3. Poverty Alleviation through Government Programmes

The Government of India has been forming and implementing various Poverty Alleviation and Social Security Programmes since the early years of Indian independence. The poverty alleviation programmes in India can be categorized according to their targets and formations. Most of the programmes are designed to target rural poverty as the prevalence of the poverty is high in rural areas. Moreover, targeting of the poor is challenging in rural areas due to various geographic and infrastructure limitations. The programmes can be mainly grouped into: 1) Employment Generation Programmes (Self-Employment and Wage-Employment Programmes), 2) Target Specific Programmes (Social Security and Food Security Programmes), 3) Area Development Programmes (Tribal/Hilly/Drought Prone Area Development Programmes) and 4) Twenty Point Programmes.

3.1. Employment Generation Programmes

There are many poverty alleviation programmes which generate employment of the poor society. These programmes help the poorer section in upgradation of the whole society by making them employed for certain period and by generating skills for their work in future.

3.1.1. Self-Employment Programmes

Elimination of poverty continued to be the major concern in Five Year Plans, efforts were made to make the Self-Employment Programmes broad based through integration of different sectoral activities. Some of the major Self-Employment Programmes are as follows:

1. **Agro-Service Centres**

   In the fourth plan assistance was provided to the unemployed graduates and diploma holders for opening Agro-Service Centres. The main objectives of this plan are as: to provide self-employment opportunities to the technical labour; to provide maintenance and repairing facilities for agricultural machinery and tools to farmers at
their farm places only; to establish convenient centres for spare parts, fuel, lubricating oil and other engineering inputs; to provide inputs like, fertilizer, pesticides etc.

2. **Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)**

   The IRDP, launched in 1979, is the largest and most important agency in the arena of special poverty alleviation programmes. It started with 2000 blocks, and later on, all the 5011 blocks in the country were brought under its cover and various other programmes and agencies in the field were merged with the IRDP. The basic aim of IRDP is to lift the rural poor (especially the SC, ST, agricultural labourers, rural artisans, marginal and small farmers, in brief, the poorest among the poor in the rural economy) above the poverty line through micro level block planning based on household surveys. Creation of basic infrastructural facilities for the growth of the small-scale industries and development of skill and knowledge among the rural people are two important objectives of the IRDP. The IRDP emphasizes the need for coordination among various agencies operating to help the rural poor. The banks and other credit institutions are to work in close co-operation with the IRDP so as to ameliorate the economic conditions of the people below the poverty line. During Ninth Five Year Plan (1998-99), IRDP was ceased to exist and it was merged with SGSY.

3. **Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM):**

   The TRYSEM was launched by the Central Government on August 15, 1979 with a view to provide training facilities to millions of rural unskilled labourers. The scheme was linked with the IRDP. The TRYSEM, which is a facilitating component of the IRDP, aims at providing basic technical and entrepreneurial skills to rural youth in the age group of 18 to 35 years from families living below the poverty line to enable them to take up income generating activities. The minimum age for providing training under the TRYSEM is relaxed to 16 years for inmates of orphanages in rural areas. The upper age limit of 35 years is relaxed up to 45 years in case of widows, freed bonded labourers, freed convicts, persons displaced due to large development projects and cured leprosy patients.

   Under the TRYSEM, a minimum of 50 percent of selected youths should belong to the SC/ST communities. The coverage of women among the rural youth
trained should be at least 40 percent while a minimum of 3 percent of the benefits should be earmarked for physically handicapped persons.

Trained imparted both through the formal training institutions like it is, Nehru Yuvak Kendras (NYK), Polytechnics, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, institutions run by NGOs, etc., and non-institutional mode like master craftsmen functioning from their own place of work. Under the scheme, two types of financial assistance are provided - one, recurring expenses on the TRYSEM training like stipends to trainees, honorarium, to training institutions master craftsmen, tool kits given free of cost to the trainees; and purchase of raw materials; another, non-recurring expenses for the TRYSEM infrastructural development, including building equipment and training aids.

4. Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA)

SITRA was launched in July 1992, as a sub-scheme of IRDP in selected districts; this scheme has since been extended to all the districts of the country. Under the scheme, a variety of crafts persons, except weavers, tailors, needle workers and beedi workers, are supplied with a kit of improved hand tools within a financial ceiling of Rs.2000, of which the artisans have to pay 10 per cent and the remaining 90 per cent is a subsidy from the Government of India. The supply of power driven tools, subject to a ceiling of Rs.4500, is also permitted under this scheme.

Beyond this, any additional finance required by the artisans can be provided through loans under IRDP. The rural artisans are trained under TRYSEM for which an age relaxation has been provided to them. Since the inception of this scheme in 1992-93 up to 1996-97, 6.10 lakh toolkits have been distributed to rural artisans at an expenditure of Rs.116.19 crore. Reports from the State Governments indicate that the scheme has been well received by rural artisans. The more popular crafts under this scheme are black smithy, carpentry, stone craft, leather work, pottery and cane & bamboo work. Prototypes of improved tools in these crafts have been developed by the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), Regional Design and Technical Development Centres under the Development Commissioner, Handicrafts and other organizations. The SITRA was evaluated by an independent research organization, i.e. Development Alternatives, New Delhi, in two Districts of Uttar Pradesh, namely Agra.
and Aligarh. This implies that the income level of rural artisans have increased substantially with the use of improved tools.

