

Special Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programmes

10. Poverty alleviation programmes continue to get priority. The endeavour of the Government has been to reach to the poorest of the poor through programmes of asset building, income generation and wage employment. During the year under review, the poverty alleviation programmes have been fine-tuned for their effectiveness and sustainability. With the holding of Panchayat elections in almost all States and the establishment of the three-tier Panchayati Raj System as provided in the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, poverty alleviation programmes in the rural areas have been strengthened significantly. In keeping with emphasis placed on rural development programmes, the budgetary support has been enhanced from Rs.7775 crore in 1996-97 (RE) to Rs.8290 crore in 1997-98 (RE). The achievements of the special anti-poverty programmes are indicated in Table 10.9.

11. The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), a significant step towards the fulfilment of the Directive Principles in Article 41 and 42 of the Constitution, recognises the responsibility of the Central and State Governments for providing social assistance to poor house-holds in the case of old age, death of bread earner and maternity. 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, (ii) National Family Benefit Scheme and (iii) National Maternity Benefit Scheme. A sum of Rs.490 crore has been provided for the above three components of NSAP in 1997-98 (RE).

12. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) aims at generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and under-employed men and women in the rural areas, strengthening of rural economic infrastructure and assets and improvement in the overall quality of life in rural areas. From 1997-98,

TABLE 10.9
Performance of Special Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programmes

Programmes	(In lakh)					
	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98 (upto Sept. 97)	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement (P)	Target	Achievement
A. Programmes in Rural Areas						
1. JRY—Mandays of employment generated	8480.05	8958.25	4141.37	3819.14	3864.90	1241.59
2. EAS—Mandays of employment generated	**	3465.27	**	3966.95	**	1483.82
3. IRDP—Families assisted	**	20.89	**	19.12	**	4.89
4. TRYSEM—Youths trained	3.54	3.02	2.85	2.05	2.80	0.76
5. DWCRA—(a) Groups formed	0.30	0.38	0.30	0.41	0.30	0.13
(b) Membership	-	6.97	-	5.80	-	1.66
6. IAY—Houses constructed	11.47	8.64	11.24	8.01	7.18	2.56
7. MWS—Wells constructed	-	1.43	-	1.09	-	0.45
8. ARWSP—Habitation/villages	0.87	0.93	0.96	0.98	1.00	0.27
9. CRSP—Sanitary latrine	8.70	8.81	7.88	8.11	12.42	2.30
10. NSAP—						
(a) NOAPS—Beneficiaries	53.36	31.19	53.71	46.58	-	6.59
(b) NFBS—Beneficiaries	2.84	0.79	4.57	1.57	-	0.10
(c) NMBS—Beneficiaries	28.45	6.77	45.97	13.99	-	0.71
B. Programmes in Urban Areas						
1. NRY—(a) Families assisted	1.17	1.25\$	1.17	0.56		
(b) Mandays of employment generated	114.48	92.95\$	135.76	44.63		
(c) Persons trained	0.55	0.67\$	1.17	0.36		
C. Other Programmes						
1. SEEUY—Beneficiaries	-	-	-	-		
2. PMRY—(a) Micro-enterprises	2.60@	2.99	2.20	2.90	2.20	1.08#
(b) Employment generated \$	5.20@	4.37	4.40	3.90	4.40	0.60#
P- Provisional.						
@ Including backlog.						
** Targets are not fixed as it is need based.						
\$ Estimated at the rate of 2 per case disbursed for the concerned programme year.						
# Up to Dec 97.						
Source : Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment and other concerned Departments.						

funds to the tune of 15 per cent under JRY have been allocated to intermediate level Panchayat Samities and are now distributed among Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities and District Rural Development Agencies/Zila Parishads in the ratio of 70:15:15.

13. As explained in 1996-97 Economic Survey, the JRY has since been restructured and streamlined. As a result of this, the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and Million Wells Scheme (MWS) which were earlier sub-schemes under the JRY have now become separate programmes with effect from 1.1.1996. The sub-scheme under JRY called Intensive JRY (IJRY) has been abolished and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) has been extended to the areas where IJRY was being implemented. An outlay of Rs.1953 crore has been allocated during 1997-98 (RE) for JRY. 6,861 million mandays of employment were generated under JRY since 1989.

14. The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) has been universalised so as to make it applicable to all the rural blocks of the country in two phases. An amount of Rs.225 crore has been released to new blocks covered under the scheme during 1997-98. The other objective of EAS is the creation of economic infrastructure and community assets for sustained employment for 100 days of unskilled manual work in the EAS blocks to the rural poor. As against an outlay of Rs.1970 crore, Rs.1089 crore has been released from the Center during 1997-98 and 1547 lakh mandays have been generated.

15. The Million Wells Scheme (MWS) 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 free bonded labour. The Scheme has also been extended to non-SC/ST poor subject to the condition that the benefits to non-SC/ST poor should not exceed 1/3rd of the total allocation. A sum of Rs.373 crore has been provided in 1997-98 (RE). During 1996-97, 1,08,897 wells were constructed under the scheme.

16. The objective of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is to provide income-generating assets to identified families below the poverty line through a mix of credit and subsidy to enable them to improve their income levels and to eventually cross the poverty line. It is stipulated that at least 50 per cent of the assisted families should belong to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories, with corresponding flow of resources to them. It is also required that at least 40 per cent of those assisted should be women under this programme. A sum of Rs.552 crore (including Rs.36 crore for rural artisans) has been provided in 1997-98 (RE).

17. The main objective of 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. The trainees are given stipends and free tool kits. 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 youths trained.

18. The Scheme 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 opportunities for income generating activities on a self-sustaining basis. As on January 21, 1997, 4,95,137 women were benefited. Rs.62 crore has been provided in 1997-98 (RE).

19. A new centrally sponsored scheme, namely, Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) has been launched in all districts in the country w.e.f. 1.2.1997 with the objective of providing irrigation through exploitation of ground water (bore-wells and tube-wells) to individuals and groups of beneficiaries belonging to the target groups i.e. small and marginal farmers below the poverty line. A Central allocation of Rs.100 crore has been provided in 1997-98 (RE).

20. The Nehru Rozgar Yojana aims at providing employment opportunities for the urban poor. The provision of Rs.31 crore for 1997-98 (RE) includes expenditure on its three components viz. wage employment, micro-enterprises and shelter upgradation for the urban poor.

21. The programme of urban basic services for the poor seeks to provide an integrated package of social services by creating neighbourhood committees of the residents at the slum level. As on 30.11.1997, over 8200 Neighbourhood Development Committees comprising primarily urban poor women have been set up in 360 towns taken up for provision of basic services all over the country. The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP) envisages a holistic approach to urban poverty eradication by creating a facilitating environment for significant improvement in the quality of life of the urban poor. A sum of Rs.32 crore has been allocated in 1997-98 (RE).

22. The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) which came into operation from 1.12.1997 shall seek to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed poor through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment. It shall be funded on a 75:25 basis between Centre and the States. It shall consist of two special schemes i.e. The Urban Self-Employment Programme and The Urban Wage Employment Programme. 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. A sum of Rs.103 crore has been provided in 1997-98 (RE).

23. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for

providing self-employment to educated unemployed youth has been designed to provide employment to more than a million persons by setting up of seven lakh micro enterprises. A target of 2.20 lakh beneficiaries have been fixed for 1997-98. By the end of December, 1997, 101,812 cases have been sanctioned loans. The existing scheme for Self Employment for Educated Unemployed Youth will be subsumed in PMRY.