CHAPTER – II

Integrated Rural Development Programmes in India
Reduction of poverty has been the major goal of development planning in India since independence. But, with more than a quarter of India's population still living below the official poverty line (Gol 2001), ensuring a minimum standard of living to all its citizens still remains the greatest challenge before the nation. India is a plural society with people of different religions, castes and language groups. This plurality, which is a function of complex historical and social factors could be an important determinant of the standard of living of different sections of Indian society and needs to be an important ingredient in policy planning mechanisms to reduce poverty. Unequal economic development between groups could also lead to tensions and violent conflicts in society (UNDP 2004). Socio-economic indicators, which provide a macro level scenario of the standard of living of different sections of society, therefore assume great significance.

The literature on poverty in India is vast and discusses wide-ranging issues at both the conceptual and empirical levels. Estimates of poverty in India are mainly based on the consumer expenditure surveys in the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). Such estimates have been computed at all India level and state level for the rural and urban sectors, socio-economic groups and even for female-headed households.

No nation can progress if it leaves aside a large chunk of the population struggling hard for existence under the stress of economic,
educational and social disabilities. One of the major concerns of Indian planning has been the welfare and development of the weaker sections of society and among them more especially that of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The makers of our constitution have, therefore, made it one of the Directive Principles of State Policy by laying down in the constitution that the state will promote with special care the economic interests of the weaker section of the people and, in particular of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all form of exploitation (Article 46). In spite of the Constitutional directives and a number of legislative and executive measures taken by the government, the conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes did not improve much.

Therefore one of the main objectives of the policy of government of India has been to ameliorate the Socio-economic conditions of the poorest of the poor. In our country the large chunk of the poorest of the poor comprises Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribes followed by other backward classes. According to 2001 National census, the population of Scheduled Castes is 16.2% and Scheduled Tribes is 8.2% and in Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Caste is 16.19% and Scheduled Tribes is 6.59% of population. It is estimated that 84% of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population reside in the rural areas of India, and the bulk of them are agricultural labourers who have minuscule holdings.
These are the some of the important facts which are to be borne in mind while reviewing and evaluating the development programmes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. However, before venturing into the analysis of the schemes implemented for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it is imperative to have an idea of the steps taken by the government since the beginning of the Five Year Plan era.

In the first plan a specific sector of Backward classes was included to cater to the special needs of Schedule Castes/Scheduled Tribes/other Backward classes. It was visualized that the general development programmes should be designed as to take care of the needs of Backward classes as well and the special provisions in the Backward classes sector would be additive, to be used, as far as possible, for meeting the special developmental needs of these groups. Unfortunately, this expectation was belied in most cases.

The Backward Classes sectors Provisions instead of supplanting the general sectors of development, tended to supplant the general sector provisions. It was, in this context, that the concept of tribal sub-plan was introduced during the Fifth plan and special component plan for scheduled Caste during the Sixth plan to facilitate monitoring of development programmes for the benefit of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes.
The socio-economic development of rural areas is of crucial significance in the framework of integrated growth and social justice. The present Government is giving high priority to the emancipation of the poor with the clear objective of eradication of poverty, reduction of inequalities and elimination of privileges. The focus in this study to evaluate the performance of SGSY is on the myth and reality of the unique rural development programmes.

1) Wage employment for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and others under JRY:

In the place of NREP and RLEGP a large scale wage employment programme "Jawahar Rozgar Yojana" was launched by the Government of India during 1989-99. During 1995-96 an amount of Rs 3,535.64 crores was released by the Central Government to the respective state Government and employment generated under JRY during the above period was in the order of 795.59 million man days. The details of employment provided to various social groups during 2004-05 is as fellows. Cent percent achievement in the case of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe category can be seen in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Dadra Nagar haveli, Nagaland, Lakshadweep. The percentage achievement is more than national average (54.6) in Himachal Pradesh (79.6), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (79.4), Manipur (75.8), Tripura (73.5), Orissa (66.6).
Rajasthan (65.1), Madhya Pradesh (62.50), Bihar (60.9), and Uttar Pradesh (54.8). In the case of others, the highest percentage coverage is reported in Goa (99.8) followed by Kerala (65.8), Karnataka (62.7) and Andhra Pradesh (55.9).

