

Poverty alleviation programmes

10.9 The growth oriented approach for poverty alleviation has been reinforced in the Tenth Plan by focusing on specific sectors which provide greater opportunities for the poor to participate in the growth process. Plan allocations have been enhanced in areas of health, education, sanitation and other facilities in order to promote capacity building and well-being of the poor. Anti-poverty programmes have been strengthened and restructured through special programmes for the weaker sections of the society. For the Ministry of Rural Development, for rural development and rural

employment and poverty alleviation programs for the year 2003-04 (BE) an outlay of Rs 14,070 crore was provided under plan provisions compared to Rs.13,670 crore in 2002-03 (BE) (excluding Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for which Rs 2,325 crore were provided in 2003-04). The performance of major anti-poverty and employment generation programmes is given in Table 10.6. Details of some selected programmes are in Box 10.2. The National Common Minimum programme of the UPA government makes commitments to enact a National Employment Guarantee Act and to start a massive food-for-work programme.

Box 10.2: Major poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes

Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)

PMGY was launched in 2000-2001 in all States and Union Territories (UTs) in order to achieve the objective of sustainable human development at the village level. The PMGY envisages allocation of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States and UTs for selected basic minimum services in order to focus on certain priority areas. PMGY initially had five components viz., primary health, primary education, rural shelter, rural drinking water and nutrition. Rural electrification was added as an additional component from 2001-02. For 2002-03 as well as 2003-04, the allocation of ACA for PMGY was Rs.2,800 crore. Both financial and physical monitoring of the programme is being carried out by the Planning Commission.

Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

After a review and restructuring of the erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Program and allied schemes, SGSY was launched in April, 1999 and is the only self employment Programme currently being implemented. The objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted Swarozgaris above the poverty line by providing them income-generating assets through bank credit and Government subsidy. The Scheme is being implemented on a 75:25 cost sharing of between the Centre and the States. Since its inception, and up to April 2004, a total allocation of Rs. 6,734 crore was made available by the Centre and States. Rs. 4,980 crore, have been utilized up to April 2004, benefiting 45.67 lakh Swarozgaris.

Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)

The SGRY was launched in September 2001, by merging the ongoing Schemes of Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). The objective of the programme is to provide additional wage employment in the rural areas as also food security, along with the creation of durable community, social and economic infrastructure in rural areas. The SGRY is open to all rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual and unskilled work in and around the village/habitat. The Scheme is implemented through Panchyati Raj Institutions. The scheme envisages generation of 100 crore man-days of employment in a year. The cost of each component of the programme is shared by the Centre and States in the ratio of 75:25. During the year 2003-04 an amount of Rs. 4,121 crore as cash component and 49.97 lakh tones of food grain were released to the States/UTs and 76.45 crore man-days (Provisional) have been generated as reported by the States/UTs. Under the Special Component of the SGRY, 65.84 lakh tonnes of foodgrain have been released to 12 calamity affected States during 2003-04.

Rural Housing Schemes

Rural housing schemes such as **Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)** aim at providing dwelling units, free of cost, to the poor families of the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), freed bonded laborers and also the non-SC/ST persons Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the rural areas. The Scheme is funded on a cost-sharing basis of 75:25 between the Center and States. Till the end of 2003-04, the ceiling on construction assistance under IAY was Rs. 20,000/- in plain areas and Rs. 22,000/- in hilly areas, which has been increased to Rs. 25,000/- per unit for plain areas and Rs. 27,500/- for hilly areas from April 1, 2004. Twenty per cent of the allocation is allowed for upgradation of unserviceable Kutcha houses for which ceiling of Rs. 12,500 per unit applies since April 2004. **Credit-cum-Subsidy Scheme** for rural housing targeting rural families having annual income up to Rs.32,000 was launched on April 4, 1999. An amount of Rs. 10 crore as equity support was provided to Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) during 2003-04 by Ministry of Rural Development. In addition, the innovative scheme of **Rural Housing and Habitat Development and Rural Building Centres (RBCs)** was introduced to encourage innovative, cost effective and environment friendly solutions in building/housing sectors in rural areas. A **National Mission for Rural Housing and Habitat** has also been set up to address the critical issues of 'housing gap' and induction of science and technology inputs into the housing/construction sector in rural areas. Since inception (up to June 1, 2004) 113.96 lakh houses have been constructed/upgraded by incurring an expenditure of Rs. 19,869 crore. During 2003-04, against the target of 14.84 lakh, 12.54 lakh (provisional) houses have been constructed/upgraded.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

The PMGSY, was launched in December, 2000, to provide road connectivity to 1.6 lakh unconnected habitations with population of 500 persons or more (250 in case of hilly, desert and tribal areas) in the rural areas by the end of the Tenth Plan period. It is being executed in all the States and six UTs. Although the initial estimates indicated

a requirement of Rs. 60,000 crore for the program, the present indications are that about Rs.1,30,000 crore will be needed for achieving the intended connectivity. As per the Budget announcements of 2003-04, the diesel cess which is the source for funding the programme, was increased from Re. 1 per litre to Rs. 1.50 per litre, in order to provide additional funds for the programme. Since the inception of the program, project proposals for Rs. 14,417 crore have been cleared and 88,685 Kms. of rural roads have been taken up under this program. 20,740 road works had been completed till March 2004, and an expenditure of over Rs. 6,547 crore has been incurred by the States/UTs. The National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA), registered under the Societies Registration Act, provides Operations and Management support for the program.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to support the development of rural roads in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, which have been identified as recipient States for the first tranche. The ADB Board has approved a loan of \$400 million (in a project size of \$571 million). The States of Assam, Orissa and West Bengal have been identified for the second tranche of ADB assistance, of the order of US \$500million. A first tranche of \$400 million for funding projects in Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh is likely to be available from the World Bank by the end of 2004-05