Creating self-employment opportunities began with the introduction of the IRDP (1978-79), TRYSEM (1979), DWCRA (1982-83), SITRA (1992) and the Ganga Kalyan Yojana (1996-1997). To remove conceptual and operational problems in the implementation of these programmes, a holistic programme covering all aspects of self-employment such as organization of the poor into SHGs, training, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing called SGSY, was started on April 1, 1999. Based on the feedback provided and recommendations made by various studies, National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) was launched during 2009-10 to facilitate effective implementation of the restructured SGSY scheme in a mission mode. NRLM aims at reducing poverty in rural areas through promotion of diversified and gainful self-employment and wage-employment opportunities.¹

5. **Prime Minister’s Rozgar Yojana for Educated Unemployed Youth (PMRY):**

PMRY started in 1993 with the objective of making available self-employment opportunities to the educated unemployed youth by assisting them in setting up any economically viable activity. So far, about 20 lakh units have been set up under the PMRY, creating 30.4 lakh additional employment opportunities. The targets for additional employment opportunities under the Tenth Plan and in 2004-05 are 16.50 lakh and 3.75 lakh, respectively. While the REGP is implemented in the rural areas and small towns (population up to 20,000) for setting up village industries without any cap on income, educational qualification or age of the beneficiary, PMRY is meant for educated unemployed youth with family income of up to Rs.40, 000 per annum, in both urban and rural areas, for engaging in any economically viable activity.

6. **Swarn Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY):**

The SJSRY was launched by the Government of India on December 1, 1997 to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and under-employed by

¹ [http://12thplan.gov.in/12fyp_mgr/suggestions/docs/1_Poverty%20Alleviation%20in%20India-%20Concept%20Note.pdf](http://12thplan.gov.in/12fyp_mgr/suggestions/docs/1_Poverty%20Alleviation%20in%20India-%20Concept%20Note.pdf)
encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage-employment.

This scheme subsumed the earlier three urban poverty alleviation programmes and was also revamped with effect from April, 2009 to include the Urban Women Self-Employment Programme (USEP), Urban Women Self-Help Programme (UWSP), Skill Training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor (STEPUP), Urban Wage-Employment Programme (UWEP), and Urban Community Development Network (UCDN).

7. **Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY)**

SGSY was launched in April, 1999 and is the only self-employment programme currently being implemented. It aims at promoting micro enterprises and to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the poverty line by organizing them into SHGs through the process of social mobilization, training and capacity building and provision of income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and Government subsidy. The scheme is being implemented on a cost sharing ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and States. Since inception of the scheme upto December, 2002 a total allocation of Rs. 3,496.66 crore, to benefit 32.48 lakh Swarozgaris.

SGSY is a self-employment programme with the objective of helping poor rural families cross the poverty line by assisting them to take up income generating economic activities through a mix of bank credit and Government subsidy. The SGSY specially focuses on vulnerable sections among the rural poor with SCs/STs to account for at least 50 percent and women 40 percent of the ‘swarozgaris’.

In each district of the country, one Rural Self-Employment Training Institute (RSETI) has to be set up for basic and skill training of rural Below Poverty line (BPL) youth to enable them to undertake micro-enterprise and wage-employment. The Government has approved 329 RSETIs out of which funds have been provided to 264. The SGSY has now been restructured as the NRLM which is now renamed as Aajeevika. The NRLM aims at reducing poverty by enabling poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage-employment opportunities. This should result in appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis through building strong and sustainable grassroots institutions.
3.1.2. Wage-Employment Programmes

The main purpose of the wage-employment programmes is to provide a livelihood during the lean agricultural season as well as during drought and floods. Wage-employment programmes were first started during the Sixth and Seventh Plan in the form of National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programmes (RLEGP). These programmes were merged in 1989 into Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY). A special wage-employment programme in the name of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) was launched in 1993 for the drought prone, desert, tribal and hill area blocks in the country. Different wage-employment programmes were merged into Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana in 2001. NREGS, launched in 2006, aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing hundred days of wage-employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Some major wage-employment programmes are listed below -

1. **Crash Scheme for Rural Employment:**

   In the early 1970s, when the planning strategy emphasized a direct attack on poverty, the CSRE was introduced in April 1971 as a crash scheme to alleviate the prevailing conditions of unemployment and underemployment in rural areas by generating additional employment through additional rural works. Apart from employment generation, the other objective of the CSRE was to generate assets of a durable nature in the areas of minor irrigation, land development, roads, afforestation, school buildings and other durable assets.

