

## Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation Programmes

12. India's anti-poverty strategy comprises of a wide range of poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes, many of which have been in operation for several years and have been strengthened to generate more employment, create productive assets, impart technical and entrepreneurial skills and raise the income level of the poor. Under these schemes, both wage employment and self-employment are provided to the people below the poverty line. In 1998-99, government proposed to unify the various poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes under two broad categories of Self Employment Schemes and Wage Employment Schemes. Funding and organisational patterns will also be rationalised to achieve maximum beneficial impact of these programmes. The budgetary (plan) support on Rural Development and Rural Employment & Poverty Alleviation has been enhanced to Rs.9811 crore in 1998-99(BE) from Rs.8290 crore in 1997-98(RE).

13. The salient features of some of the major employment and anti-poverty programmes are given below:

(a) *Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)* and its allied programmes of Training Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) are major self-employment programmes for poverty alleviation. The basic objective of IRDP is to enable identified rural poor families to augment their incomes and cross the poverty line through acquisition of credit based productive assets. Assistance is given in the form of subsidy by the government and term credit by the financial institutions for income generating activities.

This is a centrally sponsored scheme funded on 50:50 basis by the Centre and the states. It is stipulated that at least 50 per cent of the assisted families should belong to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories. It is also required that at least 40 per cent of those assisted should be women under this programme. About 535 lakh families have been covered up to November 1998 since 1980-81 under the programme out of which coverage of SC/ST families had been 45 per cent. The level of per family investment is currently more than Rs.17441 compared to Rs.1642 during 1980-

81. A sum of Rs.800 crore (including Rs. 60 crore for Rural Artisans) has been provided in 1998-99 (BE), an increase of about 45 per cent over 1997-98 (RE).

(b) *The Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM)* is to train rural youth from the target group of families in skills so as to enable them to take up self/wage employment. It has been laid down that the coverage of youth from SC and ST communities should be at least 50 per cent of the rural youth trained. Out of the total beneficiaries, at least 40 per cent should be women.

(c) *The Programme of Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)* aims to improve the socio-economic status of the poor women in the rural areas through creation of group of women for income generating activities on a self-sustaining basis. Up to November, 1998, 1.97 lakh women were benefited during 1998-99. A sum of Rs.100 crore has been provided in 1998-99 (BE).

(d) *Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY)* is a wage employment programme with its main objective of generation of employment in the lean agriculture season to the unemployed and under-employed rural people both men and women living below the poverty line. The significant aspect of the scheme is that it is implemented by the Panchayats at the village, block and district levels in the ratio of 70:15:15 respectively. An amount of Rs.2095 crore has been allocated during 1998-99 (BE) for JRY. Against a target of 396.66 million man-days during 1998-99, a total of 190.28 million man-days were generated up to November 1998 with an expenditure of Rs.1244 crore.

(e) *The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)* has been universalised so as to make it applicable to all the rural blocks of the country. It aims at providing 100 days of unskilled manual work up to two members of a family in the age group of 18 to 60 years normally residing in villages in the lean agriculture season, on demand, within the blocks covered under EAS. A sum of Rs.1990 crore has been provided during 1998-99 (BE). During 1998-99, a total of 237.61 million man-days have been generated under the scheme with an expenditure of Rs.1572 crore up to November 1998.

(f) *The Million Wells Scheme (MWS)* which was earlier a sub-scheme of JRY, is funded by the Centre and states in the ratio of 80:20. The

objective of the MWS is to provide open irrigation wells free of cost to poor, small and marginal farmers belonging to SCs/STs and freed bonded labour. A sum of Rs.450 crore has been provided in 1998-99 (BE). Up to November 1998, a sum of Rs. 225.90 crore has been incurred during 1998-99 and 49821 wells were constructed.

(g) *The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)* recognises the responsibility of the Central and state governments for providing social assistance to poor house-holds in case of maternity, old age and death of bread earner. NSAP is a centrally sponsored programme with 100 per cent central funding to the States/UTs that provides benefits under its three components viz., (i) National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS); (ii) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS); and (iii) National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS). On the basis of suggestions made by the Central Advisory Committee on NSAP, the Government has since approved changes relating to enhancement in the rate of benefits for NFBS and NMBS. A sum of Rs.700 crore has been provided for the above three components of NSAP in 1998-99 (BE).

