



2007-08

Field Training Report



Report submitted to-
Chief Executive Officer,
Zila Parishad,
Nagpur
(10/03/2008-15/03/2008)

मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी,
जिल्हा परिषद नागपूर
**Chief Executive Officer,
Zila Parishad, Nagpur**

सरळ सेवा भरतीने सहाय्यक कार्यकारी अभियंता या पदावर नियुक्ती दिलेल्या अधिकाऱ्यांसाठी क्षेत्रीय
प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम, जलसंपदा विभाग
Field Training for Direct Recruits as Assistant Executive Engineer of Water
Resource Department.

कालावधी: १०-१५ मार्च २००८
Duration: 10-15 March 2008 (1 week)

“क्षेत्रीय प्रशिक्षण अहवाल”
“FIELD TRAINING REPORT”

सादरकर्ता-
Submitted by-

प्रविण कोल्हे, बी.ई.(सिव्हिल), एम.टेक.
सहाय्यक कार्यकारी अभियंता,
जलसंपदा विभाग, महाराष्ट्र शासन

Pravin Kolhe BE (Civil), MTech (IIT-K).
Assistant Executive Engineer,
Water Resource Department, Government of Maharashtra.

महाराष्ट्र अभियांत्रिकी प्रशिक्षण प्रबोधिनी, नाशिक.
Maharashtra Engineering Training Academy, Nashik

Executive Summary

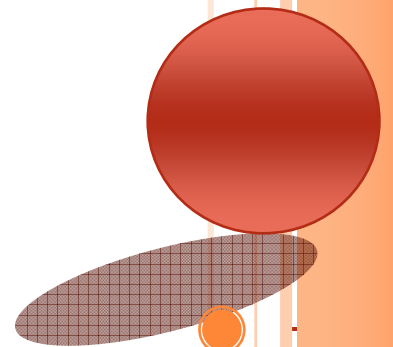
Maharashtra Engineering Training Academy (META), Nashik organized training program for direct recruits - Assistant Executive Engineer of Water Resource Department (WRD), in accordance with Maharashtra Engineering Service Examination-2004.

As per schedule of training program, we were directed to undergo training at Chief Executive Officer, Zila Parishad, Nagpur from 10th to 15th March 2008.

We joined Zila Parishad office on 15th March 2008 and contacted to Shri. Pardeep Gogurwar, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Nagpur. Then we submitted arrival report and contacted the officers of various sections. It was nice experience to interact with the dynamic officers and staff and grasp maximum knowledge from their experience. I learned the administrative procedure of Zila Parishad.

We interacted with **Shri. B.M Sangode saheb**, Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Zila Parishad Nagpur and he introduced briefly the working of Zila Parishad. On 10th March 2008, we went to site visit at Dhawalapur Minor Irrigation tank and other Malgujari tanks located near Navegaon Khairee village of Parshivani Tahsil of Nagpur district. I was impressed to see the success of the Malgujari tanks, which was the historical construction.

This report includes the brief of all these studies performed and understood by me. It was very nice experience to get in depth knowledge through this training session. It will serve as a foundation for my life. I am thankful to the officer and staff of the zila Parishad office, for providing us the necessary information.



Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to those whose active help and support make field training and this report possible in the present form.

First of all, I express my sincere gratitude to hon'ble **Shri. Tukaram Mundhe, (IAS)**, Chief Executive Officer, Zila Parishad, Nagpur for insisting in me the drive to work hard and for inculcating in me the discipline to think clearly.

It is the endless guidance and constant encouragement of **Shri. Pradeep Gogulwar saheb**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, **Shri. B.M Sangode Saheb**, Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Nagpur. He shared his valuable experiences with us and it was the most enjoyable part of training. I express my heartfelt gratitude for his active help.

I would like to express my gratitude to the staff of zila Parishad office, Nagpur for providing us necessary assistance during the training. Definitely the knowledge, I received during this training session was a lifetime experience and it will serve as a foundation for my career.

Last, but not least, I wish to express my gratitude towards my parents- Shivaji and Rohini, my grandparents- Rangnath and Sitabai, my uncle Raosaheb and aunty Radhika who sacrificed a lot to give me a good education.

- **Pravin Kolhe** BE (Civil), MTech (IITK)
(Assistant Executive Engineer)

Content

Executive Summary	ii
Acknowledgement	iii
1 Chapter 1. About Local Government	1-3
1.1 Municipalities	1
1.2 Panchayats	1
1.3 Panchayati Raj	1
1.5 Taking Democracy to Grassroot	2
1.6 Composition of Zila Parishad	2
1.7 Committees	3
1.8 Administrative Set-up and Functions	3
2 Chapter 2. Zila Parishad Act	4-5
2.1 Constitution of Zila Parishad	4
2.2 Composition of Zila Parishad	4
2.3 Chairman	4
2.4 Qualification and Disqualification of Chairman	4
2.5 Chairman's Property Declaration	5
2.6 Resignation of Chairman	5
2.7 Nominated Chairman	5
2.8 Compulsory and Optional Functions	5
2.9 Executive Powers	5
3 Chapter 3. Rural Development Schemes	6-16
3.1 Introduction	6
3.2 National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	7
3.3 Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana	7
3.4 National Food For Work Programme	8
3.5 Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana	8
3.6 Rural Housing	8
3.7 Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana	9
3.8 National Social Assistance Programme and Annapurna	10
3.9 DRDA Administration	11
3.10 CAPART	11
3.11 Watershed Development Programmes	11
3.12 Land Reforms	12
3.13 Computerization of Land Records	12
3.14 Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA & ULR)	13
3.15 Rural Drinking Water Supply Programme	13
3.16 Central Rural Sanitation Programme	14
3.17 Monitoring and Evaluation	15

4	Chapter 4 Organization of Zila Parishad	17-23
4.1	Introduction	17
4.2	Organization of Zila Parishad	17
4.3	Chief Executive Officer	17
4.4	Functions of CEO	18
4.5	Zila Parishad Chairman and Vice-chairman	18
4.6	Powers and Duties of Chairman	18
4.7	Powers and Duties of Vice-Chairman	18
4.8	Work Culture of Zila Parishad	18
4.9	Panchayat Samitee	20
4.10	Sabhapati	20
4.11	Functions of Panchyat Samitee	20
4.12	Grampanchayat	21
4.13	Jila Aamsabha	21
4.14	Lilha Niyojan Mandal	21
4.15	Committees of Zila Parishad	21
4.16	Standing Committess	22
4.17	Subject Committees	22
4.18	Zila Parishad Revenue and Income	23
4.19	Projects under DRDA	23
	Conclusion	24

