



SAARC SOCIAL CHARTER



Government of India
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

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INDIA COUNTRY REPORT 2006-07

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FOREWORD

The principal goal of SAARC is to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia, to improve their quality of life, to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development and to provide all individuals the opportunity to live in dignity and to realize their full potential. The SAARC Social Charter has accorded highest priority to the alleviation of poverty in all South Asian Countries. Health, Education, Human Resource Development, Youth Mobilisation, Promotion of Status of Women, Promotion of Rights and Well-being of the Child and Drug de-addiction are some of the key issues that the SAARC Countries have to address with greater vigour and mutual cooperation to rid themselves of the maladies afflicting their peoples.

This report is the Second Country Report to evaluate the progress so far made by India in achieving the goals of the SAARC Social Charter. This report gives ample evidence of India's efforts towards elimination of these problems within its own territory. India is progressing towards removing acute poverty and hunger through vigorous implementation of anti-poverty programmes aimed at reducing the proportion of population below the poverty line.

The experience of India in universalisation of education at all levels may be of interest to other countries of the Region. Gender equity too has received due attention. India is taking significant initiatives to reap the benefits of the Social Charter for the interest of its own people and the peoples of the Region. This report is expected to help formulation of India's strategies for regional cooperation with the Member Countries for achieving the goals and objectives of the Charter. It is our hope that the cross-fertilisation of ideas arising from these Country Reports will accelerate the processes needed to attain the objectives of the SAARC Social Charter.

March 28, 2007.


(G.K. VASAN)



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Preface

This Report on SAARC Social Charter presents India's achievements and its policy and programme initiatives with reference to the goals of SAARC Social Charter adopted by the SAARC Heads of States at the 12th Summit in Islamabad on 4th January 2004.



As agreed by the Heads of States at the 12th SAARC Summit, a National Coordination Committee (NCC) under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation was constituted on 12th September, 2005 to monitor and devise programmes to address the goals of the SAARC Social Charter. It was also responsible for consulting NCCs of other SAARC Countries for exchange of ideas and information on the best practices, apart from promoting collaborative poverty alleviation projects, including the new SAARC Poverty Alleviation Fund. In India, this Ministry has been designated as the nodal Ministry to facilitate the implementation of SAARC Social Charter in India. However, this effort is inherently collaborative in nature. There are many source agencies which provided statistical inputs and other factual information on various policy initiatives taken to achieve the goals for preparing this report. These include Planning Commission, Ministries of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Health and Family Welfare, Human Resource Development, Social Justice and Empowerment, Women and Child Development and Tourism. The First Country Report giving the status in respect of various objectives of the Charter was prepared and circulated in the Thirteenth SAARC Summit held in Dhaka in November, 2005 and India was the first country to prepare and circulate such a Country Report.

The First Meeting of the Heads of NCCs, held in Islamabad during 7-8 March, 2006 agreed to recommend 22 areas of regional cooperation. The meeting also agreed to take up "Natural Calamities and Disaster Mitigation Strategies" as the area of focus during the Second Meeting of the Heads of the NCCs. Accordingly, a separate Chapter on Environment and Disaster Management is provided in this report.

I wish to place on record my gratitude to all the collaborating agencies without whose unstinted cooperation this Report would not have been possible. Thanks are also due to the able guidance of Dr. S K Nath, Director General, Central Statistical Organisation and the members of the inter- Ministerial Expert Committee and the team responsible for the preparation of the report, especially Shri S K Das, Additional Director General and Shri S Chakrabarti, Director and Shri D P Srivastava, Dy Director of Social Statistics Division of CSO for their valuable efforts to prepare this Report on SAARC Social Charter.

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INTRODUCTION

THE SAARC Heads of States at the 12th Summit in Islamabad signed the **SAARC Social Charter** on 4th January 2004. The Charter includes twelve Articles on the provisions, goals/objectives and specific areas of mutual cooperation among SAARC countries.

2. In the meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers held during 20-21 July 2004, it was agreed that each of the SAARC countries would set up a *National Coordination Committee* to monitor and devise programmes to implement the goals of the SAARC Social Charter as well as to consult each other to exchange ideas and information on the best practices apart from promoting collaborative poverty alleviation projects, including new SAARC Poverty Alleviation Fund.
3. In India, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has been designated as the nodal Ministry to facilitate the implementation of SAARC Social Charter in India. A *National Coordination Committee (NCC)* under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation was constituted on 12th September 2005.
4. The First Meeting of the NCC was held on 14th October 2005. Following the 1st meeting of the NCC, the First Country Report on SAARC Social Charter giving the status in respect of various Charters was prepared and circulated in the thirteenth SAARC Summit held in Dhaka in November, 2005. The Heads of States or Governments reiterated their commitment to take initiatives at national as well as regional level in achieving the specific objectives contained in the SAARC Social Charter. They recognized that realization of these objectives is crucial to enable SAARC to meet the hopes and aspirations of the common peoples of South Asia and visibly improve the quality of their lives. They emphasized that in outlining future actions in this regard, regional programmes and projects in areas requiring collective regional response should complement national implementation efforts. They appreciated the establishment of National Coordination Committees (NCCs) in all member States, and decided on annual meetings of the Heads of NCCs.
5. Accordingly, on the offer of the Government of Pakistan, the *First Meeting* of the Heads of the National Coordination Committees (NCCs) was held in Islamabad on 7-8 March 2006. The meeting agreed to recommend the following 22 areas for regional cooperation in implementing the SAARC Social Charter:
 - i. Agriculture research and extension;
 - ii. Intellectual property rights in agriculture and biodiversity;
 - iii. Natural calamities and disaster mitigation strategies;
 - iv. Tourism;
 - v. Exchange of students in top-class institutions through intra-SAARC scholarship programmes;
 - vi. Sharing of knowledge and expertise in respect of teachers' training and community participation;
 - vii. Sharing information on outbreak of communicable diseases;
 - viii. Sharing capacity of manufacture essential drugs and medical supplies;
 - ix. Adopting regional standards on drugs and pharmaceuticals products;
 - x. Establishment of a regional task force to prevent trafficking of women and children;

- xi. Exchange of education material and literature on special education;
 - xii. Promoting exchange of visits and work opportunities for youth within the SAARC States;
 - xiii. Exploring regional cooperatives programme for youth;
 - xiv. Joint action of SAARC Member states to confront the spread of drug addiction;
 - xv. Regional NGOs forum to provide exposure to new methodology in vogue internationally for drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation;
 - xvi. Training and capacity building in social and economic areas;
 - xvii. Environmental mitigation (development of multi- hazard early warning systems);
 - xviii. Information exchange and sharing best practices;
 - xix. Formulation of Regional Plan of Action/work plan based on the tenets of the Social Charter;
 - xx. Establishment of a data bank of social indicators and expertise of the SAARC Member States at SAARC Secretariat;
 - xxi. Preparing a compendium of legal framework and developing a mechanism for easy and instant sharing of success stories among Member States;
 - xxii. Preparing a study on the overlaps and make consistency among various global and regional conventions and commitments in the spheres of the social sector.
6. The meeting also agreed to take up “**Natural Calamities and Disaster Mitigation Strategies**” as the *area of focus during the Second Meeting* of the Heads of the NCCs to be held in India in 2007. The meeting also recommended that each country take necessary steps to translate the Social Charter into their national and official languages in order to publicize the document to a wider public.

1

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

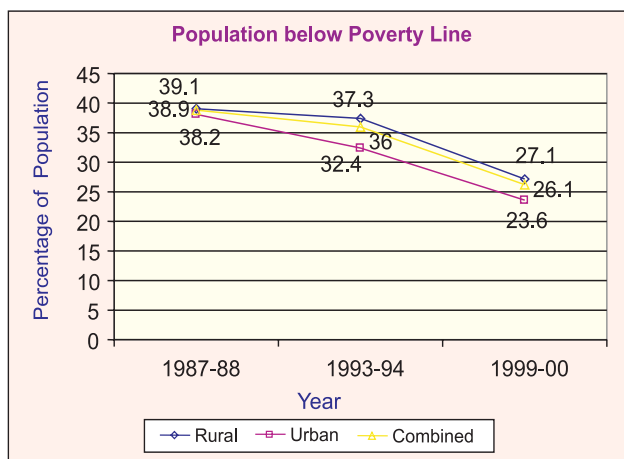
POVERTY alleviation has been one of the guiding principles of the planning process in India. The role of economic growth in providing more employment avenues to the population has been clearly recognized. The growth-oriented approach has been reinforced by focusing on specific sectors, which provide greater opportunities to the people to participate in the growth process. The various dimensions of poverty relating to health, education and other basic services have been progressively internalized in the planning process. Central and State Governments have considerably enhanced allocations for the provision of education, health, sanitation and other facilities which promote capacity-building and well-being of the poor. Investments in agriculture are development programmes and afforestation provides avenues for employment and income. Special programmes have been taken up for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), the disabled and other vulnerable groups. Anti-poverty programmes that seek to transfer assets and skills to people for self-employment, coupled with public works programmes that enable people to cope with transient poverty, are the third strands of the larger anti-poverty strategy. As a result of anti-poverty programmes launched from time to time to reduce the incidence of poverty in the country, the incidence of poverty declined from 55 percent in 1973-74 to 26 percent in 1999-2000. The reduction of proportion of people living below poverty line has been particularly sharp in the 1990s, when there has been a 10-percentage points decline between 1993-94 and 1999-2000. In a period of twelve years (1988-2000), the percentage of population below poverty line declined by 13 points.

Incidence of Poverty by various measures

<i>Indicator</i>		<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1993-94</i>	<i>1999-2000</i>
<i>Poverty Headcount Ratio</i>	Overall	38.9	36.0	26.1
	Rural	39.1	37.3	27.1
	Urban	38.2	32.4	23.6
<i>Poverty Gap Ratio</i>	Rural		8.5	5.3
	Urban		8.1	5.2
<i>Share of Poorest Quintile in national consumption</i>	Overall		9.2	9.5
	Rural		9.6	10.1
	Urban		8.0	7.9

While the decline has been sharper in the urban areas, there are some differences in the pattern of decline in the two sub-periods in the rural and urban areas. Urban areas achieved greater reduction in proportion of population living in poverty during the period 1987-88 to 1993-94 than the rural areas, while in the period 1993-94 to 1999-2000 the decline was

sharper in the rural areas (10.2 percentage points) than the urban areas (8.8 percentage points). It is important to mention that despite a reduction in the proportion of people living in poverty by over 50 per cent between 1973-74 and 1999-2000, the absolute number of poor continued to be in excess of 260 million in 1999-2000 in view of India's large



population. This number was over 320 million in 1993-94. Of the 260 million persons, 193 million persons lived in the rural areas.

There are States (Bihar and Orissa) in the eastern parts of the country, where the poverty ratio was estimated in 1999-2000 to be over 40 per cent, while in States like Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, the ratio is under 10 per cent. The four States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa accounted for nearly 39 percent of the total population of the country, but over 55 percent of the people below poverty line.

Glimpses of Consumption Expenditure

As per the report on 'Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure' for 2004-05 on the basis of 61st round of the National Sample Survey, the Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) level in rural India, of Rs. 365, was roughly the 30th percentile of the all-India distribution of MPCE for the rural population, and Rs.270 was the 10th percentile. Compared with 30 percent at the all-India level, in Orissa and Chhatisgarh as many as 55-57% of villagers were living below the MPCE level of Rs.365, which is about Rs. 12 per day. In MP, Bihar and Jharkhand, 46-47% were living below this level. Even lower levels of living of Rs.270 per person per month (Rs. 9 per day) and below were observed in 31% of the rural population in Orissa and over 20% in Chhatisgarh and MP (compared to 10% at the all-India level).

- The survey estimated that in 2004-05, 5% of the Indian rural population belonged to households with monthly per capita consumer expenditure (MPCE) in the range "Rs. 0-235", that is spending less than Rs. 8 per person per day on consumption.
- Another 5% of the Indian rural population belonged to households with monthly per capita expenditure in the range Rs. 235-270", that is, spending about Rs. 8-9 per person per day on consumption.

For urban India, Rs.580 was roughly the 30th percentile of the distribution of MPCE and Rs. 395 was the 10th percentile. 55% of Bihar's and 50% of Orissa's urban population lived below the MPCE level of Rs. 580 (Rs.19 per day). Even lower levels of living of Rs. 13 per day or less (MPCE<Rs.395) were observed among 28% of Bihar's and 25% of Orissa's urban population.

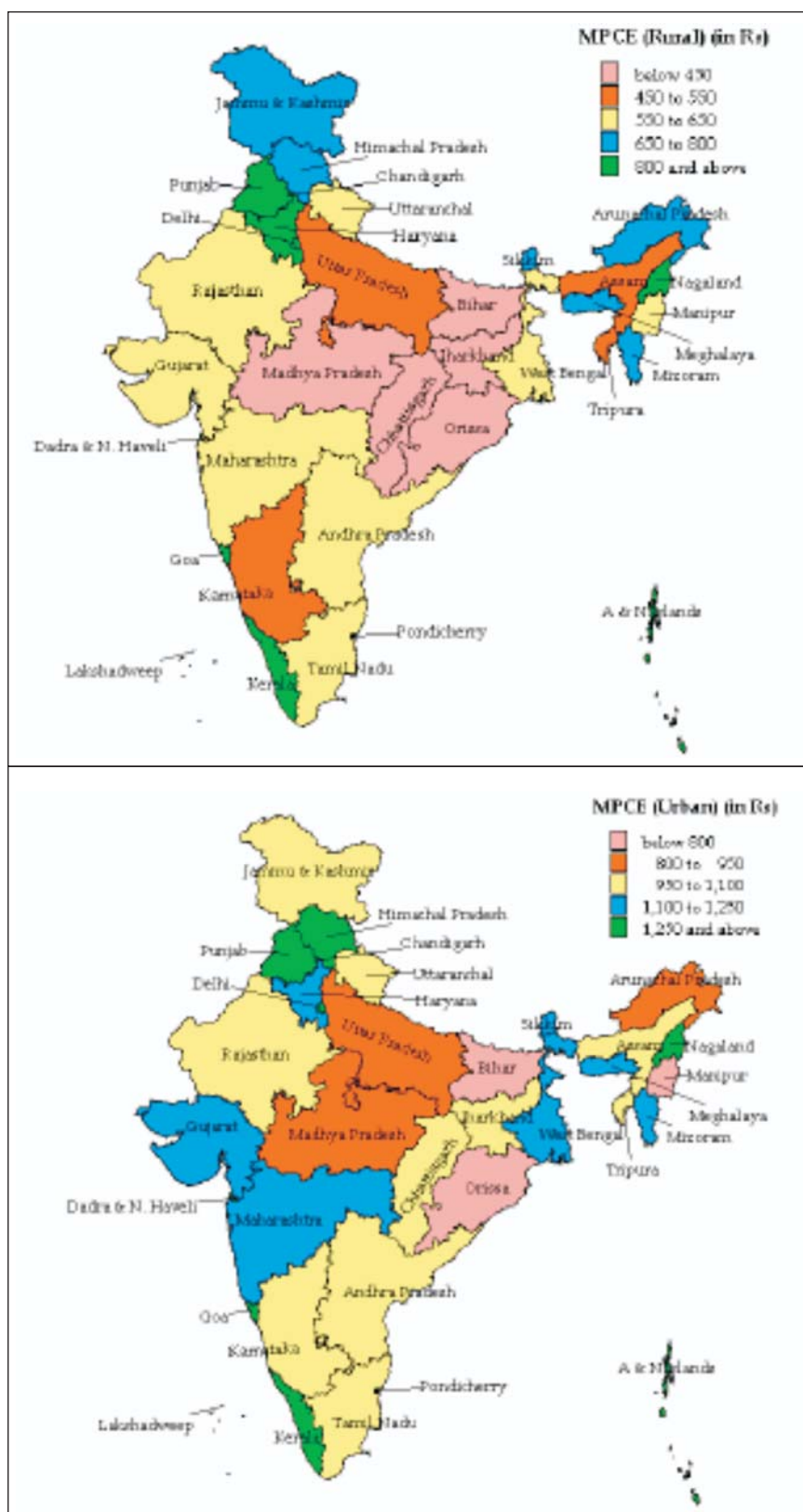
- The poorest 5% of the urban population of India (ranked by per capita spending levels) in 2004-05 belonged to household with monthly consumer expenditure per person in the range of "Rs. 0-335", that is, spending less than Rs. 11 per person per day on consumption.

In the upper ranges of MPCE distribution i.e. for the relatively affluent category of people, Rs.690 and Rs.890 were respectively the approximate values of the 80th and the 90th percentiles of the all-India distribution of MPCE of the rural population, that is, the MPCE levels above which the top 20% and the top 10% of the rural population of India lived in 2004-05. Rs.1380 and Rs.1880 were the approximate values of the corresponding percentile for the urban population.

- Out of every rupee spent in 2004-05 by the average rural Indian on consumption, 55 paise was spent on food. Of this, 18 paise was spent on cereals and cereals substitutes, 8 paise on milk and milk products, 6 paise on vegetables, 5 paise on edible oil, 5 paise on sugar, salt and speices and 5 paise on beverages, refreshments and processed food.

Both share of food and share of cereals fall appreciably with the rise in MPCE level. In rural India as a whole, the share of food falls from over 68% in the lowest MPCE class (Rs.0-235) to under 34% in the highest (Rs.1155+). In urban India the fall in the share of food is steeper: from 65% in the lowest class to under 24% in the highest. The share of cereals falls, in rural India, from over 34% in the lowest class to under 7% in the highest. In urban India, the share of cereals drops from 26% in the lowest MPCE class to a mere 3% in the highest.

Average MPCE in Different States and Union Territories



- The Planning Commission in the Tenth Plan (2002-07) targeted at reducing poverty ratio by 5 percentage points by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012. It aims at achieving poverty ratio of 19.3% for the country as a whole by 2007, 21.1% for the rural and 15.1% for the urban areas. In absolute terms, the number of poor is projected to decline from 260 million in 1999-2000 to 220 million in 2007, with rural poor declining to 170 million and the number of urban poor would decline to approximately 50 million.
- The 73rd and 74th amendments reinforce that Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies have a major say with respect to the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and for the implementation of development schemes including the poverty alleviation schemes and programmes in rural and urban areas respectively. While certain schemes like Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, Harriyali, etc are implemented by Panchayati Raj Institutions themselves, the beneficiaries in other schemes for poverty alleviation are selected by these bodies.
- The incidence of malnourishment among women continues to be widespread, the consequence of which is the high rate of morbidity and mortality among them. According to the National Family Health Survey III, in 2005-06, more than 55 percent of the ever-married women and 75 per cent of children suffered from anaemia. In some areas, women still lack access to the daily per capita requirement of the recommended minimum nutrition. Nearly 60 per cent of the women particularly pregnant and lactating women suffer from anaemia. The District Level Rapid Household Survey (DLHS) (2002-04) has for the first time provided district level estimates on the magnitude of "hidden hunger" or micronutrient deficiencies and mal-nutrition. Severe mal-nutrition has decreased significantly in India and severe nutritional deficiencies have considerably declined. However, levels of malnutrition amongst

children are high, manifested through moderate and severe under-weight. This is in spite of self-sufficiency of food production, which has not percolated to all households with low per capita income. A programme has been implemented since 1997-98 to treat anaemia among pregnant women, wherein they have been provided with iron and folic acid (IFA) tablets daily for 200 days.