2. **Pilot Intensive Rural Employment Project (PIREP):**

   The experience of CSRE indicated the need for more concentrated efforts to tackle the problem of rural unemployment. The Bhagavati committee on Rural Unemployment drew attention to this aspect in its report, and recommended the initiation of the PIREP as an action-cum-research programme in rural areas. PIREP was introduced in 15 selected blocks in October 1972 for a period of three years. Over and above employment generation, it also aimed at studying the nature and dimensions of the problem of unemployment among wage seeking rural workers. Though PIREP proved to be a slightly better programme in the sense that it threw...
light on certain characteristics of rural unemployment, it was not rated as successful by the review committee on PIREP. The review committee pointed out that due to certain organizational problems, PIREP could not be of much use in evolving a comprehensive programme for the whole country.

3. **National Rural Employment Programme (NREP):**

NREP was launched in the year 1980 as a centrally sponsored scheme on 50:50 sharing basis between the Centre and the States. But at the time of reviewing the performance of the programme during the Sixth Five Year Plan period, the Seventh Five Year Plan document notes - “it is not known as to how much of this has been directed towards those who are landless and the poorest among the poor. To this extent the programme has apparently lacked a direct focus on the direct group population, for whom it was meant.”

4. **Kutir Jyoti Programme**

The Indian Government started a ‘Kutir Jyoti Programme’ in 1988-89 for improving the living standards of the SCs and STs families, including the rural families who live below the poverty line. Under this programme, a Government assistance of Rs. 400 is provided to the families who are living below the poverty line including Dalits and Adivasis for providing single point electricity connection in their houses. Under this programme over 62.31 lakh single point connection were released and Rs.516.40 core disbursed to the households of rural families BPL by March 2004.

5. **Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEG):**

To supplement wage-employment generation, from 15th August, 1983, another programme adapted as RLEG was launched with a view to providing guarantee of employment to at least one member of every landless households up to 100 days and creating durable assets for strengthening rural infrastructure. In RLEG, provision was made to earmark 10 percent of the funds for works of direct and if necessary individual benefit to the members of Scheduled Castes (Seventh Plan). In the last year (1989-90) of Seventh Five Year Plan, JRY was launched by merging NREP and RLEG.
6. **Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY)**

   It was launched in April 1989 by merging NREP, 1980 and RLEGP, 1983. Its target group was the rural poor BPL and it aimed at providing wage-employment to at least one member of each poor family for 50-100 days a year, at a workplace near his residence. This programme was formally terminated in 1999 and structured under Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojana (launched on June 23, 1999).

7. **Nehru Rojgar Yojana (NRY)**

   The NRY which was initially started in 1989 but re-prepared in March 1990 is being implemented by the urban development ministry. NRY was designed to provide employment to the urban unemployed and underemployed poor people. The employment contemplated was of two types: one, relates to the setting up of self-employment ventures and other type relates to the provision of wage-employment through the creation of socially and economically useful assets and shelter upgradation programme in urban area. Since the Eighth Five Year Plan, the expenditure of this plan was being shared by the Central and the States in the ratio of 60:40. The following three plan were included in this programme:

   a) **The Scheme of Urban Micro-Enterprise (SUME)**

      The objective of the SUME plan which was started on June 15, 1990 was to provide assistance to the urban poor for micro enterprises. In this plan, those urban poor were included whose annual income was less than Rs. 11850 and who were permanently residing for the last three years in the urban areas. The maximum limit of the loan given to the men and women of the SCs and STs under this plan was Rs. 20000 and for other people the maximum limit was Rs. 16000. From the amount of the loan, a subsidy of 25 percent was given for the project cost but its maximum limit for the men and the women of the SCs and STs was Rs. 5000 and for other people it was Rs. 4000. Under this, the repayment of the loan amount could be done in the form of monthly or quarterly instalments between the periods of three to five years.

   b) **Scheme of Urban Wage-Employment (SUWE):**

      The objective of this plan was to provide wage-employment to the urban poor people living in urban and sub-urban areas. In the expenditure of this scheme, the material labour ratio was 60:40.
c) Scheme of Housing and Shelter Upgradation (SHASU):

The objective of this scheme is to provide employment by means of shelter upgradation in the urban areas with population of 1 to 20 lakhs. Under the Scheme, beneficiaries were provided a loan upto Rs. 3000 at the interest of 10 percent per annum a subsidy of Rs. 1000 for improving their houses. The financial requirement exceeding Rs. 4000 (3000 + 1000) could be obtained by Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) provided a loan upto Rs. 19500 for this purpose. Under the NRY there was target of providing employment to ten lakh urban people every year, with 30 percent reserved for the women. Special attention was paid to the people of SCs and STs. From 1992-93, the SEPUP plan was combined with the NRY.

All the three schemes of NRY have abolished on 30 November 1997 and a new scheme ‘Swarna Jayanti Urban Employment Scheme’ has been launched since December 1, 1997. NRY has been replaced by Swarna Jayanti Urban Employment Scheme.

8. Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS):

A new scheme known as EAS was launched on October 2, 1993 in identified backward blocks situated in the Drought Prone Areas, Dessert Areas, Tribal Areas and Hill Areas in which the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was in operation. As per the available information, it covered 1778 blocks in 261 districts. The scheme was meant to provide for assured employment for up to 100 days of unskilled manual work to all rural adults between the age of 18 and 60 years normally residing in the area covered who are in need of employment and seeking it during the lean agricultural season. Certain works have been identified as priorities under the EAS. These include: Works under watershed development including water conservation, afforestation, silvi-pasture and agro-horticulture; Minor irrigation tanks, percolation tanks, village tanks and canal works; Link road works selected on the basis of the Master Plan prepared for the district to enhance connectivity of unconnected villages; Primary school buildings on the pattern of Operation Black Board; Building for Anganwadis.
9. **Intensified Jawahar Rozgar Yojana**

From 1993-94, the Intensified Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is being implemented in those 120 backward districts of 12 states of the country which are badly affected with unemployment and underemployment problems. These states are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Since January 1, 1996 this plan was merged with EAS. Under Intensified Jawahar Rozgar Yojana those works are given priority which provide ample employment opportunities, like creating small irrigation facility on barren lands, forests etc.. This plan also includes various activities which create rural infrastructure including primary education institution.

10. **Innovative and Special Employment Scheme**

The third stream of JRY which is known as Innovative and Special Employment Scheme is being implemented since the year 1993-94. In this scheme, such special and modern projects are included whose objectives are to stop the migration of labour, to encourage the female employment and to develop the productivity in the desert areas. Following are some of the main points of this scheme: under this plan, the schemes like Operation Blackboard Scheme (1987) were also given place which fulfills the main objectives of JRY. The construction of the school building and of classrooms has been given priority; all the projects coming under the third stream are given acceptance by a screening committee which is constitute under the chairman-ship of the secretaries of rural employment and poverty eradicating departments of the Central Government.

11. **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**

The PMGSY, which was launched on 25 December 2000, is a scheme to provide road connectivity through good all-weather roads to 1.60 lakh Unconnected Habitations with a population of 500 persons or more in the rural areas by the end of the Tenth Plan period (2007) at an estimated cost of Rs. 60,000 crore. The programme is being executed in all the States and six Union Territories. While the focus of the programme is on providing road connectivity to Unconnected Habitations of stipulated population size, connectivity is being provided to all Panchayat
Headquarters and places of tourist interest under the PMGSY irrespective of the population size. Since inception, project proposals for Rs. 7,553.26 crore have been cleared. About 56,200 kilometers of rural roads have been taken up under the programme, benefiting about 37,225 habitations. The programme is being executed in all States and six Union Territories. Till December 2002, 10,882 road works have been completed providing connectivity to 12,508 habitations with an expenditure of Rs. 3,321,059 crore. In 2013-14, since inception projects totaling about 474528 km of road to connect 126176 habitations have been cleared. A total of 363652 km road length has been completed and new connectivity has been provided to over 89382 habitations by the state. Work on a road length of about 107739 km is in progress.

The present source of funding for PMGSY is the diesel cess, 50 percent of which is earmarked for PMGSY. Efforts are underway to raise additional resources for the programme with financial assistance from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

12. **Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY):**

The SGRY was launched in September 2001. The Scheme of Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojana (JGSY) and EAS have been fully integrated with SGRY. The objective of the scheme is to provide additional wage-employment along with food security, creation of durable community, social and economic assets and infrastructural development in the rural area. The scheme envisages generation of 100 crore man-days of employment in a year. The cost of the programme is to be shared between the Centre and the State on a cost sharing ratio of 87.5:12.5 (including foodgrains component). During 2001-02, 22.00 lakh tonnes of rice and 12.49 lakh tonnes of wheat were allocated under the scheme. Off-take upto April 2002 was 13.5 lakh tonnes of rice and 5.64 lakh tonnes of wheat. During the current year the total off-take of foodgrains from the Central pool, under the scheme was 39.22 lakh tonnes upto December 2002. Under SGRY 47.63 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have separately been released until now, free of cost, to the State Governments for facilitating employment generation programmes in Drought Prone Areas.
13. Food for Work Programmes (FFWP):

The National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) was launched in 150 most backward districts in November 2004. It was a 100 percent centrally sponsored scheme. This programme provided temporary employment with food grains as wages. Its objectives were to ensure employment and food security to the rural people affected by natural disasters like droughts and floods. It aimed at generating supplementary wage-employment and providing food security through creation of need-based economic, social and community assets.


Identifying the humanitarian crisis, the Government of India made commitment in its Common Minimum Programme (CMP) that it would immediately enact an Employment Guarantee Act. The draft proposed by the National Advisory Council (NAC) envisaged legal guarantee to every household in rural areas for 100 days for doing casual manual work. Formulation and implementation of a major flagship rural employment generation programme was the demand of time. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was designed in this very context. The NREGA enacted in September 2005 but it came into force on 2nd February 2006 with the introduction of 100 days of guaranteed employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. The Act was notified in 200 most backward districts in its first phase of implementation. In the second phase (2007-08), it was extended to an additional 130 rural districts. The remaining 274 districts were notified under NREGA with effect from 1st April 2008 in the third phase. Since 2008, NREGA has covered almost all the rural areas of the country with the exception of districts which have a 100 percent urban population. From October 2, 2009 NREGS has been renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). MGNREGS seeks to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to at least one member of every rural household whose adult member volunteer to do unskilled manual work. It is, so far, the most prominent scheme and labelled as the flagship rural wage employment programme of the government of India. Keeping in the view the success
of this Programme, UNDP has signed a memorandum with the Indian Government to support this programme during the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017).

