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Grameen *Bharat*



A monthly Newsletter of the Ministry of Rural Development



*National Rural
Drinking Water
Programme*



*Fulfilling Basic Needs:
The Department of
Drinking Water
Supply*



*Total Sanitation
Campaign*



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From the Editor's Desk...

Sanitation: Community Action is the Answer

The linkage between sanitation and poverty has become too profound to be missed any longer. One of the Millennium Development Goals is to halve the population without access to hygienic sanitation facilities by 2015. Rural sanitation is a critical issue for South Asia. More than 900 million people i.e. about 66% of the total population of the region, remain without access to adequate sanitation. Countries of the region account for more poor people without sanitation than any other region on earth.

The vast majority of this unserved population is rural inhabitants but, at present, rural sanitation programmes in the region are struggling to keep pace with the growing population. In a period when decision-makers are recognizing the importance of adequate sanitation for public health and poverty alleviation and despite significant investments over the last 20 years, South Asia faces the biggest sanitation challenge of the world. This urgent challenge gives rise to a classic development dilemma: how to develop rural sanitation programmes capable of rapid and large-scale provision of cost-efficient sanitation services, without cutting back on programme elements critical to sustainability and long-term welfare improvements.

Luckily for India, thanks to the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) initiatives and the focussed and sustained Governmental interventions significant and impressive achievements have been recorded in the field of rural sanitation coverage. CLTS is an innovative methodology for mobilizing communities to completely eliminate Open Defecation (OD). Communities are facilitated to conduct their own appraisal and analysis of OD and take their own action to become Open Defecation Free (ODF).

At the heart of CLTS lies the recognition that merely providing toilets does not guarantee their use, nor results in improved sanitation and hygiene. Earlier approaches to sanitation prescribed high initial standards and offered subsidies as an incentive but this often led to uneven adoption, problems with long-term sustainability and only partial use. It also created a culture of dependence on subsidies. Open defecation and the cycle of fecal-oral contamination continued to spread disease.

One of the keys to this success in rural sanitation is the development of large-scale national programmes like Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) that produces sustainable and affordable rural sanitation services. The main advantage of the total sanitation approach over conventional policies is that it is a community-wide approach, which requires that every household in the community stops open defecation and uses a sanitary toilet. The large-scale sanitation programmes have also been aligned with efforts by the NGO sector. The use of local NGOs for social intermediation has several advantages, it bridges the gap between rural communities and distant or powerful programme staff; and it provides large sanitation programmes with important local knowledge and credibility. Moreover, innovative incentive schemes like the Nirmal Gram Puraskar have also been responsible for giving the right impetus to the programme and turning it into a people's movement.

This is required to be emulated by the other Governments of the region if they are to achieve their Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, in India too, despite the benefits of productive use of systems, there continue to be areas which need to be taken care of to keep up the tempo.

Nilam Sawhney
Editor-in-Chief

Fulfilling Basic Needs: Department of Drinking Water Supply

The Department of Drinking Water Supply aims to provide safe drinking water and improved sanitation for all, at all times, in rural India. It has the mission to ensure all rural households have access to, and use, safe and sustainable drinking water and improved sanitation facilities by providing support to States in their endeavour to provide these basic facilities and services. Its objectives are to ensure that rural areas of the country have access to, and use, safe drinking water; to enable communities to monitor and keep surveillance on their drinking water sources; to enable all households to have access to and use toilets; to ensure all Government schools and anganwadis have functional toilets, urinals and access to safe drinking water; to provide enabling support and environment for Panchayati Raj Institutions and local communities to manage their own drinking water sources and systems, and sanitation in their villages; and provide access to information through online reporting mechanism with information placed in public domain to bring in transparency and informed decision making.

We present below a snapshot of the progress made by the Department in achieving its ends.