The percentage achievement in the case of women for all India is very nearer to 30% as prescribed in the JRY guide lines. The highest coverage of women can be seen in Pondicherry (67.5) followed by Dadra Nagar Haveli (65.0) and Daman & Diu (50.0), whereas the lowest coverage is reported in Himachal Pradesh (5.6) followed by Andaman and Nicobar Islands (5.9), Assam (13.7), Haryana (17.4) and Goa (18.2).

2). Wage employment for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Others under EAS:

In order to provide assured employment for the target group which comprises all rural poor in the backward regions, the government of India launched Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) in the year 1993-94. All blocks of I-JRY district are now covered under the EAS. Under this scheme at least hundred days of employment should be provided to each family living below poverty line. The data furnished depicts the volume of wage employment provided for different social groups amongst the states and Union Territories during 1996-97. In respect of scheduled castes the
percentage achievement for all India is 31.90 as against 25.20 and 42.90 for scheduled tribes and others respectively. Of the total beneficiaries landless families constitute 42.03 percent, while women constitute 30.94 percent. The highest percentage coverage is reported in Nagaland (100.00) followed by Haryana (67.44) Uttar Pradesh (47.89), Andhra Pradesh (44.98) and Tamil Nadu (44.60), Less than 25 percent can be seen in the state of Gujarat (16.99), Assam (18.80), Madhya Pradesh (20.05), and Karnataka (23.88).

In respect of scheduled tribes the cent percent coverage can be seen in States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram whereas the lowest percentage coverage can be seen in the state of Uttar Pradesh (0.97) followed by Tamil Nadu (6.84), Karnataka (10.44), Andhra Pradesh (14.97), West Bengal (19.66) and Kerala (19.96).

In the case of others the highest percentage figure is reported in Karnataka (65.68) followed by Assam (52.05), Kerala (51.32), Maharashtra (51.13), and Uttar Pradesh (51.13).

3). Coverage of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Others under IRDP during 1996-97 (up to 2004-05)

The details of coverage of beneficiaries under IRDP presented in the guidelines suggest that the SC and ST together constitute less than the
prescribed norm of 50% as per the IRDP guidelines. The highest percentage coverage in the case of Scheduled Caste can be seen in Punjab (50.84) followed by Uttar Pradesh (50.47), Tamil Nadu (46.81) and Haryana (46.51).

In the case of Scheduled Tribes cent percent achievement is reported in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland and Lakshadweep. In Meghalaya it is very nearer to cent percent. The percentage achievement of less than national average (10.95) is reported in Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Pondicherry.

The percentage achievement in the case of women for all India is more than 33 percent and the states/Union Territories which report less than national average include Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, A&N Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep.

4). Coverage of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and others under TRYSEM up to 2004-05:

The perusal of data presented indicate that the percentage coverage of SC&ST out of the total achievement under TRYSEM is hundred
percent in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Dadra Nagar Haveli. The states and Union Territories which report less than national average (40.4) include Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Daman and Diu.

The coverage of women at all India level is more than 51 percent and the states/Union Territories which report less than national average include Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa and West Bengal.

5). Coverage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe under Indira Awas Yojana up to 2004-05:

To meet the housing needs of the rural poor, Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) was launched in May 1985. It aims at helping rural people below the poverty line belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Non-Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe categories in construction of dwelling units and upgradation of existing Kutcha houses by providing grant-in-aid. A minimum of 60 percent of the funds are to be utilized for construction of houses for the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe people. Sanitary latrine and smokeless Chula are integral to the unit. Selection of the beneficiaries is done by the Gram Sabha. Assistance for construction of new houses is provided at

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the rate of Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 27,500 per unit in the plains and hilly areas respectively and for upgradation of Kutcha houses at the rate of Rs. 12,500.