Poverty Alleviation in Rural Areas

The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing targeted anti-poverty programmes and these programmes have been rationalized, restructured and revamped from time to time with a view to enhancing their efficacy and impact. The programmes being implemented by the Ministry include, wage employment, self-employment, area development programme and infrastructure development programmes

Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)

The SGRY is a major wage employment programme being implemented in the entire country. The objective of SGRY is to provide additional wage employment in all rural areas and thereby provide food security and improve nutrition levels. The secondary objective is creation of durable community social and economic assets and infrastructure in rural areas. A Special Component under SGRY provides foodgrains to calamity stricken States for undertaking relief activities. The SGRY is open to all rural persons who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual and unskilled work in and around village/habitat. Wages under the programme are paid partly in the form of foodgrains and partly in cash. Minimum wages fixed by the State are paid under the scheme.

Target Groups under SGRY

- Preference is given to the poorest among the poor, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and parents of child labour withdrawn from hazardous occupation.
- 30% of employment opportunities under the programme are reserved for women.

- 22.5% of the resources out of the share of District Panchayats and Intermediate Panchayats have been earmarked for individual/group works for SCs/STs for providing economic and social assets and for developmental works on individual land of SC and ST families living below the poverty line.
- 50% of the resources out of Gram Panchayat share are to be utilized for development of need-based infrastructure in SC/ST habitations.
- 5% of the resources under the SGRY is earmarked for utilization in the areas of acute distress arising out of natural calamities or for taking up preventive measures in the chronically drought or flood affected areas.

An important feature of the programme is that it is being implemented exclusively by the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The programme resources are shared by District Panchayat, Panchayat Smiti and the Gram Panchayat in the proportion of 20:30:50. Each level of Panchayat is an independent unit for formulation of Action Plan and executing the schemes.

- (i) District Panchayats-20% of the resources are reserved at the District level and are to be utilized by the District Panchayats/DRDAs preferably in the areas suffering from endemic labour exodus/areas of distress as per the Annual Action Plan approved by the District Panchayats/DRDAs.
- (ii) Intermediate Level Panchayats - 30% of the resources are allocated among the Intermediate Level Panchayats. While allocating the resources, equal weightage is to be given to the proportion of SC/ST population and of rural population of the respective Intermediate Level Panchayat areas to those of the Districts. The works will be taken up as per their own Annual Action Plan approved by the Intermediate Level Panchayats. However, while selecting the works, to be taken up, preference will be given to the areas, which are backward, calamity prone or face migration of labour.

- (iii) Gram Panchayats - 50% of the resources are allocated among the Gram Panchayats (Village Panchayat) for generation of supplementary wage employment and creation of demand driven community village infrastructure, which includes also durable assets to enable the rural poor to increase opportunities for sustained employment.

For the year 2006-07, Central allocation of Rs. 3000 crore has been made. It expected that about 56.27% crore mandays would be generated besides, creation of durable community assets and strengthening of livelihood resource base of the rural poor.

National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP)

The National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) was started as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme in November 2004 in 150 most backward districts of the country. The objective of the programme is to provide additional resources apart from the resources available under the SGRY to the 150 identified backward districts of the country so that generation of supplementary wage employment and providing food security through creation of need-based economic, social and



community assets in these districts is further intensified. The focus of the programme will be on water conservation, drought-proofing and land development as a first priority. Flood control measures, rural connectivity in terms of all weather roads and other productive works for ensuring economic sustainability can also be included depending upon the local needs.

With the launch of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on 2nd February 2006, the NFFWP has now been discontinued.

Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

SGSY is a major on-going scheme for the self-employment of rural poor. The basic objective of the scheme is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the poverty line by providing them income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy. Credit is the critical component of the scheme whereas the subsidy is an enabling element. The scheme involves organization of the poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their capacity building, training, selection of key activities, planning of activities clusters, infrastructure build up, technology and marketing support. Under the scheme focus is on group approach. However, individual Swarozgaris could also be assisted. The SGSY is being implemented by the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) with the active involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), bank, the Line Departments and the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs).

Subsidy for Special social groups

Subsidy under the SGSY to individuals is uniform at 30% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 7500/-. In respect of SCs/STs and disabled persons, the subsidy is 50% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 10000/-. For groups of Swarozgaris (SHGs), the subsidy is 50% of the cost of scheme, subject to per capita subsidy of Rs.

10000/- or Rs. 1.25 lakhs whichever is less. There is no minimum limit on subsidy for irrigation projects. Subsidy is back ended.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)

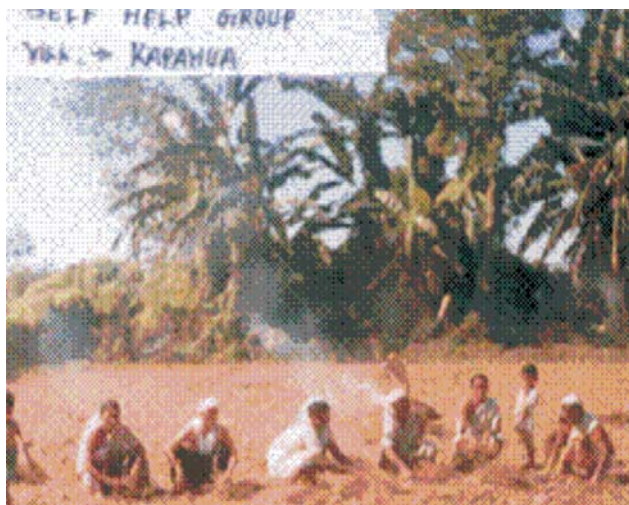
The Act gives legal guarantee of a 100 day of wage employment in a financial year to adult members of a rural household who demand employment and are willing to do unskilled manual work. The Act will be applicable to areas notified by the Central Government. The objective of the Act is to enhance the livelihood security of the people in rural areas by generating wage employment through works that develop infrastructure base of that area. The choice of work suggested addresses causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion etc.

The Act came into force with effect from 2nd February, 2006 in 200 districts of the country. An allocation of Rs. 11300 crore has been made for NREGA for the year 2006-07. It is expected that about 116.12 crore mandays through wage employment to 1.16 crore rural households would be generated during the year.



Special Provisions in SGSY

- i) 50% benefits of the scheme are reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe.
- ii) 40% benefits are reserved for women.
- iii) 3% for disable persons
- iv) 15% of the SGSY allocation is set apart from Special Projects which are implemented with a view to ground different models of generation of self-employment and enhancing the income generation capacity of the rural poor.



Marketing initiatives

To boost marketing of the products produced by SGSY Swarozgaries provisions are made to establish requisite marketing infrastructure under SGSY. Twelve regional SARAS Fair besides IITF SARAS 2004 were organized to encourage the sale of products made by Swarozgaries during 2004-05. During the year 2005-06, the Ministry proposes to organize 20 such fairs in different parts of the country besides the annual IITF SARAS 2005.

Thrust Areas in Focus of SGSY

- Group approach and strengthening of SHGs formed under SGSY through intensive training and capacity building.
- Training of Bank officials, development functionaries and facilitators.
- Cluster approach for activities to achieve economy of scale.
- Formation of viable projects.
- Credit linkage with groups.
- Convergence with programmes of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Women Development etc. to achieve synergy in implementation of the programme.

Under SGSY upto March 2006, about 22.82 lakh Self Help Groups have been formed in the country and 68.60 lakh Swarozgaries have been assisted since inception. For the year 2006-07, Central allocation

of Rs. 1200 crores has been made and it is expected that about 63400 new Self Help Groups will be formed. It is targeted to assist about 6.35 lakh Swarozgaries of Self Help Groups and 3.96 individual swarozgaries during the year.

Rural Housing (Indira Awaas Yojana-IAY)

For a normal citizen, owning a house provides significant economic security as also dignity in society. For a shelter-less person, possession of a house brings about a profound social change in his



existence, endowing him with an identity, thus integrating him with his immediate social milieu. According to 2001 Census, the housing shortage in the rural areas is about 148 lakhs as compared to 137 lakh housing shortage as per 1991 Census.

In addition to this, it is estimated that about 10 lakhs shelter-less households are added every year. As such, if housing shortage has to be addressed in the next four years, then about 40 lakh houses are to be constructed every year. Under IAY, for the last three years, on an average, about 14-15 lakh houses are being constructed every year, whereas the annual requirement is about 30 lakh houses per annum as per the 2001 Census.

Indira Awaas Yojana in operation since 1985-86 to provide assistance for construction/upgradation of dwelling units to the rural households living below the poverty line. The preference is given to the

Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and freed bonded labour. It has been stipulated that 60% of the benefits must go to the SC/ST households living below the poverty line. 3% of the houses are reserved for physically and mentally challenged BPL persons of rural areas.

The ceiling on construction assistance under the IYY is Rs. 25000 per unit for the plain areas and Rs. 27500 per unit for the hilly and difficult areas. The ceiling on upgradation of unserviceable kutch house to pucca/semi-pucca is Rs. 12500 for all areas.

Important Features of IAY

- 5% of the total IAY allocation is kept to facilitate immediate/timely relief to the victims of emergency situation like riots, arson and fire.
- The dwelling unit has to be in the name of the female member of the beneficiary household or alternatively it can be in the name of husband and wife jointly.
- A sanitary latrine, smokeless chullah and proper drainage are required for each IAY house.
- No specific design has been stipulated for an IAY house.
- Material for construction of an IAY house to be the discretion of the beneficiary.
- Central allocation of Rs. 2920 crores has been made in the year 2006-07 to construct 15.33 lakh houses under the scheme for the rural poor .

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

Construction of rural roads brings multifaceted benefits to the hitherto deprived rural areas and is seen as an effective poverty reduction strategy. The economic benefits of rural roads include increase in agricultural production, changes in cropping pattern, better prices for agricultural produce, reduction in transport costs, creation of new employment opportunities in farm and off-farm sectors, lower prices for essential commodities to rural consumers, better climate for setting up cottage and agro-industries, increase in production of dairy products etc. The impact of the new links on the social life of the rural population is reflected in the form of better medical care, more attendance in school/colleges, better availability of public services, higher levels of social interaction etc. Rural roads also change life patterns. Improved connectivity will make daily commutation to urban work places easier, reducing migrations, increasing rural employment and improving family life. Rural connectivity will enable increased penetration of better quality consumer items and durables, thus improving quality

of life. All this, in turn, will stimulate not merely the rural sector but the entire economy.

The PMGSY was launched on 15th December 2002 as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The rural roads have been included as one of the 6 components of Bharat Nirman. The objective of the programme is to provide connectivity to all villages with a population of 1000 (500 in case of hilly or tribal areas) with an all weather road by 2009. According to the latest figures made available by the State Governments under a survey to identify Core Network as part of the PMGSY programme about 1.72 lakh Unconnected Habitations need to be taken up under the programme.

Under PMGSY, an allocation of Rs. 5225 .62 crore has been made for the year 2006-07. This includes external budgetary support of Rs. 1500 crore. With this allocation, it is projected to construct 27250 kms of roads providing connectivity to 9425 habitations.

Poverty Alleviation in Urban Areas

Most of the anti-poverty programmes in the urban areas have focused on the slum areas in India,

For identified vulnerable sections of the society, like Scheduled Castes, Safai Karamcharis, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, weaker sections among minorities and persons with disabilities, five dedicated Apex Finance and Development Corporations viz. National Scheduled Caste Finance Development Corporation, National Safai Karamcharis Finance Development Corporation, National Schedule Castes/ Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, National Minorities Finance Development Corporation, National Backward Classes Finance Development Corporation and National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation extend concessional Credit/ loans at low interest rates. The Corporations cater to the special need of persons below the poverty line needing care and protection. The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFD), however, covers beneficiaries with income levels up to Rs. 80,000 in rural areas and Rs. 1.00 lakh in urban areas. The loans are provided for starting or augmenting income generation activities such as small business/ trade, tiny/ cottage industries, service activity, etc. Further, to ensure gender equality in scheme and programmes of the Corporations, priority is accorded to the women belonging to Scheduled Castes Other Backward Classes and Minorities by providing them concessional credit loan at lower interest rate (4% per annum) under the Micro Credit scheme known as “Mahila Samriddhi Yojana”. The Micro Financing Scheme of Corporations aims at empowerment of women by way of meeting their credit needs in formal manner through NGOs/ SHGs. Aids and appliances are provided to needy and poor persons with disabilities to improve their mobility resulting in enhanced earning capacity and quality of life. Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) has been set up in 1987 to establish proper marketing channels for tribal produce and pay specific attention to the marketing requirements of natural products from tribal areas.

as it is these areas where a large portion of the urban poor is concentrated. The main aim of these programmes has been the infrastructural improvement of slums through provision of basic facilities.



National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) was launched to provide housing, community improvement, garbage and solid waste management as well as environmental improvement and convergence of different social sector programme like adequate and satisfactory water supply, sanitation, primary education, adult literacy and non-formal education facilities

Swaran Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) [Golden Jubilee Urban Employment Scheme], was launched to provide gainful employment to the urban poor through setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment. The SJSRY consists of two special schemes, namely, (i) The Urban Self-Employment Programme (USEP) and (ii) The Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP). The SJSRY is being implemented through community organisations like Neighbourhood Groups, and Community Development Societies (CDSs) set up in the target areas.

Valmiki Ambedkar Awaas Yojana (VAMBAY) [Housing Scheme] was launched to ameliorate the conditions of urban slum dwellers living below poverty line in towns and cities all over the country with the objective to provide shelter or upgrade the existing shelter for people living below the poverty line in urban slums with ultimate goal of slum-less cities with a healthy and enabling urban environment. A new National City Sanitation Project is an integral component of VAMBAY to provide toilet facilities for slum dwellers especially in congested metropolitan cities.

2

EDUCATION, HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH MOBILISATION

GOVERNMENT of India has, in accordance with its Constitutional mandate, taken several initiatives in the form of enabling policies, legislations and interventions to spread literacy, promote educational development and bridge gender disparities. An enabling policy framework has been provided in the form of the **National Policy on Education, 1986**, as revised in 1992, and the **Programme of Action, 1992**, that have given an impetus to universalising elementary education. The Government of India is committed to realising the goal of elementary education for all by 2010. **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan** (SSA) [Campaign on education for all], launched in 2000, is the national umbrella programme that is spearheading the universalisation of elementary education for all children. One of the most significant developments in recent years has been the passage of the **Constitution 86th Amendment Act, 2002**, which makes free and compulsory education a fundamental right for all children in the age group of 6-14 years.

<i>Indicator/Year</i>	<i>1992-93</i>	<i>2000-01</i>	<i>@2005-06</i>
Gross enrolment ratio in primary education	84.6	95.7	103.8
Boys	95.0	104.9	
Girls	73.5	85.9	
Proportion of children starting Grade 1 who reach Grade 5	55.0	59.3	71.01
Boys	56.2	60.3	
Girls	53.3	58.1	
Adult Literacy rate (7 years and above)	*52.2	64.8	
Male	64.1	75.3	
Female	39.3	53.7	

* Census of India, 1991 @ DISE 2005-06

The gross enrolment ratio (GER) in primary education (Class I to V, age 6-11 years) for boys has tended to remain near 100%. In the case of girls, the ratio has increased by about 22 percentage points in a decade from 1992-93 to 2003-04. Over the period of ten years between 1990-91 and 2000-01, the all-India dropout rate for primary schools fell by 2.93 percentage points from 41.96% in 1991-92 to 39.03% in 2001-02. However, a reduction of 7.7 percentage points in this rate has been observed

during 2001-02 to 2003-04, the decline being from 39.03% to 31.33%.

The literacy rate (age 7 and above) at all India level according to Census 1991 was 52.2%. The male literacy rate was 64.1% whereas the female literacy rate was much lower at 39.3%. The literacy rate, increased to 64.84% in 2001 from 52.2% in 1991 at the national level. For males, it has increased from 64.1% to 75.26% and for females, from 39.3% to 53.67%.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan [Education-for-All Campaign]

1. Goals

- (i) All 6-14 age children in school/EGS (Education Guarantee Scheme) centre/bridge course by 2005;
- (ii) Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010.
- (iii) Universal retention 2010.
- (iv) Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life.

2. Strategies

- Community ownership of school based interventions through effective decentralization and involvement of various institutions at all levels.
- Priority to girls-especially those belonging to scheduled castes and tribes.
- Focus on special groups-inclusion and participation of children from SC/ST, minority groups urban deprived children and children with special needs.
- Emphasis on quality - education at this level should be made useful and relevant by improving the curriculum, including child-centered activities, effective and innovative teaching aids and strategies and laying stress on teachers' training.



- Community based monitoring with full transparency - the Educational Management

Information System (EMIS) will correlate school level data with community-based information from micro planning and surveys.

3. Funding

SSA is partially funded to the tune of Rs. 4700 crore from 2003-04 to 2006-07 by the World Bank, European Commission and DFID of UK. The total outlay for the 10th Plan is Rs. 17000 crore. The process of appraisal and approvals of Annual Work Plans & Budget of States/Districts for 2006-07 was initiated in March 2006-07. AWP&B's of 28 States, 7 Union Territories and national component plans have been approved till 18.05.2006.

4. Progress in Educational Indicators

- i. **2.2 crore children have joined the education system since the launch of SSA**
- ii. **Out of school children**
Independent Study - July/August 2005, estimates 1.34 cr. Children out of school. 6.94% children in 6-14 age groups are out of school and in that 2.1% are dropouts & 4.8% never enrolled.
- iii. **Gross Enrolment Ratio (P) 98.31% - boys 100.75%; girls 95.67% - Gross Enrolment Ratio (upper primary) 62.49% - boys 66.87%; girls 67.69% (2003-04).**
- iv. **Dropout rate has declined by 7.7 percentage points; 11.4 p.p. decline for girls (2001-02 to 2003-04).**
- v. **Primary girls enrolment increased by 19.2% & at upper primary level by 15% (2001-02 to 2003-04).** States with notable increase in girls enrolment UP, Rajasthan & Bihar.
- vi. **Share of SC students 20.6% at primary and 19.4% at upper primary.**
- vii. **Share of ST students 10.8% at primary and 8.5% at upper primary.**
- viii. **Transition Rate from Primary to U. Primary 87%.**



5. Quality aspects in SSA

- 5.87 lakh teachers appointed. PTR 1.43 at primary & 1.29 at upper primary level.
- Free textbooks distributed in 2005-06 to States
- Computer aided learning at upper primary level.
- 20 days annual in service-training and follow up for all teachers. 20 lakh teachers trained till December 2005.
- Large programmes of remedial teaching being implemented.
- Independent testing of children and school grading systems in place in several States.

6. Sub-Missions of SSA

- Provision of basic minimum conditions including physical infrastructure and teachers.
- Training of teachers and strengthening of academic support institutions (and other aspects of quality improvement).
- Defining learning outcomes and assessment/monitoring of students' achievement levels.
- Capacity building for planning, management, monitoring and research/evaluation.