National Rural Drinking Water Programme

Physical Targets & Achievements 2008-09 to 2010-11

Number of Habitations Covered

Particulars	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Uncovered	16,753	17,412	586	214	0	-
Slipped Back	1,01,743	1,13,653	45,261	67,027	1,10,000	-
Quality Affected	99,402	21,531^ 2,05,930*	34,595	19,716	25,000	-
Total	2,17,898	3,36,995	1,58,589	86,957	1,35,000	-

[^]Completed ^{*}Addressed

Financial Position 2008-09, 2009-10 & 2010-11

Out of 11th Plan allocation of Rs. 39,490 crore, so far Rs. 30,800 crore has been allocated (2007-08 to 2010-11)

(Rs. in crore)

Particulars	2008-09	2009-10 Till 17.03.2010	2010-11
Budget Estimates	7300	8000	9000
Revised Estimates	7300	8000	-
Actual Releases	7298.79 (99.86%)	7005.87 (87.57%)	-

State-wise Physical Achievements 2009-10

State/UT	Uncovered		Slipped Back		Quality Affected	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Covered
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	8,374	3,711	126	183
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	2,366	258	34	25
Assam	-	-	16,132	4,174	6,868	4,083
Bihar	-	-	32,760	11,024	7,748	7,793
Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	3,282	3,551	585
Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gujarat	-	-	1,006	815	390	227
Haryana	-	-	862	529	88	25
Himachal Pradesh	-	-	4,987	3,474	13	9
Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	4,699	70	1	-
Jharkhand	-	-	1,420	8,619	132	121
Karnataka	-	-	10,362	5,708	2,638	1,468
Kerala	-	-	243	17	152	40
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	3,998	4,312	502	368
Maharashtra	-	-	6,519	5,051	2,086	744
Manipur	-	-	730	53	-	-
Meghalaya	-	-	492	300	8	5
Mizoram	-	-	300	46	-	-
Nagaland	-	-	180	12	20	-
Orissa	-	-	-	3,998	3,452	1,270
Punjab	145	121	1,040	1,227	466	198
Rajasthan	406	86	9,313	1,656	1,210	593
Sikkim	-	-	300	58	-	-
Tamil Nadu	-	-	7,000	5,934	-	-
Tripura	-	-	1,786	70	1,346	497
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	442	172	1,558	577
Uttarakhand	35	7	1,164	931	-	-
West Bengal	-	-	6,891	1,503	2,202	904
A & N Islands	-	-	42	-	-	-
Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puducherry	-	-	-	23	4	1
India Total	586	214	1,23,408	67,027	34,595	19,716

Tasks Ahead

- ☞ In the 16.58 lakh habitations, to cover remaining 4.41 lakh habitations (as per Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) with actual names of habitations).
 - 22.60% habitations with partial population covered.
 - 4.01% habitations with nil population covered (depending on private sources, tankers, seasonal sources, inadequate quantity or contaminated sources).
 - 1.28 lakh habitations with quality problems (as on 16.03.2010).

Coverage Means

- Having public water supply.
- Perennial source of water.
- No quality problems.
- ☞ Ensuring sustainability of existing sources and preventing slippages.
- ☞ Going up the drinking water ladder.
- ☞ Move up from handpumps to public taps to household water connections.
- ☞ Ongoing Annual Plan 2010-11 discussions with States to decide on respective targets.

Total Sanitation Campaign

Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Releases under TSC

Particulars	2008-09 (Rs. crore)	2009-10 (Rs. crore)	2010-11 (Rs. crore)
Budget Estimates	1200.00	1200.00	1580.00
Revised Estimates	1200.00	1200.00	-
Actual Releases	1192.81	1144.62*	-