Built into IAY is a credit-cum-subsidy scheme for rural households. A subsidy up to Rs. 40,000 is provided to eligible households. In order to complement IAY, the Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme was launched in 1997 to give boost to rural housing. Since inception of IAY, upto March 2004, about 14.78 lakh houses have been constructed.

The percent coverage of SC & ST beneficiaries out of total achievement under IAY during 1996-97. The state and UTs which have reported cent percent coverage of ST&ST out of the total achievement include Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Andaman Nicobar Islands and Daman and Dui. The states which have reported less than national average (74.36) include Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Rajasthan, Sikkim and West Bengal.

6). Coverage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe under Rural Water Supply Programme during 2004-05:

The percentage coverage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe out of the total achievement during 2004-05 is in order of 38.04 and
26.32 for all India. In the case of SC more than cent percent achievement can be seen in the state of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. The states and Union Territories which have reported less than national average (38.904) include Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Pondicherry.

In the case of Scheduled Tribe more than cent percent coverage is reported in Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. The percentage coverage less than national average (26.32) can be seen in Assam, Bihar, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu.

7). Coverage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe under Rural Sanitation Programme during 2004-05:

The following are the details of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families covered under Rural Sanitation Programme during 1996-97. At the all India level, the percentage coverage of SC&ST out of the total achievement is in the order of 13.18 and 2.82 respectively. In the case of SC the States/ Union Territories which have reported less than national average (13.18) include Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Pondicherry.
In the case of Scheduled Tribe the percentage coverage less than national average (2.82) is reported in Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra, cent percent achievement can be seen in Arunachal Pradesh Meghalaya and Lakshadweep.

8). Coverage of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and others under Million Wells Scheme during 2004-05:

Out of the total achievement the percentage coverage of SC, ST and others under Million Wells scheme is in the order of 35.49, 37.44 and 25.95 respectively. In the case of Scheduled Caste the states which have reported more than national average (35.49) include Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Very impressive performance can be seen in Kerala (83.41), Tamil Nadu (70.93) and Uttar Pradesh (62.80).

In the case of Scheduled Tribe cent percent achievement can be seen in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Andaman Nicobar islands and Dadra Nagar Haveli. The states which have reported less than national average (37.44) include Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.
In the case of others a performance of less than national average (25.95) is reported in Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Manipur, Orissa and Bengal.

9). Literacy rates among Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and General category (2001):

The literacy rates at all India level for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and General category as per the 1991 census, are in the order of 37.41, 29.60 and 52.20 respectively. The female literacy rates amongst the state and UTs in respect of all categories are less than their counter parts. In the case of SC, male female disparity is more pronounced in Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh. The female literacy in this category is very low in Bihar (7.07), Rajasthan (8.31) and Uttar Pradesh (10.69).

In the case of ST, the male-female disparity is much highest again in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Orissa. The lowest female literacy in this category is reported in Rajasthan (4.42) followed by Andhra Pradesh (8.68), Orissa (10.21), Madhya Pradesh(10.73) and Bihar (14.75).
10). Community Development Programme (CDP)

Community Development has been defined as a movement designed to promote better living for the whole community with the active participation and on the initiative of the community.

Objectives of the Programme:

The aim of the CDP is to secure the fullest development of the material resources of the area, and thus to raise the rural community to higher levels of living. The aim was specifically spelt out to include the following.

a) Leading the rural population from chronic under development to full employment.

b) Leading the rural population from chronic agricultural under-production to full production through the use of improved Scientific knowledge.

c) The largest possible extension of the principle of co-operation, and every effort to be made to make rural families credit worthy; and

d) Community's increased efforts for its benefit as a whole such as village roads, tanks, wells, Schools, community centers, children's parks etc..
In short, the aim of CDP was all-round development of rural economy and society. This objective was to be achieved through (i) extermination of the threefold enemy of rural India, viz. poverty, disease and ignorance; (ii) removing a mountain of inertia, and infusing a spirit of brotherliness and co-operation; (iii) seeking self-help and self-reliance; and (iv) marking available sufficient scientific knowledge at the very doorstep of the people in distant villages.

