

CHALLENGES AND OUTLOOK

10.67 The Government in recent years has launched several ambitious programmes in furtherance of its strategy of inclusive growth. Many of these programmes are aimed at rural areas and population, for example Bharat Nirman for building the essential rural infrastructure in order to provide basic services to the rural people and raise their quality of life. At the same time, schemes like Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission have sought to secure similar services for the urban poor. Besides, schemes like the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme have ensured that rural poor can demand employment as a matter of right and enable them with sufficient purchasing

power for their basic requirements, especially food.

10.68 While some innovative steps taken in the implementation of these programmes have brought in some transparency, much more needs to be done in this direction. More emphasis is required on better governance and improved service delivery so that the targeted groups of people are actually benefitted from the schemes implemented by the Centre and states. There is also a need to involve local communities and Panchayati Raj Institutions to the maximum possible extent so that local people have a stake in planning for their welfare and upliftment. This will also help in preventing leakages as well as wastages in the form of implementation of schemes with overlapping objectives and beneficiaries.