- Education of disadvantaged groups including girls, SC/ST/minorities/urban deprived children and disabled children.
- Social mobilization, community involvement and role of PRIs.

7. Monitoring in SSA

- Progress against Key monthly indicator and a more detailed quarterly progress report from States to Government of India.
- A computerized Education MIS system gives annual school-based data (data for 2005 released by NIEPA).
- 41 National Social Science Institutions have been tagged to all States/UTs to make independent & regular field visits to monitor performance.
- An Independent Joint Review Mission reviews the progress of SSA twice a year, along with external funding agencies. (Next JRM due in July 2006).
- Pupil achievement level sample surveys are conducted every three years by NCERT to check increase in learning levels. (Baseline for class V released).
- Several independent assessments/studies carried out for independent feedback on implementation of SSA e.g. Out of School Study, 2005. 9 other studies commissioned.
- Independent concurrent financial reviews commissioned by SSA. 12 States covered so far.
- A set of quality monitoring tools, developed in collaboration with NCERT, to provide quarterly and annual information on several quality related indices of SSA is being rolled out.
 - Student enrolment and actual attendance.
 - Pupil achievement levels.
 - Teacher availability and teacher training.
 - Classroom practices.
 - Academic supervisions of schools by Cluster and Block Resource Centres.
 - Community perceptions of school functioning.

- Secretary EE&L's Review Conference of State Education Secretaries and SPD's/Director SCERT's twice a year. (Last meeting held on 17-18th March, 2006).

Highlights for 2006-07

- Allocation of Rs. 11000 crores for SSA.
- 5 lakh additional classrooms.
- 1.5 lakh additional teachers.
- Focus on quality & improving learning levels (at least 10% in 2006-07).
- Dropout rate to be reduced by 5% at primary level.
- Focus on select districts for reducing out of school children and social categories.
- Independent Assessment on critical aspects of SSA
 - Student attendance
 - Teacher attendance
 - Students "time on task" study
 - Mid term learner achievement survey.

8. National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL)

The National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL), is a focused intervention of Government of India, to reach the "Hardest to Reach" girls, especially those not in school. Launched in July 2003, it is an important component of SSA, which provides additional support enhancing girl's education over and above the investments for girl's education through normal SSA interventions. The programme provides for development of a "model school" in every cluster with more intense community mobilisation and supervision of girls enrolment in schools. Gender sensitization of teachers, development of gender-sensitive learning materials, and provision of need-based incentives like escorts, stationery, workbooks and uniforms are some of the endeavors under the programme.

The scheme is being implemented in educationally backward blocks (EBBs) where the level of rural female literacy is less than the national average and the gender gap is above the national average; in blocks of districts which are not covered

under EBBs but are having at least 5% SC/ST population and where SC/ST female literacy is below 10%; and also in select urban slums. About 3164 educationally backward blocks are covered under the

Under NPEGEL, around 29,532 Model schools have been opened, 80,000 ECCE centres are being supported, 7713 additional classrooms have been constructed, and 73,788 teachers have been given training on gender sensitization including additional incentives like uniforms etc. to about 2 crore girls. The GOI has done intensive capacity building on Planning and implementation of NPEGEL, in ten States in 2005-06.

The fund released by Government of India during the period 2005-06 was Rs. 29651.94 lakh.

Scheme.

9. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) is a scheme launched in July 2004, for setting up residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging predominantly to the SC,ST,OBC and minority communities. The scheme is being implemented in educationally backward blocks of the country where the female rural literacy is below the national average and gender gap in literacy is above the national average. The scheme provides for a minimum reservation of 75% of the enrolment for girls from SC, ST, OBC or minority communities. For the remaining 25%, priority is accorded to girls from families below poverty line. The pattern of financing is 75:25 ratio of sharing between the Centre and the States during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

750 KGBVs were sanctioned by Government of India between December, 2004 to May 2006. Of these, 118 KGBVs have been sanctioned in blocks having concentration of Muslim population. As on date, 664 KGBVs are reported to have been made operational in the States and 32541 girls enrolled. The Government of India has approved an additional 430 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas on 1st February 2006, which will be operationalized in 2006-07.

10. Improving Educational data use

- Elementary Education Index finalised.
- Districts/State Reports 2004-05 published.

- Annual analysis on Status of Elementary Education 2006, by NUEPA published.
- Data for 2005-06 now in for reports.

Free and Compulsory Education of Children A Fundamental Right

The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002, enacted in December 2002 seeks to make free and compulsory education a Fundamental Right for all children in the age-group of 6-14 years by inserting a new Article 21-A in Part III ("Fundamental Right") of the Constitution. The new Article 21A reads as follows:

"21A. Right to Education

The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine".

PRARAMBHIK SHIKSHA KOSH

Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (PSK), has come into force on 14th November 2005 as a dedicated, non-lapsable fund to receive the proceeds of the Education Cess imposed through the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2004 on all Central taxes, to finance Government's commitment to quality basic education through SSA and MDM.

AFTER PRESENTATION OF UNION BUDGET (2006-2007) ON 28.02.06, PRARAMBHIK SHIKSHA KOSH (PSK) IS NOW A SEPARATE LINE ITEM IN BUDGET 2006-07. THE ESTIMATED RECEIPT OF RS. 8746 CRORE FOR THE YEAR 2006-07 WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE PRARAMBHIK SHIKSHA KOSH AFTER EXHAUSTING THE FUNDS PROVIDED BY WAY OF GROSS BUDGETARY SUPPORT (GBS). THE FUNDS IN THE KOSH WILL BE UTILIZED EXCLUSIVELY FOR SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN AND NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT TO PRIMARY EDUCATION (MDM SCHEME).

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH MOBILISATION

Youth can be defined as raw resources for the process of social transformation. It provides the process of social transformation the color, vigor and mirth. Age happens to provide the differentiability, necessary to distinguish youth so far, but with relatively-aged-persons continuing to perform some of the responsibilities of youth, sole dependence on age for defining youth would require revision. Characteristics associated with youth are now sustainable into middle and early old age.

Youth constitutes the powerhouse of a nation. More importantly from policy perspective, the need for extreme care in matters pertaining to youth stems from many inter-related factors. Affairs related to Youth have implications both for the present as well as future. Youth suffers from emotional insecurity and inexperience. On the other side, arrogance and feeling of invincibility characterise them. But their thirst for freedom, urge for progress and passion for innovation laced with idealism and creative fervor make ideal input for social transformation.

India accounted for substantial share of world population. By the year 2000, it accounted for 16.9 % of the world population, recording an increase of 2.1% in its share since 1970. This growth is projected to continue and by 2020, Indians would account for 17.78 % of global population. The trend in the decennial addition shows the increasing share of Indians in the net addition to the global population. India's share increased from 18.13% during 1970-1980 to 22.60 % during the period 1990-2000 and it is set to decline marginally over the period 2000-2010 (22.17%) and 2010-2020 (20.47%). Even with the projected decline, one out of every fifth addition to global population would be Indian, which would continue to be more than India's proportionate share of the total world population, thus underscoring the inherent strength of India in swarming the world with its population.

Department of Youth Affairs and Sports defined youth as those in the age group 15-35, substantially enlarging the coverage as conceived by United

Population (Millions) in the age 15-34 years vis-à-vis All age, by sex, 1971-2021.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Persons</i>		<i>Decennial addition</i>	
	All Age	Age15-34	All Age	Age15-34	All Age	Age15-34	All Age	Age15-34
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1971	284.05	85.50	264.11	82.138	548.16	167.64
1981	353.37	113.43	329.95	107.23	683.32	220.70	135.16	53.03
1991	439.36	144.21	407.06	136.94	846.42	281.15	163.1	60.48
2001	532.16	179.18	496.45	168.50	1028.61	347.68	182.19	66.52
@2011	616.8	226.62	579.75	205.76	1196.55	432.38	167.94	84.70
@2021	691.36	243.69	655.66	222.19	1347.02	465.87	150.47	33.49

SOURCE: REGISTRAR GENERAL OF INDIA (RGI).

@PROJECTED POPULATION

Nations. Population Census provides the measure of Youth in India. The regularity and efficiency of census operation in India add rigor to the measurement of Youth in India.

The decennial enumeration throws up consistent estimates of youth in India. Projections effected with the help of demographic models provide consistent estimates for expected size of youth.

India is seen to remain younger longer than China and Indonesia, two major countries that determine the dimorphic features of Asia in addition to India. These three countries together accounted for 68 % of population of Asia in the year 2000 and the share of Asia itself is about 60 % in world population. The country is expected to have the share of youth in total population at around 34 %. The share set to reach its maximum in the year 2010. China in contrast is seen to have reached the highest share in the year 1990 at 38.40 % and is projected to have the share of youth force shrinking to 27.58 % by the year 2020, a situation which Japan has undergone by the year 2000. Given the relative sizes of total population of China and India, the differentials in the age structure prognoses a youthful India vis-à-vis an ageing China by the year 2020.

The rate of growth in youth segment, though declining like in all ages, has been consistently higher compared to general population till the year 2011. The same trend is noticed for both genders. The

situation is set to reverse thereafter and population projection indicates the possibility of growth in youth population falling short of the growth rate in general population, reflecting the changing reproductive preferences of younger cohorts.

National Youth Policy, 2003

The National Youth Policy, 2003 reiterates the commitment of the entire nation to the composite and all-round development of Youth. The thrust of the Policy centers on "Youth Empowerment" in different spheres of national life. It aims to ensure the effective pursuit of youth development programmes which promote personality development and Qualities of Citizenship and enhance commitment to Community Service, Social Justice, Self-reliance, National Integration and Humanism, an inclusive view of the entire universe as enshrined in our ancient scriptures.

1. NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

National Service Scheme (NSS) popularly known as NSS was launched in Gandhiji's Birth Centenary Year 1969 in 37 universities involving 40,000 students with primary focus on the development of personality of student volunteers through community work. From its inception more than 2.53 crore students from the Universities, Colleges and Institutions of higher learning have benefited from the NSS activity. To train the NSS Programme Officers and to equip them with the modern skills of social development, 4 Orientation, Training and Research Centers (TORCs) and 14 Training and



Orientation Centers (TOCs) are working all over the country at the expense of the Govt. of India. These Institutes run orientation as well as refresher courses to train the NSS programme officers who are the field functionaries associated with the volunteers. Numbers of trainees/programmes have been increased to 40 from 35 to clear the backlog of untrained Programme Officers. Indira Gandhi NSS awards were introduced in 1993-94, which happens to be Silver Jubilee Year of NSS, to provide incentives to NSS functionaries and volunteers. NSS added a new dimension to the process of education by aligning to the needs of the community and simultaneously preparing students for their future role as sensitized, self-confident citizens. Just three years after its birth, NSS faced the first major challenge in 1972 when large parts of the country were affected by an acute draught.

The NSS responded to this challenge by mobilizing its volunteers throughout the country to participate in water resource management activities. Thus the special camping theme in 1973 was 'Youth Against Famine'. Thereafter, the NSS special camps were organized under various themes. The themes for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 were 'Youth for Jal Samvardhan', 'Youth for Swachhta' and 'Nadiyon mein phir se bahe Jaldhara yeh hai Sankalp Hamara' respectively.

NSS launched a sensitization campaign on AIDS awareness popularly known as "Universities Talk AIDS" (UTA) in collaboration with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in all 174 universities all

over the country. Seventeen Lifestyle Education Centres have been established to orient youth towards Planned Parenthood and healthy lifestyle. More than 7,000 NSS Programme Officers and 55,000 Peer Educators have been trained on AIDS education. 5,820 colleges of higher learning and +2 level institutions have been declared AIDS Aware with more than 5.6 million student population.

2. NEHRU YUVA KENDRA SANGATHAN

The largest grass root organization of its kind in the world, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) launched in 1972 operates through more than 8 million non-student rural youth in the age group of 15-35 years, with a network of about 0.23 million village based youth clubs. These Youth Clubs work in the areas like education and training, awareness generation, skill development and self-employment, entrepreneurial development, thrift and cooperation, besides development of the body through sports and adventure and mind through sustained exposure to new ideas and development strategies. For implementation of the programmes, every district NYK has a trained cadre of District Youth Coordinator, National Service Volunteers and Youth leaders. The strength of NYKS is its vast network of Youth Clubs at the grassroots level.

NYKS accomplishes its task through three categories of programmes i.e. Regular Programmes such as Youth Club Development, Vocational Training, Work Camp, Awareness Generation, Cultural Programme, Sports Promotion, Adventure Promotion, Seminars and Workshops and Celebration of National and International days/Weeks; Schemes assigned to it by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports for implementation viz; National Service Volunteers, Finance Assistance to Youth Clubs, Awards to Outstanding Youth Clubs at District, State and National levels, Rural Information Technology and Youth Development Centers; Special programmes undertaken in collaboration with other Ministries and Organisations. New initiatives at NYKS headquarters include Gandhi Gramodaya Sankalp

Abhyian self-reliant Model Village Project, Management Information System (MIS), Nehru Yuva Sandesh - a monthly news magazine and National Adventure Programme.

3. NATIONAL SERVICE VOLUNTEER SCHEME

National Service Volunteer Scheme (NSVS), launched with effect from 1977-78 aims at providing opportunities to the youth, generally speaking to those who have completed their first degree, in nation building activities for a specific period on a whole-time basis. The National Service Volunteer is envisaged as a social engineer, one who is striving to discover his creative potential and gain a deep and critical insight into the issues involved in the process of development, and who is willing to commit all his energy in the service of the community and the country.

There is often a time-lag between student graduating or otherwise concluding his studies and his/her entering the world of work. NSVS provides the youth, during this period, avenues for doing creative and constructive work suited to their educational background and aptitude.

4. RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (RGNIYD)

RGNIYD set up in 1993 endeavors to facilitate our nation's youth with a conducive environment and tools that will enable them to make the most of their natural potential to realize their aspirations and as vital resource center coordinating Training, Orientation, Research, Extension and Outreach initiatives for State, Central Governments and national level youth organization.

The Institute is mandated to function as a Resource Agency and Think Tank for youth programs, policies and implementation strategies and

- Develop multi faceted programmes for youth keeping in view of the social harmony and national unity as the ultimate objective.
- Grow and develop as a facilitator and nodal agency for youth training, youth work, and youth

development in the country for rural as well as urban youth.

- Function as an Institute of advanced study in the field of youth and to develop such professional excellence as may be required for the purpose.
- Develop its programmes aimed at inculcating a sense of national pride, awareness of national goals and internalization of national values among the youth workers.
- Develop new ideas and innovative programme for motivating and creating a committed cadre of youth workers and functionaries.
- Promote and conduct action and user based applied research and evaluation studies in youth development and through this provide necessary thrust to youth programmes on systematic and scientific lines.
- Function as Center for Information Publication and Documentation pertaining to youth Development.
- Provide Institutional training for the personnel working in the field of youth.
- Provide appropriate youth extension projects and services which can function as laboratory on youth work.
- Link its programmes and functions to the promotion of National Youth Policy.

RGNIYD has delivered several series of programmes. These include Youth Motivation and Empowerment Programmes, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes, Programmes for the guidance of the Youth in North-Eastern Region, Special Programmes, Theme based National Seminars and Workshops, International Programmes, Research and Extension Projects and Documentation and Publication.

5. SCHEME FOR PROMOTION OF ADVENTURE.

The objective of this scheme is to create and foster amongst the youth a spirit of risk-taking, cooperative teamwork, the capacity of ready and

vital response to challenging situations and endurance. This also provides a creative and happy outlet for the abundant energy, enthusiasm and imagination of youth. While all youth should get the opportunity to avail themselves of adventure facilities, this scheme specially intends to serve the first generation learners and non-student youth both in urban and rural areas with particular thrust on non-student young people in the rural areas. This scheme also intends to create and strengthen institutional structures to support adventure programmes.

6. DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWER-MENT OF ADOLESCENTS

Life Skills Education

Life skills have been defined by World Health Organisation as 'the abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demand and changes of everyday life'.

There are three broad areas of life skills: thinking skills, social skills and negotiating skills. Thinking skills include problem solving, thinking critically, processing information and exercising choice, making informed decisions and setting goals. Social skills include appreciating/validating others; building positive relationship with peer groups and family; listening and communicating effectively; taking responsibility; and coping with stress. Negotiating skills include self-realization that enables an individual to understand one's values, goals, strengths and weaknesses. Thus, negotiating skills need to be enhanced at two levels - within oneself and with

others. Adolescents need to learn to be assertive, including learning to say "no" to drug use and other harmful behavior. Assertiveness without aggressiveness is a skill of immense value for adolescents.

Counseling

The main objectives of counseling should be to address these concerns of the adolescents, prevent disruptive deviations in their behavior; to guide them to gain positive mental health; to enable them to make realistic choices; to overcome stresses and strains of everyday life, to remove confusion, and above all, to develop the personality of the adolescents. Counseling must provide appropriate information in a non-judgmental way, while ensuring confidentiality and privacy.

Career Guidance; Career Melas

With the advent of information technology, the frontiers of knowledge have expanded like never before. Economic liberalization has, also, brought in its wake newer and brighter opportunities for the younger generation. It is against this background that a device such as a career mela can provide a young adult with information, knowledge, the right counsel and guidance for choosing a career.

In each Career Mela spanning 3 days, as many as 15 to 25 careers can be taken up for elaboration and discussion. These are usually 1-hour sessions with 30 minutes earmarked for elaboration by 2 different speakers - one senior and the other a young professional - followed by 'Question-Answer Session'.

PROMOTION OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION

Programmes and Activities:

- National Integration Camp (NIC);
- Inter - State Youth Exchange Programme (ISYEP);
- Organisation of symposia and seminars on issues relevant to national integration;
- Organisation of multi - cultural activities on the theme of national integration;
- Undertaking of research and publications on issues relevant to national integration;
- Undertaking of community service by youth drawn from different regions, backgrounds and faiths;
- Organization of leadership training camps for youth drawn from different regions, backgrounds and faiths;
- National Youth Festival;
- National Youth Award;

3

HEALTH AND POPULATION STABILISATION

INDIA is the largest democratic republic with 2.4% of the world's land area and supports 16% of the world's population. India launched a Family Planning Programme as far back as in 1951. With various changes, as per needs, the programme has evolved to its present form - the Reproductive and Child Health programme, initiated on 15th October 1997. The second phase of the RCH Programme has begun from April 2005. Stabilization of population, reduction of maternal and child mortality and morbidity and improvement of their nutritional status are the goals of this programme. Emergency and essential obstetric care, 24-hour delivery services are some of the maternal health interventions offered. Universal Immunization Programme, essential newborn care and Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI), Vitamin A, iron and folic acid supplementation and promotion of breastfeeding are the major child health interventions.

Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) at national level has declined during the last decade. It has come down from 125.1 per thousand (1988-92) to 99.1 per thousand during the period 1999-2003. More declines are noticed for males than for females. Whereas in case of female children the U5MR has come down from 131.9 per thousand during 1988-92 to 108.9 per thousand during 1999-2003, for males it declined from 118.8 per thousand to 91.2 per thousand during the corresponding periods. Perceptible decline in the rate has taken place in rural areas as compared to urban part of the country.