The community development programme was launched on small scale, with 55 projects on 2 October 1952. After one year, on 2 October 1953, another 53 projects were added to this. By 1969, the whole of the country was covered by the Community Development Programme under its 5011 blocks. When the first set of community development projects were taken up on 2 October 1952, community development was described as the method of transformation of the social and economic life of the village folks. No doubt some success has been achieved and the achievements were recorded in the physical targets; and there has grown up a desire among the rural people to improve their lot by social and economic changes.

However, the community Development Programme is not free from defects. The reports of the 'Programme Evaluation Organization, Balwant Rai Mehta Committee' and the 'United National Community Development Evaluation Mission', have from time to time drawn attention.
11). SFDA / MFALDA PROGRAMMES

The central sector schemes of Small Farmers Development Agency (SFDA) and the Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Laborers Development Agency (MFALDA) were included in the Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74) with the specific objective of ameliorating the economic conditions of small, marginal farmers and agricultural observers and to bring them into the mainstream of national development. A sum of Rs. 103 crore was allocated for this purpose in the plan. The schemes were introduced gradually on a pilot basis in certain selected areas of the country from 1970-71 onwards.

The scope of activities of SFDAs was enlarged in November 1971 to cover not only small farmers but also those holding land smaller than the minimum limit fixed for small farmers.

The functions of each SFDA were to:

(i) identify the eligible small in its areas
(ii) investigate and identify their problems
(iii) formulate programmes incorporating suitable measures to deal with the problems and
(iv) devise ways and means for implementing the programmes.

The main objective of the scheme was to make potentially viable small farmers surplus producers.

The MFALD agencies are to promote interest of marginal farmers and agricultural laborers. They were called upon to .......

- Identify eligible marginal farmers and agricultural labourers to be covered by the project.
- Investigate their problems
- Formulate economic programmes for providing gainful employment to them.
- Promote rural industries.
- Evolve adequate institutional, financial and administrative arrangements for implementing various programmes.
- Promote creation of common facilities for production, processing, storage and marketing of products and
- Evaluate the programmes from time-to-time.

Generally, the SFDA and MFAL agencies were not expected to administer programmes directly. They are to be implemented through institutions sponsored by them. The agencies are expected to help
• In strengthening the existing co-operatives.
• In organizing and developing functional co-operatives (e.g., diary and poultry assistance, labor co-operatives,) and
• Co-operatives and other agencies implementing the programmes to develop essential common facilities (e.g., poultry and cattle-feed mixing units, bulk coolers for milk).

The Co-ordination and Review Committees at the state level were expected to review the progress of work, assess and evaluate the programmes, discuss the difficulties/bottlenecks, if any, and suggest actions which may be taken. They are also expected to bring about co-ordination between various developments concerned at the state level. But these committees failed to perform their functions properly.21

12). Minimum Needs Programme (MNP)

The objective of Minimum Needs Programme, started in 1974, is to define minimum needs so as to improve the quality of life of the rural population and provide basic infrastructure for supporting the various rural developments schemes taken up for implementation from time to time. The important components of this programme areas follows:

**Elementary Education:** The basic objective is to achieve universal elementary education to all within the age group of 6-14 years. Since girls constitute 88 per cent of all un-enrolled children (in school) in this age group, special efforts have to be made to encourage them to join the schools. In order to supplement the coverage by the formal education system, non-formal education programme has also been taken up.

**Adult Education:** The objective is to achieve literacy for all persons in the productive age group of 15-35 years. The success of this programme is dependent upon motivation of the learners as well as findings by them suitable time for learning as most of them are engaged in agriculture or allied activities for earning bread.
Healthcare: The objective is to cover healthcare facilities to all by providing threetier system comprising district hospital, Primary Health Centre and its sub – centre.

