

SOCIAL SECTOR INITIATIVES

10.23 In consonance with the commitment to inclusive growth and faster social sector development to remove disparities under the Eleventh Five Year Plan, substantial progress has been made by the Central Government on some of the major social sector initiatives during the year as described below.

Rural Infrastructure and development

Bharat Nirman

10.24 This programme, launched in 2005-06 for building infrastructure and basic amenities in rural areas, has six components, namely, rural housing, irrigation potential, drinking water, rural roads, electrification and rural telephony. Bharat Nirman has received an outlay of Rs. 40,900 crore in the interim budget for 2009-10 as against Rs. 31,280 crore (including NER component) in 2008-09. Up to March 2009, a total length of 2,14,281.45 kilometres of roadworks has been completed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) with a cumulative expenditure of Rs. 46,807.21 crore. During 2008-09, against the total allocation of Rs. 5,645.77 crore earmarked for District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) for construction of 21.27 lakh houses, Rs. 8,795.79 crore has been released till March 31 2009 and 21.05 lakh houses have been constructed during 2008-09. During Bharat Nirman period, 55,067 uncovered and about 3.31 lakh slipped-back habitations are to be covered with provision of drinking water facilities and 2.17 lakh quality affected habitations are to be addressed for water quality problems (Table 10.10). Under Bharat Nirman for rural water supply, Rs. 4,098 crore in 2005-06, Rs. 4,560 crore in 2006-07 and Rs. 6,441.69 crore in 2007-08 has been utilized. In 2008-09, a budgetary provision of Rs. 7,300 crore had been

made out of which Rs. 7,276.29 crore (almost 100 per cent) has been utilized. In order to give effect to the policy initiatives mentioned in the Eleventh Five Year Plan document, the guidelines for rural water supply programme have been revised. The revised programme is called the National Rural Drinking Water Programme.

Rural sanitation

10.25 There has also been tremendous increase in the access to sanitation facilities by rural households. The sanitation coverage among rural households has increased from 21.9 per cent in 2001 to 27.3 per cent in 2004 and has more than doubled since then to 63.91 per cent (of 2001 Census households) as on May 20, 2009. The Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) is one of the eight flagship programmes of the Government. TSC projects have been sanctioned in 593 rural districts of the country at a total outlay of Rs. 17,885 crore, with a Central share of Rs. 11,094 crore. The Central outlay for the Eleventh Five Year Plan has been approved at Rs. 7,816 crore for TSC including Rs. 1,100 crore for the Nirmal Gram Puraskar. The annual budgetary support was gradually increased from Rs. 202 crore in 2003-04 to Rs. 1,200 crore in 2008-09.

10.26 To encourage the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to take up sanitation promotion, the incentive scheme of Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) has been launched. The award is given to those PRIs which attain 100 per cent open defecation free environment. With the scaling up of TSC, combined with higher resources allocation, the programme implementation has improved substantially. As per the Census 2001 data, only 21.9 per cent rural households had access to latrines. Since 1999, over 5.56 crore toilets have been provided for rural households under TSC. A significant achievement has also been the

Table 10.10 : Bharat Nirman - Rural drinking water-cumulative achievements

Component	Target (2005-09)	Cumulative achievements
Uncovered habitations to be provided with potable water	55,067	54,430
Slipped-back habitations to be provided with potable water	3,31,604	3,54,015 ^a
Quality-affected habitations to be addressed with potable water	2,16,968	2,03,800 ^b
Total	6,03,639	6,12,245

^a Higher achievement reported cumulatively as some states have reported coverage of habitations other than those included in Bharat Nirman Programme.

^b Projects completed: 36,800; Ongoing projects: 1,67,000

construction of 8.71 lakh school toilets and 2.72 lakh Anganwadi toilets. With increasing budgetary allocations, and focus on rural areas, the number of households being provided with toilets annually has increased from only 24.41 lakh in 2002-03 to 98.7 lakh in 2006-07. In 2007-08, more than 1.15 crore toilets were provided to rural households, crossing the mark of 1 crore for the first time. During 2008-09, the total number of toilets constructed under TSC was 1.16 crore.

10.27 TSC has now turned into an inclusive programme, with participation of all sections of society. The active participation of women and adolescent girls in the sanitation programme has been encouraged with special components for them. The programme includes items like training of women SHGs for sanitaryware and sanitary pad production, training of women as masons, provision of incinerators for sanitary napkin disposal in schools, publication of books and technical notes especially for women and adolescent girls.

Poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes

10.28 Poverty reduction has been an important goal of development policy since the inception of planning in India. Various anti-poverty, employment generation and basic services programmes which are being implemented are as following :

- **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana:** PMGSY was launched on December 25, 2000 as a 100 per cent Centrally-sponsored scheme with the primary objective to provide all-weather connectivity to all the eligible unconnected habitations in the rural areas. The programme is funded mainly from the accruals of diesel cess in the Central Road Fund. In addition, support of the multilateral funding agencies and the domestic financial institutions are being obtained to meet the financial requirements of the programme. Up to March 2009, a total length of about 2,14,281.45 kilometres of roadworks has been completed with cumulative expenditure of Rs. 46,807.21 crore.
- **Indira Awaas Yojana:** The objective of IAY is to provide financial assistance for construction/upgradation of houses to BPL rural households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, freed bonded labourers, non-SC/ST rural households, widows and physically handicapped persons living in the rural areas. The scheme is funded on a cost-sharing basis of 75:25 between the Centre and the States. However, in the case of NE States, the funding pattern has recently been revised to 90:10.

During 2008-09, against the total allocation of Rs. 5,645.77 crore earmarked for release to DRDAs under IAY for construction of 21.27 lakh houses, Rs. 8,795.79 crore including Rs. 3,050 crore given under stimulus package has been released till March 31, 2009 and 21.05 lakh houses had been constructed during 2008-09.

- **National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme:** NREGS, which was launched on February 2, 2006, in 200 most backward districts in the first phase, was expanded to 330 districts in the second phase during 2007-08. The remaining 266 districts were notified on September 28, 2008, and the scheme has now been extended to all the districts of the country. More than 4.47 crore households were provided employment in 2008-09. This is a significant jump over the 3.39 crore households covered under the scheme during 2007-08. Out of the 215.63 crore person-days created under the scheme during this period, 29 per cent and 25 per cent were in favour of SC and ST population, respectively and 48 per cent of the total person-days created went in favour of women. An allocation of Rs. 30,100 crore has been made in the interim budget for 2009-10 as against Rs. 16,000 crore in 2008-09 for NREGS.
- **Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana:** SGSY was launched in April 1999 after restructuring of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and allied programmes. It is the only self-employment programme currently being implemented for the rural poor. 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 cost sharing basis of 75:25 between the Centre and states. Up to March 2009, 34 lakh self-help groups (SHGs) had been formed and 120.89 lakh swarozgaris have been assisted with a total outlay of Rs. 27,183.03 crore.
- **Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana:** In December 1997, the Urban Self-Employment Programme (USEP) and the Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP), which are the two special components of SJSRY, substituted for various programmes operated earlier for urban poverty alleviation. The fund allocation for the scheme was Rs. 515 crore during 2008-09 and Rs. 540.67 crore has been released up to March 31, 2009. With regard to the number of beneficiaries during 2008-09, 9,47,390 urban poor were assisted to set up individual/group micro enterprises and 14,84,209 urban poor were imparted skill training under SJSRY as per the progress reports received up to the end of March 31, 2009.