Year	Male	Female	Total
1980	113	115	114
1985	96	98	97
1990	78	81	80
1993	73	75	74
1996	71	73	72
2000	67	69	68
2003	57	64	60
2005	56	61	58

The country has been observing a continuous decline in infant mortality rate (IMR). It stood at 192 during 1971, which came down to 114 in 1980 and further declined in the last decade and reached the level of 58 in 2005. The decline in IMR has been noticed both for male and female during the period; however, the rate of decline is more pronounced in the case of males as compared to females. It is also observed that there is a continuous decline both in

rural as well as in urban areas although urban areas of the country are observing rapid decline in IMR as compared to rural areas attributing this change to health care facilities easily accessible in urban areas.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing several programmes to address the issue of infant and child mortality in the country. Notable amongst these are:

- Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), where immunization of children is carried out against six vaccine preventable diseases,
- Control of deaths due to acute respiratory infections (ARI),
- Control of diarrhoeal diseases,
- Provision of essential new-born care to address the issue of the neonates, and
- Prevention and treatment of two micronutrient deficiencies relating to Vitamin A and Iron.

Border District Cluster Strategy aims at providing focused interventions for reducing the infant mortality and maternal mortality rates by at least 50% over the next two to three years in 49 districts in 16 States of the country. This is a UNICEF assisted activity. Given the high prevalence rates of malnutrition among children, emphasis is also being accorded to promotion of (i) exclusive breastfeeding up to the age of six months and (ii) breast feeding along with appropriate practices related to the introduction of complementary feeding after the age of 6 months up to the age of 2 years or more (weaning).

Under the New Born Care scheme, 80 districts in phase I and 60 districts in phase II of the Empowered Action Group States were provided newborn care equipment to upgrade neonatal care facilities. In the selected districts, the National Neonatology Forum (NNF) has imparted training to 2,544 Medical Officers, Pediatricians and Obstetricians of the facilities where equipment has been supplied.

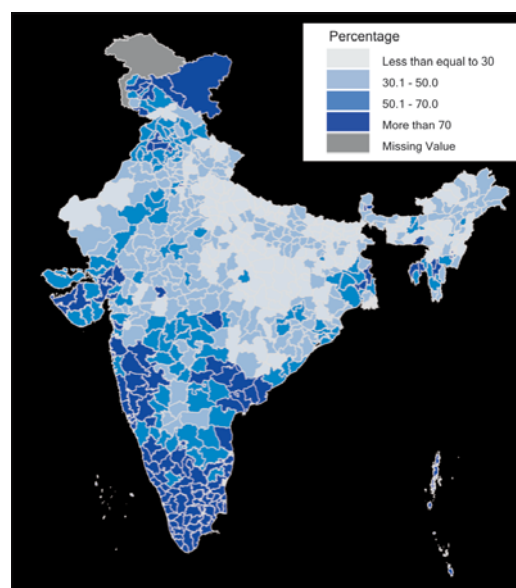
Iron Deficiency anaemia is widely prevalent among young children. As per the results of the National Family Health Survey-III (2005-06) 79.2% of children under the age of 3 years were anaemic. While 81.2% of rural children were found to be anaemic, its prevalence in urban children was 72.7%.

Under the National Programme, iron and folic acid tablets containing 20 mg of elemental iron and

0.1 mg of folic acid are provided at the sub-centre level. Current programme guidelines instruct health workers to provide 100 tablets to children clinically found to be anaemic. Kishori Shakti Yojana for adolescent girls (11-18) years was launched in 2000-01 as part of the ICDS. Immunization of the girl child is given special attention under the RCH programme.

It is estimated that there were 301 maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births at national level during 2001-03 as per SRS 2003 estimates by the Office of the Registrar General of India. Maternal Mortality is influenced by a whole range of socio-economic determinants. The status of women with low level of education, cultural mis-conceptions, economic dependency and lack of access to services, influences the maternal mortality and morbidity. Hospital based data reveals that States like Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana which have relatively better socio-economic and educational status have lower MMR than the other states. Thus, besides improving the maternal health care services, it is necessary to improve the social status of women, including the education standard, to reduce the current level of MMR.

Programmes for reducing Maternal Mortality and Morbidity include Programme for Prophylaxis



Delivery by skilled personnel %

NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY (NPP) BROUGHT OUT IN THE YEAR 2000 BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, INTER-ALIA, REPRESENTS THE COMMITMENT TOWARDS (A) VOLUNTARY AND INFORMED CHOICE AND CONSENT OF CITIZENS WHILE AVAILING OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND (B) CONTINUATION OF THE TARGET FREE APPROACH IN ADMINISTERING FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES. NPP 2000 PROVIDES A POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR ADVANCING GOALS AND PRIORITIZING STRATEGIES DURING THE CURRENT DECADE TO MEET REPRODUCTIVE AND CHILD HEALTH (RCH) NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF INDIA AND TO BRING THE TFR TO 2.1 BY 2010 TO ACHIEVE THE REPLACEMENT LEVEL. IT IS BASED UPON THE NEED TO SIMULTANEOUSLY ADDRESS ISSUES OF CHILD SURVIVAL, MATERNAL HEALTH, AND CONTRACEPTION WHILE INCREASING OUTREACH AND COVERAGE OF A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF REPRODUCTIVE AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES BY THE GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY AND THE VOLUNTARY AND NON-GOVERNMENT SECTOR. THE IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE IS TO ADDRESS THE UNMET NEEDS OF CONTRACEPTION, HEALTH CARE INFRASTRUCTURE AND HEALTH PERSONNEL AND TO PROVIDE INTEGRATED SERVICE DELIVERY FOR BASIC REPRODUCTIVE AND CHILD HEALTH CARE. THE LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE IS TO ACHIEVE A STABLE POPULATION BY 2045 AT A LEVEL CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

and treatment of nutritional Anemia, Essential Obstetric Care, Emergency Obstetric Care, and Promotion of safe deliveries at home and in institutions and Safe Abortion Services/ Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP). New initiatives include development of Obstetric Management and Emergency Obstetric skills and Setting up of Blood Storage Centers at FRU.

The sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years is 927 females for 1000 males. However, there are certain States/ districts with an alarmingly low sex ratio. This clearly indicates a strong son preference, widespread prevalence of pre-natal sex determination and selection practices and existence of some socio-cultural practices like dowry and low status accorded to women in decision-making. The legislation mandates the maintenance of records relating to the use of ultrasound machines and other equipments for sex determination.

National Rural Health Mission (2005-2012). The Government of India has mandated an increase in expenditure in health sector, with main focus on Primary Health Care from current level of 0.9% of GDP to 2-3% of GDP over the next five years. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), which is

the main vehicle for giving effect to the above mandate, was launched on 12.4.05. It is being operationalized throughout the country, with special focus on 18 states, which includes 8 Empowered Action Group States (Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Orissa and Rajasthan), 8 NE States, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

The main aim of NRHM is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities, especially, to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. It aims at bridging the gap in Rural Health care services through creation of a cadre of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and improved hospital care, decentralization of programme to district level to improve intra and inter-sectoral convergence and effective utilization of resources. The NRHM further aims to provide overarching umbrella to the existing programmes of Health and Family Welfare including RCH-II, Malaria, Blindness, and Iodine deficiency, Filariasis, Kala Azar, T.B., Leprosy and Integrated Disease Surveillance. Further, it addresses the issue of health in the context of sector-wide approach addressing sanitation and hygiene,

nutrition and safe drinking water as basic determinants of good health in order to have greater convergence among the related social sector Departments i.e. AYUSH, Women & Child Development, Sanitation, Elementary Education, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development. The NRHM also envisages mainstreaming of AYUSH and pro poor partnerships with Non Government Providers.

The expected outcomes of the Mission include reduction of Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to 30/1000 live births, Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) to 100/100,000 live births & Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to 2.1 by 2012. Further the Mission envisages guaranteed service delivery at all health facilities and quantifiable deliverables for all national disease Control Programmes. The Mission further seeks to build greater ownership of the programme among the community through involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGOs and other stake holders at National, State, District and Sub-District levels to achieve the goals of National Population Policy 2000 and National Health Policy 2002.

NRHM seeks to Strengthen the Public Health delivery system at all levels. The Sub-centre and PHCs are proposed to be revitalized through better human resource management, clear quality standards, better community support and an untied fund to enable local planning and action. The Indian Public Health Standards define structural, personnel, equipment and management standards and have been finalised for Community Health Centres (CHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub

ASHA : The ASHA would reinforce community action for universal immunization, safe delivery, newborn care, prevention of water-borne and other communicable diseases, nutrition and sanitation. In order that ASHAs work in close coordination with the AWW, she would be fully anchored in the Anganwadi system. ASHAs would also provide immediate and easy access for the rural population to essential health supplies like ORS, contraceptives, a set of ten basic drugs and she would have a health communication kit and other IEC materials developed for villages

Centres (SCs). All the facilities are also being provided untied funds to enable the local management committee to carry out locally relevant initiatives for better service delivery. At the level of the SC, untied funds are to be managed in the Joint account of ANM and the Gram Pradhan.

Decentralised Planning: Flexible, Decentralized Planning is the pivot on which the entire concept of the Mission revolves. The planning process in the sector shall be initiated by the Village Health & Sanitation Committee. The decentralised planning is envisaged to be taken up for the entire mission period in a perspective plan which would be broken into annual components where the activities shall be prioritised on basis of the availability of funds.

The National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) conducts annual round of HIV sentinel surveillance in identified sentinel sites all over the country. This round is conducted for 12 weeks from 1st August to 31st October every year. Sample size of 400 is collected on consecutive basis with unlinked anonymous basis methodology in 12 weeks' time. The clinics identified as sentinel sites report data to the State AIDS Control Sites (SACS), which further compiles and sends it to NACO after necessary consolidation.

The Family Planning Programme provides the following contraceptive services:

- o Sterilization as a terminal method
- o Intra Uterine Devices (IUD) for spacing births
- o Daily oral contraceptive Pill for spacing births.
- o Condoms for spacing births and prevention from HIV/AIDs.

Malaria is a public health problem in several parts of the country. About 95% population in the country resides in malaria endemic areas and 80% of malaria reported in the country is confined to areas consisting 20% of population residing in tribal, hilly, difficult and inaccessible areas. Directorate of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme is responsible for framing technical guidelines and

policies as well as to provide most of the resources for the programme, which is implemented by states. In every State/ UT, State Programme Officer under Ministry of Health is responsible for overall implementation and monitoring of the programme. For monitoring of the programme, indicators have been developed at national level and there is uniformity in collection, compilation and onward submission of data. Passive surveillance of malaria is carried out by Primary Health Centres (PHC), Malaria Clinics, Community Health Centres (CHC) and other secondary and tertiary level health institutions, which patients visit for treatment. At present, there are 22,975 PHCs, 2,935 CHCs and 13,758 Malaria Clinics. Active surveillance is carried out by health workers throughout the unit.

Currently, incidence of TB in the country is based on nation wide annual risk of TB infection (ARTI) survey conducted by National Tuberculosis Institute and Tuberculosis Research Centre between 2001-03. The methodology and validity of the estimates have been universally accepted. It is envisaged to undertake the ARTI surveys every 3-5 years to measure the progress towards MDG goals and impact of DOTS in the country. Prior to 2000, there was no large-scale nation wide survey conducted in the country. Estimates were based on small regional surveys undertaken from time to time. Annual risk of Tuberculosis Infection (ARTI) represents the proportion of population that gets newly infected (or reinfected) with tubercle bacilli over the course of one year. Based on Styblo's calculations, it has been estimated that for every one percent annual risk of tuberculosis infection, there are about 50 new pulmonary sputum smear positive cases per 100,000 population per year. Currently the average ARTI in the country as a whole is estimated to be 1.5% i.e., there will be 75 new smear positive cases per lakh population per year.

Prior to 2000, based on the small regional/ local ARTI surveys, the ARTI was estimated to be 1.7% in the country i.e., 85 NSP cases per lakh population per year. Tuberculosis is a leading killer of women. It kills women more than all other causes of maternal

mortality. To increase access to diagnosis and treatment of TB, under the **Revised National TB Control Programme**, microscopy centers for every 100,000 population in general areas and 50,000 in difficult tribal and hilly areas are being established. Treatment facilities have been decentralized by establishing Directly Observed Treatment Short Course centers nearest to the patient's residence and providing anti- TB drugs free of cost.

As per Census data, 62% of the total households in the country could use safe drinking water in 1991. By 2001, this proportion has increased to 85%. There has been substantial increase in the rural India, the percentage having increased from 55.5% in 1991 to 90% in 2005.

The 2001 Census indicates that out of total 53.69 million urban households, 36.86 million households are having tap water source, the remaining households have water supply from other sources such as hand pumps, tube wells, etc. Out of 36.86 million households, 26.67 million urban households are having tap water source within the premises, 8.08 million near the premises and 2.09 million away from the premises (i.e., the source is located at a distance of more than 100 metres from the premises). In order to provide water supply and sanitation facilities in all the urban towns and cities, the Ministry of Urban Development is introducing Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) having population up to one million as per 2001 Census. In 2005-06, due emphasis to infrastructure projects including water supply and sanitation has been accorded to address the problem of drinking water and sanitation in urban areas. A provision is available for Rs. 15,000 million for Viability Gap Funding for infrastructure projects with a mechanism to be used in conjunction with the funding mechanism through the Special Purpose Vehicle.

As a result of the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission's effort, the rural population's coverage by water supply infrastructure has increased steadily in recent years. In 2001, about

86.77% of the rural population (642 million of the total 740 million) had access to a safe source of drinking water, much higher than the 55.54% (357 million of 642 million) in 1991. As on 1.4.2005, 90% of the habitations have been covered, about 3.5 percent are partially covered, less than 0.5 percent habitations are yet to be covered and 6% habitations with problems of water quality have to be tackled. The State Governments and Mission have sufficient technical and financial capacity to carry forward the programme.

The practice of open defecation is borne out of a combination of factors, the most prominent of them being (a) the behaviour pattern and (b) lack

of awareness of the people about the associated health hazards. 19.23% of total population in the country had access to sewerage and toilet facilities in 1991. As per the latest Census (2001) data, only 36.4 percent of total population has latrines within/attached to their houses. However in rural areas, only 21.9 percent of population has latrines within/attached to their houses. Out of this, only 7.1 percent households have latrines with water closets, which are the most sanitized toilets. Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) is the main vehicle for promoting rural sanitation in the country. With the intervention of Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), the coverage is now estimated to be about 35%.

4

PROMOTION OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN

THE principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women. Within the framework of a democratic polity, our laws, development policies, Plans and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres.

The National Commission for Women was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of women. The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1993) to the Constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local levels.

India has also ratified various international conventions and human rights instruments committing to secure equal rights of women. Key among them is the ratification of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1993.

The women's movement and a wide-spread network of non-Government Organisations which have strong grass-roots presence and deep insight into women's concerns have contributed in inspiring initiatives for the empowerment of women.

However, there still exists a wide gap between the goals enunciated in the Constitution, legislation, policies, plans, programmes, and related mechanisms on the one hand and the situational reality of the status of women in India, on the other. This has

been analyzed extensively in the Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India, "Towards Equality", 1974 and highlighted in the National Perspective Plan for Women, 1988-2000; the Shramshakti Report, 1988 and the "Platform for Action, Five Years After- An Assessment".

Gender disparity manifests itself in various forms, the most obvious being the trend of continuously declining female ratio in the population in the last few decades. Social stereotyping and violence at the domestic and societal levels are some of the other manifestations. Discrimination against girl children, adolescent girls and women persists in parts of the country.

The underlying causes of gender inequality are related to social and economic structure, which is based on informal and formal norms, and practices.

Consequently, the access of women particularly those belonging to weaker sections including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/ Other backward Classes and minorities, majority of whom are in the rural areas and in the informal, unorganized sector - to education, health and productive resources, among others, is inadequate. Therefore, they remain largely marginalized, poor and socially excluded.

Constitutional Commitment

The Constitution of India guarantees the right to equality (Article 14, 16), to secure all citizens men and women, equally the right to means of livelihood (Article 39(a)), right to life (Article 21), right to equality and equal protection before the law (Article 15), provides for discrimination in favour of women (Article 15 (3), to make provision for ensuring just

and humane conditions of work and maternity relief (Article 42) and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51(A) (e)). The government invoking these provisions has introduced various special measures for promoting the development of women.

Legal provisions

To give the constitutional guarantees for the equality of women, the Government has enacted a number of laws, which are either women specific, or which are having provisions affecting women.

Laws related to protection of rights of working women

1. Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966
2. Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976
3. Cine Workers and Cinema theatre Workers (Regulation of employment) Act, 1981
4. Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970
5. Employees State Insurance Act, 1948
6. Equal Remuneration Act, 1976
7. Factories Act, 1948
8. Inter -State Migrant Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service Act, 1979)
9. Legal Practitioners (women) Act, 1923
10. Maternity Benefit Act, 1961
11. Minimum Wages Act, 1948
12. Payment of Wages Act, 1936
13. Plantations Labour Act, 1951
14. Workmen's compensation Act, 1923
15. Mines Act, 1952

Laws related to dowry, marriage and divorce

- Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- Foreign Marriage Act, 1969
- Special Marriage Act, 1954
- Christian Marriage Act, 1872
- Hindu Marriage Act, 1955
- Indian Divorce Act, 1869
- Converts' Marriage Dissolution Act, 1866

Special Laws for protection of women

- Protection of women from Domestic violence Act, 2005
- Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987
- Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986
- Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956

These Laws provide inter-alia, crèche facilities for the benefit of women workers, time off for feeding children during working hours, provision of maternity leave and separate toilets and washing facilities for female and male workers near the workplace and minimum wages, etc.

The National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001 commits to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to ensure their active participation in all spheres of public life. India has enfranchised women. India is the first country where since independence women have the right to vote to elect representatives for the National Parliament as well as State Assemblies. The women have equal right to contest any election subject to the fulfillment of eligibility conditions. So far 14 General Elections have been held for the Lok Sabha. The percentage of lady parliamentarians fluctuates between 8 to 12 % in these elections. In the current Lok Sabha (as on 9/1/07), there are 47 (8.6%) women members out of 544. As on 9/1/07, there are 25 women members out of 250 in the Rajya Sabha.

Commitment in the Tenth Plan

Promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women has been one of the central concerns of the Tenth Plan (2002-07), which spells out three pronged strategies of Social empowerment, Economic empowerment and Gender Justice for achieving this purpose.

Reservation for Women

73rd and 74th constitutional amendments provide for 33.3 % reservation of seats for women in rural and urban local bodies. Currently, more than 21 lakh representatives stand elected to the three levels of Panchayats; of these more than 40 % are women.