Village Health Guides Scheme has been started to educate the villagers about basic health related matters.

Nutrition: The objective is to provide improvement in the level of nutrition to school going children and others through mid-day meal scheme and Special Nutrition Programme.

13). FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME (FWP)

The food for work programme (FWP) was started in April, 1977 for rural development. It is devised mainly to provide off-season employment to the growing number of agricultural unemployed. It aims at maintaining the rural assets and also creating new assets. The programme was million tones of food grains. It is difficult to keep the government thought of using these stocks for playing wages to the rural development unemployed who are provided employment through rural public works. The basic objectives of the programme are:
1. To maintain and create durable community assets and strength rural infrastructure.
2. To raise wages of agricultural workers.
3. To generate massive rural employment.
4. To maintain village public works.
5. To utilize surplus food grain stocks for better purposes and productive efforts and
6. To realize commercial credit for productive purpose.

Each person will be given 2.5kgs of either wheat or rice per day under this programme.

The programme has ensured the use of idle rural labour for rural development without creating any inflationary impact on the economy as they paid in kind, i.e. in the form of food grains. The major benefits of this programme are:

a) stabilization of grain prices
b) Provision of minimum wages to the rural labour
c) Provision of better nutrition to the rural poor and
d) Formation of community assets, at low cost.
14). National Rural Employment Programme (NREP):

The objectives of the programme are to provide employment to rural workers particularly at a time when they are not able to find gainful employment, and at the same time to create durable community assets thus strengthening rural infrastructure.

The salient features of the programme include: (i) To formulate District / Block level employment plan will be, (ii) Priority is given to works like soil and water conservation, irrigation, flood control and drainage, construction and improvement of tanks/ponds, social forestry and pasture development, school and dispensary buildings, works relating to hygiene and sanitation etc., (iii) 10 per cent of the resources are earmarked for works of benefit for SCs/STs, (iv) The execution of the work will be through Panchayat Raj Institutions and implementation has been entrusted to the District Rural Development Agencies. It is a centrally sponsored scheme on 50:50 shared basis between the Centre and the state. The Centre will provide its share in the form of food grains, (v) NGOs can also be entrusted with the execution of the work.

With a view to improve the nutritional level, the food grains are to be provided at the rate of 5 kg per day.
15). Development of women and children in Rural Area (DWCRA):

The sub-scheme for women's development under IRDP, previously called Basic Services in Rural development (BSRD) has been renamed as Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA). A mid-term appraisal of the implementation of IRDP revealed that flow of assistance to women members of target household or even women-headed households has been largely marginal.

DWCRA, a special strategy of IRDP was first introduced in 1978 as a pilot project consisted of 50 selected districts and later extended to all states in 1982-83, and one district in each union Territory during 1985. Initially the districts were chosen on the criteria of low female literacy and high infant mortality rates. Promoted by the center, the scheme has also been supported by UNICEF. The expenditure is shared equally by the central government, the state government and UNICEF.

The focus of the scheme has been the upheaval of the rural households with women as heads of the families, and woman members of rural families living below the poverty line. The programme also aimed at improving the status of poor women in rural areas. Whereas IRDP's focus has been on the family, the DWCRA has focused its attention on group of poor women.
DWCRA, has emerged basically as an economic programme for providing opportunities for supplemental income to women. For helping the women's groups, DWCRA has included provision of multi-purpose community centers. Each center has been designed to provide space for training and demonstration, conducting of income generating activities, a bawled for children and residential accommodation for gram sevikas. The centers have been bolstered with supplies and equipment of up to RS. 50,000 provided by UNICEF.

