

2.12. Rural Development

2.12.1. Out of the total population of Tamil Nadu, nearly 3.5 crore constituting 56% of people live in villages. Therefore the endeavour of both the State and Central Governments is to alleviate poverty and improve quality of living of the rural poor through programmes of infrastructure building, programmes for increased livelihood and programmes for improving delivery of service.

2.12.2. Broadly a multi pronged approach and strategy consisting of (i) programmes for livelihood involving both self employment & wage employment (ii) programmes for focussed development involving Panchayats and Constituencies and (iii) programmes for community participation involving improved delivery mechanism form is being followed for combating rural poverty.

2.12.3. Shelter being one of the basic amenities of life, programmes for housing will also be another thrust area for developmental efforts.

Indira Awaas Yojana

2.12.4. The objective of **Indira Awaas Yojana** scheme is to construct free houses to members of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, freed bonded labourers in rural areas and also to non SC/ST Rural poor living below the poverty line. 3% of the financial allocation is also earmarked for the disabled persons. Beneficiaries are selected from the Below Poverty-Line (BPL) list approved by the Grama Sabha. Upgradation of kutcha houses are also provided under the scheme. The State Government in addition to unit cost of Rs.25,000/27,500 will provide a sum of **Rs.12,000** per house for RCC roofing apart from its matching share. The minimum plinth area of a house is 20 square metres. All new houses will have toilets and smokeless chulahs. Beneficiaries undertake the construction with locally available materials employing low cost technologies. It is tentatively projected that 250000 no. of houses will be constructed over the XI Five Year Plan period at a projected outlay of Rs.1000 crore. For 2007-2008, 50,000 no. of houses are expected to be constructed.

2.12.5. A new scheme for improving infrastructure & delivery mechanism of services with peoples participation called the **All Villages Anna Renaissance Scheme** will be continued under which 2500 Village Panchayats will be covered every year with an allocation of Rs.20 lakh each. All the Village Panchayats in the State will be covered in a phased manner over a period of 5 years. The poorest Village Panchayats (based on per capita income) will be taken up in the first year, the next poorest in the second year, for substantial injections of resources under this scheme. All the basic amenities required for a Village will be provided under this proposed scheme, with an outlay of 500 crore in 2007-2008 and projected outlay of 2500 crore over the 11th Plan period inclusive of Central & State shares.

2.12.6. Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana continues to be a prime wage employment scheme. The primary objective of the scheme is to give supplementary wage employment to rural labour, thereby providing food security and improving the nutritional levels in rural areas. The secondary objective of the scheme is the creation of durable community assets and development of rural infrastructure. The district allocation is apportioned in the ratio 20:30:50 among the District Panchayat, Panchayat Unions and Village Panchayats. Wages to labourers are paid partly in cash and partly in the form of rice, which is given through fair price shops. The cost of the foodgrain portion will be borne entirely by Government of India. The Government of Tamil Nadu have fixed the minimum wage at Rs.80 per day.

2.12.7. The scheme will be implemented in **23** Districts. In the other six districts (Cuddalore, Dindigul, Nagapattinam, Sivagangai, Tiruvannamalai and Villupuram) **SGRY** has been merged with the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) providing employment guarantee to the poor with an outlay of Rs.2450 crore in 2007-2008 inclusive of Central & State shares. Over the 11th Five Year Plan period around Rs.1375.00 crore is likely to be spent on this scheme generating 775 lakh mandays of employment.

2.12.8. The **National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme** being implemented in select districts will also provide guaranteed employment to

the registered households seeking employment in these districts. It is anticipated that 10.72 lakh households will be provided with job cards in 2007-2008, inclusive of Central & State shares, with anticipated expenditure of nearly 100 crore till 2007-2008. The expenditure over the plan period is likely to be around 500 crore providing for 100 days of guaranteed employment in a year through different works.

2.12.9. Special steps have been taken for improving the benefits of the scheme to the rural poor with

- i. **A separate rural schedule of rates** being approved exclusively for this scheme to provide for getting the minimum wage of **Rs.80/-** per day after working for seven hours a day.
- ii. **A minimum of 30% registration** being insisted upon in each Village Panchayat.
- iii. **Sanction of additional technical and computer staff** at Block level and Panchayat level.
- iv. **State Employment Guarantee Council** meeting regularly to monitor the NREG works.

2.12.10. Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana will continue to be a flagship programme for holistic approach to self employment providing sustainable income to the rural poor who are below poverty line by organizing them into SHGs, providing training, credit linkages and infrastructural assistance including market in assistance in the rural areas. Under **SGSY**, a sum of Rs.80.00 crore has been proposed in the year 2007-2008 and the expected outlay over the plan period would be around Rs.400.00 crore for this scheme inclusive of Central & State shares.

2.12.11. The Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) will continue to be an important programme ensuing improved quality of life. The project envisages a demand-driven approach with increased stress on awareness building and meeting the demand with alternate delivery mechanisms in all the districts of the State with focus on,

- ? information, education and communication (IEC) activities.
- ? school and anganwadi toilets

? individual household toilets, and solid and liquid waste management systems. Project will be taken up on a purely demand driven basis and the defunct integrated sanitary complexes will be revived wherever possible.

2.12.12. For developing roads infrastructure in the villages the **Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana** will continue to provide all-weather roads to all rural habitations with population between **500** and **1,000**. Road works to the extent of 820.48 km. will be completed at an estimated cost of **Rs.117.27** crore by 2007-2008.

2.12.13. Another 849.25 kms. will be completed by 2007-2008 at an estimated cost of Rs.174.31 crore. The anticipated allocation at the current rate of funding will be in the order of Rs.600 crore over the 11th Five Year Plan period consisting of Central share entirely.

Decentralised Planning

2.12.14. Tamil Nadu is firmly committed to decentralized planning and comprehensive guidelines for district-level planning were issued in 2001. The District Planning Committees were constituted in 2001. The elections to Panchayat Raj bodies were concluded recently and the process of reconstituting the District Planning Committees will be completed shortly. District Planning Cells have been created in each district to support the District Planning Committees. The “All Villages Anna Renaissance Scheme” with an outlay of Rs.500 crore per annum provides untied funds at local level (Rs.20 lakh per village). This unique scheme, with its untied, flexible and decentralized approach will make genuine local planning a reality rather than a mere arithmetic aggregation of tied schemes decided at Central/State level.

2.12.15. The agreed outlay of Rs.1544.07 crore is provided for Rural Development in the Annual Plan 2007-2008. Of this, the earmarked outlay for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan are Rs.308.81 crore and Rs.65.03 crore respectively.