Providing an enabling environment for women and men to participate equally in decision-making at all levels of government is an essential ingredient of democracy. In India, 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendments in 1993 have brought forth the landmark provision and had a definite impact on the

participation of women in the democratic institutions for developmental activities at the grass root level. 33.3 % of elected seats are reserved for women, as also one-third of posts of chairpersons of these bodies. One third of the seats are further reserved for women belonging to SC and ST communities out of seats reserved for these communities. The provisions of the Panchayats (extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act 1996 (PESA) made this amendment applicable to Schedule V areas. In some States, the number of elected women exceeds the reserved one third. Today more than 21 lakh representatives stand elected to the three levels of Panchayats (District, Intermediate & Village Panchayats). Of these more than 40 per cent are women, 16 per cent belong to SCs and 11 per cent belong to STs.

Commitment for Women Empowerment (National Common Minimum Programme)

- Government will take the lead to introduce legislation for one third reservations for women in Vidhan Sabha and the Lok Sabha.
- Government will bring legislation on domestic violence and gender discrimination.
- Government will ensure at least one third of all funds flowing into panchayats earmarked for programmes for the development of women and children.
- Government will remove discriminatory legislation and enact new legislation that gives women, for instance, equal rights of ownership of assets like houses and lands.
- Government will bring about a major expansion in schemes for micro finance based on self-help groups, particularly in the backward and ecologically fragile areas of the country.
- Government will ensure facilities for schooling and extend special

Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan is an awareness campaign for women's empowerment. These are Sammelans of Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of the States at the grass root level (women Sarpanchs) who debate, discuss and deliberate on the issues that affect them as Panchayati Raj representatives. At the conclusion of each Sammelan, the group of EWR together

finalise the Draft Charter of Resolution of EWRs of the State.

Increased networking and formation of confederations of elected women representatives has helped to strengthen women's leadership. This approach has been especially successful in southern and western India. The formation of these networks has promoted solidarity among the elected women representatives, otherwise divided by caste, religion and geographical boundaries.

The reservation for women in State Assemblies and the National Parliament has been a matter of public debate for quite some time now. Although increasingly women have stood for elections and have got elected as members of State Legislative Assemblies and Parliament, the number of women Parliamentarians needs to be higher.

Although the number of women in leadership positions at the local administration level has shown an encouraging trend, the proportion of women at senior levels of government remains low. In order to enhance the momentum of development and empowerment of women the Government is implementing various schemes and taking fresh initiatives from time to time. Recognizing that women can leverage their strength, increase bargaining power and enhance capacities and skills through joint action, the approach of the government has been to encourage the organization of women into Self Help Groups (SHG) and to channel resources to these groups. The SHG movement has been supported through schemes of a large number of ministries/ departments including Women and Child Development, Rural Development, Urban Development, Handlooms and Handicrafts, Sericulture, Agriculture, etc. at the national and state levels. Women SHGs are now implementing a large number of developmental initiatives including watershed development, social forestry and employment oriented initiatives. They have become the main vehicle for providing women with access to savings, credit mechanism and institutions.

Various micro finance initiatives have gathered

momentum in recent years. **Rashtria Mahila Kosh (National Credit Fund For Women)**, was established in 1993 as an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It is registered society with an initial corpus fund of Rs. 31 crores.

It is functioning as a national level micro credit institution engaged in extending micro credit facilities for poor women of the country in the unorganized sector to help them to take up income generating activities for improvement of their socio economic status.



RMK gives loans to the intermediary channels like Government/ Organisations/ NGOs etc who in turn lend to the women SHGs. So far RMK has sanctioned and disbursed Rs. 203 crore and Rs.156 crore respectively benefiting 557110 women.

Other important schemes for socio- economic empowerment of women implemented by the M/o Women and Children, Government of India are :

- **Swayamsidha**, which is an integrated scheme for women's empowerment. It is based on formation of women into Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and aims at the holistic empowerment of women through awareness generation, economic empowerment and convergence of various schemes. As in Sept. 2006, 68163 women's SHGs have been formed under the scheme covering 9.94 lakh women members.

- **STEP (Support to Training and Employment Programme)** scheme which aims at providing training to poor and asset less women in traditional sectors like agriculture, animal husbandry and handicrafts, number of beneficiaries as in Sept. 2006 is 2.14 lakh.



VIEW OF A SWADHAR SHELTER HOME

The Swadhar Shelter Home: This Scheme has been designed with flexible and innovative approach to cater to the requirement of various types of women in distress in diverse situations under difficult conditions. The Swadhar Scheme purports to address the specific vulnerability of each group of women in difficult circumstances through a Home-based holistic and integrated approach. As on date, 148 Swadhar Shelter Homes and 183 Women Help Lines are functional in the different States of the country.

Support Services

- **Hostels for Working women :** In order to enable greater mobility of women in the employment market, the scheme of working women's Hostels aims at providing suitable, safe and inexpensive accommodation to working women residing in places away from their home towns as well as to those women who are undergoing training for professional courses. For this purpose financial assistance is provided for construction of hostels. The scheme is implemented through Voluntary Organizations, Women's Development Corporations, State Governments etc. As in Oct.2006, 873 Working Women Hostels are functional in the different States of the country.

- **Creches** : The Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme has been launched w.e.f January 2006 by merging the National Creche Fund and the assistance to voluntary organizations for crèche for working and ailing women's children. Under this scheme, a children (0-6 years) of working women are provided day care services, supplementary nutrition, health services etc.



- **Integrated Child Development Services Scheme** : It was launched in 1975 with the objective of enhancing the health nutrition and learning opportunities of infants and children (0-6 years) and their mothers. Pregnant women and lactating women are provided supplementary nutrition under this scheme.

Autonomous bodies under Ministry of Women and Child Development

- (i) **The National Commission for Women**

(NCW) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1992 to safeguard the rights and interests of women. It acts as a statutory ombudsperson for women. Its annual report containing recommendations are placed in Parliament by the government of India with a detailed compliance report. Several states have set up State Commissions for Women. The NCW had initiated in 1996, a country wide legal awareness programme for women to impart practical knowledge about basic legal rights and remedies provided under various laws. In addition to that, the NCW,

- Assists women in redressal of their grievances through Pre-litigation services.
- Facilitates speedy delivery of justice to women by organizing Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats in different parts of the country.
- Reviews the existing provisions of the Constitution and other laws affecting women and recommending amendments thereto, any lacunae, inadequacies or short comings in such legislations.
- Organizes promotional activities to mobilize women and get information about their status and recommend paradigm shift in the empowerment of women.

- (ii) **Central Social Welfare Board** is an umbrella organization networking the activities of state Social welfare Boards and voluntary



organizations. It implements a number of schemes including Family Counseling Centres,

Short Stay Homes, Rape Crisis intervention Centres, crèches for children of working mothers, etc. Some of the programmes being run by the Board are as follows:

- a) **Awareness Generation Camps:** The broad aim is to create awareness among rural and poor women on various social issues and provide a platform for them to come together, share their experiences, ideas and in the process, develop an understanding of reality and also the way to tackle their problems and fulfill their needs. The programme also enables women to organize themselves and strengthen their participation in decision making in the family and society.
- b) **Family Counseling Centres:** The objective of these centres is to provide preventive and rehabilitative services to women and even families that are victims of atrocities and family mal-adjustments. These centres help in mending family relations through crisis intervention and systematic counseling.
- c) **Short Stay Homes:** The scheme is meant to provide temporary accommodation, maintenance and rehabilitative services to women and girls suddenly rendered homeless due to family discord or crime.
- d) **Condensed Course of education for Adult Women:** The scheme has the objective of providing basic education and skills to needy women and also to benefit widows, destitute deserted women and those belonging to economically backward classes. Under the scheme, grant is given to voluntary organizations for conducting courses of two-year duration for preparing candidates for primary, middle and matric level examinations and one-year duration of matric failed candidates. Girls and women above 15 years of age are entitled to avail the benefit of the scheme.
- e) **Crèches for Children of working and ailing mothers:** The Crèche Programme provides day care services to children in the age-group 0-5

years from lower income group families. This scheme was formulated to ensure that such children are given proper care even in the absence of their mothers.

- (iii) **The Food and Nutrition Board (FNB)** is primarily engaged in empowering women with basic knowledge of nutrition and Health with a view to improve nutritional status of women and children. The field infrastructure of FNB comprising 43 Community Food and Nutrition Extension units (CFNEUS) located in 29 States/UTs are organizing various nutrition education and training activities, mass awareness campaigns.

Enlightening women, adolescent girls and the community at large on critical issues of nutrition particularly the correct norms of breast-feeding and complementary feeding, nutritional needs of vulnerable groups are the main subjects of awareness campaign.

The issue of unmet needs for nutrition of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, micronutrient deficiencies and the measures to meet the needs through popularising nutritive value of commonly available food stuff, conservation of nutrients while food preparation, home gardening for promoting production and consumption of fruits and vegetables etc are the means to.



Apart from M/o Women and Child Development other Ministries are also implementing schemes specifically meant for women or with reservation/ special consideration for women.

Important among them are:

- **Mahila Samakhyia Programme (programme for women's empowerment) of Ministry of Human Resource Development**, focuses on socially and economically disadvantaged and marginalized women groups. It uses education as a tool for empowering women to achieve equality and emphasizes the process of learning, besides seeking to bring about a change in women's perceptions about themselves and the perception of society in regard to women's roles. It is now operational in over 19,000 villages of 63 districts across 9 states i.e. Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Andra Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal.
- **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, seeks to restructure the health delivery system in rural areas by integrating the different disease control programmes and creating a single district health community which would work on a pooled budget for central funds and coordinate these activities while also seeking active involvement of PRIs. One of the main objectives of the NRHM is to protect the health of pregnant women to ensure safe delivery and health of new born baby and to improve the general health status of rural women.



WOMEN IN ADVENTURE SPORTS

The important schemes of Ministry of Rural Development for providing employment reservation for women are as follows:

- **Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY)** Self employment programme for rural poor ; the scheme envisages that 50% of Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed in each block should be exclusively for women who will account for atleast 40% of total Swarojgaris. Through commercial Banks the funds are disbursed to SHG or Swarojgaris themselves. Out of the total beneficiaries, 53.51% are women beneficiaries for the period 2005-06 (up to December 2005).
- **Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)** is a wage employment scheme launched in September 2001, open to all rural persons in need of wage employment; the objective is to provide additional wage employment in all rural areas and thereby food security and improve nutrition levels; The scheme is implemented through Panchayati Raj Institutions. 30% of employment opportunities are reserved for women.
- **National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme:** This is a demand based program to ensure livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to be provided to every household, whose adult members, volunteers to do unskilled manual work. The workers are to be provided minimum wages and each employment seeker is to be registered with Gram Panchayat and to be given a job card. Employment is to be given within 15 days, failing which daily unemployment allowance in cash is to be paid by States. This new scheme has been launched in Feb 2006. It has been provided that atleast one third of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work under the scheme. Persons older in age and women shall be given preference to work on work sites nearer to residence.

The employment generation programme of **M/o Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation** :

- **Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY):** This scheme was launched to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed through encouraging the self employment ventures or provision of wage employment. The programme is applicable to all urban towns with special emphasis on urban poor clusters. Special attention is given to women belonging to SC/ST/Disabled groups and other such categories as may be indicated by the Government from time to time. The percentage of women beneficiaries under SJSRY should not be less than 30%. All other conditions being equal, women beneficiaries belonging to women headed household viz. widows, divorcees, single women or even household where women are the sole earners are ranked higher in priority. One of the distinct parts of the scheme is 'assistance to groups of urban poor women for setting up gainful self-employment ventures. This sub scheme is called 'The scheme for Development of Women and Children in the Urban Areas (DWCUA)'.

Important schemes/ programmes of the M/o Tribal Affairs meant exclusively for Scheduled Tribe women.

- **Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana:** National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), a Government of India undertaking under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing a scheme titled 'Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana' exclusively for the economic empowerment of Scheduled Tribes women. Under the scheme, concessional



financial assistance is provided to eligible scheduled tribe women through Self Help Groups for undertaking income generating activities. Upto 2005-06, a total of Rs. 24.82 crore had been disbursed to 18,789 numbers of tribal women beneficiaries under the scheme

- **Educational complexes in low literacy pockets for the development of women literacy:** The scheme is implemented since 1993-94 with the primary objective of promoting education among tribal girls in the identified low literacy districts of the country. Under the scheme 100 % grant is provided to the NGOs, institutions set up by Government as autonomous bodies and registered cooperative societies. The scheme also covers primitive tribal population irrespective of the literacy percentage of women. Under the scheme, total expenditure during 2005-06 alone was of the order of Rs.6.00 cr. These funds were provided for as many as 67 educational complexes; number of tribal girls benefited being 9094 during 2005-06 and over 35,000 during the first four years (2002-2006) of the 10th Plan.
- **ST girls Hostel:** The main objective of the scheme is to promote literacy among Scheduled Tribe girls by providing hostel accommodation in schools as well as colleges and universities to such tribal students who are not in a position to continue their education because of their poor economic condition and remote location of their villages. The cost of construction of the hostel building is equally shared between the centre and the State in the ratio of 50: 50. In case of Union Territories the Central Government bears the entire cost of the building. A total of 643 hostels have been sanctioned under the scheme with 36300 seats since inception of the scheme.

The M/o Tribal Affairs also lays emphasis on formulation of women Self Help Groups (SHGs) for grant of soft term loans and other grants released under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan(SCA to TSP) and grants under article 275(1)

of the constitution. The schemes provide that project/ schemes should be so drawn up that issues affecting tribal women are brought centre stage and their participation right from the stage of formulation to implementation of various development projects is ensured. To this effect, at least 30 % of the funds are to be kept apart for women for taking up women oriented projects.

Initiatives to combat trafficking of women and children

India is known to be a source, transit and destination for victims of trafficking and has enacted the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act to combat it. Some other major initiatives include the National Plan of Action to combat Trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children in 1998, with the objective to mainstream and reintegrate the women and child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in society. The definition of trafficking adopted by India is as per the UN definition and encompasses organ sale, slavery, and bonded labour besides commercial sexual exploitation. A protocol for pre rescue, rescue and post rescue of victims of trafficking has been formulated which takes care of human rights of victims and advises strategies to be adopted by State Governments, Police and rescue teams. The immoral Traffic (prevention) bill 2006 was introduced in Parliament on 22nd May 2006 and has

been examined by the Ministry related Parliamentary Standing Committee and their report has been received and is under examination. The Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 has been amended and passed in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in December 2006 and is awaiting the presidential assent before becoming an Act.

Budgeting for gender equity: Development and Empowerment of women has been a priority in successive plans and several public expenditure programmes are directed towards this. However, outcomes of administrative intent are not often realized. Women face gender specific barriers to access of public services and expenditure. Gender budgeting is a new initiative, which lends itself to strengthening of administrative processes and actions to achieve the targets for improvement in the position of women. Awareness generation programmes, capacity building at central and state/ UT level, identification of action areas, constraints and step forward, implementation and its monitoring at various levels of administration etc are initiatives under gender budgeting. It not only entails at looking at allocation of resources for women but goes beyond to cover tracking the utilization of allocated resources, impact analysis and beneficiary incidence analysis of public expenditure and policy from gender perspective.

5

PROMOTION OF RIGHTS AND WELL-BEING OF THE CHILD

Constitutional provisions

Article 14 – The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of laws within the territory of India.

Article 15 – The State shall not discriminate against any citizen. Nothing in this article prevents the State from making any special provision for women and children.

Article 21 – No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

Article 21A -The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age 6-14 years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.

Article 23 -Trafficking of human beings and beggar and other forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with the law.

Article 24 –No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.

Article 39(e) enjoins the State to ensure that the health and strength of workers, men and women and the tender age of children are not abused and that the citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength.

Article 39(f) enjoins the State to ensure that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that the childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.

Article 45 -The State shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.

Article 243 G read with Schedule 11- provides for institutionalization of child care by seeking to entrust programmes of women and child development to Panchayat (item 25 of Schedule 11), apart from education (item 17), family welfare (item 25), health and sanitation (item 23) and other items with a bearing on the welfare of children

Legislations for promotion of rights and well-being of children

1. The Child Marriage (Restraint) Act, 1929.
2. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.
3. The Juvenile Justice (Protection and Care of children) Act, 2000.
4. The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and distribution) Act, 1992 and its amendment Act in 2003.
5. The Pre-Conception and Pre- Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of sex selection) Act, 1994.
6. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.
7. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.
8. The Guardian and Wards Act, 1890.
9. The Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Act, 1956.
10. The Commissions For Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005

Commission for Protection of the Child Rights Act, 2005: The Government has recently notified the Commissions for protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 in the Gazette of India on 20th Jan. 2006 as Act No.4 of 2006. The Act envisages setting up a National Commission at the national level and the State Commissions at the State level. These Commissions would be working for proper enforcement of children's rights and effective implementation of laws and programmes relating to children. Initiatives are being taken for constitution of the National Commission for protection of child rights.

National Policy for Children was adopted on 22nd August 1974. According to this, the State shall provide adequate services towards children, both before and after birth and during the growing stages for their full physical, mental and social development. The measures suggested include, amongst others, a comprehensive health programme, programmes to provide nutrition for expecting mothers and children, free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14 years, promotion of physical education and recreational activities, special consideration for children of weaker sections like SCs and STs, prevention of exploitation of children, etc.

National Charter for Children is a statement of intent embodying the Government's agenda for Children and emphasizes Government of India's commitment to children's rights to survival, health and nutrition, standard of living, play and leisure, early childhood care, education, protection of the girl child, equality, life and liberty. It also seeks to ensure freedom of expression, freedom of association, the right to a family and right to be protected from economic exploitation. The document also conveys commitment of the State to children in difficult circumstances, children with disabilities, children from marginalized and disadvantaged communities and child victims. The document while stipulating the duties of the State and the Community towards children also emphasizes the duties of children towards family,

society and the Nation. The National Charter for Children was notified in the Gazette on 9th February 2004.

Convention on the rights of the child (CRC): India acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on 11th December 1992 and reiterated its commitment to the cause of children. The objective of the Convention is to give every child the right to survival and development in a healthy and congenial environment.

National Plan of Action for Children, 2005: The Ministry of Women and Child Development has formulated a National Plan of Action for Children after harmonizing the goals for children set in the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children held on 2002 and the monitorable targets set in the Tenth Five Year Plan. The National Plan of Action includes goals, objectives, strategies and activities for improving nutritional status of children, reducing IMR and MMR, increasing enrolment ratio and reducing drop out rates, universalisation of primary education, increasing coverage for immunization, etc. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is monitoring the implementation of National Plan of Action for Children, 2005

The Government of India is implementing various programmes for the benefit of children. The important schemes for children implemented by **Ministry of Women and Child Development** are:

- **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS):** This scheme launched in 1975 has become the World's largest programme aimed at enhancing the health, nutrition and learning opportunities of infants, young children (0-6 yrs) and their mothers. Pregnant women and lactating mothers are also covered under the scheme as nutritional and health status of infants and young children cannot improve without improving the nutritional & health status of the pregnant women & lactating mothers. The scheme provides an integrated approach for converging basic services through community based workers and helpers at a centre called

'Anganwadi'. The package of services provided is supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check ups, referral services, pre- school non - formal education and nutrition and health education. With the recent expansion of the scheme the total number of ICDS block operational (cumulative) is 5659 and anganwadis operational (cumulative) is 748229 numbers as on 31/3/06. As on 31/3/06, 467.18 lakhs children (6 months - 6 years) and 95.00 lakhs pregnant & lactating women have been provided supplementary nutrition under ICDS Scheme. Similarly, 244.92 lakhs children (3-6 years) have received pre-school education as on 31/3/06.