15. **Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP):**

PMEGP was announced the Prime Minister of India on 15th August, 2008. This is a credit linked Scheme of Govt. of India, which is formed by merging erstwhile REGP and PMRY scheme. KVIC is the Nodal Agency at National Level. The programme objectives are: to generate continuous and sustainable employment opportunities in Rural and Urban areas of the country; to provide continuous and sustainable employment to a large segment of traditional and prospective artisans, rural and urban unemployed youth in the country through setting up of micro enterprises and to facilitate participation of financial institutions for higher credit flow to micro sector.

3.2. Target Specific Programmes

3.2.1. Social Security Programmes

1. **Marginal Farmers Development Agencies (MFDA)**

One of the objectives of Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74) was to provide loans to the small farmers so that they may use the modern techniques and adopt the intensive farming. On the directions of Planning Commission, such agencies were established for recognizing the small framers and presenting various plans to the banks for solving the financial problems of the small framers.

2. **Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA)**

Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas Programme (DWCRA) was started in September 1982 in the form of a sub-plan of IRDP. At present DWCRA is not in existence because it is merged with Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana SGSY. The main aim of this programme was to provide proper self-employment opportunities to women of those rural families who are living below the poverty line, so that their social and economic standard could be improved. Under this programme, the policy of making a group of 10 to 15 women was adopted corresponding to the local resources, their own choices and skills to complete the economic activities.
3. **Self-Employment to the Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY)**

Self-Employment to the Educated Unemployed Youth Programme was started by the Government of India during 1983-84. Under this scheme, scheme educated unemployed youth (Matric or above education) having age limit between 18-35 years and also having annual family income below Rs.10000 were eligible for obtaining loan, including 25 percent capital subsidy given by the Central Government.

Under the scheme, eligible entrepreneurs were provided composite debt of maximum Rs. 35000 for their industrial enterprises. For commercial and service enterprises this amount was fixed to be Rs. 25000 and Rs.15000 respectively. 30 percent of the total sanctioned amount was reserved for SC/ST in this programme.

4. **Self-Employment Programme for the Urban Poor (SEPUP)**

The Government of India started this programme in the year 1986, with the aim to provide Self- Employment opportunities, with the assistance of subsidies and bank loans to the families living below the poverty line in the metropolitan, urban and semi-urban areas.

Under this programme a financial assistance of Rs..5000 was to be granted, depending on the cost of the unit, to a beneficiary for doing any business. 10 percent p.a. interest rate was payable on granted loans which was supposed to be repaid in 33 equal monthly instalments after the 3 months interval span. The borrower was also entitle to get capital subsidy upto 25 percent of the project cost. The applicant must be the resident of any city/town or other area except the Integrated Rural Development Area and he should be continuously residing at that place for the last 3 years. The family income of the applicant should not be more than Rs.600 per month.

This programme continues till 1991-92 but in 1992-93 this was combined with ‘SUME’ of the NRY.

5. **Million Wells Scheme (MWS)**

During 1988-89, MWS was started as a sub - plan of NREP / RLEG in order to provide open irrigation wells free of cost to the poor belonging to the SCs/STs, to marginal and small farmers and to freed bonded labours. Since April 1, 1989 this plan was continued under JRY, but during 1995-96 it was given an independent status.
MWS was funded by the Centre and States in the ratio of 80:20. It also lost its existence at present as it has been merged with SGSY on April 1, 1999.

6. **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP):**

   Article 41 of the Constitution of India directs the State to provide public assistance to its citizens in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want within the limit of its economic capacity and development. In accordance with the directive principles of State Policy, the Government of India introduced in 1995 the NSAP as a centrally sponsored scheme to lay the foundation of a National Policy for Social Assistance for the poor. The NSAP aim at ensuring a minimum national standard for social assistance addition to the benefits that the States are currently providing or would provide in future.

   NSAP was introduced as a 100 percent Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 15th August 1995. It has three components: namely

   (i) **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS):** Under the scheme, BPL, pensions in the age group of 60-79 years are entitled to monthly pensions of Rs.200 and BPL persons of age 80 years and above are entitled to a monthly pension of Rs.500.

   (ii) **Indira Gandhi National Widows Pension Scheme (IGNWPS):** BPL widows aged 40-59 years are entitled to a monthly pension of Rs.200.

   (iii) **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS):** BPL pensions were aged 18-59 years with severe and multiple disabilities are entitled to a monthly pension of Rs.200.

   (iv) **Indira Gandhi National Family Benefit Scheme (IGNFBS):** Under the scheme of BPL household is entitled to lump sum amount of money on the death of the primary breadwinner aged between 18 and 64 years. The amount of assistance is Rs.10000.