Chapter 1 About : Local Government

1.1 MUNICIPALITIES

Municipal bodies have a long history in India. The first such Municipal Corporation was set-up in the former Presidency Town of Madras in 1688; and was followed by similar corporations in the then Bombay and Calcutta in 1726. The Constitution of India has made detailed provisions for ensuring protection of democracy in Parliament and in the state legislatures. However, Constitution did not make the local self-government in urban areas a clear-cut constitutional obligation. While the Directive Principles of State Policy refer to village Panchayats, there is no specific reference to Municipalities except the implicitly in Entry 5 of the State List, which places the subject of local self-governments as a responsibility of the states. In order to provide for a common framework for urban local bodies and help to strengthen the functioning of the bodies as effective democratic units of self-government, Parliament enacted the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 (known as Nagarpalika Act) relating to municipalities in 1992. The Act received the assent of the President on 20 April 1993. The Government of India notified 1 June 1993 as the date from which the said Act came into force. A new part IX-A relating to the Municipalities has been incorporated in the Constitution to provide for among other things, constitution of three types of Municipalities, i.e., Nagar Panchayats for areas in transition from a rural area to urban area, Municipal Councils for smaller urban areas and Municipal Corporation for large urban areas, fixed duration of municipalities, appointment of state election commission, appointment of state finance commission and constitution of metropolitan and district planning committees. All State/UT Administrations have set-up their state election commissions and Finance Commissions.

1.2 PANCHAYATS

Article 40 of the Constitution which enshrines one of the Directive Principles of State Policy lays down that the State shall take steps to organize village panchayats and endow them with such powers and, authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government. In the light of the above a new Part IX relating to the Panchayats has been inserted in the Constitution to provide for among other things, Gram Sabha in a village or group of villages; constitution of Panchayats at village and other level or levels; direct elections to all seats in Panchayats at the village and intermediate level, if any, and to the offices of Chairpersons of Panchayats at such levels; reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in proportion to their population for membership of Panchayats and office of Chairpersons in Panchayats at each level; reservation of not less than one-third of the seats for women; fixing tenure of five years for Panchayats and holding elections within a period of six months in the event of supersession of any Panchayat

1.3 Panchayati Raj

The term 'panchayat raj' is relatively new, having originated during the British administration. 'Raj' literally means governance or government. Mahatma Gandhi advocated Panchayati Raj, a decentralized form of Government where each village is responsible for its own affairs, as the foundation of India's political system. His term for such a vision was "Gram Swaraj" (Village Self-governance).

It was adopted by state governments during the 1950s and 60s as laws were passed to establish Panchayats in various states. It also found backing in the Indian Constitution, with the 73rd amendment in 1992 to accommodate the idea. The Amendment Act of 1992 contains provision for devolution of powers and responsibilities to the panchayats to both for preparation

of plans for economic development and social justice and for implementation in relation to twenty-nine subjects listed in the eleventh schedule of the constitution.

The panchayats receive funds from three sources – (i) local body grants, as recommended by the Central Finance Commission, (ii) funds for implementation of centrally-sponsored schemes, and (iii) funds released by the state governments on the recommendations of the State Finance Commissions

In the history of Panchayati Raj in India, on April 24, 1993, the Constitutional (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 came into force to provide constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj institutions. This Act was extended to Panchayats in the tribal areas of eight States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan from December 24, 1996.

The Act aims to provide 3-tier system of Panchayati Raj for all States having population of over 2 million, to hold Panchayat elections regularly every 5 years, to provide reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women, to appoint State Finance Commission to make recommendations as regards the financial powers of the Panchayats and to constitute District Planning Committee to prepare draft development plan for the district.

Powers and responsibilities are delegated to Panchayats at the appropriate level: -

- * Preparation of plan for economic development and social justice.
- * Implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice in relation to 29 subjects given in Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- * To levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls and fees.

1.5 Taking Democracy to the grassroots

Panchayati Raj Act was enacted and came into force in 1994, in order to protect the freedom of the panchayats functioning under the 1952 Gram Panchayat Act, provides by section 211 of the 1994 Panchayati Raj Act, the continuation of the existing panchayats.

In order to take democracy to the grassroots in conformity with the Directive Principles of State Policy, Article 243(E) provides that every panchayat unless sooner dissolved under any law for the time being in force, shall continue for five years. Section 211 of the panchayati Raj Act is parimaterial with Article 243(E) of the Constitution of India vide which provision has been made prohibiting the amendment of any law in force, effecting or causing dissolution of panchayats functioning before such an amendment till the expiration of its duration. Article 243(N) protected the laws relating to the panchayats as they existed subject to enactment of the acts relating to panchayats. It further protected the panchayats from dissolution except by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly.

1.6 Composition of Zila Parishad

Every Zila Parishad shall consist of:

- the members directly elected from territorial constituencies in the district, each constituency electing one member ;
- all Chairman of Panchayat Samitis ;
- the members of the House of People and members of the State Legislative Assembly representing a part or whole of the district, where major part of

their Lok Sabha Constituency or, as case may be, Assembly constituency falls ;

- the members of the Council of States and the members of the State Legislative Council , if any, who are registered as electors within the district.

All members of a Zila Parishad whether elected or not from territorial constituencies in the Zila Parishad area shall have the right to vote in the meetings of the Zila parishad except in the election of its Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

1.7 Committees

There are ten departments in the Parishad each of which has a Chairman:

1. Standing Committee
2. Finance
3. Public Works
4. Agriculture
5. Health
6. Education
7. Social Welfare
8. Animal Husbandry and Dairy
9. Women and Child Welfare
10. Water Conservation and Drinking Water

The President is the Chairman of the Standing Committee which supervises and controls the working of the other committees.

1.8 Administrative Set-up & Functions

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who is an IAS officer, heads the administrative machinery of the Zilla Parishad. The CEO supervises the divisions of the Parishad and executes its development schemes.

Functions

1. Provide essential services and facilities to the rural population and the planning and execution of the development programmes for the district.
2. Supply improved seeds to farmers. Inform them of new techniques of training. Undertake construction of small-scale irrigation projects and percolation tanks. Maintain pastures and grazing lands.
3. Set up and run schools in villages. Execute programmes for adult literacy. Run libraries.
4. Start Primary Health Centers and hospitals in villages. Start mobile hospitals for hamlets, vaccination drives against epidemics and family welfare campaigns.
5. Construct bridges and roads.
6. Execute plans for the development of the scheduled castes and tribes. Run ashramshalas for adivasi children. Set up free hostels for scheduled caste students.
7. Encourage entrepreneurs to start small-scale industries like cottage industries, handicraft, agriculture produce processing mills, dairy farms, etc. Implement rural employment schemes.