Drought Prone Areas Program (DPAP), Desert Development Program (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Program (IWDP) are being implemented for the development of wastelands/degraded lands. DPAP was launched in 1973-74 to tackle the special problems faced by those areas constantly affected by drought conditions. DDP was launched in 1977-78 to mitigate the adverse effects of desertification. IWDP has been under implementation since 1989-90. These programs were implemented on a sectoral basis till 1994-95. Since April 1995, these programs are being implemented on watershed basis. For the project DPAP, total number of the projects sanctioned were 2,535, with funds released by the Centre at Rs 295 crore. Under DDP, 1,562 projects have been sanctioned with funds of amount Rs.215 crore; and under IWDP, 190 projects with funding of Rs. 306 crore, were sanctioned.

The cost norms for all the three schemes have been revised to Rs.6,000 per hectare. Under DPAP and DDP, the cost is shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25, while in the case of IWDP, Rs.5,500 is borne by the Central Government and Rs.500 is shared by the States.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)

AAY was launched in December 2000. Under the scheme 1 crore of the poorest among the BPL families covered under the targeted public distribution system are identified. Twenty five kilograms (kg) of food grains were made available to each eligible family at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2 per kg for wheat and Rs.3 per kg for rice. This quantity has been enhanced from 25 to 35 kgs with effect from April, 2002. The scheme has been further expanded in June 2003 by adding another 50 lakh BPL families. Under the scheme, during 2002-03, against an allocation of 41.27 lakh tonnes of foodgrain, 35.39 lakh tonnes have been lifted by State Governments, and during 2003-04, 38.24 lakh tonnes of food-grain have been lifted against an allocation of 45.56 lakh tonnes.

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

The Urban Self-Employment Program and the Urban Wage Employment Program are two special schemes of the SJSRY initiated in December 1997, which replaced various programs operated earlier for urban poverty alleviation. Between the Centre and the States, SJSRY is funded on a 75:25 basis. During 2002-03, the full allocation of Rs.105 crore provided for various components of this program was released. For 2003-04, an allocation of Rs.94.50 crore plus Rs. 10.5 crore for North East and Sikkim was provided for various components of this program. The expenditure during 2003-04 was Rs. 105 crore.

Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY)

The VAMBAY was launched in December 2001 to ameliorate the conditions of the urban slum dwellers living below the poverty line without adequate shelter. The scheme has the primary objective of facilitating the construction and up-gradation of dwelling units for slum dwellers and providing a healthy and enabling urban environment through community toilets under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, a component of the scheme. The Central Government provides a subsidy of 50 per cent, the balance 50 per cent being arranged by the State Government. There are prescribed ceilings on costs both for dwelling units and community toilets. During 2003-04, Central subsidy to the extent of Rs. 239 crore has been released. Since inception up to May 2004, Rs. 522 crore have been released as Government of India subsidy for the construction/upgradation of 2,46,035 dwelling units and 29,263 toilet seats under the scheme.

Table 10.6 : Physical Performance of Special Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programmes (in million)

Programmes in rural areas	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Target	Achieve	Target	Achieve	Target	Achieve
1) JGSY / SGRY-II - Mandays of employment generated*	-	262.42	-	297.97	-	391.65 ^P
2) EAS/SGRY-I – Mandays of employment generated**	339.19	260.55	-	306.67	-	372.83 ^P
3) SGSY – Total Swarozgaris assisted	-	0.94	-	0.6	-	0.86
4) IAY – Dwelling Units	1.29	1.17	1.39	1.06	1.48	1.25 ^P
5) ARWSP-Habitation/villages	0.05	0.02	0.06	0.03 ^{*^}	1.42	1.33
6) CRSP- (No. of Sanitary latrines)	-	0.05	-	N.A.	-	4.63
7) NSAP						
a) NOAPS – Beneficiaries \$	5.06	5.43	-	N.A.	-	N.A.
b) NFBS – Beneficiaries \$	0.16	0.16	-	N.A.	-	N.A.
c) NMBS – Beneficiaries***	-	N.A.	-	N.A.	-	N.A.
B. Programmes in urban areas						
1) PMRY – (I) Micro enterprises@	0.22	0.19	0.22	0.19	0.22	0.12 ^P
(II) Employment generated \$	0.30	0.28	0.30	0.29	0.30	0.18 ^P
2) SJSRY\$\$ of which	-	0.10	-	0.08	-	0.10 ⁺
I USEP-(i) Beneficiaries	-	0.09	-	0.11	-	0.10 ⁺
(ii) Persons trained	-	15.87	-	3.63	-	2.65 ⁺
II UWEP – mandays of employment generated.	-	28.73 [^]	-	29.59 [^]	-	31.65 ^{^+}
3) Beneficiaries covered under community structure component	0.01	N.A.	0.18	N.A.	0.27	N.A.
4) Beneficiaries assisted under DWCUA						
<p>- Targets are not fixed. N.A. : Not Available. * JGSY has been merged into SGRY with effect from 2001-02 and is now SGRY-II, SGRY is self-targeting scheme. ** EAS has been merged into SGRY with effect from 2001-02 and is now SGRY-I, SGRY is self-targeting scheme. *** Transferred to Ministry of Health & family Welfare with effect from 2001-02 *^ Upto, January 2003. \$ Transferred to State Plan with effect from 2002-03. # upto November 4, 2003 ^ Cumulative information since it is a continuous process + As on March 31, 2003 P Provisional</p>						
Source: Ministry of Rural Development (MORD)						