DWCRA's primary thrust has been on the formation of groups of 10-15 women from poor households at the village level, for delivery of services like credit and skill training, cash and infrastructure support for self-employment. The overall aim of the scheme has been to raise income levels of women of poor households by making them participate in organized socio-economic activities. As a result of group formations, women's access to basic services like health, education, childcare, nutrition, water and sanitation are bound to improve.

Some of the activities coming under DWCRA are bee-keeping, honey processing, soap making, candle making, hand printing, pickle making, poultry, animal farming, carpet weaving, goat rearing, paper making ram and lamb rearing, palm mat-weaving, bamboo basket making, lime burning, vegetable vending, leaf plate making, silk weaving and rearing, palm basket
making, dairy, quarry, beedi making, rope making, hung mat-weaving, ether basket and mat-weaving, brick making, comply weaving, tailoring, pottery and ready made garments.

16). Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP):

The Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) came into being on 15 August 1983. As in the case of NREP, wage and material cost ratio is 50:50. The wages are to be paid in cash and kind.

The specific objectives of RLEGP are:

(i) Improving and expending employment opportunities for the rural landless with a view to providing guarantee of employment to at least one member of every landless household up to 100 days in a year and

(ii) Creating durable assets for strengthening the infrastructure in rural areas.
The objectives and stipulation under RLEGP are similar to those of NREP. But, RLEGP is limited only to the landless, with guaranteed employment of 100 days.

Funds have been earmarked specifically for certain activities – 25% for social forestry, 10% for works benefiting only the SCs and STs and 20% for housing under Indira Awaas Yojana.

17). Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)

PMRY was also introduced 2 October 1993. Under this scheme every selected educated unemployed youth in the age group of 18-20 years and having family income below Rs. 40,000 is provided a loan of up to Rs. 1 lakh for opening its own enterprise and Rs. 2 Lakh on other activities. During 1993-94, this scheme was implemented only in urban areas but since April 1994 it is being implemented both in urban and rural areas.

18). National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP):

The NSAP was launched in August 1995. It has three components

- National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)
- National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and
- National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS).

The NSAP is a centrally sponsored programme that aims at ensuring an minimum national standard of social assistance over and above the assistance that states provide from their own resources. The NOAPS provides a monthly pension of Rs. 75 to destitute Below Poverty Line persons above the age of 65. The NFBS is a scheme for Below Poverty Line families who are given Rs. 10,000 in the event of the death of the breadwinner. The NMBS provides Rs. 500 to support nutritional intake for pregnant women.

19). Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY)

This scheme has been launched on 1st April, 1999 after merging into it the programmes of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Supply of Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Million Well Scheme (MWS), etc. The objective of SGSY is to assist rural families below poverty line to take up self income generating schemes by providing them bank credit and Government subsidy for starting the schemes. It provides with the involvement of NGOs/Banks/Individuals as facilitator/Self-Help promoting Institutions in nurturing and development of
Self-Help Groups (SHGs) including skill development. The scheme provides for skill development training based on local requirement.

The focus is on establishing a large number of micro enterprises in rural areas based on the ability of the poor and potential of each area for sustainable income generation. The subsidy allowed is 30 percent of the total project cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 7500 (for Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe). For SHGs, subsidy is 50 percent of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs.1.25 lakh or per member subsidy of Rs.10,000, whichever is less. SHGs may consist of 10-20 members. There is no monetary ceiling on subsidy for minor irrigation projects for SHGs as well as individual swarozgaris. Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes would account for at least 50 per cent of the swarozgaris and women for 40 per cent.

The SGSY is being implemented through District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs), with involvement of Panchayat Raj Institutions, Banks and the NGOs. Since inception of the programme, 19.69 lakh SHGs have been formed covering 45.67 lakh swarozgaris. These include 20.13 lakh members of the SHGs and 25.54 lakh individual swarozgaris.
20). Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)

PMGY was launched in 2000-01 in all states and union territories in order to achieve the objective of sustainable human development at village level. PMGY initially had five components viz. primary health, primary education, rural shelter, rural drinking water and nutrition. Rural electrification was added as an additional component for 2001-2002. The Planning Commission is carrying out both financial and physical monitoring of this programme.

