benjamin Franklin, they knew that progress on all fronts would be impossible without heroic effort to foster a scientific spirit among their countrymen, and harness technology all-round progress of the newborn nation.

Historical Antecedents- Thus it came to pass that on March 4, 1958, the Scientific Policy Resolution was adopted by Government of India, under the direct inspiration of Jawaharlal Nehru himself. I promoted the role of science and technology as being critical to India's future success in economic, defence and other fronts. The main objectives of the Policy were :

1. To foster, promote, cultivate and sustain both pure as well as applied research across technological disciplines
 2. To create the conditions necessary to educate, train, recognize and finally, utilize qualified personnel to achieve rapid and self-sustaining progress across a variety of scientific frontiers
 3. To ensure that the benefits conferred by science and technology were transferred to the people of India
- In achieving the above objectives, the government acknowledged the importance of

1. Cultivating a scientific temper among the people of the country, by
 2. Methodically approaching the issue through creating teaching, training and research institutions across the length and breadth of the country, and
 3. Ensuring that the benefits were equitably proliferated across as broad a canvas as possible so that
 4. The benefits percolated down to grassroots level and benefited all citizens of the country, and
 5. Strengthened the national resolve to catch up with the rest of the world
- By means of various Resolutions and Statutes such as : (a) Industrial Policy Resolutions of 1948 and 1956 (b) The Industrial Development and



Regulation act, 1951 (c) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (d) Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1974

The government sought to create the conditions then necessary for conservation, invocatic and activation of the country's limited resources to wards promoting the objectives of the Scietific Policy Resolution. Noreover, the government encouraged efforts ast innovatic by promoting Research & Development incentives such as.

- (1) The Department of Science and Technology introduced a scheme to reward and rec-ognize in-house R&D.
- (2) Such centres were allowed relaxed tems under OGL (Open General Liccnce) of improt essential equipment and other materials.
- (3) Imports were free from levy of duty, excise and other cesses.
- (4) Foreign Exchange was relesed for sponsoring visits: by international consultants.
- (5) 100% Income Tax exemption on R&D expenditure.
- (6) Indigenous technology rewarded with 50% depreciation rate.
- (7) for industrues embarking on pilot plants to test and introduce indigenously produced technology and processes, 50% of the equity (seed caoital) was granted by way of a personal loan to cover start-up expenses.
- (8) On the other hand 95% duty was levied on imported techonology so as to discourage such imports, conserts, to forex and give priority to indigenously developed technology

Thus, the main aims of the Technological Policy were:

1. To attain self sufficiency and adequate competence in routine as well as strategic areas by maximizing use of undigenous resources.
2. To provide maximum thrust ot the economy by creating a new class of technology based achieve signhificant energy savings, particularly that derived from non-replenishable sources.
3. To ensure ecological balance and harmony

with the nature while benefiting from technology:

1. optimizing use of water resources.
2. Providing potable water in rural areas
3. designing low cost housing methodologies using local materials.
4. ensuring better public health, eradicating serious diseases like malaria, leprosy, tuberculosis, polio, etc, and cnntrolling epidemics
5. ensuring mitigation of infant/maternal malnutrition
6. developing cheap, alternative sources of energy

In all these amazingly far-sighted ways, the Founding Fathers and their successrs sougnt to optimize the use of the country's depleted resources and gradully bring it out of the woods. Even though it was a period of experimentation and errors of judgement that are part and parcel of the process of mastering the art of self-government, the results of the Science an Technology Policy are famlay there for all to see.

With the most powful nation on earth now seeking to expand its ties with India, a whol new chapter in scientific cooperation and usage of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes i about to open up. As the future unfolds we should never forget those early pioneers whhelped their coun-try take its first stumnlng footsteps en ruote to regainnig ist lost glory.

Besides, merely paying the royalty for licensing a tecnology or buying it outright is only a small part of the technology import picture, Even if we assume that ther are companies in developed economies that are willing to part withe their technology, the problem remains of obtainnig hte Indian government' to the terms and conditions under ehich hte technology will be allowed to be imported. Clearance for the payment to the forign principals in foring currency introduces a whole new set of RBI and other statutory restrictions. Only when all these all there hurdles are cleared can the foreign technology reach Indian shorse.

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