Chapter 2. Zila Parishad Act

2.1 Constitution of Zila Parishad

As soon as may be after the commencement of this Act, there shall be constituted, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, a Zila Parishad in every district, and each Zila Parishad shall be known by the name of the district concerned. (2) Every Zila Parishad shall be a body corporate, having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power, subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules, to acquire and hold property, both movable and immovable, and shall by its name sue and be sued.

2.2 Composition of Zila Parishads

1. The Zila Parishad shall consist of the following members, namely: -
 - a. representative members
 - b. nominated members;
 - c. women members;
 - d. official members.
2. The Members of Parliament of the Zila and the Chairmen of the Upazilas Parishads and the Paurasabhas shall be members of the Zila Parishad ex officio.
3. The nominated members and women members shall be nominated by the Government from amongst the men and women living in the district, and their total number shall not exceed the total number of the representative members of the Zila Parishad.
4. The Deputy Commissioner of the Zila and other Government Officials working in the Zila as determined by the Government shall be the official members of the Zila Parishad successively.
5. The official members shall not have the right of vote in any meeting of the Zila Parishad.

2.3 Chairman.-

1. Every Zila Parishad shall have a Chairman, and he shall be appointed by the Government through notification in the official Gazette.
2. If he is no member of the Zila Parishad, he shall become a member successively.
3. He shall remain on his post for a period of three years from the date of taking up work.
4. He shall enjoy official and special rights determined by the Government.
5. Notwithstanding anything said in this section, the Government may at any time dismiss any Chairman from his post without showing any reasons.

2.4 Qualifications and disqualifications of Chairman

1. A person shall, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), be qualified to be appointed as Chairman or nominated as nominated member or women member, if he is a citizen of Bangladesh and has attained the age of twenty-five years.
2. A person shall be disqualified for appointment as Chairman or nomination as nominated member or women member of a Zila Parishad if-
 - a. he is declared by any court to be of unsound mind;
 - b. he is an undischarged insolvent;
 - c. he has given up or lost the citizenship of Bangladesh;
 - d. he has been, on conviction of any offence, sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years, unless a period of five years has elapsed since his release;
 - e. he holds any whole-time office of profit in the service of the Republic or the Zila Parishad or any other local authority;

- f. he is a party to a contract for work to be done for, or goods to be supplied for, the Zila Parishad concerned, or has otherwise any pecuniary interest in its affairs, or is a dealer in essential commodities appointed by the Government.
- g. he has any outstanding debts overdue at any Sonali Bank, Rupali Bank, Shilpa Rin Sanstha, Shilpa Bank, Krishi Bank or Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank.

2.5 Chairman's property declaration

The Chairman shall before taking up his office present a written report on any immovable and movable properties to which he or any of his family members has any right, claim or interest, to an authority determined by the Government in a manner prescribed by the Government.

Explanation.- "Family members" includes the Chairman's wife or husband as well as sons, daughters, father, mother, brothers and sisters who live with him and completely depend on him.

2.6 Resignation of Chairman,

1. Any Chairman may resign his office by a notice in writing under his hand addressed to the Government, any member by a notice in writing under his hand addressed to the Chairman.
2. The resignation shall become effective, and the office concerned shall become vacant on the date the resignation is received by the addressee.

2.7 Nominated Chairman

If the office of the Chairman becomes vacant or if for reasons of absence, sickness or others the Chairman is unable to discharge his functions, any person nominated by the Government shall function as Chairman until a newly appointed Chairman takes up office or the Chairman is again able to discharge his functions

2.8 Compulsory and optional functions.

1. The Parishad shall have two sorts of functions: compulsory and optional.
2. The functions mentioned in Part 1 of the First Schedule shall be the compulsory functions of the Parishad; and the Parishad shall carry out all these functions within the limits of its fund, subject to rules and such directions as the Government may issue from time to time.
3. The functions mentioned in Part 2 of the First Schedule shall be the optional functions of the Parishad; and if intending so the Parishad may carry out all these functions, but, if instructed by the Government, the Zila Parishad shall have to carry out these functions according to the instruction of the Government.

2.9 Executive powers.-

1. The executive powers of a Zila Parishad shall extend to the doing of all acts necessary for the due discharge of its functions under this Act.
2. Save as otherwise provided in this Act, the executive powers of a Zila Parishad shall vest in and be exercised by its Chairman, either directly or through other persons authorized by him, in accordance with this Act and the rules.
3. All acts of a Zila Parishad, whether executive or not, shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the Zila Parishad, and shall be authenticated in the manner prescribed.

Chapter 3 Rural Development schemes

3.1 Introduction

INTEGRATED development of rural areas is one of the abiding tasks before the Government of India. The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Central government reiterates the cardinal importance of villages to the overall development of the country and commits to work towards development of rural areas, which for various reasons could not keep pace with urban areas in the past. In conformity with this commitment of the Government, the Ministry of Rural Development accords foremost priority to development in rural areas and eradication of poverty and hunger from the face of rural India. A number of new initiatives have been taken in the recent years for creation of social and economic infrastructure in rural areas to bridge the rural urban divide as well as to provide food security and to fulfill other basic needs of the rural populace.

The renewed emphasis on rural development is also visible in the commensurate progressive increase in the allocation of resources for implementation of poverty alleviation programmes. For the Tenth Five Year Plan, the allocation of funds for rural development programmes has been enhanced to Rs. 76,774 crore as against Rs. 42,874 crore in Ninth Plan. An allocation of Rs. 24480 crore was made for the Ministry during 2005-06. The budget estimate for the year 2006-07 was Rs. 31443.62 crore. Addressing the challenge of unemployment in the rural areas of the country is central to the development of rural sector for ameliorating the economic condition of the people. Wage employment is provided in rural areas under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) whereas self-employment is provided under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). Besides generating employment these wage employment schemes also ensure creation of durable assets in rural areas. Initiatives are also taken by the Ministry to build and upgrade the basic rural infrastructure through various schemes.

Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) construction and up gradation of rural roads are taken up to ensure rural connectivity. It is expected under the scheme that an expanded and renovated rural road network will lead to an increase in rural employment opportunities, better access to regulated and fair market, better access to health, education and other public services so as to accelerate the pace of economic growth in rural areas. Similarly basic amenities for housing, drinking water and toilets, etc. are provided under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), celerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) to enhance the welfare and well-being of the vulnerable sections of rural population. Area Development is encouraged through Watershed Programmes to check the diminishing productivity of waste land and loss of natural resources.

The Ministry of Rural Development is also committed to fulfill the goals of Bharat Nirman - a time-bound action plan for development of rural infrastructure espoused by the President of India Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam who described it as "the platform on which my government will construct its New Deal for Rural India". Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh extolled that "Bharat Nirman will be time-bound business plan for action in rural infrastructure for the next four years. Under Bharat Nirman, action is proposed in the areas of irrigation, roads, rural housing, rural water supply, rural electrification and rural telecommunication connectivity. We have set specific targets to be achieved under each of these goals so that there is accountability in the progress of this initiative." Bharat Nirman is thus viewed as an effort to unlock rural India's growth potential and be a key for ushering a new era. It is expected that Bharat Nirman will lead to considerable rural assets creation along with the National

Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Alongside the new initiatives some of the existing schemes have also been streamlined and strengthened to make their implementation more speedy and effective.

3.2 NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE ACT

The 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Act' (NREGA) was enacted in September 2005 and brought into force w.e.f. 2 February 2006 in 200 most backward districts with the objective of providing 100 days of guaranteed unskilled wage employment to each rural household opting for it. The NREGA marks a paradigm shift and stands out among the plethora of wage employment programmes, as it bestows a legal right and guarantee to the rural population through an Act of Parliament and is not a scheme unlike the other wage employment programmes. The ongoing programmes of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) have been subsumed in NREGA. The NREGA would cover all districts of the country within five years. The focus of the Act is on works relating to water conservation, drought proofing (including afforestation/tree plantation), land development, flood control/protection (including drainage in waterlogged areas) and rural connectivity in terms of all-weather roads. Each district has to prepare perspective plan of 5 years with a bottom-up approach deriving from the needs of the local community. The said plan should have the approval of especially the derived community and the PRIs. Panchayats have a key role in planning, implementation and monitoring of the Act through preparation of perspective plan, approval of shelf of projects, execution of works at least to the extent of 50 per cent in terms of costs. The Act envisages strict Vigilance and Monitoring. Gram Sabha has the power of social audit. Local Vigilance and Monitoring Committees are to be set up to ensure the quality of works. Provision for due representation in such committees for SC/STs, women has also been made. At least 1/3rd of the beneficiaries are to be women. Key records such as muster rolls, asset registers and employment registers are to be maintained and public access to them ensured. The Act also envisages a grievance redressal mechanism and helpline. A comprehensive MIS, has been developed to capture work-wise and household-wise data and track the progress of resources invested.

3.3 SAMPOORNA GRAMEEN ROZGAR YOJANA

The Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) was launched on 25 September, 2001 by merging the on-going schemes of EAS and the JGSY with the objective of providing additional wage employment and food security, alongside creation of durable community assets in rural areas. The programme is self-targeting in nature with provisions for special emphasis on women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and parents of children withdrawn from hazardous occupations. While preference is given to BPL families for providing wage employment under SGRY, poor families above the poverty line can also be offered employment whenever NREGA has been launched.

The annual outlay for the programme is Rs.10,000 crore which includes 50 lakh tonnes on food grains. The cash component is shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25. Food grains are provided free of cost to the States/UTs. The payment of food grains is made directly to FCI at economic cost by the Centre. However, State Governments are responsible for the cost of transportation of food grains from FCI godown to work-site/PDS shops and its distribution. Minimum wages are paid to the workers through a mix of minimum five kg of food grains and at least 25 per cent of wages in cash.

The programme is implemented by all the three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Each level of Panchayat is an independent unit for formulation of Action Plan and executing the scheme. Resources are distributed among District Panchayats, Intermediate Panchayats and the Gram Panchayats in the ratio of 20:30:50. The Gram Panchayats can take up any work with the approval of the gram sabha as per their felt need and within available funds. Fifty per cent of the funds earmarked for the gram panchayats are to be utilized for infrastructure development works in SC/ST localities. 22.5 per cent resources must be spent on individual beneficiary schemes meant for SCs/STs out of the resource share of District Panchayats and Intermediate Panchayats. Contractors are not permitted to be engaged for execution of any of the works and no

middlemen/intermediate agencies can be engaged for executing works under the scheme. The programme is regularly monitored. The programme is being evaluated through impact studies conducted by reputed institutions and organizations sponsored by the Central/State governments.

3.4 NATIONAL FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAMME

The National Food for Work Programme was launched in November 2004 in 150 most backward districts of the country, identified by the Planning Commission in consultation with the Ministry of Rural Development and the State governments. The objective of the programme was to provide additional resources apart from the resources available under the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) to 150 most backward districts of the country so that generation of supplementary wage employment and providing of food-security through creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts are further intensified. The scheme was 100 per cent Centrally sponsored. The programme has since been subsumed in National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which has come in force in 200 identified districts of the country including 150 NFFWP districts. The Act provides 100 days of work guarantee to every rural household whose members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

3.5 PRADHAN MANTRI SADAK YOJANA

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) was launched on 25 December 2000 as a fully funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The primary objective of the PMGSY is to provide connectivity to all the eligible unconnected habitations of more than 500 persons in the rural areas (250 persons in the hilly and desert areas) by good quality all-weather roads. Under Bharat Nirman, goal has been set to provide connectivity to all the habitations with population of more than 1000 in the plain areas and habitations with a population of 500 or more in hilly and tribal areas in a time-bound manner by 2009. The systematic up gradation of the existing rural road networks is also an integral component of the scheme. Accordingly, an Action Plan has been prepared for connecting 66,802 habitations with 1,46,185 km of all-weather roads. This Action Plan also envisages up gradation/renewal of 1,94,130 km of the existing rural road network. It is estimated that an investment of about Rs.48,000 crore would be required for achieving the targets under Bharat Nirman. The implementation strategy focuses on quality, cost management and 'on time' delivery. Up to 31 March 2007, project proposals for 63667 road works measuring 220956.31 km. and valued at Rs. 44661.96 crore has been sanctioned by this Ministry. An amount of Rs. 22401.94 crore has been released to the various States/UTs, up to March 2007. 39045 road works measuring 120577.24 km. have been completed up to 31st March 2007 with the expenditure of Rs. 21025.97 crore.

