

## SOCIAL SECURITY AND RELATED PROGRAMMES

### Recent measures for social protection

10.60 Some of the recent measures for providing social protection are given below :

- **Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY):** Under AABY, a scheme launched on October 2, 2007, insurance to the head of the family of rural landless households in the country will be provided against natural death as well as accidental death and partial/permanent disability. Up to December 31, 2008 the scheme has covered 60.32 lakh lives.
- **Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana:** The scheme was launched on October 1, 2007, under which all workers in the unorganized sector belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category and their families will be covered for health care. Till May 6, 2009, 22 states and Union Territories have initiated the process to implement the scheme. Out of these 22 states and Union Territories, 17 states have started issuing smart cards and more than 41.8 lakh cards have been issued in these states taking the health insurance cover to more than 2.09 crore persons. Nagaland is the first state in the North-eastern region to issue smart cards. Remaining states except Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh are also in the process of implementation of the scheme.
- **The Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008.** The salient features of the Act are as under:

Section (2) provides for the definitions, including those relating to unorganized worker, self-employed and wage worker.

- Section 3(1) provides for formulation of schemes by the Central Government for different sections of unorganized workers on matters relating to (a) life and disability cover; (b) health and maternity benefits; (c) old age protection (d) any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government.
- Section 3(4) provides formulation of schemes relating to provident fund, employment injury benefits, housing, educational schemes for children, skill upgradation, funeral assistance and old-age homes by the State Governments.
- Section 4 relates to funding of the schemes formulated by the Central Government.
- Section 5 envisages constitution of National Social Security Board under the chairmanship of the Union Minister for Labour & Employment with Member Secretary and 34 nominated members representing Members of Parliament, unorganized workers, employers of unorganized workers, civil society, Central Ministries and the State Governments with provision for adequate representation to persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes,

the Scheduled Tribes, the minorities and women. The functions of the National Board, inter alia, include: to recommend to the Central Government suitable schemes for different sections of unorganized workers; monitor the implementation of schemes and advise the Central Government on matters arising out of the administration of the Act.

- Section 6 has provision for constitution of similar Boards at the State level.
- Section 7 relates to funding pattern of the schemes formulated by the State Governments.
- Section 8 prescribes record keeping functions by the district administration. For this purpose, the State Government may direct (a) the district panchayat in rural areas; and (b) the urban local bodies in urban areas to perform such functions.
- Section 9 provides for setting up of constitution of Workers' Facilitation Centre to (i) disseminate information on social security schemes available to them, and (ii) facilitate the workers to obtain registration from district administration and enrolment of unorganized workers.
- The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Rules, 2009 under the Act have been framed.

### Social defence sector

10.61 In order to fulfill the commitments of the National Policy on Older Persons for providing health, shelter, recreation, protection of life, etc., for the aged, emphasis is being placed on expanding the ongoing programmes of old-age homes, day-care centres and mobile medical units being implemented under the scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons'. During the year 2008-09, Rs. 17.72 crore was released under this scheme to support 304 NGOs for running 258 old-age homes, 148 day-care centres and 31 mobile medical units. Approximately 45,000 beneficiaries are covered every year. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 was enacted in order to ensure need-based maintenance for all the parents and welfare measures for senior citizens. The Act has been notified by 21 states and 6 Union Territories so far. Section 19 of this Act enjoins upon State Governments to establish at least one old-age home for 150 indigent senior citizens per district.

10.62 Keeping in view the changes in the present drug abuse scenario all over the world, the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse has been extensively revised and merged with the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary

Organisations for General grant-in-aid in the field of social defence. The new scheme named as “Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse and for Social Defence Services” has come into effect from October 1, 2008. One of the salient features of the scheme is introduction of provision of food in the Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts to persons below poverty line. Honorarium to service providers has also been improved. The scheme provides benefit to about 1.2 lakh persons annually.

During 2008-09, an amount of Rs. 20.90 crore was released to 287 drug-deaddiction centres and 3 counseling centres are being run by NGOs. For effective implementation of the social defence programmes, personnel engaged in delivery of services in this area are being trained under various training programmes being organized by the National Institute of Social Defence. During 2008-09, an amount of Rs. 6 crore was released to the institute for carrying out its various activities.