21). Antyodaya/ Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)

The Antyodaya scheme is intended for the upliftment of the poorest of the poor. The selection of beneficiaries under this programme is solely based on the extent of the poverty of the family and targets the families below the poverty line. These families are provided with 35kg of food grains per family per month at a highly subsidized price of Rs.2 per kg of wheat and Rs.3 per kg of rice.

22). Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, a fully centrally sponsored scheme, has been launched on 25 December, 2000 with a view to
provide connectivity through all weather roads to all habitations. The objective of the scheme is to cover habitations with a population of 1000 persons and above in three years and all unconnected habitations with a population of 500 persons and above by 2007. In respect of the hill states and desert areas, the objectives would be to connect habitation with a population of 250 persons and above.

23). Sampoorna Grammen Rozar Yojana (SGRY)

SGRY was launched in September 2001, by merging the ongoing schemes of Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). The objective of this programme is to provide additional wage employment in the rural areas as also food security, along with the creation of durable community, social and economic infrastructure in rural areas. This programme is open to all rural poor who are in the need of wage employment and desire to do manual and unskilled work in and around the village.

At present the Government of India has several programmes and schemes to reduce urban as well as rural poverty. Old schemes are reviewed, new schemes are implemented and new strategies are being evolved to accelerate growth and reduce poverty.
24). Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY)

The VAMBAY was launched in December 2001 to ameliorate the conditions of the urban slum dwellers living below the poverty line without adequate shelter. The scheme has the primary objective of facilitating the construction and upgradation of dwelling units for slum dwellers and providing a healthy and enabling urban environment.

25). Panchayat Raj in India

Panchayati Raj is a system of local-self-government administered by a council or 'Panchayati' duly elected in a democratic manner. The Institution of Panchayati Raj is specifically designed for rural population to take care of the problems of rural areas. It provides the administrative apparatus for implementation of the programmes of rural development.

Panchayati Raj is not a new thing to India. It had the tradition of this system right through the ages. During the British rule, however, this system fell into disuse. The free India felt the urgent need of reviving the system of panchayati raj to take effective care of its rural problems. The
Balwant Raj Mehta Committee which went into the question of Community Development strongly advocated for the revival of the Panchayati Raj System with a view to instilling life into the community development programme. Accordingly this system was introduced in 1959 and the panchayatis were conferred specific powers and assigned functions in the field of rural development and local administration.

Objectives:

The basic objective of panchayati raj is to evolve a system of democratic decentralization and distribution of powers, functions and authority to the rural people with a view to ensuring rapid socio-economic progress and speedier and inexpensive justice. This is to be achieved through (i) increasing agricultural production, (ii) development of rural industries, (iii) fuller utilization of available manpower and natural resources, (iv) fostering co-operation among the rural masses, (v) amelioration of the conditions of the weaker sections of the rural community and (vi) progressive decentralization of authority and encouragement of voluntary agencies.
26). Antyodaya programme:

Though we have completed six five year plans and old, achieved a considerable degree of economic development, the main drawback is that the fruits of economic development have not reached the people for whom they were mainly meant. Mahatma Gandhi said that India's development lies in the development of villages to develop the villages and to remove the rural poverty and in this connection, the state government have adopted the antyodaya programme. This programme aims at providing the minimum basic needs to the poorest among poor. Thus it plays a significant role in not only providing social justice but also in bringing about economic development. Antyodaya programme may be called a movement for rural prosperity.

In the year 1977 on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi the antyodya programme was adopted by the Rajasthan government to uplift a minimum of poorest of the poor families from every village. The following guidelines are followed in identifying the poorest families which function. Is carried out by Gramasabhas.