3.6 RURAL HOUSING

To meet the shortage of housing in rural areas, a programme called Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) was launched in May 1985 as a sub-scheme of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY). It is being implemented as an independent scheme since 1 January 1996 and is the flagship programme for rural housing. The Indira Awaas Yojana aims at providing assistance to rural people below the poverty-line belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, freed bonded labourers and non-scheduled castes/scheduled tribes categories for the construction of dwelling units and up gradation of existing

unservicable kutcha houses by providing grants-in-aid. From 1995-96, IAY benefits have been extended to widows or next-of-kin of defense personnel killed in action. Benefits have also been extended to ex-servicemen and retired members of the paramilitary forces as long as they fulfill the normal eligibility conditions of IAY. Three per cent of funds are reserved for the disabled persons living below the poverty line in rural areas. Once the annual allocations are made and physical targets decided, the district panchayat/District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) decide the Panchayatwise number of houses to be constructed/upgraded under IAY, during a particular financial year. Targets are intimated to the concerned Gram Panchayats. Thereafter,

the Gram Sabha selects the beneficiaries from the list of eligible BPL households, restricting this number to the target allotted as per the programme guidelines. Selection

of beneficiary by the Gram Sabha is final. No approval by any higher body is required. Zilla Parishads/DRDAs and Block Development Officers are informed accordingly to provide assistance to selected beneficiaries. To ensure transparency and efficiency in the allotment of houses under the scheme the permanent waitlist for IAY at Gram

Panchayat level based on the BPL census of 2002 has also been initiated. Under the Scheme, allotment of the house is done in the name of the female members of the households or in the joint names of husband and wife. A minimum of

60 per cent of funds are to be utilized for construction of houses for SCs/STs. Sanitary latrines and smokeless chulhas are also provided to the beneficiaries. Selection of construction technology, materials and design is left entirely to the choice of beneficiaries. The ceiling on assistance for construction of new houses has been increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000 per unit for the plain areas and from Rs. 22,000 to Rs. 27,500 per unit for the hilly/difficult areas with effect from 1 April 2004. The upper limit in respect of conversion of kutchha houses into semi-pucca houses (Up gradation) has also been increased from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,500 per unit from the same date and up to 20 per cent of IAY funds can be utilized for this purpose.

Around 143.13 lakh houses have been constructed/upgraded from 1985-86 to 2005-2006 (as per reports received up to April 2006) under the Scheme with an expenditure of about Rs. 26305.08 crore.

The Central Allocation for rural housing during 2004-2005 was Rs. 2500 crore, out of which an amount of Rs. 2460.67 crore was allocated for IAY with a target of building about 15.62 lakh houses. The entire amount was released and about 15.21 lakh houses have been reported constructed/upgraded. An allocation of Rs. 2750 crore was made available during 2005-2006 for Rural Housing. For Indira Awaas Yojana, an amount of Rs. 2732.40 crore was allocated for construction/up gradation of 14.41 lakh houses during 2005-2006. Against this, an amount of Rs. 2738.22 crore has been released and 15.52 lakh houses have been constructed in the year as per reports received from the States. As construction of houses for the rural poor is a significant activity of asset creation in rural areas and contributes substantially towards the concept of Bharat Nirman, this has been included as one of the six components of the 'Bharat Nirman' Programme. Under this programme sixty lakh houses are to be constructed for rural BPL families during a span of four years beginning from 2005-06.

3.7 SWARNAJAYANTI GRAM SWAROZGAR YOJANA

The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) was launched as an integrated programme for self-employment of the rural poor with effect from 1 April 1999. The objective of the scheme is to bring the assisted poor families above the poverty line by organizing them into Self Help Groups (SHGs) through the process of social mobilization, their training and capacity building and provision of income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy. The scheme emphasizes establishment of activity clusters through selection of key activities based on aptitude and skill of the people, availability of resources and market potentiality. The scheme adopts a process approach and attempts to build the capacities of the rural poor. It provides for involvement of NGOs/CBOs/Individuals/Banks and/Self Help Promoting Institutions in nurturing and development of SHGs, including skill development. The scheme provides for the cost of social intermediation and skill development training based on the local requirement. Flexibility has been given to the DRDAs/States in the utilization of funds for training, sanction of Revolving Fund, subsidy for economic activity based on the stage of development of groups. The focus of the programme is on establishing a large number of microenterprises in rural areas based on the ability of the poor and potential of each area, both land-based and otherwise, for sustainable income generation. Due emphasis is being laid on different components such as capacity building of the poor, skill development training, credit training, technology transfer, marketing and infrastructure. The subsidy allowed under the SGSY is 30 per cent of the total project cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs 7,500 (for SC/STs and disabled persons subsidy limit is 50 per cent of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs 10,000). For

Self-Help Groups(SHG), subsidy would be 50 per cent of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1.25 lakh or per capita subsidy of Rs. 10,000, whichever is less. There is no monetary ceiling on subsidy for minor irrigation projects for SHGs as well as individual swarozgaris.

The SGSY has a special focus on the vulnerable groups among the rural poor. SC/STs account for at least 50 per cent, women 40 per cent and the persons with physical disability constitute 3 per cent of the Swarozgaris respectively. The SGSY seeks to promote multiple credits rather than a one-time credit injection. The SHGs may consist of 10-20 members in case of minor irrigation, and in case of disabled persons and difficult areas, i.e. hilly, desert and sparsely populated areas, this number may be a minimum of five. Self Help Groups should also be drawn from the BPL list approved by the Gram Sabha. The SHGs broadly go through three stages of evolution such as group formation, capital formation through the revolving fund and skill development and taking up of economic activity for income generation. Selection could be made up to 10 key activities per block based on local resources, occupational skills of the people and availability of market so that the Swarozgaris can draw suitable incomes from their investment. Under SGSY each block should concentrate on 4-5 selected key activities and attend to all aspects of these activities in a cluster approach, so that swarozgaris can draw sustainable income from their investments. The scheme lays special emphasis on development of swarozgaris through well designed training courses tailored to the activities selected and the requirement of each swarozgari. SGSY is being implemented through the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs), with active involvement of panchayati raj institutions, banks and NGOs. It is financed on 75:25 cost-sharing basis between the Centre and the states. Since the inception of the programme 22.52 lakh Self-Help Groups(SHG) have been formed covering 66.97 lakh swarozgaris. These include 35.54 lakh members of the SHGs and 31.43 lakh individual Swarozgaris who have been assisted with a total investment of Rs. 14403.73 crore. Out of total Swarozgaris assisted, SCs/STs were 45.54 per cent and women 47.85 per cent. During 2006-2007 the Central allocation for the scheme was Rs.1200 crore.

