

Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation Programmes

10.13 Poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes have been in operation for several years. The specifically designed anti-poverty programmes for generation of self employment and wage employment in rural areas have been redesigned and restructured to improve their efficacy/impact on the poor. An outlay of Rs.9650 crore has been provided in 1999-2000(BE) as against Rs. 9345 crore in 1998-99 (RE).

(i) *Self-Employment Programmes : Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY):* Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and allied programmes such as Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) and Million Wells Scheme (MWS) have been restructured into a single self-employment programme called the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) from April 1999 with the following objectives: (i) focussed approach to poverty alleviation; (ii) capitalising advantages of group lending; and (iii) overcoming the problems associated with multiplicity of programmes. The SGSY is conceived as a holistic programme of micro enterprises covering all aspects of self-employment which includes organising rural poor into Self-Help Groups (SHGs). It integrates various agencies— District Rural Development Agencies, banks, line departments, Panchayati Raj Institutions, non-governmental organisations and other semi-government organisations. The objective of SGSY is to bring the existing poor families above the poverty line by providing them income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy and to ensure that an assisted family has a monthly net income of at least Rs.2000. Subsidy under SGSY is uniform at 30 per cent of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs.7500. In respect of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it is 50 per cent subject to a maximum of Rs.10,000. For groups, the subsidy is 50 per cent subject to a ceiling of Rs.1.25 lakh. There is no monetary limit on subsidy for irrigation projects. SGSY is funded by the centre and states in the ratio of 75:25.

(ii) *Wage Employment Programmes :*

(a) *Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) :* Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has been restructured and streamlined with effect from

April, 1999, and has been renamed as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY). The primary objective of JGSY is creation of demand driven village infrastructure including durable assets at the village level to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. The secondary objective is generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in the rural areas. The wage employment under the programme is given to Below Poverty Lines (BPL) families. While there is no sectoral earmarking of resources under JGSY, 22.5 per cent of the annual allocation must be spent on beneficiary schemes for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and 3 per cent of annual allocation is to be utilised for creation of barrier free infrastructure for the disabled. Another objective is to generate supplementary employment for the unemployed rural poor.

(b) *The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) :* launched on October 2, 1993 in 1772 identified backward blocks situated in drought prone, desert, tribal and hill areas has been restructured as a single wage employment programme from April 1999 with a fixed annual outlay. The programme is presently being implemented in all the 5448 rural blocks. The primary objective of the EAS is creation of additional wage employment opportunities during the period of acute shortage of wage employment through manual work for the rural poor living below the poverty line. The secondary objective is the creation of durable community, social and economic assets to sustain future employment and development. The Zilla Parishads are designated as the implementing authorities of the scheme.

(iii) *National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)*

The on-going National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) 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.725 crore has been provided for the above three components of NSAP in 1999-2000 (BE).

(iv) *Urban Employment and anti-poverty Programme (UEPP) :*

(a) Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) was launched in urban areas in 1993-94 and extended to rural areas also from 1994-95 for providing self-employment to educated unemployed. It attempted to generate

employment for more than a million persons by setting up of seven lakh micro-enterprises during the Eighth Plan (1992-97). The scheme continues in the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) with certain modifications. A target of 2.20 lakh beneficiaries has been fixed for 1999-2000. By the end of October 1999, 55,395 loan cases have been sanctioned and 26,070 disbursements have taken place as reported by the RBI. A central plan outlay of Rs.173 crore has been provided for the scheme in 1999-2000 budget.

(b) The Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) which subsumed the earlier three urban poverty programmes viz., Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP) and Prime Minister's Integrated

Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme (PMIUPEP) came into operation from December 1997. It seeks to provide employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed poor living below poverty line and educated upto IX standard through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment. The scheme gives special impetus to empower and uplift the poor women and launches a special programme, namely, Development of Women and Children in Urban Areas (DWCUA) under which groups of urban poor women setting up self-employment ventures are eligible for subsidy up to 50 per cent of the project cost. An allocation of Rs.181 crore has been provided in 1999-2000 (BE). The achievements of the special anti-poverty programmes are indicated in Table 10.7.

TABLE 10.7
Performance of Special Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programmes

(In lakh)

Programmes	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 (upto Sept. 99)	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
A. Programmes in Rural Areas						
1. JRY - Mandays of employment generated**	3867.0	3958.0	3966.6	3752.1	3966.6	587.0
2. EAS - Mandays of employment generated	*	4717.7	*	4165.3	*	724.9
3. IRDP - Families assisted+	*	17.1	*	16.6	*	0.96†
4. TRYSEM - Youths Trained+	3.0	2.5	2.9	1.7	—	—
5. DW CRA - (a) Groups formed+	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	—	—
(b) Membership	*	4.6	*	5.0	—	—
6. IAY - House Constructed	7.2	7.7	9.9	8.3	8.5	NA
7. MWS - Wells Constructed+	*	0.9	*	0.9	—	—
8. ARWSP - Habitation/villages	1.0	1.2	1.1	0.5	0.9	0.29†
9. CRSP - (Central Rural Sanitation Program.)	18.8	11.6	16.0	5.6	—	—
10. NSAP —						
(a) NOAPS - Beneficiaries	17.9	50.9	48.8	64.2	55.7	29.3
(b) NFBS - Beneficiaries	3.4	1.8	2.1	2.6	1.9	0.6
(c) NMBS - Beneficiaries	33.9	15.6	17.8	15.1	17.8	4.2
B. Programmes in Urban Areas						
1. PMRY — (a) Micro-enterprises@	2.2	2.1	2.2	1.5P	2.2	0.3†
(b) Employment generated \$	3.3	3.1	3.3	2.2P	3.3	0.4†
2. SJSRY \$\$						
of which						
(i) USEP —						
(a) Beneficiaries		0.1	*	0.4	*	1.0††
(b) Persons trained			*	0.2++		
(ii) UWEP- Mandays of employment generated		5.1	*	66.0++	*	71.9††
3. Beneficiaries covered under Community Structure Component		83.4	*	111.6	*	49.3††
4. Beneficiaries assisted under DWCUA		—	*	0.01	*	0.04††

P Provisional.

** JRY was restructured and renamed as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) from April 1999.

+ IRDP and its allied programmes like TRYSEM, DW CRA, MWS, SITRA and GK Y have been merged with Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) introduced from April, 1999.

* Targets are not fixed.

@ Cases disbursed.

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

\$\$ Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana came into operation from December 1997.

++ As per report ending December 1998.

† Upto October, 1999.

†† Upto November, 1999.

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