- **Balika Samridhi Yojana**, the scheme launched in 1997 with the objective of raising the overall status of the girl child and bringing out a positive change in family and community attitude towards her. The scheme covers upto two girl children born on or after 15th August 1997 in a family living below the poverty line as defined by Government of India in any rural or urban area. As per the recast scheme (after the review in 1999-2000), the post delivery grant of Rs. 500/- will be deposited in an interest bearing account in a bank or post office in the name of girl child. In addition, the girl child will be entitled to receive scholarship for each class of study successfully completed by her ranging from Rs. 300/- for class 1 to Rs. 1000/- for class X as bank deposit. The accumulated value of the deposits in the account will be payable to the girl child on her attaining the age of 18 years and having remained unmarried till then. The Planning Commission has proposed transfer of the scheme to States.
- **Rajiv Gandhi National Creche scheme for the children of working mothers:** The scheme has been launched w.e.f 1.1.2006 by merging the National Creche Fund with the scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for creche for working and ailing women's children with financial norms Rs. 42,384/- per creche per annum. Under this scheme working women

from the economically weaker sections are provided support services in terms of substitute care through crèches for children in the age group of 0-6 years. The children are provided day care services, supplementary nutrition, health services etc. The scheme envisages setting up of 14719 new crèches during the remaining period of 10th five year plan.

- **Integrated Programme for Street Children:** The objective of the programme is to prevent destitution of children and facilitate their withdrawal from life on the streets. The programme provides for facilities like shelter, nutrition, health care, education, recreation facilities to street children, and seeks to protect them against abuse and exploitation. The programme components include establishment of 24 hours drop-in shelters, non-formal education programmes, programmes for reintegration of children with their families and placement of destitute in foster care homes/ hostels and residential schools, programmes for vocational training and placement, programmes aimed at health care and reducing the incidence of drug and substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, etc. programmes for capacity building and for advocacy and awareness.
- **A Programme for Juvenile Justice** is implemented for (a) extending help to State Governments to bear the cost of infrastructure and services development under the Juvenile Justice Act (b) to ensure minimum quality standards in the homes set up under Juvenile Justice Act, (c) providing adequate services for prevention of social maladjustment and rehabilitation of socially maladjusted juveniles and (d) ensuring participation of community and other organizations in the care and protection of children in conflict with law who are more vulnerable than other groups of children.
- **Innovative schemes by Central Social Welfare Board** support projects for addressing the problems of special groups/ local areas like

rehabilitation of children of prostitutes, counseling for adolescent girls having suicidal tendencies, rehabilitation of children of rag pickers, leprosy patients etc., relief and rehabilitation work in States affected by natural and man made calamities, marketing of goods produced by Self Help Groups and cooperatives, workshops on children's theatre.

- **Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)** is an autonomous agency under the Ministry of Women & Child Development to regulate and monitor the working of recognized social/child welfare agencies engaged in inter country adoption through State Govt./UT Administrations. CARA is also expected to promote domestic adoptions by ensuring that all children referred for foreign adoptions are given an opportunity to be adopted within the country. The objective of the Shishu Greh Scheme by CARA is to promote adoptions within the country and to provide care and protection to abandoned/ orphaned/ destitute children between the age of 0-6 years. Grant - in - Aid upto a ceiling of Rs. 6 lakh is provided per unit of 10 children in a Shishu Greh.
- **Child line service** is a toll free emergency and outreach service for children in distress situations. Any child in distress or an adult on his/her behalf can assess the service by dialing the telephone number 1098 free of charge. The child line organization in the city will reach out to this child and provide assistance like medical help, restoration to original family or referral for institutional case.
- **Child line India Foundation (CIF)**, Mumbai has been set up as a nodal organization, supported by Government of India, to monitor and ensure the qualitative development of the child line service across the country. It has prescribed minimum quality standards for the services to be provided by partner organizations of CIF that are implementing Child line projects in various cities of the country. It initiates

preparatory activity that precedes the initiation of Child line service in any city. CIF is also involved in awareness and advocacy in order to strengthen the efforts relating to child welfare.

Apart from M/o Women and Child Development, other Ministries are also implementing schemes, specifically meant for children or with special consideration for children. Important among those are:

- **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)** being implemented by the M/o Human Resource Development provides for school infrastructure and quality improvement in education of the girl child, with specific objectives of 'all children to be in school by 2005, universal retention by 2010 and bridging all gender and social gaps at primary (I-V class) stage by 2007 and at elementary (I-VIII class) education level by 2010'. Under this programme, the government aims to provide free and compulsory elementary education to all children in the 6-14 age group by 2010. The SSA programme is also an attempt to provide an opportunity for improving human capabilities of all children, through provision of community owned quality education in a mission mode. Education of girls is the primary focus in SSA and efforts are made to mainstream gender concerns in all the activities under the SSA programme. Mobilisation at the habitation/ village/ urban slum level, recruitment of teachers, up- gradation of primary into upper primary schools(upto class VIII) and incentives like mid day meals, uniforms, education provisions like text books, stationery, all take into account the gender focus.
- **National Programme for education** of girls at elementary level is being implemented by Department of Education for children in difficult circumstances including out of school girls, drop out girls, working girls, girls from marginalized social groups, girls with low levels of achievement to gain quality elementary education and to develop self esteem of girls through a community based approach.

- **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya** is a new scheme being implemented by Department of Education, which enables opening of 750 special residential schools for the girl child belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes and minority in educationally backward blocks having low female literacy.
- **Mid-day meal Scheme** is also one of the important schemes of the Government to aim universal enrollment and retention.
- **National Rural Health Mission (2005-12) (NRHM)** seeks to provide effective health care to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 States, which have weak public health indicators and/ or weak infrastructure. The goals of NRHM are reduction in Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Rate, universal access to public health services such as women's health, child health, water, sanitation and hygiene, immunization and nutrition, prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases including locally endemic diseases, access to integrated comprehensive primary health care, population stabilization, gender and demographic balance, revitalize local health traditions and mainstream AYUSH; and promotion of healthy life styles.
- **Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme:** The programme was launched in 1997 and is being implemented by the M/o Health and Family Welfare. It provides for effective maternal and child health care, micronutrient interventions for vulnerable groups, reproductive health services for adolescent etc. Some important programmes cover (i) Immunization for children for DTP, Polio and Tetanus Toxoid for women (ii) Vitamin A administration (iii) Iron and Folic Acid tablets for pregnant women. This programme intergrates all family welfare and women and child health services with the explicit objective of providing beneficiaries with 'need based,

client centered, demand driven and high quality integrated RCH services'.

- **National Child Labour Project (NCLP) scheme:** The Ministry of Labour and Employment initiated this scheme in 12 districts in 1988 with the objective of withdrawing and rehabilitating children working in identified hazardous occupations and processes. The number of projects was increased to 100 during 9th plan and these have been further expanded to cover 250 districts during 10th Plan. Under the scheme, special schools are opened for working children withdrawn from work with the objective of preparing them to join the formal education system. The special schools under NCLP scheme provide for formal/ non formal education, vocational training, mid- day meal @ Rs. 5/ per day per child and stipend @ Rs. 100/- per month per child.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in partnership with the State Governments/Voluntary Organisations implements various schemes/programmes for educational, social and economic empowerment of Scheduled Castes (SC), Other Backward Classes(OBC), aged persons, persons with disabilities, victims of substance abuse and children with special needs as well as those belonging to socially/ economically backward groups.

- **Pre-Matric Scholarship to the Children of those Engaged in Unclean Occupations-** The Scheme financially assists the children of scavengers, sweepers having traditional link with scavenging, flayers and tanners, irrespective of their religion, to pursue education up to matriculation level. Day scholars and hostlers are provided scholarship between Rs. 40 to Rs. 75 per month. Rate of scholarship for the hostlers is Rs. 300-375 per month. The annual ad-hoc grant for day scholars and hostlers are Rs. 550/- and Rs. 600/- respectively.
- **Post-Matric Scholarship for SC Students** - The objective of the Scheme is to provide financial

assistance to SC students for pursuing recognised post matriculation courses in recognized institutions. The financial assistance includes maintenance allowance, special allowances for SC students with disabilities, Book Banks, study tour charges, thesis typing/printing charges, book grants to students pursuing correspondence courses and provision of reimbursement of non-refundable compulsory fees charged by an educational institution.

- **Coaching & Allied Scheme for SC and OBC Students** - Under the scheme, free coaching facilities are provided to those whose income/parent income does not exceed Rs. 1,00,000/- p.a. to enable them to compete successfully in the competitive examinations. Specialized Coaching for recruitment into BPO sector has also been introduced as a part of the scheme during 2004-05. The module includes coaching in personality development, skill development in English language, voice & accent training and computer familiarization for appointment in call centers/BPO industry.
- **Hostels for SC Boys & Girls** - The objective of the Scheme is to provide hostels facilities to SC Boys and Girls studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and Universities. The financial assistance is provided for construction of hostels. The maintenance of Hostel, Boarding and Lodging of students, however, rests with the respective States/UTs. The financial assistance is provided to NGOs through their respective States/UTs under the Scheme only for expansion of existing hostels. The States/UTs/Universities/NGOs concerned are to provide developed land of their own.
- **Up gradation of merit for SCs Students**- The Scheme is meant for upgrading the merit of SC students by providing them remedial coaching for removing deficiencies in various subjects and special coaching and preparing them for competitive examinations for seeking entry into professional courses like engineering and medical

disciplines. Scheduled Castes students studying in classes IX to XII are the target group of the scheme. A package grant of Rs.15,000/- per student per year is being provided under the scheme and the students suffering from various forms of disabilities are entitled for special allowances like readers allowance, transport allowance, escorts allowance etc.

- **Assistance to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of SCs** - Under the Scheme, grant in aid is given by the Government of India to the voluntary organizations to the extent of 90% of each project cost for activities, such as, opening of facilities for general/technical/vocational education including pre-school education, service activities such as medical centers, dispensaries and income generating activities, such as, technical training in a variety of commercial trades.
- **National Policy for Persons with Disabilities** - Recognizing that the Persons With Disabilities are valuable human resources for the country, a National Policy for Persons with Disabilities has been announced which will ensure physical rehabilitation, education, economic rehabilitation and social security for the disabled and provides early intervention in education, employment, creating barrier free environment, vocational training, reservation of job in the State Sector, non-discrimination, research and manpower development. The policy alongwith the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 will cover the prevention and early detection of disabilities and other aspects of rehabilitation such as early intervention, education, employment, creating barrier free environment, vocational training, research & manpower development. Special problems of women and children with disabilities have also been addressed in the policy.
- **Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme** provides grant in aid to Voluntary Organisations

for running rehabilitation centres for leprosy cured persons, for manpower development in the field of mental retardation and cerebral palsy, visual impairment and hearing impairment and special schools for the major areas of orthopaedic, hearing, visual and mental disability. Free aid and appliances are provided to them with income upto Rs.6,500/- per month. For income level between Rs.6501/- to 10,000/- the aids are provided at 50% of the cost. Only those aids/appliances, which do not cost more than Rs.6,000/-, are covered under the Scheme. The scheme also includes in its ambit, medical/surgical correction and intervention, which is essential prior to fitment of aids and appliances. The motorized tri-cycles for persons with locomotor disability and software for visually handicapped persons using computers, which may cost more than Rs.6,000/-, are proposed to be permitted.

- **Pre-Matric Scholarships for other Backward classes (OBC)** - Under this scheme, scholarships are awarded to the students belonging to OBC whose parents/guardians' income from all sources do not exceed Rs.44,500/- per annum. The scholarships are given to the students in Class I or any subsequent class of pre-matric stage in the case of day scholars and Class II or any subsequent class of pre-matric stage in the case of hostellers. The duration of scholarship in an academic year is 10 months. The scholarship is tenable in such institutions and for such pre-matriculation courses, which have been duly recognized by the concerned State Government and Union Territory Administration. Under the scheme, 50% Central Assistance is provided to the state Governments and 100% to Union Territories(UT).
- **Post-Matric scholarships to the OBC students for studies in India** - The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to the OBC students studying at post-matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable

them to complete their education. These scholarships are available for studies in India only. Under the Scheme, 100% central assistance is provided to State Government/UT Administrations. These scholarships are given for study in recognized institutions. Unemployed students whose parents/guardians income from all sources does not exceed Rs.44,500/- per annum are entitled for scholarship under the Scheme.

- **Hostel for OBC students**- The scheme aims at providing better educational opportunities to students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes notified as such in the Central/State/UT lists of OBC, generally referred to as Other Backward Classes (OBC). It would, however, not cover students belonging to the Creamy Layer i.e. whose parents/guardians' income exceed Rs.2.50 lakh per annum. Hostels under the scheme are constructed in the areas having a large OBC population but inadequate hostel facilities and 50% central assistance is provided to the States. These hostels are set up for middle, secondary, college and university level students.
- **Support of Voluntary Organisations for Welfare of OBC** - The Government assists the voluntary sector to improve educational and socioeconomic conditions of other backward classes with a view to upgrade their skill and enable them to start income generating activities either through self-employment or wage employment. Under the scheme, grant-in-aid up to 90% of the approved cost is given for running of vocational training courses, such as carpentry, computer, craft, electrician, motor winding and fitting, photography, printing, composing and book binding, type and short hand and welding and fitter training, etc.
- **Scheme for prevention of Alcoholism and substance abuse**- Under the Scheme, grant in aid is provided to the NGOs for awareness generation, motivational counseling, treatment

and rehabilitation of drug addicts. The Ministry has recently launched National Drug Awareness Campaign on the occasion of International Day against Drug

Abuse on 26th June 2006 in New Delhi in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drug & Crimes (UNODC). The said campaign, which is aimed at preventing drug abuse among young people would target youth in the age group of 10 to 18 years, both in and out of the school through a multi-sectoral approach.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs being the nodal Ministry for all round development of Scheduled Tribes, the following schemes/ provisions are being implemented by this Ministry for the well being of children belonging to Scheduled Tribes category:

- **Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):** Acknowledging the need of quality education to children belonging to STs, the M/o Tribal Affairs has sanctioned 100 EMRS to be set up in the country on the lines of Navodaya Vidhyalayas to enable the ST students to have access to quality education. In these schools, 50 per cent seats are earmarked for physically and mentally challenged students. As in September

2006, 67 such schools have been established under the scheme.

- **Post-Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Tribes students:** The objective of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to students belonging to Scheduled Tribes pursuing Post matriculation recognized courses in recognized institutions. The scheme covers professional, technical as well as non- professional and non-technical courses at various levels and the scheme also includes correspondence courses including distance and continuing education. During the 10th Five year Plan (up to 2005-06), 30.16 lakh Scheduled Tribes students have benefited from the programme.
- **Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas:** The objective of the scheme is to extend facilities like establishment of residential schools for STs, for primary, middle, secondary and senior secondary stages, in an environment conducive to learning to increase the literacy rates among the tribal children and to bring them at par with the other population of the country. 221 schools have been set up under this scheme during the 10th Five year Plan (up to 2005-06).

6

DRUG DE-ADDICTION, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION

India with a population of over 1 billion people has about 73.2 Million drug users and drug dependent users. Of these, 87 lakhs are cannabis users, 20 lakhs are opiate users and 6.25 crore are alcohol dependents. The use of dependence-producing substances, in some form or the other, has been a common phenomenon and the abuse of alcohol, opium and cannabis had not been entirely unknown in the past in this country. India is the biggest supplier of licit opium required primarily for medicinal purposes. Besides this, India is located close to the major poppy growing areas of the world, with "Golden Crescent" on the Northwest and "Golden Triangle" on the North-East. These make India vulnerable to drug abuse particularly in the poppy growing areas and along the transit/trafficking routes.

Drug and alcohol abuse is becoming an area of concern as this is increasing while traditional moorings, social taboos, emphasis on self-restraint and pervasive control and discipline of the joint family and community are eroding. The fast changing social milieu arising out of the social and economic transition that the country is going through, among other factors, is contributing to the proliferation of drug abuse, both of traditional and of new psychoactive substances. The introduction of synthetic drugs and intravenous drug use leading to HIV/AIDS has added a new dimension to the problem.

The rough estimation of about 7.32 crore population dependent on substance addiction including those dependent on alcohol, has been the basis for various interventions

The issues relating to drugs are tackled by the Government of India through its two-pronged strategy viz. supply and demand reduction. Whereas supply reduction is under the purview of the enforcement agencies with the Department of Revenue as the nodal agency, the demand reduction strategy is under the purview of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

Drug abuse is not only a problem arising out of the availability and supply side of such intoxicating drinks & drugs but it has also a great deal to do with the social conditions which create the demand for or the need for consumption of such substances. The vulnerability of modern society plays a catalytic role in promoting the consumption and abuse of narcotic and psychotropic drugs.

Findings of studies/reports indicate the relationship of drug abuse with the socio-economic conditions or the social dynamics of the population. Therefore, the approach is to recognize drug abuse as a psycho-socio medical problem, which can be best handled through community-based interventions.

The need for implementing strategies for prevention of drug abuse, educating the people about its ill effects and rehabilitation of the addicts was therefore felt. **The UN General Assembly also in its 17th Special Session in 1998 had accepted Demand Reduction as the indispensable pillar of drug control strategies and had urged upon all the Members States to take immediate steps so as to make significant achievement by the end of 2003 in controlling**

the demand for consumption of illicit drugs.

Keeping the aforesaid approach in view, the Govt. of India has a three-pronged strategy for demand reduction consisting of: -

- **Building awareness and educating people about ill effects of drug abuse**
- **Dealing with the addicts through a programme of motivational counselling, treatment, follow-up and social-reintegration of recovered addicts.**
- **To impart drug abuse prevention/rehabilitation training to volunteers with a view to build up an educated cadre of service providers.**

The objective is to empower the society and the community to deal with the problem of drug abuse.

TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSERS : Government NGO Partnership

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, as the focal point for drug demand reduction programmes in the country, has been implementing the **Scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention** since the year 1985-86. Implementation of programmes for de-addiction and rehabilitation of drug addicts require sustained and committed/effort with a great degree of flexibility and innovation, a State- Voluntary Organization partnership appears to be the right mechanism for such service delivery. Accordingly, under the Scheme, while a major portion of the cost of services is borne by the Government, the voluntary organizations provide actual services through the Counseling and Awareness Centres and Treatment cum Rehabilitation Centres.

Under this Scheme, the Ministry is assisting around 346 voluntary organizations that are running 398 Treatment-cum-Rehabilitation Centres and 30 Counseling and Awareness Centres. An amount of Rs. 22.35 crore was released during the year 2005-06. The budget allocation for the current year is Rs. 30 crore.

The basic objective in creating facilities for treatment, at Centres run through voluntary organisations, is to ensure that the support of the family and the community is mobilized to the maximum. These Centres adopt a wide variety of approaches, systems and methodologies for treatment and rehabilitation of the addicts suitable and adaptable to the social customs, traditions and culture while utilising scientific, modern and established systems of treatment.