3.8 NATIONAL SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME AND ANNA PURNA

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) consisting of National Old Age Pension Scheme(NOAPS) and National Family Benefit Scheme(NFBS) was being administered by Ministry of Rural Development till the programme was transferred to the State Plan along with the Annapurna Scheme from 2002-03. After transfer of the schemes, state-wise allocation of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is made by the Ministry of Rural Development and Planning Commission. The scale of central assistance under NOAPS is Rs. 75 per month for providing pension to a destitute

aged 65 years and above. Under NFBS Rs. 10,000 is being provided in the event of death of the primary bread winner of a family and under Annapurna Scheme 10 kg of food grains per month per person is provided free of cost to the beneficiaries. Number of persons to be benefited from the Scheme would be in the first instance, 20 per cent of the persons eligible to receive pension under NOAPS. State Governments/UTs can utilise the ACA provided to them by taking up one or two or all the three schemes or in any other combination in accordance with their own priorities and needs. Releases of the ACA to the States/UTs are made automatically by the Ministry of Finance in equal installments on a monthly basis until December of the financial year. However, releases of ACA for the last quarter of the financial year depend upon the reporting of satisfactory progress of the scheme and utilization of funds by States/UTs. Reports in this regard are submitted by States/UTs to Ministry of Rural Development, who after examination of these reports, make suitable recommendation to Ministry of Finance regarding the release of ACAs for the last three months of the financial year. The Finance Minister in the budget speech for the year 2006-07 announced an increase in pension under NOAPS from Rs 75 per month per beneficiary to Rs. 200 per month per beneficiary.

3.9 DRDA ADMINISTRATION

A Centrally-sponsored scheme, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Administration was launched on 1 April 1999 with the objective of strengthening the DRDAs and making them more professional in their functioning. The funding pattern of the DRDA Administration is in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and the States. During 2005-2006 the revised estimate for DRDA administration was Rs. 235 crore and the whole amount was also released. In 2006-07 a budget provision of Rs. 220 crore had been made for the scheme.

3.10 CAPART

The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Rural Development. It was set up in September 1986, as a supporting and funding agency for the voluntary organizations. Its primary objective is to promote voluntary action through community participation and to propagate appropriate rural technologies for the benefit of rural masses. It has a network of regional centres at Jaipur, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Guwahati and Dharwad. The regional committees are empowered to sanction projects up to an outlay of Rs. 25 lakh in their respective regions. The Budget allocation for CAPART during the year 2006-07 was Rs. 70 crore. Since inception and up to March 2007, CAPART has sanctioned 24,466 projects involving an amount of Rs. 909.34 crore and released an amount of Rs. 752.61 crore.

3.11 WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

The Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is administering three area-based watershed programmes for development of wastelands/degraded lands namely Drought Prone Areas Programmes (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) to check the diminishing productivity of wasteland and loss of natural resources.

The DPAP was launched in 1973-74 to tackle the special problems faced by those areas that are constantly afflicted by drought conditions. Presently, 972 blocks of 182 districts in 16 States are covered under the Programme. DDP was launched in 1977-78 to mitigate the adverse effects of desertification. Presently, 235 blocks of 40 districts in 7 States are covered under the Programme. IWDP has been under implementation since 1989-90. The projects under the IWDP are generally sanctioned in areas that are not covered under DDP or DPAP. Since 1 April 1995, these three programmes are being implemented on the basis of Common Guidelines for Watershed Development.

The projects under DPAP and DDP are sanctioned for 500 ha. each while the IWDP projects cover an area of 5000-6000 ha. The cost norms for all the three schemes have been revised to Rs. 6000 per ha. Under DPAP and DDP, it is shared between the Centre and the States in ratio of 75:25.

In case of IWDP, the cost sharing between the Centre and State Governments is in the ratio of 11:1. Funds are released in seven instalments, six instalments at the rate of 15 per cent and the last installment at the rate of 10 per cent. The first installment is released along with the initial sanction-order and subsequent instalments on receipt of utilization for 50 per cent of the available funds as well as the following documents: (a) Quarterly Progress Reports; (b) Utilization Certificates; (c) The Audited Statement of Accounts for the previous years; and (d) Evidence of satisfactory completion of institutional arrangements.

Projects are implemented by District Rural Development Agencies/Zilla Parishads (DRDAs/ZPs) through Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs). PIAs could be a Line Department (of the State Government), Panchayati Raj Institutions or a reputed NGO. One PIA normally handles 10-12 watershed projects covering an area of about 5000-6000 hectares. The PIA is required to maintain a technical team of 4 experts called Watershed Development Team (WDT) and individual projects (500 hectares) are planned and executed by the local people living in the watershed area.

called the Watershed Association (WA) through an elected body called Watershed Committee (WC). The Department of Land Resources has brought out a new initiative called Hariyali with an objective of empowering PRIs both financially and administratively in implementation of Watershed Development Programmes. Under this initiative, all ongoing area development programmes namely, Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) are to be implemented through the PRIs. New projects under the aforesaid area development programmes are being implemented in accordance with the Guidelines for Hariyali from 1 April 2003. Projects sanctioned prior to this date shall continue to be implemented as per the Watershed Development Guidelines of 2001.

In the new arrangement, Gram Panchayats shall implement projects under overall supervision and guidance of Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs). An 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 PIA itself or may appoint a suitable Line Department like Agriculture, Forestry /Social Forestry, Soil Conservation, etc., or an Agency of the State Government/ University/Institute as PIA. Failing these options, the ZP/DRDA

may consider appointing a reputed Non-Government Organization (NGO) in the district with adequate experience and expertise in the implementation of watershed projects or related area development works as the PIA after thoroughly examining their credentials.

The Project Implementing Agency (PIA) will provide necessary technical guidance to the Gram Panchayat for preparation of development plans for the watershed through Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise, undertake community organization and training for the village communities, supervise watershed development activities, inspect and authenticate project accounts, encourage adoption of low cost technologies built upon indigenous technical knowledge, monitor and review the overall project implementation and set up institutional arrangements for post-project operation and maintenance and further development of the assets created during the project period. Funds for the watershed development projects being implemented as per Hariyali Guidelines are being released in five instalments @ 15 per cent, 30 per cent, 30 per cent, 15 per cent and 10 percent.

3.12 LAND REFORMS

Two Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz; (i) Computerization of Land Records (CLR) and (ii) Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA & ULR) are administrated by Land Reforms Division in the Department of Land Resources.