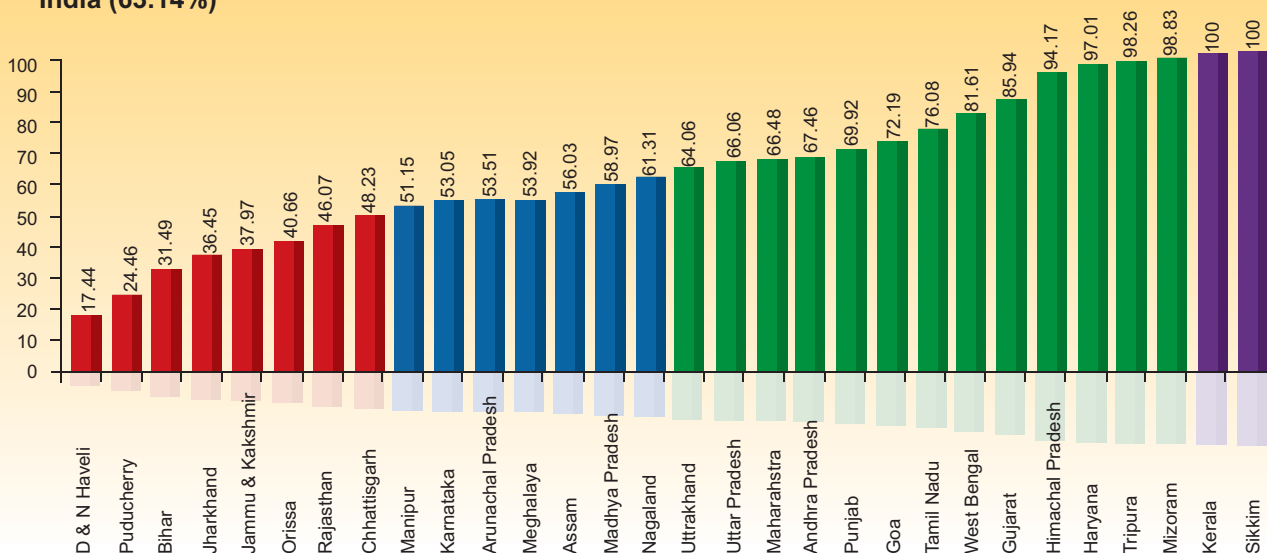
*Upto 15.03.2010

Cumulative Physical Performance upto 17-3-2010

Item	Project Objectives	Achievement
Individual Household Latrine (IHHL)	12.01 crore	6.37crore
School Toilets	11.96 lakh	9.69 lakh
Anganwadi Toilets	4,38,001	3,12,594
Community Complexes	32,887	17,852

State-wise Sanitation Coverage

India (63.14%)



State-wise Physical Achievement in 2008-09 and 2009-10

State	IHHL Total		School Toilet		Anganwadi Toilet	
	2008-09	2009-10*	2008-09	2009-10*	2008-09	2009-10*
Andhra Pradesh	292697	582905	30727	2237	1640	764
Arunachal Pradesh	3399	14819	1910	111	910	191
Assam	206256	369677	8296	11659	1195	4162
Bihar	756465	600349	15065	3710	272	161
Chhattisgarh	305456	392463	18511	4632	1906	1998
Gujarat	984200	576848	3180	649	1834	901
Haryana	367097	171582	14	0	521	203
Himachal Pradesh	313872	231860	1959	4531	994	1895
Jammu & Kashmir	39415	19157	4291	2180	27	15
Jharkhand	362573	285808	6913	4168	700	2032
Karnataka	409816	556253	790	34	1173	462
Kerala	81865	58837	605	355	713	1115
MAhya Pradesh	1136826	1131672	23697	9729	8772	1798
Maharashtra	854563	842680	8871	1883	5992	2844
Manipur	4590	12690	885	749	95	58
Meghalaya	30004	30212	549	619	37	48
Mizoram	8973	7616	0	0	117	0
Nagaland	5543	17853	522	343	35	514
Orissa	323802	478272	16623	13807	3768	4695
Punjab	263781	64375	2176	736	37	524
Rajasthan	889762	562306	9796	5058	2196	1780
Sikkim	3712	0	1	0	75	0
Tamil Nadu	421967	517984	2919	1143	1443	410
Tripura	62971	20938	459	473	132	840
Uttar Pradesh	2415154	2076673	84045	32896	33380	13834
UttArakhand	98884	95318	870	294	109	1
West Bengal	636422	408573	9780	15956	922	5340
Grand Total	11299045	10127928	253799	117952	69045	46585

Physical Achievement for 2009-10 and Projection for 2010-11

Particulars	2009-10*	2010-11 (Projected)
Individual Household Latrine	1.004 crore	1.20 crore
School Toilet	1.16 lakh	1.60 lakh
Anganwadi Toilet	46,585	50,000

State-wise Financial Achievement in 2008-09 and 2009-10(Rs. in crore)