The rehabilitation and social reintegration of an addict is the mainstay of any such initiative. Therefore, all programmes for treatment of addicts must compulsorily integrate programmes for psychosocial counseling of the addict and his family/peer groups; and comprehensive programme for after-care and follow-up.

To attain these objectives, all Centres are staffed with doctors, counsellors, community workers, etc. Thus, it is a multi-disciplinary approach being applied according to the needs of the individual case. The Centres also try to achieve a convergence of community and govt. resources while developing networks for accessing the required services.

AWARENESS AND PREVENTIVE EDUCATION

The Counselling and Awareness Centres are engaged in a wide range of awareness generation programmes in varied community settings including local bodies, schools, highways etc. Besides these Centres, the Ministry has been actively utilizing the media channels, for educating the people on the ill effects of drug abuse and also disseminating information on the service delivery.

The overall approach is based on the need to comprehensively address the widespread ignorance and lack of information on the ill- effects of drug abuse and preventive/rehabilitation services that are available. A climate of abstinence from drugs through sensitizing the community at large is sought to be built up.

TRAINING AND MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT-Development of service providers

The Government has established a National Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention (NC-DAP) under the aegis of the National Institute of Social Defence, New Delhi, to serve as the apex body in the country for training, research and documentation in the field of drug abuse prevention. To meet the growing demand for trained professionals in the country, the Centre has been conducting Certificate Course on De-addiction Counselling and Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers. It has also been conducting advocacy programmes, seminars, conferences and training courses all over the country in collaboration with the State Govt. Institutions and NGOs for sensitisation, awareness generation and training.

To decentralise the training interventions consistent with local needs, eight institutions (non-government organisations) have been designated as Regional Resource and Training Centres (RRTC), representing different regions of the country. These RRTCs have also been mandated for regular monitoring of programmes, assessing training needs of the service providers and conducting advocacy at the regional level. This arrangement has been made in view of the size of the country and regional variations necessitating specific strategies.

INTER-SECTORAL COLLABORATION

The Government of India has been following an integrated approach involving all concerned

Ministries and Departments, which can complement and supplement the initiatives being taken by each other. The initiatives being taken include imparting education on drugs to the youth through appropriate modification in school curriculum and sensitisation of school environment. Programmes have been developed for the sensitisation of the teachers, parents and the peer groups in a school environment through the participation of the Non-Government Organisations. The cooperation of the media and various youth organisations has also been solicited for dissemination of information on ill effects of alcohol/drugs and in engaging the community in positive/healthy alternatives.

Available Government infrastructure and services have been integrated with the services offered by the NGO sector for dealing with associated health problems such as TB, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis etc. Simultaneously, steps have been initiated for providing training to the NGO professionals on medical inputs for providing effective service to the clients. One of the successful initiatives towards inter-sectoral collaboration has been the integration of HIV/AIDS prevention programme of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare into the substance abuse programme of nearly 200 NGO run De-addiction Centres supported by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The De-addiction Centres in Hospitals run by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare have also been linked up with this Ministry's NGO run de-addiction centres for referral and support services.

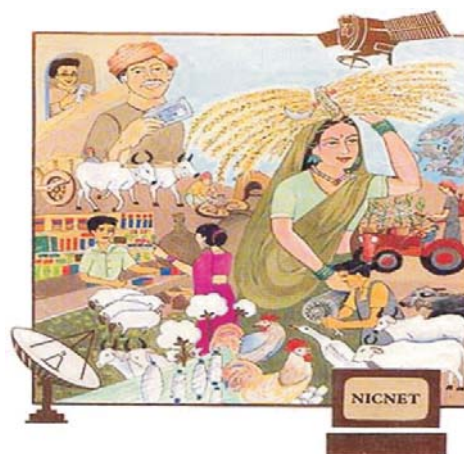
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ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Environment can be defined as the physical surrounding of man/woman of which he/she is a part and on which he/she is dependent for his/her activities like physiological functioning, production and consumption. His physical environment stretches from air, water and land to natural resources like energy carriers, soil and plants, animals and ecosystems. The relationship between physical environment and the well being of individuals and societies is multi-fold and multi-faceted with a qualitative as well as a quantitative aspect to it. The availability and use of natural resources have a bearing on the outcome and the pace of development process. For an urbanized society, a large part of environment is man made. But, even then, the artificial environments (building, roads) and implements (clothes, automobiles) are based on an input of both labour and natural resources. Commonly, the term 'Environment' is restricted to ambient environment. In that view, the indoor environment (home, work place) is regarded as isolated piece of environment to be treated on its own terms.

Development activities are measured in terms of national products, which in turn are defined as production of goods and services during accounting period. However, certain environmental functions, which are crucial for economic performance and generation of human welfare such as provision of natural resources to production and consumption activities, waste absorption by environmental media and environmental services of life support and other human amenities, are taken into account only partly in conventional accounts. The scarcities of natural

resources now threaten the sustained productivity of the economy and economic production and consumption activities. These activities impair environmental quality by over loading natural sinks with wastes and pollutants. The environmental consequence of development tends to offset many benefits that may be accruing to individuals and societies on account of rising incomes. There are direct costs on the health of individuals, their longevity and on quality of life on account of



deterioration in environmental quality to mention a few. More importantly, the environmental damage can also undermine future attainments and productivity, if the factors of production are adversely affected. Therefore, the private and social costs of the use of the natural resources and the degradation of the environment may be taken into account for the sustainable development in the conventional accounts.

The area under barren and uncultivable land is generally unsuitable for agriculture either because of topography or its inaccessibility. Instances are the desert areas in Rajasthan, the saline land in part of the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, and the weed infected and ravine land in Madhya Pradesh. Recently, the area under non-agricultural land has increased due to increase in developmental activities; e.g. housing, transport system, irrigation, etc. About 24 mha are occupied by the housing, the industry and for other non-agricultural uses, 19.2 mha are snowbound and remote, leaving only 263 million hectare for agriculture, forestry, pasture and other biomass production. The net sown area increased from 119 mha in 1950-51 to 140 mha in 1970-71, mostly through reclamation of old fallow and cultivable wastelands and diversion of groves. Since 1970-71, the net area sown has remained almost the same at around 142 mha levels. The data shows that land use in the country, over the last five decades, has undergone drastic change. Land under agriculture has almost doubled, forest cover has dwindled to less than half, large tracts of fertile agriculture and forest land have been diverted for urbanization and settlements.

In India, about 130 mha of land (45% of total geographical area) is affected by serious soil erosion through ravine and gully, shifting cultivation,

cultivated wastelands, sandy areas, deserts and water logging (Govt. of India, 1989). Soil erosion by rain and river that takes place in hilly areas causes landslides and floods, while cutting trees for firewood, agricultural implements and timber, grazing by a large number of livestock, over and above, the carrying capacity of grass lands, traditional agricultural practices, construction of roads, indiscriminate (limestone) quarrying and other activities, have all led to the opening of hill-faces to heavy soil erosion. Wind erosion causes expansion of deserts, dust, storms, whirlwinds and destruction of crops, while moving sand covers the land and makes it sterile. Excessive soil erosion with consequent high rate of sedimentation in the reservoirs and decreased fertility has become serious environmental problems with disastrous economic consequences. Of the 16 rivers of world, which experience severe erosion and carry heavy sediment load, 3 rivers, namely; Ganges, Brahmaputra and Kosy occupy the 2nd, 3rd and 12th position, respectively.

The use of pesticides above permissible limits enters the food chain, causing health hazards. A major concern particularly about chlorinated hydrocarbons like DDT is their persistence in soil.

Among fertilizers, the conversion of fertilizer-N to gaseous forms-ammonia (NH₃) and various oxides of Nitrogen leads to atmospheric pollution. Escape of fertilizer-N as ammonia gas is called ammonia volatilization. The presence of ammonia and sulphur dioxide may lead to acid rains which ultimately degrade the soil. Atmospheric ammonia contaminates water bodies, impairs visibility and causes corrosion. Nitrous oxide also contributes to global warming.

AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Department of Land Resources is implementing the following major Area Development Programmes:-

Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)

Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) is the earlier area development programme launched



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FISHERIES.

by the Central Government in 1973-74 to tackle the special problems faced by those fragile areas which are constantly affected by severe drought conditions. These areas are characterized by large human and cattle population which continuously exert heavy pressure on the already fragile natural resources base for food, fodder and fuel. The major problems are continuous depletion of vegetative cover, increase in soil erosion and fall in ground water levels due to continuous exploitation without any effort to recharge the underground aquifers.

Objectives

- To minimize the adverse impacts of drought on the production of crops, livestock and productivity of land, water and human resources for drought proofing of the affected areas.
- To promote the overall economic development and improve the socio-economic condition of the resource poor and disadvantaged sections inhabiting the programme areas.
- To adopt watershed approach for land and water resource development.

DPAP is being implemented in identified 972 Blocks of 182 Districts in 16 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttranchal and West Bengal. The total geographical area of DPAP Blocks is 7.46 lakh sq.kms.

Desert Development Programme (DDP)

The Desert Development Programme (DDP) was launched in the year 1977-78 to tackle special problems of desert areas. The programme was implemented on sectoral basis to develop area in long term. It was started both in the hot desert areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana and the cold desert areas of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

DDP is being implemented in identified 235 Blocks of 40 Districts in 7 States with an area of 4.57 sq.kms. The 7 States are Andhra Pradesh (16 Blocks in one District with an area of 19136 sq. kms.), Gujarat (52 Blocks, 7 Districts, 55424 sq. kms.), Haryana (45 Blocks, 7 Districts, 20542 sq.kms.), Himachal Pradesh (3 Blocks in 2 Districts, 35107 sq.kms.), Jammu and Kashmir (12 Blocks, 2 Districts, 96701 sq.kms.), Karnataka (22 Blocks, 6 Districts, 32295 sq.kms.) and Rajasthan (85 Blocks, 16 Districts, 198744 sq.kms.).

Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP)

This programme has been under implementation

since 1989-90. From April 1995, the scheme is being implemented on watershed basis in accordance with the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development. It is expected to promote the generation of employment in the rural areas besides enhancing the participation of people at all stages leading to sustainable development of land and equitable sharing of the benefits.

Objectives

- Development of wastelands based on village/micro-watershed plans. The stake-holders prepare these plans after taking into consideration the capability of land, site-conditions and local needs.
- Promoting the overall economic development and improving the socio-economic condition of the resource poor and disadvantaged sections inhabiting the programme areas.

Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programme

Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation are State subjects, included in the eleventh Schedule of the Constitution among the subjects that may be entrusted to Panchayats by the States. The Government of India supplement efforts made by the States by providing financial and technical assistance under the two centrally sponsored programmes, namely, the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and the Central Rural Sanitation Programme. Substantial investment to the tune of about Rs. 50,000 crore has been made in the rural water supply sector alone by the Central and State Governments since 1st Five Year Plan in approx. 37 lakh hand pumps and 1.45 lakh piped water supply schemes, crediting the country with one of the largest rural drinking water supply networks in the world. While significant achievement has been made in terms of providing access to potable drinking water - with 95.34% rural habitations fully covered and another 4.28% partially covered, the sanitation coverage in rural areas continues to be a challenge, with only 22% of the rural population having access to basic sanitation, as per the 2001 Census.

Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)

Recognizing the importance of providing safe drinking water in rural habitation, Government of India has been providing financial assistance to State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme".

Objectives

- To ensure coverage of all rural habitations with access to safe drinking water.
- To ensure sustainability of drinking water systems and sources.
- To tackle the problems of water quality in affected habitations.
- To institutionalize the reform initiative in rural drinking water supply sector.

Coverage norms

- 40 lpcd of drinking water for human beings
- 30 lpcd of additional water for cattle in areas under DDP
- One handpump or standpost for every 250 persons
- Availability of water source in the habitation or within 1.6 km in the plains and 100 meters elevation in hilly areas.

Swajaldhara

With the experience gained, the reform initiatives in the rural drinking water supply sector has now been opened up throughout the country by launching the Swajaldhara programme on 15.12.2002. The key principles of the programme are:-

- Adoption of demand responsive, adaptable approach along with the community participation based on empowerment of villages to ensure their full participation in the project through a decision making role in the choice of the drinking water scheme, planning, design, implementation, control of finances and management arrangements;

- Full ownership of drinking water assets with appropriate level of panchayats;
- Panchayats/communities to have the powers to plan, implement, operate, maintain and manage all Water Supply and Sanitation schemes;
- Partial capital cost sharing either in cash or kind including labour or both, 100% responsibility of operation and maintenance by the users;
- An integrated service delivery mechanisms;
- Taking up conservation measures through rain water harvesting and ground water recharge systems for sustained drinking water supply; and
- Shifting the role of Government from Direct service delivery to that of planning, policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation and partial financial support.

Under ARWSP, an allocation of Rs. 5200 crores has been made for the year 2006-07. With this allocation, it is expected that 1120 habitations falling in the category of Not Covered Category, 17000 habitations from the Partially Covered, 40,000 Slipped back habitations will be covered. 27000 projects will be sanctioned in 15000 Water Quality Affect Habitations during the year.

Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP)

The Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP)

was launched in 1986 in the Ministry of Rural Development with the objective of improving the quality of life of rural people and to provide privacy and dignity to the women. The programme provided 100% subsidy for construction of sanitary latrines for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and landless labourers and subsidy as per the prevailing rates in the States for the general public.

The CRSP was restructured in 1999 with a provision for allocation based component of CRSP to be phased out by the end of the 9th Plan i.e. 2001-02. The total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) under restructured CRSP was launched with effect from 1.4.1999 following a community led and people centered approach. TSC moves away from the principle of State-wise allocation primarily based on poverty criterion to a 'demand-driven' approach. The programme gives emphasis on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) for demand generation for sanitation facilities. It also gives emphasis on school sanitation and hygiene education for changing the behaviour of the people from the younger age itself. The component of TSC includes start-up activities, IEC, Individual household latrines, community sanitary complex, school sanitation & hygiene education, Anganwadi toilets, Alternate delivery mechanism in the form of Rural Sanitary Marts and Production centres and administrative charges.

BIO-DIVERSITY

India is one of the 12 mega-biodiversity countries of the world. From about 70% of the total geographical area surveyed so far, 46,000 plant



species and 81,000 animal species representing about 7% of the world's flora and 6.5% of the world's fauna, respectively, have been described. Out of the total twelve biodiversity hot spots in the world, India has two, one is the north east region and other the western ghats

Though more than one-fifth of India's geographic area is recorded as forest area, it is not known with certainty how much forest area actually bears forest cover. The National Forest Policies (1952 and 1988) aim at having one third of country's land area under forest and tree cover. As per the

latest State of Forest Report 2003, the forest cover in the country is 678,333 kmsq. and constitutes 20.64 percent of its geographic area. There is an increase of 2,795 kmsq or 0.41 percent in forest cover in year 2003 as compared to assessment made in 2001. The total tree cover of the country has been estimated as 99,896 km sq. or about 3.04 percent of the country's geographic area, which is 18,424 kmsq more than what was assessed in 2001.

Plant biodiversity as a national and global resource is extremely valuable but is poorly understood, inadequately documented and often wasted. The preservation of biodiversity is both a matter of investment and insurance to a) sustain and improve agricultural, forestry and fisheries production, b) act as a buffer against harmful environmental changes, c) provide raw materials for scientific and industrial innovations, and d) safeguard transferring biological richness to future generations.

Biodiversity the world over is in peril because the habitats are threatened due to such development programmes as creation of reservoirs, mining, forest clearing, laying of transport and communication networks, etc. It is estimated that in the world wide perspective, slightly over 1000 animal species and sub-species are threatened with an extinction rate of one per year, while 20,000 flowering plants are thought to be at risk.

Conservation Measures

Biospheres

Areas rich in biodiversity and encompassing unique and representative ecosystems are identified and designated as Biosphere Reserves. The goal is to facilitate conservation of representative landscape and India's immense biological diversity as described above. Till date, 14 Biosphere Reserves have been set up. The last one was set up in 30.3.2005 at Achanmar-Amarkantak in parts of Districts of MP and Chattisgarh State.

Project Tiger

As per the recommendations of a special task-

force of the Indian Board of Wildlife, Project Tiger was launched in 1973 with the following objectives:-

- To ensure maintenance of available population of tiger in India for scientific, economic, aesthetic, cultural and ecological value.
- To preserve, for all times, the areas of such biological importance as a national heritage for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people.

At present, there are 28 Tiger Reserves spreading over 14 states and covering an area of about 37,761 sq. kms. The population of tigers is estimated through tiger census conducted once in 4 to 6 years. The last such census was conducted in 2001-02.

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILD LIFE SANCTUARIES

The wild life Act provided for setting up National parks and sanctuaries for wild life. The basic idea in trying to encourage wild life is that human welfare is initially linked with it. The Government of India has pledged for all out efforts to conserve which not only seeks to protect and preserve what remains of wild fauna and flora but also seeks to augment this priceless national heritage.

Multi-pronged pressures on forests come from population, cattle grazing, fuel and fodder collection, industry and forest fires, etc. The remaining good forest cover is, therefore, estimated to be just 11% against the desirable 33% of the total land area as per the National Forest Policy. Up to the late seventies, forest land was a prime target for diversion for resettlement, agriculture and industrialization, and this trend was contained only by the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

A two-pronged strategy to increase forest cover essentially comprises

- Improving canopy cover in the forest land; and
- Undertaking afforestation in non-forest and degraded lands, preferably contiguous to forest blocks.

Realising the role of forests in controlling soil erosion, moderation of floods, recharging of ground aquifers, as habitat for wildlife, conservation of bio-

diversity and gene pool, etc., programmes were launched as early as the Second Five Year Plan for extensive Watershed Management followed later by establishment of a Protected Areas Network, under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, comprising of Biosphere Reserves, National Parks and Sanctuaries- both terrestrial and aquatic. This Network comprised of 14 Biosphere Reserves, 90 National Parks, 502 Wildlife Sanctuaries, along with such dedicated conservation programmes as Project Tiger, Crocodile Rehabilitation and Project Elephant. The Central Zoo Authority caters to the ex-situ conservation of wildlife through 275 zoos, deer parks, safari parks and aquaria, etc. India is also signatory to several International Conventions like CITES, International Whaling Convention (IWC); Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), World Heritage Convention (WHC), etc. India has recently taken the lead in the formation of the Global Tiger Forum.

Agro Biodiversity

The National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBGR) established in 1976 as an institution under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) emerged as an important organization dealing with various establishments of plant genetic resources. The organization is entrusted with the vital responsibility of germ plasm, exchange with appropriate quarantine measures, survey exploration, their organization, planning and coordination, comprising evaluation, documentation and conservation of diverse plant genetic resources. The National Gene Bank has also been established within the complex. Within the new trade related intellectual property rights (TRIPS) within World Trade Organisation related agreements, documentation of our genetic resources is very important. The documentation of fish genetic resources is the responsibility of National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resource, Lucknow also an institution under ICAR. The National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources located at Karnal maintains the germ plasm of Indian Cattle and Buffalo breeds. This organization is also an institution of ICAR umbrella.

