

Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation Programmes

10.16 Alleviation of poverty remains a major challenge before the nation. While there has been a steady decline in poverty over the last two decades, the total number of poor people has perhaps remained constant because of growth in population. Acceleration of economic growth which is employment intensive, facilitates the reduction of poverty in the long run. However, this strategy needs to be complemented with a focus on provision of basic services for improving the quality of life of the people through State intervention in the form of targeted anti poverty programmes. The specifically designed anti poverty programmes for generation of both self employment and wage employment have been redesigned and restructured in 1999-2000 in order to make these programmes more effective. For the year 2000-01, an outlay of Rs. 9760 crore (BE) was provided as compared to Rs. 9351 crore (RE) for 1999-2000. The major poverty alleviation programmes in operation in rural and urban areas are:

(i) *Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY)*: Introduced in April 1999 as a successor to Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) is implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on a cost sharing ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and States. All works that can result in the creation of durable productive community assets are taken up under the programme.

(ii) *Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)*: Introduced in April, 1999 as a result of restructuring and combining the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and allied programmes along with Million Wells Scheme (MWS) into a single self-employment programme, it aims at promoting micro enterprises and helping the rural poor into self help groups. It is implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme on cost sharing ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and States.

(iii) *National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)*: Launched on 15th August, 1995 as a

100 per cent Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the objective of providing social assistance benefit to poor households affected by old age, death of primary breadwinner or need for maternity care. The programme supplements the efforts of the State Governments with the objective of ensuring minimum level of well being.

(iv) *Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)*: Started on 2nd October, 1993 in 1772 backward blocks situated in drought prone, desert, tribal and hill areas. Subsequently expanded to cover all the 5448 rural blocks of the country. The primary objective of the EAS was creation of additional wage employment opportunities during the period of acute shortage of wage employment, through manual work for the rural poor living below the poverty line. Restructured in 1999-2000 to make it the single wage employment programme and implemented as a centrally sponsored scheme on a cost-sharing ratio of 75:25.

(v) *Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)*: Introduced in Budget 2000-01 with an allocation of Rs. 5000 crore, focussing on village level development in five critical areas: health, primary education, drinking water, housing and rural roads with the objective of improving the quality of life of people in the rural areas.

(vi) *Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)*: The Urban Self-Employment Programme and the Urban Wage Employment Programme – are the two special schemes of the the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) which substituted in December 1997 various programmes operated earlier for urban poverty alleviation. SJSY is funded on a 75:25 basis between Centre and the States. During 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, a sum of Rs.102.51 crore, Rs.162.28 crore and Rs.123.07 crore respectively were spent in the States and U.Ts. under different components of SJSRY. Some of the targets and achievements of the major anti-poverty programmes are listed in Table 10.6.

TABLE 10.6
Performance of Special Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programmes

(In million)

Programmes	1998-99		1999-2000(P)		2000-01(P)	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
A. Programmes in Rural Areas						
1. JRY- Mandays of employment generated**	396.66	375.21		194.55#		14.48 ^a
2. EAS - Mandays of employment generated	*	416.53	409.16	262.41	235.58	64.77 ^b
3. IRDP - Families assisted/SGSY	*	1.66	—	0.92†	—	0.10 ^c
4. TRYSEM - Youths Trained+	0.29	0.17	—	—	—	—
5. DWCRA - (i) Groups formed+	0.06	0.05	—	—	—	—
(ii) Membership	*	0.50	—	—	—	—
6. IAY - House Constructed	0.99	0.83	1.27	0.80#	1.24	0.06 ^d
7. MWS - Wells Constructed+	*	0.09	—	—	—	—
8. ARWSP - Habitation/villages	0.11	0.05	0.09	0.03		
9. CRSP - (Central Rural Sanitation Program.)	1.60	0.56	—	—		
10. NSAP —						
(a) NOAPS - Beneficiaries	4.88	6.42	5.09	7.96\$	5.43	0.95 ^e
(b) NFBS - Beneficiaries	0.21	0.26	0.19	0.17\$	0.20	0.01 ^e
(c) NMBS - Beneficiaries	1.78	1.51	1.78	1.11\$	0.18	0.08 ^e
B. Programmes in Urban Areas						
1. PMRY — (i) Micro-enterprises@	0.22	0.19	0.22	0.14	0.22	0.04 ^f
(ii) Employment generated \$	0.33	0.29	0.33	0.21	0.33	0.06 ^f
2. SJSRY \$\$						
of which						
I. USEP —						
(i) Beneficiaries	*	0.04	*	0.13	*	0.11 ^g
(ii) Persons trained	*	0.05++		0.10		0.03 ^g
II. UWEP- Mandays of employment generated	*	6.60++	*	10.14	*	6.01 ^g
3. Beneficiaries covered under Community Structure Component	*	11.16	*	5.91	*	1.20 ^g
4. Beneficiaries assisted under DWCUA	*	0.001	*	0.004	*	0.004 ^g
P Provisional.						
** JRY was restructured and renamed as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) from April 1999.						
+ IRDP and its allied programmes like TRYSEM, DWCRA, MWS, SITRA and GKY have been merged with Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) which was introduced from April, 1999.						
* Targets are not fixed.						
@ Cases disbursed.						
\$ Estimated @ 1.5 per case disbursed for the concerned programme years (up to Dec. 1999).						
\$\$ Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana came into operation from December 1997.						
++ As per report ending December 1998.						
# Up to Feb. 2000.						
a: Up to May 2000 b: Up to Sept. 2000 c: Up to July, 2000 d: Up to April, 2000 e: Period not reported						
f: Up to 30.11.2000 g: Up to 31.10.2000						
Source : Planning Commission and other concerned Departments.						