State	2008-09			2009-10			
	OB	Release	Exp.	OB	Release	Exp*.	Balance
Andhra Pradesh	55.57	13.92	42.28	27.21	110.7	27.06	110.93
Arunachal Pradesh	1.79	15.30	2.75	14.34	1.55	4.24	11.65
Assam	52.24	83.11	41.03	94.31	61.66	60.65	95.31
Bihar	92.16	71.51	71.40	92.27	90.47	69.52	113.21
Chhattisgarh	44.11	11.44	30.43	25.13	50.18	52.59	22.72
Goa	0.30	0.00	0.08	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.22
Gujarat	68.89	9.79	43.43	35.25	30.37	43.79	21.82
Haryana	19.74	10.69	11.53	18.90	7.18	9.84	15.24
Himachal Pradesh	9.09	7.79	4.67	12.21	11.17	11.86	11.52
Jammu & Kashmir	18.69	11.16	9.90	19.95	3.33	5.09	18.19
Jharkhand	32.47	31.88	30.02	34.33	39.42	28.37	45.37
Karnataka	21.04	31.76	18.44	34.37	55.71	36.43	53.64
Kerala	12.84	3.89	7.20	9.54	9.75	10.78	8.50
Madhya Pradesh	61.94	97.68	75.25	84.37	79.87	112.70	51.54
Maharashtra	49.10	35.26	50.63	33.73	83.94	71.90	45.77
Manipur	8.45	1.00	4.94	4.50	10.55	3.27	11.78
Meghalaya	4.35	5.78	3.46	6.67	13.79	8.16	12.29
Mizoram	1.35	6.94	3.37	4.93	1.35	4.15	2.13
Nagaland	0.92	1.00	1.67	0.25	10.59	8.09	2.75
Orissa	78.25	72.04	39.64	110.66	50.32	40.21	120.76
Puducherry	0.48	0.00	0.24	0.24	0.00	0.05	0.18
Punjab	8.48	2.23	0.67	10.04	1.16	1.86	9.33
Rajasthan	33.31	25.17	22.32	36.16	43.53	24.89	54.79
Sikkim	0.04	2.55	0.00	2.59	0.00	2.59	0.00
Tamil Nadu	39.18	4.73	24.27	19.64	61.66	53.65	27.64
Tripura	9.79	1.59	6.85	4.53	8.37	3.58	9.31
Uttar Pradesh	141.70	381.40	256.69	266.41	115.05	251.24	130.21
Uttarakhand	5.58	8.62	4.78	9.42	7.74	8.31	8.84
West Bengal	98.53	30.47	28.94	100.06	26.67	56.55	70.17
Grand Total	970.39	978.70	836.84	1112.24	986.16	1011.45	1086.95

*Upto 15.03.2010

TSC- Tasks Ahead

- ☞ 5.65 crore rural households still without toilets.
- ☞ 2.27 lakh schools still without toilet facility.
- ☞ About 1.25 lakh Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) centres still without toilet facility.
- ☞ Solid Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) to bring cleanliness in villages.
- ☞ To change attitudes and daily behaviour of nearly 30 crore people.

State Secretaries Conference on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

A conference of the State Secretaries in-charge of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation was held on **5th-6th May 2010** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, to take stock of the progress of the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), Jalmani and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) in all States and strategize the way forward. The Meeting provided a forum for one-on-one discussion with the Secretary and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development to seek clarifications and discuss programmatic issues. It also facilitated cross-learning between participants to enable them to continue surging forward by utilizing innovative approaches.



The Hon. Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Dr. C.P. Joshi, in his key note address pointed to the increasing areas with water quality issues, and where arsenic, fluoride and iron contamination is affecting large areas. He stressed on the need for innovative approaches such as rainwater harvesting and artificial groundwater aquifer recharge to obtain coverage and sustain supply. On the TSC, the Minister focussed on the need for strong monitoring, as otherwise Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) awards will lose their value. Solid Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) is critical, especially in the peripheral villages (GPs near urban boundaries). Innovative approaches in SLWM need to be incentivized and prioritized. During the event, Hon. Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Dr. C.P. Joshi, released six publications of the Department.

Hon. Minister of State, Ms. Agatha Sangma, in her introductory address mentioned that TSC needs to be implemented in a mission oriented mode and not in a target oriented mode, with emphasis on sustainability of NGP villages. Panchayats should be considered as the basic unit of implementation. For rural water, conjunctive use of surface water, rain water and ground water can play a crucial role in maintaining the sustainability of drinking water sources.