   (v) **Indira Gandhi National Maternity Benefit Scheme (IGNMBS).**

NSAP supplements efforts of State Governments with the objective of ensuring minimum national levels of well-being and the Central assistance is not meant to displace the state’s own expenditure on Social Protection Schemes.
7. **Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY):**

PMGY was launched in 2000-01 in all the State and the Union Territories in order to achieve the objective of sustainable human development at the village level. The PMGY envisages allocation of Additional Central Assistance to the States and Union Territories for selected basic minimum services in order to focus on certain priority areas of the Government. PMGY initially had five components viz., Primary health, Primary Education, Rural Shelter, Rural Drinking Water and Nutrition. Rural Electrification has been added as an additional component from 2001-02.

The allocation for PMGY in 2000-01 was Rs. 2,500 crore. This has been enhanced to Rs. 2800 crore for 2001-02. For the year 2002-03, Rs. 2,800 crore has been provided. During the last two annual plans, the six sectoral programmes of PMGY were managed by the concerned Central Administrative Departments. However, from the current year, the Planning Commission is to directly implement this programme. New guidelines on the implementation of the PMGY during Annual Plan 2002-03 have been issues to all the State Governments and Union Territories.

8. **Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY)**

The VAMBAY, launched in December 2001, facilitates the construction and upgradation of dwelling unit for the slum dwellers and provides a healthy and enable urban environment through community toilets under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, a component of the scheme. VAMBAY was the first scheme of its kind meant exclusively for slum dwellers. The ratio of Central and State Government expenditure is 50:50. Since its inception Rs. 932.56 crore have been released as Government of India subsidy for the construction / upgradation of 459728 dwelling units and 65580 toilet seats under the scheme. VAMBAY along with National Slum Development Programme (NSDP), has been subsumed in Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) launched on December 3, 2005 along with Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

9. **Rajiv Awas Yojana**

Cabinet committee on economic affairs has approved the first phase of a new scheme Rajiv Awas Yojana on June 2, 2011 for redeveloping the slums of the cities
Rajiv Awas Yojana is to be implemented in two phases: First will be for two years (2011-13) and second will be for the remaining period of twelfth plan (2013-17).

3.2.2. Food Security Programmes

1. **Public Distribution System (PDS):**

   According to the provisions of this scheme, poor people are provided food grains on cheaper rates through 4 lakh fair price shops so as to assure food security to them. In some states, this scheme is implemented in both rural and urban areas. Almost 3 percent of Government budget is spent on this scheme. PDS has helped the poor people to some extent. For the success of this plan PDS system has been computerized in 2007-08. Under this scheme, there was a provision of Rs. 32667 crore for food subsidy in 2008-09.

2. **Annapurna Yojana:**

   This scheme was initiated on 1st April, 2000. It is 100 percent centrally sponsored plan. It provides food grains to senior citizens. It involves those citizens who come under old age pension scheme, yet do not get any pension and ten kilograms of food grains, free of cost is given to such individual. Since 2002-03, this scheme has been handed over to states.

3. **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY):**

   AAY, launched in December 2000, provides food grains at a highly subsidized rate of Rs.2.00 per kg for wheat and Rs.3.00 per kg for rice to the poor families under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The scale of issue, which was initially 25 kg per family per month, was increased to 35 kg per family per month from April 1, 2002. The scheme initially for one crore families was expanded in June 2003 by adding another 50 lakh BPL families. During 2003-04, under the AAY, against an allocation of 45.56 lakh tonnes of food grains, 41.65 tonnes were lifted by the State/UT Governments. Budget 2004-05 expanded the scheme further from August 1, 2004 by adding another 50 lakh BPL families. With this increase, 2 crore families have been covered under the AAY.
3.3 Area Development Programmes

Some programmes are meant for the development and betterment of specially affected areas, such as hill areas, tribal areas, rain-fed areas or Drought Prone Areas, desert areas etc. Dwelling in these tough areas is not as simple as there in common field areas. Hence, for the betterment of the living conditions of the residents of these special areas the Government of India has implemented some special schemes that are called Special Area Development Programmes. Since the Fifth Plan the Government has started the preparation of sub-plans on specific area basis. The sub-plan approach ensures a certain order of normal developmental effort from out of the state plan funds supplemented by special central assistance, conceived as an additive to the state effort. The focus of attention in the sub-plans is on evolving a pattern and strategies of development which will take into account the local resources and problems of the area. Some of the major programmes in this category are as follows

3.3.1. Hill Area Development Programmes (HADP)

The hill areas of the country, particularly the Himalayan and the Western Ghats regions which constitute about 21 per cent of the total area and contain 9 per cent of the total population of the country, support the basic life-giving natural resources but have fragile and sensitive eco-systems. The need to conserve natural resources and the environment, particularly to prevent damage to fragile and irreplaceable eco-systems, has been voiced in national policies and programmes for quite some time. The HADP, in operation since the inception of the Fifth Five Year Plan, has been a major step in this regard. Simultaneously, it has also aimed at the goal of balanced regional development. During the Seventh Plan, the programme is expected to enter a crucial phase, particularly with reference to complementarity of interests of the hills and plains.

The hill areas fall broadly into two categories, namely: (i) those that are co-extensive with boundaries of State or Union Territories i.e., the hill State and UTs and (ii) those which form part or parts of a State, and which are designated hill areas.