3.13 COMPUTERISATION OF LAND RECORDS

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Computerization of Land Records (CLR) was started in 1988-89 with 100 per cent financial assistance on a pilot project basis in eight Districts viz. Rangareddy (A.P.), Sonitpur (Assam), Singhbhum (Jharkhand), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Morena (M.P.), Wardha (Maharashtra), Mayurbhanj (Orissa) and Dungarpur (Rajasthan) to remove the problems inherent in the manual systems of maintenance and updating of land records and to meet the requirements of various groups of users. It was decided that efforts should be made to computerize CORE DATA contained in land records, so as to assist development planning and to make records accessible to peoples/planners and administrators. During the 8th Five Year Plan, the scheme was approved as a separate Centrally sponsored scheme on computerization of land records. The total expenditure under the Scheme during 8th plan period was Rs. 59.42 crore. During 9th Five Year Plan, Ministry of Rural Development released a sum of Rs. 169.13 crore by covering 259 more districts under the Scheme. At present, the Scheme is being implemented in 582 Districts of the country leaving those Districts where there are no proper land records. A decision has been taken during 1997-98 for operation of the Scheme at the tehsil/taluk level for facilitating delivery of computerized land records to users and public at large. Under this programme, funds are released to the State Governments for data entry work, setting up of

computer centres at tehsil level, sub-division level, District Land Records Data Centre and Monitoring Cell at state headquarters and imparting training to revenue officials on application software and computer technology. So far 3519 tehsils/taluks, 365 District Land Records Data Centre, 1019 Sub-division and 16 monitoring cells have been covered under the programme of CLR. Since inception of the Scheme of CLR (1988-89), Rs. 445.38 crore has been released to the States/UTs, out of which Rs. 266.23 crore has been reported utilized by the State/UTs.

3.14 STRENGTHENING OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION AND UPDATING OF LAND RECORDS (SRA & ULR)

With a view to assisting States/UTs in the task of updating of land records, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA & ULR) was started in 1987. Initially, the Scheme was approved for the States of Bihar and Orissa in 1987-88 and extended to other States/UTs, during 1989-90. The Scheme is being implemented by state governments through their revenue/land reforms departments. It is financed by the Centre and the state on 50:50 funds sharing basis. However, union territories are provided full Central assistance.

Under this Scheme, financial assistance is given for purchase of modern survey equipment like Global Positioning System (GPS), EDM, Total Stations, Theodolites, Work Stations, Aerial Survey, Office equipment like photocopiers, laminating machines, binding machines and basic facilities to improve work efficiency of subordinate level staff of the revenue departments, construction of office-cum-residence of patwaries, construction /repair/renovation of Training Institutes and equipment for training, etc. Since inception of the scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 324.89 crore

has been provided to state governments and UTs up to 31 March, 2006 towards central share under the scheme. The utilization of the funds reported by the States/ UTs is Rs. 232.81 crore which is approximately 72 per cent of total funds released.

3.15 RURAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY PROGRAMME

Clean drinking water is a basic necessity of life. Supply of clean drinking water in the rural areas has always been one of the highest priorities of the government. A Technology Mission on drinking water named "National Drinking Water Mission" (NDWM) was launched in 1986, which subsequently was rechristened as "Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission" (RGNDWM) in 1991 with three key objectives:

- (i) providing safe drinking water to all villages,
- (ii) assisting local communities to maintain sources of safe drinking water in good condition, and
- (iii) giving special attention for water supply to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

To achieve the objectives, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) is being implemented to resolve the drinking water problem in rural habitations. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the states by providing financial and technical support. The Tenth Plan emphasizes participatory approach where PRIs should be the key institutions for convergence of drinking water supply programmes at the ground level. The strategy to achieve the Tenth Plan objectives can be briefly summarized as: (a) Accelerating coverage of the remaining Not Covered and Partially

Covered habitations including those slipped back from fully covered to partially and not covered categories, with safe drinking water systems; (b) To tackle problems of water quality in affected habitations and to institutionalize water quality monitoring and surveillance systems; and (c) To promote sustainability, both of systems and sources, to ensure continued supply of safe drinking water in covered habitations Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) aims at achieving this objective. Considerable success has been achieved in meeting the drinking water needs of the rural population through the said scheme. There are more than 4 million hand pumps and 2 lakh piped water schemes in the rural areas.

The ARWSP was launched during 1972-73. It is currently being implemented through the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission. The scheme aims at coverage of all rural habitations with population of 100 and above, specially the unreached ones, ensure sustainability of the systems and sources, tackle the problem of water quality and institutionalize water quality monitoring and surveillance through a Catchment Area Approach.

718 India 2008 As on 1 April 2005, 96.13 per cent of rural habitations have been Fully Covered (FC) with drinking water facilities and 3.55 per cent are Partially Covered (PC) and 0.32 per cent is Not Covered (NC) with drinking water facilities. There are slippages of FC into NC or PC due to various factors such as lowering of ground water table, systems outliving their lives, increase in population, etc. Drinking water supply is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman, which has been envisaged to build strong rural infrastructure in four years (2005-06 to 2008-09). The task ahead is to cover all the remaining uncovered habitations and also to cover the slipped back as well as the water quality affected ones. Action Plans from State/UT Governments for achieving the goals of Bharat Nirman in a time bound manner have been obtained.

For ensuring sustainability of the systems, steps were initiated in 1999 to institutionalize community participation in the implementation of rural drinking water supply schemes by incorporating the following three basic principles:

(i) Adoption of a demand-driven responsive and adaptable approach based on empowerment of villagers to ensure their full participation in the project through a decision making role in the choice of scheme design, control of finances and management arrangements.

(ii) Increasing role of government for empowering user groups/gram panchayats for sustainable management of drinking water assets and integrated water management and conservation.

(iii) Partial capital cost sharing either in cash or kind or both and 100 per cent responsibility of Operation and Maintenance by end-users.