1). a family having no economic assets like land cattle etc., and a family which has no member in the age group of 15 to 59 years capable of earning any livelihood; or
2) a family of five members having no economic assets but having an income which is less than Rs.1200/- by way of employment; or

3) a family of five members who are landless laborers, artisans etc., and whose total annual income is less than Rs.1200/- or ranging between Rs1200/- and Rs1800/-; or

4) a family whose per capital income is Rs.15/- or less.

During the very first year of the programme the government helped 45,700 families. Following the Rajasthan government the other state governments also introduced antyodaya programs on similar lines.

27). National Food for Work Programme (NFWP)

Agriculturists are quite busy during 4 months and there is slackness in employment during remaining part of the year. It therefore becomes difficult for the poor to sustain the living during slack season. Food for Work Programme was started in 1977 to take care of this particular aspect and at the same time to create in rural area, durable productive capital assets like roads, bridges, minor irrigation projects-construction of tanks/ponds/bunds, canals etc. The workers under this programme were paid partly in cash and partly in food grains by utilizing the surplus stocks of food grains. Initial response to this scheme was good but due to certain shortcomings, response started dwindling. In view of this
the Food for Work Programme was reshaped into a broad programme called National Rural Employment Programme in 1980.

Food for Work Programme has since been redesigned in November, 2004 and renamed as National Food for Work Programme (NFWP).

28). Watershed Development programme (WDP)

There are three Centrally sponsored area based watershed programmes for development of wasteland/degraded lands, i.e. Drought Prone Areas Programmes (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP). The DPAP was launched in 1973-74 to tackle the special problems faced by those areas, which are constantly affected by drought conditions. The DDP was launched in 1977-78 to mitigate the adverse effects of desertification. The cost of the projects is to be shared by the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25 Evolution part of the projects is now left to the States.

Under an initiative called “Hariyali” launched in January 2003, all the above programmes would be implemented through the Panchayat Raj Institutions. Gram Panchayats shall implement the projects under the
overall supervision of Project Implementation Agencies (PIAS). Intermediate Panchayat may be the PIA for all the projects sanctioned to a particular Block/Taluka. In case, these Panchayats are not adequately empowered, then the Zilla Panchayat can either act as a PIA itself or may appoint a suitable Line Department like Agriculture, Forestry etc. Failing these options, the ZP/DRDA may consider appointing a reputed NGO with adequate experience and expertise in the field of work as PIA.

Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Fund (LNJPNF) Agriculture Infrastructure and Credit Fund (AICF) to the tune of Rs.50,000 crores has been set up in 2004-05. The activities under this fund include minor irrigation, micro/sprinkler irrigation, rained agriculture integrated watershed development, flood control and drainage etc.

29). Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme (AREP)

This scheme is intended to accelerate electrification of 80,000 villages that have no access to electricity. Three schemes namely Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme, Kutir Jyoti Yojana and rural electrification component of the Prime Minister’ Grameen Yojana have been merged together.
30). Tribal Area Development Programme (TADP)

The tribal people, who constitute 7.4 per cent of the total population of the country and literacy of 16.4 per cent as against 64.84 percent of the country as whole, have a distinct of their own. Their population is isolated and scattered over a large area. They are also often subjected to displacements when new projects are taken up and adequate attention is not paid for their rehabilitation. It is therefore necessary to make special efforts for their development and bring them into the mainstream. TADP was therefore taken up under the Ministry of Agriculture. The Tribal Sub – plan (TSP), as a part of TADP aims at development of socio-economic conditions of tribal population with emphasis on agriculture, livestock, pasture development and literacy. The plan is funded by central and state governments. TSP further identifies cluster of tribal population and bring them under Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) for focussed attention.
31). PURA

It is proposed to start a programme for Providing Urban services to Rural Areas under this scheme.

PURA is aimed at expanding production and employment in the unorganized enterprises around existing cultures of industrial activities and services as well as formation of new clusters so that PURA will offer possible solutions to a number of problems that afflict rural area such as unemployment, isolation from markets, lack of connectivity, land migration to cities. It is necessary to identify a few growth poles and take up these as pilot projects.