The first category includes the states and union territories of the North-Eastern Region, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. These are termed as 'Special Category States' whose outlays are met, substantially out of Central assistance. For
the integrated development of the hill states and union territories of the North-Eastern region, the Central Government has set up the North-Eastern Council in 1971 by an Act of Parliament.

In the second category, the hill areas so far indentified form parts of: (a) the larger States of Assam, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, and (b) Western Ghats areas covering 163 talukas in the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Goa. Only these designated hill areas are covered under the HADP operative since 1974-75.

Apart from the normal flow of funds to the hill areas from the State Plans, in consideration of the regional imbalance and other special factors, Special Central Assistance (SCA) is being provided for the HADP. An allocation of Rs. 170 crores, inclusive Rs. 20 crores for Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP), was made for the Fifth Plan. It was raised to Rs. 560 crores (including Rs. 75 crores for WGDP) in the Sixth Plan. The Seventh Plan allocation of SCA is Rs. 870 crores inclusive of Rs. 116.50 crores for WGDP. The pattern of assistance comprises 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent loan. In so far as category (a) of the designated hill areas (Paragraph 16.4) is concerned, the available SCA is allocated among the constituent States, giving equal weightage to area and population. In the case of areas in category (b), excluding the Nilgiris district (which is covered by the former category), the weightage for area is 75 per cent and for population 25 per cent. In order to ensure integration and linkages of schemes formulated under the SCA with other sources of funding like the State Plans, a sub-plan approach has been adopted. But in the case of WGDP, a scheme-wise approach has been followed.

3.3.2 Tribal Area Development Programmes (TADP)

According to the 2011 Census tribal's have a population of 104,281,034 (about 8.2 percent of the total population of India). It consists of 365 tribes grouped under 58 tribal communities. These tribal's constitute 94.75 per cent of the total population of Mizoram followed by Lakshadweep (93.15 percent), Nagaland (87.70 per cent), Maghalays (85.33 per cent), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (78.99 per cent) and Arunachal Pradesh (63.66 per cent). Besides there are nine states (Manipur, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Ladakh, Sikkim, and the union territory of Chandigarh) with more than 60 percent tribal population. The states are categorized into two groups. While the first group comprises Manipur, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Ladakh, Sikkim, and the union territory of Chandigarh, the second group includes the rest of the states (excluding the above-mentioned states).

The Tribal Area Development Programmes (TADP) aim to provide special assistance to tribal areas to bridge the development gap and enhance the quality of life of the tribal population. The TADP covers a wide range of sectors including education, health, water supply, sanitation, road connectivity, and agriculture.

2  http://planningcommission.nic.in/plans/planrel/fiveyr/7th/vol2/v2chap17.html
Pradesh, Sikkim, Orissa, Gujarat, Assam, Rajasthan and Maharashtra) and two union territories (Daman and Diu and Andaman-Nicobar islands) wherein the percentage of tribal population to the state's total population is above the national average (8.08 per cent).

There are 90 districts in the country wherein the tribal population is more than 50 per cent of the total population. Similarly there are 332 talukas/ tahsils in the country in which Scheduled Tribes are in absolute majority. In 62 districts their population is between 25 to 50 percent.

Their maximum clustering is found in the north-eastern hills, the Meghalaya-Karbi-Anglong plateau, the Chota Nagpur plateau, eastern margins of the Aravallis and Vindhyas, Western Ghats and high Himalayan valleys. These are hilly, forested and semi-arid areas generally backward in terms of social and economic development.

The tribal areas present a considerable degree of environmental bio-diversity and, therefore, their development needs and problems are of differing order and character and call for micro-level focus and planning. The tribal area development programme has been conceived as an integrated programme for areas with 50 per cent or more tribal concentration.

The emphasis is on the preparation of a sub-plan for such areas whose long-term objectives are: (i) to narrow the gap between the levels of development of tribal and other areas, and (ii) to improve the quality of life of the tribal communities. The sub-plan areas have been identified in 19 states and 2 union territories. Extensive areas covered by this programme are in Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh), Orissa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar (Jharkhand), and Rajasthan.

The resources for the tribal sub-plan mainly come from the state plan funds, investment from Central ministries, special Central assistance and institutional finance. In the formulation of the sub-plan, special effort is being taken to design the programmes such that they are specially suited to the communities living in these areas and are intended to tackle the problems faced by them.3

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3.3.3 Drought Prone Area Programme

The Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) are being implemented with effect from 1.4.1995 on a watershed basis, as per the recommendations of the Technical committee on DPAP and DDP headed by Dr. C.H. Hanumantha Rao. The common guidelines for watershed development provide for a uniform strategy in the implementation of all area development programmes. The main features of this strategy are: Area development programmes to be implemented exclusively on watershed basis; Programmes and activities to be confined to the identified watershed of about 500 hectares and are to be executed on a project basis spanning over a period of four to five years; Watershed project to cover a village, as far as possible; Elaborate institutional mechanism at various levels clearly defined for effective participation of the local people and the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) in all stages of project management; DRDA/ZP to be the nodal Government agency at the district level to act as a facilitator and provider of finances and technical assistance to the people’s organizations executing the watershed projects.