The first day of the conference focussed on sanitation. Presentations were made by officers during the two-day meeting. These focussed on various aspects such as the need for independent assessment in rural sanitation which would result in a neutral feedback on performance and highlight areas of improvement, the Ecosan model, which has become popular in Tamil Nadu, the importance of IEC activities in Sanitation, etc. Experiences and situations of various States were discussed in-depth. The strategy for sustaining Sikkim's status as a 'Nirmal Rajya', which it achieved in 2008, were examined. Options for public-private partnership to provide sustainable sanitation systems to one million households in the next five years by providing them access to easy credit options were also discussed as were various successful initiatives in promoting sanitation.

The second day of the conference was on water issues. Issues pertaining to the new National Rural Drinking Water Programme with particular reference on State Water & Sanitation Mission (SWSM) and the role of District Water & Sanitation Mission (DWSM) were discussed. "Terafil" technology for water purification, Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for reducing maintenance cost of water supply system, the importance of sustainability structures on drinking water availability, etc. were brought into focus. Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development joined the discussion with the State Governments to resolve drinking water issues and stressed upon the need to promote traditional practices in achieving water security.

Eminent Senior Citizens to Play a Pro-Active Role in the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Implementation Process

The Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Dr. C.P. Joshi, has requested Eminent Senior Citizens with their valuable experience, to guide for the hassle free, corruption free implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA (MGNREGA) so as to enable the rural households to benefit under the benevolent provisions of the Act. Addressing an Orientation Workshop for Eminent Senior Citizens under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA at Vigyan Bhawan on **17 May 2010** he said that the assessment of the implementation of the programme in an independent and credible manner is necessary to resolve the difficulties that arise in the course of the implementation of the Act. Such an assessment requires association of eminent senior citizens from the civil society having the obligatory interest, knowledge and expertise in MGNREGA.



The Minister mentioned that delayed wage payments to MGNREGA workers, unspent funds from the budget outlay and reports of misappropriations in the implementation process are some of the core issues that the Ministry is confronting and the involvement of eminent senior citizens is a step to resolve the malfunctions noticed so far. Dr. C.P. Joshi further mentioned that their visits to the states and districts would provide a mechanism for an independent third party assessment of the situation which would be an important source of feedback to the Government.

Secretary, Rural Development, Shri B.K. Sinha, asked the participants to give their comments and report of the programme after assessing the progress of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in their assigned areas.

A presentation about Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, New Initiatives and Future Plans, the Key Action Points, Role of Eminent Citizens, the Evaluation Criteria, how to administer the visit and references was conducted during the workshop. It was informed that during the year 2010-11 the budget outlay was Rs.40.100 crore while the total expenditure on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) since the implementation of the Act has been around Rs. 89,868-50 crore. Out of this sum, Rs. 60,414.54 crore was spent as wage component. The scheme has generated 732.99 crore persons days of employment so far. During 2009-10 the number of households provided employment stood at 5.25 crore while the employment per household was 54 days. The beneficiaries' participation under MGNREGA comprised 31% SC, 21% ST and 49% women during the last year. The participants were also informed that more than nine crore saving accounts in the banks and post offices have been opened for the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers. Rs. 21,625.18 crore (84% of wages) was disbursed to them as wages through their accounts and 1.5 crore muster rolls and 10.6 crore job cards were put on the website (nrega.nic.in.) Also, 2.6 lakh social audits were conducted and 90% Gram Panchayats (GPs) were covered.

As per the presentation one district would be earmarked to each eminent person for monitoring and the same shall not be subject to change. The person may visit the marked district once in a year in consultation with the Ministry and will spend six days in the district. He/she may interview various officials, PRI functionaries, MGNREGA workers and other stakeholders of MGNREGA and request for any information in regard of the implementation process from any of the MGNREGA authorities.

Besides the Minister of State for Rural Development, Shri Pradeep Jain 'Aditya' Secretary, Rural Development, Shri B.K. Sinha and senior officers from the Ministry of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, the participants included eminent personalities from the civil society.

Dr. C.P. Joshi says Ensure Judicious Use of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Funds**Workshop on Vision Document and 2010-11 Work Plan for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA**

Union Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Minister, Dr. C.P. Joshi, has emphasized that funds provided for the implementation of the MGNREGA must be judiciously used. Chairing a workshop on the Vision Document and 2010-11 Work Plan for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, comprising the representatives from the States and Union Territories (UTs) at Vigyan Bhawan on **18 May 2010** he said that it has to be ensured that the funding to States should not be used for other purposes as this amounts to misappropriation of funds. Also, the 60:40 ratio of wage component and material component should be adhered to strictly.