POLLUTION CONTROL

Steps taken to Control Air Pollution

Measures taken for Control of Air Pollution from Vehicles

A) Vehicular Emission Norms

The vehicle emission norms in India are detailed below.

- a) During 1990-91 India for the first time notified mass emission norms for the vehicles at the manufacturing stage as well as for in-use vehicles. These norms were notified under EPA, more vehicles rules and Air Act.
- b) The emission norms introduced in 1996 have been crucial in controlling vehicular pollution because of stringency of emission norms along with specifications on fuel quality in 1996. For the first time crankcase emission norms and evaporative emission norms were introduced.
- c) From April 1995 passenger cars were allowed to register only if they are fitted with a catalytic converter in four metros- Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. Emission norms for such vehicles were stricter by 50 percent compared to 1996 norms.
- d) The testing method for passenger car norms were changed from hot start to cold start, which is also a stringent measure, compared to the earlier one.
- e) More stringent norms were introduced for the year 2000. These norms were notified under Motor Vehicle Rules during 1997. Automobile manufacturers have to undergo major modification to meet these norms.
- f) As per Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions only private vehicles conforming to at least EURO-1 norms are being registered. In Mumbai Euro-II norms for private vehicles (4 wheelers) was applicable from 2001. In Mumbai Euro-II norms for private vehicles (4 wheelers) was applicable from 2001. In Kolkata, India-2000 norms (Euro-I) have been made applicable from

November 1999.

- g) From 1st October 1999, emission norms for agricultural tractors were introduced throughout the country. Bharat Stage-II and Bharat Stage-III emission norms for tractors have been scheduled to be implemented from 2003 and 2005 respectively.
- h) The Bharat Stage-II norms for new 4-wheeler private non-commercial vehicle were introduced in Mumbai from January 2001 and in Kolkata and Chennai from July 2001 to 24th October 2001.
- i) Only those taxis are being registered in Delhi, which are meeting Bharat Stage-II norms.
- j) Bharat State-II norms for Diesel 4 wheeler transport vehicles were introduced in NCT from 24th October, 2001, in Greater Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai from 31.10.2001.
- k) The expert committee on Auto Oil Policy was constituted during September 2001. The interim report of the committee was submitted to Govt. on 1.1.2000, recommending Bharat Stage-III emission norms for all category of 4-whellers in 7 mega cities from 2005 and rest of the country by 2010. Final report of the committee has been submitted in September 2002 which includes road map for control of vehicular pollution up to 2010.
- l) Final report of the inter-Ministerial Task Force constituted by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gases at the instance of the Committee of Secretaries to evolve a long term policy for vehicular emission and auto fuel policy has been submitted which recommended introduction of Bharat Stage-II norms for 4-wheelers and next stage emission norms for 2/3 wheelers throughout the country from 2005 and introduction of Bharat stage III norms for four wheelers in 7-mega cities from 2005.

B) Fuel Quality Specifications

For the first time diesel and gasoline fuel quality with respect to environment related parameters has

been notified under EPA during April 1996.

C) Lubricants Quality

Specifications of 2T oil for two stroke engine with respect to smoke has been notified under EPA during September 1998 for implementation from 1.4.1999 throughout the country. Pre-mix 2T oil dispenser has been installed at all petrol filling stations in Delhi so that excessive oil is not being used by the vehicle owners. Sale of loose 2T oil has been banned from December 1998 in Delhi.

D) Alternate Fuels

- a) All Govt. vehicles were required to compulsorily fit CNG kit or catalytic converter by December 1996.
- b) Custom duty on CNG kit has been excepted for promotion of CNG vehicles.
- c) Emission norms for CNG vehicles have been notified under Motor Vehicles Rule Vide GSR 853 (E) dated 19.11.2001.
- d) LPG is now being used as alternate fuel for motor vehicles after making amendments in CMVR. Emission norms for LPG vehicles have been notified vide GSR 284 (E) dated 24.4.2001.
- e) Battery driven vehicles have been introduced in few corridors in Delhi

E) Restriction of Grossly polluting Vehicles

- a. Registration of new auto rickshaws with conventional engine has been banned from May 1996 and registration of Defense Service and Govt. auctioned vehicles has been banned from April 1994 in Delhi.
- b. 20 years old commercial vehicles were phased out from October 1998, 17 year old commercial vehicles has been phased out from November 1998 and 15 year old commercial vehicle from December 1998 in Delhi.
- c. Registration on alternation of vehicles by replacing petrol engine with diesel has been banned from 1.4.1998 in Delhi.

F) Traffic Management

- a. Restriction has been imposed on goods vehicles during day time from August 1999 in Delhi.

- b. Left lane has been made exclusive to buses and other HMV in Delhi.
- c. Time clocks have been installed in important red lights to enable the drivers to switch off their vehicles depending on the time left in the time clocks.
- d. More fly over and subways have been constructed and T-Junctions have been closed for better traffic flow.

G) Public Transport Systems

- a. Number of buses has been increased to discourage use of individual vehicles by allowing private sectors for operation.
- b. Metro Rail Project for Shahdara - Tri Nagar has been commissioned.

H) Technology

- a. Fitment of catalytic converter for new petrol passenger cars has been made compulsory from 1.4.1995 in four metros and 45 cities from 1.9.1998.
- b. Two wheeler scooters with four stroke engine are being introduced in the market from October 1998.
- c. Registration of only rear engine auto rickshaws is being allowed from May 1996 onwards.
- d. More four stroke two wheelers are being registered in Delhi.

I) Mass Awareness

- a. Messages/articles related to vehicular emissions are disseminated through newsletters, pamphlets, newspapers, magazines, Television, Radio, internet, Workshops and Summer Exhibitions.
- b. Display of ambient air quality data through display system near ITO, Newspapers, daily news and internet.
- c. NGOs working on vehicular pollution control are being encouraged for mass awareness companies.

Measures Taken for Controlling Air Pollution from Industries

The measures taken for controlling air pollution from industries are as follows:

- a. Emission standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution
- b. Industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment in a time bound manner and legal action has been initiated against the defaulting units.
- c. 24 critically polluted areas have been identified. Action Plan have been formulated for restoration of environmental quality in these areas.
- d. Environmental guidelines have evolved for siting of industries.
- e. Environmental clearance is made compulsory for 29 categories of development projects involving public hearing/NGO participation as an important component of Environmental Impact Assessment process.
- f. Environmental audit in the form of environmental statement has been made mandatory for all polluting industries.
- g. Preparation of zoning Atlas for setting of industries based on environmental considerations in various districts of the country has been taken up.
- h. Power plants (coal based) located beyond 1000 kms from the pit-head are required to use low ash content coal (not exceeding 34%) with effect from 1.6.2002. Power plants located in the sensitive areas are also required to use low ash coal irrespective of their distance from the pit head.

Up-coming initiatives

- a. Monitoring using automatic analysers is being initiated in 16 polluted cities identified by Hon'ble Supreme Court.

- b. Action Plan are being formulated and implemented by the Central/ States Pollution Control Boards in 16 cities identified by Hon'ble Supreme Court as polluted cities.
- c. Road map given by Auto fuel policy for vehicular pollution control is being implemented.
- d. Corporate Responsibility for Environmental protection (CREP) is being implemented by industries for controlling industrial pollution.
- e. Source apportionment studies have been initiated and it is planned to carry out such studies initially in six cities.
- f. Monitoring of hazardous air pollutants such as benzene, PAHs etc. has been initiated and it is proposed to carry out there monitoring in other cities also.

River Water Pollution

Rivers are the lifeline of majority of population in cities, towns and villages and most of these are considered as sacred. Every river stretch has a distinct water use like bathing, drinking, municipal supply, navigation, irrigation and fishing, sports, etc. Simultaneously, it is also used as receptacle for discharge of industrial effluent, municipal sewage and dumping of solid wastes. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 is aimed to support the quality of various designated best uses of water bodies. The Water Quality Atlas of the Indian River System has been prepared by CPCB on the basis of five major uses of the river water such as:

- (a) Drinking water source without conventional treatment but after disinfection;
- (b) Outdoor bathing organized;
- (c) Drinking water source but with conventional treatment followed by disinfection;
- (d) Propagation of wildlife, fisheries;
- (e) Irrigation, industrial cooling, controlled waste disposal.

For maintaining the quality of river water, the pollution levels in rivers have been detected by monitoring limited number of the physico-chemical parameters, which could only determine the changes in chemical characteristics of water bodies. Deterioration in water quality, over the past several years has gradually rendered the river water quality unsuitable for various beneficial purposes.

Monitoring of Rivers

The Central Pollution Control Board in collaboration with State Pollution Control Board is operating the Water Quality Monitoring Network comprising of 784 stations in 26 States and 5 Union Territories spread over the country for monitoring of aquatic resources. The monitoring is undertaken on monthly/quarterly basis in surface water and half yearly basis in cases of groundwater. The monitoring network covers 168 rivers, 53 lakes, 5 tanks, 2 ponds, 3 creeks, 3 canals, 12 drains and 181 groundwater wells. This is done through three major schemes 1) Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS)- 2) Monitoring of Indian National Aquatic Resources (MINARS) - and 3) Yamuna Action Plan (YAP)

The monitoring results obtained during year 2003 indicate that organic pollution continues to be the predominant form of pollution of aquatic resources. The organic pollution measured in terms of bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD) & coliform count gives the indication of extent of water quality degradation in different parts of country. It is observed 67% of the observations, out of nearly 3000 observations are having BOD less than 3 mg/l, 18% between 3-6 mg/l & 15% above 6 mg/l. Similarly Total & Faecal coliform, which indicate presence of pathaogens in water, are also of major concern. About 45% observations are having Total coliform and 58% observations are having Faecal coliform less than 500 MPN/100 ml.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

India has been vulnerable to natural disasters on account of its geo-climatic conditions. About 60% of the landmass is prone to earthquakes; over 40

million hectares (8%) is prone to floods; about 8,000 kilometers coast line (8%) is prone to cyclones and 68% of the area is susceptible to drought. The

Tsunami disaster, of December 2004, and the earthquake in J&K have further highlighted our vulnerability. Increasing urbanization has led to an increase in fire and industrial accidents, which have underscored the need for necessary mitigation, preparedness and response measures. Manmade disasters that may be caused by extraneous factors using nuclear, biological and chemical material also pose a grave threat to our communities. The major calamities during the last 15 years have not only taken a heavy toll of precious human lives but also threatened to wipe out the developmental gains of the past decades. Disasters can have devastating effects on the economy; they cause huge human and economic losses, and can significantly cause set-back to development efforts of a region or a State.

The Government has brought about a paradigm shift in its approach to disaster management. The change is from a relief-centric approach to a holistic approach covering the entire cycle of disaster management, encompassing prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, relief & rehabilitation. The new approach proceeds from the conviction that development cannot be sustainable unless disaster mitigation is built in the development process. Another cornerstone of the approach is that mitigation has to be multi-disciplinary spanning across all sectors of development. The objective is that hazards may be prevented from turning into disasters by taking appropriate mitigation measures, more so as it is the poor and the under-privileged who are most affected in the disasters. The extent to which a population is affected by a calamity does not purely lie in the physical components of vulnerability, but is contextual also to the prevailing social and economic conditions and its consequential effect on human activities within a given society. As a part of this Vision, A National Roadmap covering institutional mechanisms, mitigation/prevention measures, legal and policy framework, preparedness and response, early warning systems, human resource development and capacity building has been drawn up.

CENTRAL LEGISLATION

The Government have enacted a law on disaster management to provide for requisite institutional mechanism for drawing up and monitoring the implementation of the disaster management plans; ensuring measures by various wings of Government for prevention and mitigating effects of disasters and for undertaking holistic, coordinated and prompt response to any disaster situation. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 was enacted and notified on 26th December, 2005. The Act provides for setting up a National Disasters Management Authority under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, at the Central level, State Disaster Management Authorities under the Chairmanship of the Chief Ministers at State level and District Disaster Management Authorities under the Chairmanship of District Magistrates at District level. It also provides for concerned Ministries and Departments to draw up department-wise plans in accordance with the National Disaster Management Plan.

It provides for constitution of a National Disaster Response Force for emergency response and a National Institute of Disaster Management for training and capacity building.

The Act also contains provisions for the constitution of the National Disaster Response Fund and the National Disaster Mitigation Fund and similar Funds at the State and District levels. It provides for specific role for local bodies in disaster management including Panchayati Raj Institutions as well as urban local bodies like municipalities. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 will facilitate effective steps for the mitigation of disasters, prepare for and coordinate effective response to disasters and other related matters. The National Authority has been entrusted with the responsibility to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management. The National Authority will be assisted by a National Executive Committee to be constituted by the Central Government. The National Executive Committee would function as

the implementing agency for all plans and programmes of the National Authority and the Central Government.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The Government has initiated several mitigation and capacity building measures. Separate National Core Groups have been constituted for earthquake risk mitigation, cyclone risk mitigation and landslide risk mitigation. The Core Groups are assisting the Government in hazard-specific zonation, risk assessment and mitigation planning; upgradation of early warning systems and protocols; putting in place techno-legal regime for safer town and country planning, land use zonation and building regulations, national training and capacity building programmes and amendment of guidelines to include disaster safety measures in all schemes and projects.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS

- (i) An Expert Committee was constituted to formulate model building bye laws, town and country planning legislation, zoning and building regulations for incorporating disaster resistant features. The disaster mitigation technologies have been developed to be included as a part of the course curricula of engineers and architects at under-graduate level. Two National programmes for capacity building in earthquake risk management have been undertaken for training of 20,000 engineers and architects. A pilot project for detailed evaluation and retrofitting of five key public buildings has been undertaken in Delhi.

Disaster Risk Management Programme (DRMP)

- (ii) A DRMP has been taken up in 169 districts in 17 most hazard prone States. The programme aims at putting in place sustainable initiatives with the involvement of local self-government institutions and communities. The programme States are being assisted to draw up State, District and block level disaster management plans. Village level disaster management plans are being

developed in conjunction with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and disaster management teams consisting of village volunteers are being trained in preparedness and response functions such as search and rescue, first-aid, relief coordination, shelter management plans etc.

Awareness Generation

- (iii) A National Programme for awareness generation as a part of overall disaster risk management strategy has been initiated. The programme is proposed to be further intensified by enlisting the support of All India Radio, Doordarshan and Print Media.

School Education

- (iv) Disaster management as a subject in social sciences has been introduced in the school curricula for Class VIII, IX & X through the Central Board Secondary Education. Training of teachers for teaching the curricula has been undertaken by CBSE with financial assistance from the Ministry.

Preparedness Measures

(i) National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

A NDRF, consisting of 8 battalions of Central Para Military Forces has been constituted for the purpose of specialized response to disaster situations. NDRF will comprise of a total of 144 specialist response teams consisting of 45 personnel each. 72 of these 144 specialist response teams will also be trained and quipped for responding to nuclear, biological and chemical related emergencies. Four National Level Training Institutes are being developed as Nodal Institutes for training of teams. 16 Regional Response Centres (RRC) have been identified and are being developed for storing a cache of essential search and rescue equipments to facilitate swift movement of such equipments to the site of a disaster, from the nearest RRC.

(ii) Centralized Electronic Data Base

A web-enabled centralized data base has been operationalized. The India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) is a nationwide electronic

inventory of essential and specialist resources for disaster response including specialist equipment and manpower resources. The IDRN lists out the equipments and resources by type and by the functions it performs and it gives contact address and telephone numbers of the controlling officers of the resources. The list of resources is updated from time to time.

(iv) Communication Network

Communication is normally the first casualty in case of a major calamity, since the traditional communication network system normally breaks down in such situations. It has, therefore, been decided to put in place multi-mode, multi-channel communication systems with enough redundancy. A National Emergency Communication Plan is at present under implementation and shall provide satellite based mobile voice/data/video communication between National Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) and the Mobile Emergency Operation Centres at remote disaster/emergency sites.

It is also proposed to take up Phase-II of the plan to connect National EOC/State EOCs/District EOCs with the Mobile EOCs at disaster/emergency sites.

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)

In the backdrop of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (INDNR) a National Centre for Disaster Management was established in 1995. The Centre has been upgraded and designated as National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM). The NIDM has been entrusted with the responsibility to develop training modules, undertake research and documentation in disaster management and organize training programmes; formulate and implement a comprehensive human resource development plan covering all aspects of disaster management; provide assistance for national level policy formulation; provide requisite assistance to the training and research institutions for development of training and research programme for stakeholders including Government

functionaries and undertake training of faculty members of State training institutes etc. NIDM has also been entrusted with the development of materials for disaster management including academic and professional courses; promote awareness among stakeholders including college and school teachers and students, technical personnel and others associated with multi-hazard mitigation, preparedness and response measures; undertake and organize study courses, conferences, lectures and seminars to promote and institutionalize disaster management; undertake and provide for publication of journals, research papers and books. NIDM has been designated as SAARC centre for disaster management.

Tsunami Rehabilitation towards speedy recovery

The Tsunami of 26th December 2004 which was triggered by a undersea earthquake measuring 8.6 on the MW occurred off the island of Sumatra. It triggered off massive tidal waves that destroyed large expanses of coastal terrain in five States and two Union Territories in India. The tsunami flattened a number of dwellings, breached shore protection walls, impaired ports and jetties and contaminated many ground water sources. The ingress of sea into low lying tracts of agricultural fields resulted in a loss of crops and increased salinity on large tracts of agricultural and plantation lands thereby seriously impairing their cultivability. The tragedy caused the death of 10,273 persons and 5,823 went missing. It also damaged 150,076 houses and 83,788 boats and affected 26,488 livestock and 26,000 hectares of agricultural land.

The Government of India launched immediate rescue operations by deploying defense and paramilitary forces and coordinating the movement of goods and services across State territories for reaching the relief assistance +9999. The Central and the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations also conducted a comprehensive range of relief operations. In addition to the rescue of 635,766 people, relief personnel searched for the

missing, removed dead bodies and debris, set up relief camps, provided medical assistance, emergency feeding and restored essential services. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) provided valuable assistance. The immediate, coordinated and comprehensive response prevented the outbreak of any epidemics.

Subsequent to the completion of the immediate phase of rescue and relief, the Government has launched a comprehensive multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional programme for Tsunami rehabilitation called the Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme (TRP). The TRP covers the sectors of -housing, agriculture, fisheries, livelihoods, ports and jetties, roads and bridges, power and ICT, waterpower and sewerage, social infrastructure and welfare, environmental and coastal protection and tourism

sectors. The main emphasis is on construction of earthquake cyclone resistant houses; repair/replacement/upgradation of lost boats, upgradation of fishery infrastructure and value addition in fishery sector. Under the component, the emphasis is on reclamation of agricultural and plantation land and broad basing of agricultural livelihoods. Under the infrastructure component, reconstruction of roads and bridges, power utilities, making provision of new water supply system, rain-water harvesting and artificial ground water recharge are some of the salient features. With the implementation of TRP, the affected persons due to cyclone disaster will be rehabilitated through restoration of sustainable livelihoods. Creation of assets will be done as a means to this end and systems for their sustainable maintenance will be put in place.