DPAP aims at to minimize the adverse effects of drought on production of crops and livestock and productivity of land, water and human resources ultimately leading to the drought proofing of the affected areas. It also aims at promoting overall economic development and improving the socio-economic conditions of the unprivileged poor and disadvantaged sections inhabiting the programme areas. The DPAP is in operation in 947 blocks of 161 districts in 13 States. Under DPAP, Rs.89.44 crore has been spent during 1999-2000. For 2000-01, the Central outlay of Rs.190.00 crore has been provided for DPAP.

3.3.4 Desert Development Programme

The Great Indian Desert, or the Thar Desert, encompasses the western half of Rajasthan and the adjacent areas in Gujarat and Haryana. Besides this hot desert, a cold arid zone in the northern parts of the country extends over Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir and parts of Himachal Pradesh.

In the past, some sporadic attempts have been made to develop only the hot arid deserts, while cold arid areas have practically remained neglected until recently.
Some of the former rulers of the Princely States situated in what is now Rajasthan did make attempts to find ad hoc solutions to the pressing problems, but these were confined to isolated pockets. There is no evidence of any organized and systematic attempt having been made before Independence to tackle the problems of the desert areas in a systematic or comprehensive way.

In 1951-52, the need to conserve and improve the resources of the desert region of Rajasthan was recognized and an ad hoc Committee of Experts was appointed by the Union Government to go into the matter. Accordingly, a Desert Afforestation Centre was set up at Jodhpur in pursuance of the recommendations of this committee. Subsequently, the scope of work at this station was enlarged by the inclusion of soil conservation programmes, and it was renamed in 1957 the Desert Afforestation and Soil Conservation Station. The station was required to conduct research, basic as well as applied, in land use covering forestry, crop husbandry and grassland development so that the problem of wind erosion and the resulting increase in desertic conditions could be controlled.

At the commencement of the Sixth Plan, the coverage of DDP was reviewed in 1982 by a Task Force set up by the Ministry of Rural Development headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, then member, Planning Commission. The Task Force suggested continuance of the programme in all the existing areas except in Kutch district (Gujarat) and parts of Kargil district (Jammu and Kashmir). In Kutch district, the programme was merged with another on-going programme, namely, the DPAP which has broadly similar objectives. In Kargil district, four out of five development blocks were recommended for exclusion, as these blocks have substantial rainfall, vegetation and irrigation. Extension of the programme was suggested to cover the Pooh Subdivision of Kinnaur district in Himachal Pradesh. The programme during the Sixth Plan covered 126 blocks as against 132 blocks earlier. The following major activities have been taken up under this programme: Afforestation, with special emphasis on shelter belt plantation, grassland development and sand dune stabilisation; Ground water development and utilisation; Construction of water harvesting structures; Rural electrification for energising tube-wells and pump sets; and Development of agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry.
3.4 Twenty Point Programme

The late Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi in an announcement to the Country on 14\textsuperscript{th} January, 1982 brought out a new nationwide motive 'Shram Eva Jayate in addition to "Satyamev Jayate", attractive to the people for their full hearted support in making the 20-point programme successful. The programme was defined as "An agenda for the Nation" and mentioned that the identified areas of special thrust which would show an immediate noticeable results for various required segments of the country’s economy. The items included under the 20-point programme were as:

- Increase in the irrigation potential and provision of inputs for dry land agriculture;
- Strengthening and expanding coverage of Integrated Rural Development and NREPs;
- Supply of drinking water to all villages; Allotment of house sites to rural families and construction assistance to them; Improving the environment of slums and house-building schemes for economically weaker sections, measures to arrest unwarranted increase in land prices;
- Maximization of power generation and electrification of all villages;
- Vigorous implementation of afforestation, social and farm forestry and the development of bio-gas and other alternative energy sources;
- Promotion of family planning on a voluntary basis as a people's movement;
- Substantial augmentation of universal primary health care facilities and control of leprosy, tuberculosis and blindness;
- Spread of universal elementary education for children in the 6-14 age group with special emphasis on girls and involvement of students and voluntary agencies in removal of adult illiteracy;
- Expansion of the PDS, supply of textbooks and exercise books to students on a priority basis of promotion of a strong consumer protection movement;
- Continued strict action against smugglers, hoarders and tax evaders and checking black-money;
- Improvement in the working of public sector enterprises;
- Liberalization of investment procedure and streamlining of industrial policies to ensure timely completion of projects providing all facilities to handicrafts, handloom, small and village industries to update their technologies;
- Accelerated welfare programme for women and children, nutrition programmes of pregnant women, nursing mothers and children, especially in the tribal, hill and backward areas;
- Rehabilitation of the bonded labour;
- Accelerated programmes for the development of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes;
- Special efforts to increase the production of pulses, vegetables and oilseeds; and
- Strict implementation of agricultural land ceilings and distribution of surplus lands;

Review and effective
enforcement of minimum wages for agricultural labour. Most of the 20-point programmes were rural development activities which are to be supported to help the village communities in their overall socio-economic development.