

#### **DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

## MAHATMA GANDHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND COMMERCE

ASSAM UNIVERSITY, SILCHAR

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**DECLARATION** 

I, Sanjib Debnath, bearing Registration No. Ph.D. /1647/2011, dated 21/09/2011,

hereby declare that the subject matter of the thesis entitled "A Study of Growth,

Inflation and Monetary Expansion in India during 1960-2010", is the record of work

done by me and that the contents of this thesis did not form the basis for award of any

degree to me or to anybody else to the best of my knowledge. The thesis has not been

submitted in any other University/Institute.

Place: Silchar

(Sanjib Debnath)

Date:

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"If you have defined and specified a research problem correctly and have asked appropriate research questions, it means that you have already travelled a long way along the *correct path* in your research endeavour."

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#### Sanjib Debnath

## Preface

India is a poor nation by per capita incomes, levels of resources enjoyed by the people, or even by the levels of development achieved across states and regions. Even after almost 70 years of independence people suffer due to lack of sufficient purchasing power. In such a situation India needed and still needs rapid income growth along with price stability and distributive justice. Specifically, on the macroeconomic front both supply capabilities and aggregate demand in the Indian economy must rise not only at a brisk pace but also in tandem over long periods of time. This balanced long run growth between demand and actual output could ensure movement of the price level along some long run path, as sticky prices are unrealistic and inconsistent with long run growth. An excess of demand growth over supply growth would lead to inflation in the short run and perhaps also in the long run. But what are the sources of sudden and erratic increases in demand? Although there could be several other reasons, the growth of demand heavily depends on expansionary fiscal and monetary policies undertaken by the government and the central bank respectively from time to time. Both expansionary fiscal and monetary policies are vital for both short run as well as long run growth prospects of countries like India where growth traditionally depended on the government sector enterprises, as the economy was primarily of a socialistic planned type with basic and heavy industries acting as the only effective engine of growth. Weaknesses existed on the agricultural front as well as on the foreign trade front with limited export capabilities. India remained heavily import dependent and this was even for food items as well during severe droughts. More over consumer durables industries were discouraged till the early 1980s. Thus government's purchase of goods and services was one vital channel of growth. Plan expenditure played a vital part here. Expenditure by the

fiscal authorities meant greater purchases of goods and services, the bulk of which were government enterprise produced. Unfortunately there was a negative fallout of this strategy. Poor growth of personal incomes and purchasing powers meant meagre growth of direct and indirect tax revenues which necessitated fiscal imbalances or in other words deficit budgets over the years. But the question is how were these deficit budgets financed? Unfortunately till the early 1980s the fiscal authorities has to resort to persistent and heavy borrowings from the Reserve Bank of India resulting in liquidity injections into the economy. It was a more like a case of sudden and erratic boosts in demand without much adjustments in supply. In other words too much money chased too little goods. Furthermore oil price shocks created even bigger problems for the nation during late 1970s and early 1980s. The government found it difficult to match up to the ever rising spending especially under non-plan expenditure. In a nut shell government expenditure, fiscal deficits and the money supply all started a spiral upward movement and price hikes resulted as demand growth could not be matched by supply growth due to its primitive and inflexible nature. The nation slowly stared to realise the mistake of neglecting agriculture, consumer goods industries and export competitiveness. This study is undertaken in this backdrop with the goal of measuring, testing and quantifying this cycle on the one hand, and providing some useful insights about corrective policy measures on the other. It is hoped that this research document will act as a guideline for new studies on deficit - money - GDP - inflation causality not only in India but in other developing nations as well in the coming days.

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