(h) *The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)* which came into operation from 1.12.1997, sub-summing the earlier urban poverty alleviation programmes viz., Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Urban Basic Services Programme (UBSP) and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP). The scheme aims to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed poor by encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment. It is

being funded on a 75:25 basis between Centre and the states. It comprises two special schemes *i.e.* The Urban Self-Employment Programme (USEP) and the Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP). The scheme gives a special impetus to empowering and uplifting the poor women and launches a special programme, namely, Development of Women and Children in urban areas under which groups of urban poor women setting up self-employment ventures are eligible for subsidy up to 50% of the project cost. During the year 1997-98, a sum of Rs.98.63 crore was released to States and UTs under SJSRY. A sum of Rs.189 crore has been provided in 1998-99 (BE) out of which Rs.64.59 crore has been released to twelve states till 30.11.1998.

(i) *Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)* for providing self-employment to educated unemployed youth had been designed to provide employment to more than a million persons by setting up of seven lakh micro enterprises in Eighth Plan. During the Eighth Plan, loan in 7.70 lakh cases were sanctioned and 5.76 lakh cases disbursed. The scheme is being continued in the Ninth Plan. Since inception of the scheme up to the programme year 1997-98, over 7.52 lakh cases have been disbursed. During 1998-99, 57527 cases have been sanctioned loans and 27533 cases disbursed by the end of October, 1998. A sum of Rs.110 crore has been provided in 1998-99 (BE).

The achievements of the special anti-poverty programmes are indicated in Table 10.10.

**TABLE 10.10**

**Performance of Special Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programmes**

(In lakh)

Programmes	1996-97		1997-98(P)		1998-99(P) (upto Nov. 98)	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
<b>A. Programmes in Rural Areas</b>						
1. JRY- Mandays of employment generated	4141.4	4006.3	3864.9	3883.7	3966.6	1902.8
2. EAS - Mandays of employment generated	*	4030.0	*	4717.7	*	2376.1
3. IRDP- Families assisted	*	19.2	*	17.1	*	7.7
4. TRYSEM- Youths Trained	2.9	3.6	3.0	2.5	2.9	0.8
5. DWCRA- (a) Groups formed	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.2
(b) Membership	-	5.8	-	4.6	-	2.0
6. IAY-House Constructed	11.2	8.0	7.2	7.7	9.9	3.6
7. MWS- Wells Constructed	-	1.1	-	1.0	-	0.5
8. ARWSP- Habitation/villages	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	0.5
9. CRSP-Sanitary latrine	8.3	12.2	18.8	11.6	16.0	5.6
10. NSAP —						
(a) NOAPS- Beneficiaries	53.7	46.6	48.7	40.3	48.8	40.2
(b) NFBS- Beneficiaries	4.6	1.6	2.7	1.8	2.1	1.4
(c) NMBS- Beneficiaries	46.0	14.0	25.7	15.4	17.8	6.6
<b>B. Programmes in Urban Areas</b>						
1. NRY-(a) Families assisted	1.2	0.6	**			
(b) Mandays of employment generated	135.8	44.6				
(c) Persons trained	1.2	0.4				
<b>C. Other Programmes</b>						
1. PMRY -(a)Micro-enterprises @	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.8	2.2	0.3#
(b)Employment generated \$	4.4	3.2	4.4	2.6	4.4	0.4#
2.. SJSRY \$\$						
of which						
(i) USEP —						
(a) Beneficiaries					*	0.2##
(b) Persons trained					*	0.2##
(ii) UWEP- Mandays of employment generated					*	12.9##

**P Provisional.**

\* Targets are not fixed.

\$ Estimated @ 1.5 per case disbursed for the concerned programme years.

\*\* Merged with SJSRY.

@ Cases disbursed.

\$\$ Came into operation from Dec., 97.

# Up to Oct.98

## As per report ending Dec., 98

Source: Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment and other concerned Departments.