

**7. Answer the following questions in short.**

- (a) Urbanisation is the migration of rural population to urban areas, or the increase in the proportion of population in the urban areas as compared to the rural areas. But it all means the same. Urbanisation is a continuous process and occurs at two distinct levels. On one hand it is the movement of people from villages to cities, changes from agriculture-based to commerce based occupations, and on the other hand it affects the social, sociological and behavioural patterns of its users.
- (b) Due to growth of urbanisation the rich poor divide is also growing. To meet the demands on the limited resources, the

prices have to be increased of the essentials. Like vegetables and fruits cost much more in cities than in the villages. Maintaining facilities like transportation needs more capital to be invested, making it more costly to travel regularly. The average cost of living in the cities is much more than the towns and villages. Another problem that is graver and needs immediate attention is the strain on the environment. High levels of toxic gases released into the atmosphere by the large number of vehicles, industries, air-conditioners, and other electronic gadgets make the city air polluted and raise the temperatures of the urban areas. These are some of the effects of urbanisation.

- (c) The urbanisation effects the environment a lot. High levels of toxic gases released into the atmosphere by the large number of vehicles, industries, air-conditioners, and other electronic gadgets make the city air polluted and raise the temperatures of the urban areas. The limited land resources makes it a commercial goldmine and is often abused uninhibited, reducing the soil moisture and quality. Awareness campaigns by social activists have increased the consciousness of people and making them participate in spreading greenery in the concrete urban areas.
- (d) A large proportion of the migrant population is unskilled labour working in various areas for less than minimum wages. The women migrants are the worst affected, with no skills, no education, and no knowledge about the requirements of the industry. NGOs working with these people have tried to impart on-the-job training to them while evaluating their progress. The objective is to teach them to be self-sufficient by achieving greater specialisation and increasing their market value. To alleviate their conditions it is vital to organise them and create awareness about what are their entitlements. Getting them to form groups would give them the security of numbers while giving a better chance to get their voices heard.



- (e) India has a large number of unemployed people, urban as well as rural. The small farmers and landless labourers in the villages find themselves fighting for basic survival with no regular income and less job opportunities. The use of primitive methods of farming, high dependence on climate, and lack of information make them highly vulnerable to even minor changes. In addition to these problems, environmental conditions like floods and droughts push them to corners, making it an effort to face the situation. The low productivity results in low capital generation which in turn makes them debt-ridden, with little or no assets of their own. Use of modern techniques and machinery in the farms has further reduced the requirement of labour. All these reasons put together have made it difficult for the small farmers to survive on their own.

**Answer the following questions (long answer type)**

- (a) There is no dearth of opportunities to work for someone who wants to work. Whatever skill one possesses, or the lack of it, can be adjusted and work sought accordingly. The rise in modernisation and industrialisation has given importance to highly skilled labour. This category of labour is trained to work on certain type of equipment or machine, making them useful and valuable. It can be operating a printing machine or heavy machinery in the factories or working in the assembly unit, any of these blue collared jobs need skill labour. Most of these industries and companies provide training to the new employees. Skills are also needed in the service industry, like providing repair and servicing facilities for equipment like ACs, televisions, computers, etc. for both industrial and domestic clients. Soft skills are needed in the hospitality industry and related areas. People working in offices, reception areas, hospitals, shops, restaurants, all need to possess good communication skills. Most of these jobs need low education levels, which are beneficial to the new entrants from the rural areas. They can join and improve



their efficiency with practice. Most of the migrants to the urban areas have limited skills and education qualifications. The jobs where they can find employment are mostly with the small traders, who work independently and are part of a large informal sector of the economy. Though neglected and ignored, this sector contributes nearly 65% of the national GDP. Like the fruit/vegetables vendor, cobblers, cleaners, daily wage labours, vendors selling street foods, flower sellers, and many more. Some even work in offices doing odd jobs or running errands. The list is endless and so are the opportunities. Work is generated in the cities depending on the demand created. The unskilled labourers find it hard to get work in the cities because of intense competition and low wages. To meet the expenses of living in the cities and saving some amount to send home are difficult tasks and make it impossible for the person to go back to his village.

- (b) At the individual level, the primary objective for movement to urban areas is to seek better economic opportunities. The small farmers and landless labourers in the villages find themselves fighting for basic survival with no regular income and less job opportunities.

The use of primitive methods of farming, high dependence on climate, and lack of information make them highly vulnerable to even minor changes. In addition to these problems, environmental conditions like floods and droughts push them to corners, making it an effort to face the situation. The low productivity results in low capital generation which in turn makes them debt-ridden, with little or no assets of their own. Use of modern techniques and machinery in the farms has further reduced the requirement of labour. All these reasons put together have made it difficult for the small farmers to survive on their own. This motivates them to move to urban areas with hopes of better opportunities, and reducing the availability



of labour in rural areas. Living in the cities is like a dream, with better infrastructure facilities, better services, scope for social mobility, and most importantly ample opportunities for employment for all. Most of the labour intensive industries are set up in the urban areas, businesses and service providers operate from the urban offices. Skilled and unskilled labour is needed in almost all the sectors, providing a chance to get employed. The labourers are in demand with the construction companies with the large number of infrastructure and residential facilities mushrooming in the urban areas. Another reason for urbanisation is the availability of improved healthcare and medical facilities, and better educational opportunities. All individuals have equal opportunities to seek and get work based on their merit and not social identity.

- (c) The economy and services of the cities depend on the urban poor even if their marginalisation is increasing. The gap between the skills of the villager and the opportunities that is being offered is growing it is possible to create more options of livelihoods for the urban poor in the informal sector by ways of self employment.

But before that they have to be trained to understand the complexities of urban markets and given hands-on training, which is largely missing. What is needed is collaborative sharing and learning for getting the best results. The education system also needs to be changed to include more practical knowledge, information that can be used for potential employment seekers, rather than stressing on theories. Vocational training is important to ensure employment in the future. 143 / 168 is are the worst affected, with no skills, and knowledge about the requirements of the industry. NGOs working with these people have tried to impart on-the-job training to them while evaluating their progress. The

objective is to teach them to be self-sufficient by achieving greater specialisation and increasing their market value. A large proportion of the migrant population is unskilled labour working in various areas for less than minimum wages. To alleviate their conditions it is vital to organise them and create awareness about what are their entitlements. Getting them to form groups would give them the security of numbers while giving a better chance to get their voices heard. The local governments too have to take into account the development of this group of people if they want the area to see substantial progress. Rickshaw-pullers, rag pickers and construction workers are some of the workers who have benefitted from such group formations. It is important that the villagers who have migrated to the urban areas with hopes of gaining employment are given an equal opportunity to benefit from the growing economy.