Geography · GS - I

Can the strategy of regional resource-based manufacturing help in promoting employment in India?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2019	GS - I	Geography

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Local resource endowment; labour-intensive industries; value addition; regional specialisation; MSMEs; cluster development; rural employment; skill development; infrastructure; environmental sustainability

Model Answer

Introduction

Regional resource-based manufacturing involves developing industries around the natural resources, skills and traditional capabilities available in a particular region. It can promote employment by generating local value addition and reducing dependence on distant industrial centres.

How It Can Promote Employment

- **Local job creation:** Agro-processing, textiles, handicrafts, mineral-based industries and forest-product processing can generate jobs near resource-producing areas.
- **Value addition:** Processing agricultural products locally creates more economic value than selling raw commodities.
- **MSME development:** Small enterprises and industrial clusters can encourage entrepreneurship and absorb workers with varied skill levels.
- **Rural industrialisation:** Local manufacturing can diversify rural livelihoods and reduce distress migration.

- **Traditional skills:** Linking indigenous crafts with modern design and digital markets can preserve skills while improving incomes.
- **Regional balance:** Industries based on local strengths can spread economic activity beyond major metropolitan centres.

For example, dairy processing in Gujarat, textile clusters in Tamil Nadu and food processing in agriculturally productive regions illustrate the potential of specialised regional industries.

Challenges

Resource-based industrialisation may remain limited by inadequate infrastructure, unreliable power, skill shortages, weak market access and environmental degradation. Excessive dependence on a single resource can also expose regions to price fluctuations.

Conclusion

Regional resource-based manufacturing can substantially increase employment if supported by infrastructure, credit, skill development, market linkages and sustainable resource management. It should form part of a broader strategy for labour-intensive and regionally balanced industrial growth.

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