Sector Reforms Projects, based on the above principles were sanctioned in 67 districts on pilot basis. With the experience gained from these pilot projects, reform process has been scaled up in the entire country through Swajaldhara launched on 25 December 2002. A notable feature of Swajaldhara is involvement of Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC)/Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in planning, implementation, operation and maintenance. This would in turn ensure sustainability of the system. 10 per cent contribution is made by the community and 90 per cent funds are provided by the Central government. In case of SC and ST habitations, community contribution can be in the form of cash, kind, labour or land or a combination of these. Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) adopts an integrated approach so that conservation and augmentation of water sources is interrelated with rural water supply schemes to provide sustainable supply of safe drinking water to the rural population. The Mission seeks to provide supply of 40 liters of safe drinking water in rural areas. An initiative has been taken by Government of India in February 2006 by launching the National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme which envisages institutionalization of community participation for monitoring and surveillance of drinking water sources at the grass-root level by Gram Panchayats and Village Water and Sanitation Committees, followed by checking the positively tested samples at the district and State level laboratories. Another initiative taken by the Government is that from 2006-07 onwards focused funding to tackle drinking water has been started. Up to 20 per cent of ARWSP funds are to be earmarked separately for tackling water quality problems. For 2006-07, 20 per cent of ARWSP funds were allocated for funding under water quality.

3.16 CENTRAL RURAL SANITATION PROGRAMME

Rural Sanitation is a State subject. The efforts of the states are supplemented by the Central Government through technical and financial assistance under the Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP). The Programme was launched in 1986 with the objectives of improving the quality of life of rural people and providing privacy and dignity to women. The concept of sanitation was expanded in 1993 to include personal hygiene, home sanitation, safe water and

disposal of garbage, human excreta and wastewater. The components of the programme included construction of individual sanitary toilets for household below poverty-line (BPL), conversion of dry latrines to water-pour flush toilets, construction of village sanitary complexes for women, setting up of sanitary marts and production centres, intensive campaign for creating awareness and health education, etc.

Keeping in view the experiences of the Central and state governments, NGOs and other implementing agencies and the recommendations of the Second National Seminar on Rural Sanitation, the strategy for the Ninth Five Year Plan was revised and the programme was restructured from 1 April 1999. The restructured programme moves away from the principle of state-wise allocation of funds, primarily based on poverty criteria, to a demand-driven approach in a phased manner. Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) was introduced and the Allocation Based Programme was phased

out by 31 March 2002. TSC is community-led and people-centered. There was a shift from a high subsidy to a low subsidy regime. The TSC approach emphasized awareness-building component and meets the demand through alternate delivery mechanism. School Sanitation has been introduced as a major component to encourage wider acceptance of sanitation among rural masses. The States/UTs are required to formulate project proposals under the TSC in order to claim Central government assistance.

Under the TSC, so far 559 projects in 30 States/UTs have been sanctioned with the total project outlay of about Rs.6240.27 crore. The Central, State and Beneficiary/ Panchayat contributions are about Rs.3675.38 crore, Rs.1424.09 crore and Rs.1140.80 crore respectively. The components sanctioned in the 559 projects are-

- (a) construction of 499 lakh individual household latrines;
- (b) 656690 toilets for Schools;
- (c) 36098 Community Sanitary Complexes;
- (d) 199033 toilets for Balwadis/ Anganwadis and
- (e) 4030 Rural Sanitary Marts/Production Centres.

Besides, funds have been earmarked for start-up activities, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and Administrative charges. The total numbers of household toilets constructed up to 2005-06 are 14,48,1807. To add vigour to the implementation of TSC Government of India has separately launched an award scheme 'Nirmal Gram Puraskar'(NGP) for fully sanitized and open defecation free Gram Panchayats, block and districts. In the first year of its institution only 40 PRIs were awarded NGP on 24 February 2005. In the second year the number of awarded PRIs/Blocks and organization have increased to 772. His Excellency, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President of India, distributed the Awards on 23 March 2006

3.17 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Ministry of Rural Development lays great emphasis on Monitoring and Evaluation of all rural development programmes in general and poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes in particular, being implemented in various States/UTs. It is well recognized that the success of the programmes largely depends on the effective delivery system and efficient implementation at the grass-roots level so that the programme benefits reach the rural poor in full measures. In order to ensure this, the Ministry has evolved a comprehensive multi-level and multi tool system of Monitoring and Evaluation for the implementation of its programmes. The Monitoring mechanism includes, inter-alia, the Performance Review Committee, Review meeting by the Ministers of Rural Development with the Chief Ministers/ Ministers of Rural development and Officers of the States, the Area Officer Schemes, periodic progress reports, audit and utilization certificates, video conferencing and field visits. The Ministry conducts quick evaluation/concurrent evaluation of all major programmes. Impact assessment studies to assess the overall impact of programmes of village-level are also conducted in selected districts. The Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at State and District-levels in all States/UTs to monitor the implementation of programmes are reconstituted. These Committees inter-alia include MPs/MLAs representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and NGOs. The Members of Parliament both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have been assigned a Central role in the reconstituted V&M Committees

and they have been nominated Chairman/Co-Chairman of the district level V&M Committees. The Ministry has also taken initiatives to strengthen the monitoring mechanism and quality of implementation of programmes by introducing District Level Monitoring (DLM) System through external research organization agencies, which include monthly reporting of physical and financial performance, qualitative reporting about policy and implementation environments in the district and physical verification of the assets created under various programmes of the Ministry. With effect from 1st October, 2006, the DLM systems have been restructured and one combined system for the programmes of Development of Drinking Water Supply and the Programmes of Department of Rural Development (except PMGSY and NREGA) and Land Resources has been put in place. 466 districts of the country have been covered under DLM and 46 independent organizations have been engaged for this purpose. This system aims at providing continuous, transparent and accountable monitoring inputs in reporting format with the objectives of reporting of the process and progress of the programmes covering different components of the programmes. It also aims at identification of gaps in the implementation at the village, block, district and state level. The monitoring system also elicits the stakeholders' views; assesses the institutional issues and document case studies and success stories on best practices, innovations and lesson learned. In order to strengthen the monitoring mechanism, the Ministry of Rural Development has a panel of about 250 National Level Monitors comprising retired Defense Service Officers and Retired Civil Servants to monitor and furnish periodic reports to the Ministry on the implementation of programmes in selected districts including verifying facts of the cases and complaints if any, which may be referred to them.

Conclusion

One week training at Zila Parishad Nagpur started on 10th March 2008 and ended on 15th March 2008. On 10th March, we contacted Shri. Pradeep Gogulwar, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and submitted arrival report. Then we contacted several departments of the Zila Parishad to gather information regarding working and organizational set-up.

It was nice experience to interact- Executive Engineer of Minor Irrigation Division- Shri. B.M Sangode, with whom we went to site visit- Dhawalapur Minor Irrigation Tank, located near Navegaon Kharee village, Parshivani Tahsil of Nagpur district.

I learned valuable information and working style of the Zila Parishad from this training session and it will be helpful for my service.