The Minister said that the delayed payment of wages is a matter of concern and it has been noticed that on several occasions a mismatch between the reported MGNREGA works and the actual measurement also leads to this situation. Hence steps are required to curtail such trends. Regarding the excuse taken by the Banks in appointing Business Correspondents in Panchayats, Dr. Joshi said, "as per the recent Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Guidelines, banks are bound to follow them and for this no money is payable to them". He also advised the participants to work as per the MGNREGA provisions and also ensure that work under MGNREGA has been proposed by the Gram Panchayats.

The one day workshop was organized by the Ministry of Rural Development to amalgamate the efforts towards an effective implementation of MGNREGA. It is expected that the deliberations would provide a platform for the representatives from States and UTs to share the strategy to effectively address constraints in the implementation such as low awareness, delays in payment of wages, limited capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and district functionaries, inadequate community participation in planning and social audit, the need for ICT enabled MGNREGA, and strengthening of the management resource support to the programme specially at the Gram Panchayat level.

During the meeting a time bound framework for implementation of the objective of the vision document was discussed. The other issues discussed included framing of the district-wise plans of action with a clear timeline for providing the framework for district-wise monitoring and appraisal.

The State team participating in the meeting included the Secretary, Rural Development, In-charge of MGNREGA along with the state-level senior officials of the department. The DPC of one/two districts of the State were also present in the workshop to share the opportunity of discussing the new strategy.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act provides for a guarantee of at least 100 days of employment during a financial year to every rural household by providing unskilled manual work in rural areas to those members of the rural household who volunteer to do such work. The programme has benefited over 10.82 crore rural households.



Drinking Water Security cannot be Decided in Isolation and Needs to be Considered in a Holistic Manner- Dr. C.P Joshi

Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Dr. C.P Joshi, has emphasized the need to define the catchment of the water resources either in terms of Gram Panchayat, revenue village or district as a unit. Inaugurating a two day long international workshop on Achieving Drinking Water Security in Water Stressed and Quality Affected Areas held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on **25 May 2010** the Minister said, “drinking water security cannot be decided in isolation and needs to be considered in a holistic manner.”



Issues like Drinking Water Security - Challenges and Issues in

India, Water Conservation and Water Use Efficiency – a Presentation of experience from Israel, Service Delivery - presentations on experience from Australia, South Africa, Water Quality Issues- experiences from China along with panel discussions and Q&As were the points of agenda for the workshop. Discussions on measures to be taken for: (i) Desert Areas; (ii) Overexploited and Drought prone Areas; (iii) Quality Affected Areas were the core areas of concern.

Dr. Joshi referred to the expertise of Israel where water is judiciously used for irrigation by introduction of mass scale drip irrigation. He further mentioned that on the lines of the food security policy of the Government there should be a very constructive and effective policy and strategy on drinking water security.

The Minister welcomed the delegates from China, Australia, Israel, South Africa and national experts and professionals in the water supply sector and emphasized the need to create additional water resources by means of rainwater harvesting for ensuring water security. In this regard, the Panchayat should be fully empowered to decide the water available within their jurisdiction for agriculture, industry and drinking water in rural areas. We need to learn from our traditional knowledge of water management, Dr. Joshi added. He also referred to the ever increasing cost of electricity resulting in non-affordability of the piped water supply by the community. He suggested that as in electricity where every citizen has accepted metering of electricity and the payment of the same, metering and tariff for water needs to be introduced. However, differential tariff needs to be considered for vulnerable citizens of the country.

Dr. Joshi said that empowering the community for village level planning is very important and critical. India is fortunate that it has 2.5 lakh elected Panchayat representatives, 50% being women. Different models of village drinking water security can be developed and replicated in similar geo-hydrological environments. Drastic changes and innovative ideas are required to ensure drinking water security in the country in the present context of massive industrialization and urbanization. The Minister also released a book entitled “Hand book for Panchayats on Planning, Implementation and Operation & Maintenance of Water Supply Schemes” on the occasion.

Secretary, Department of Drinking Water Supply, Government of India, Smt. Rajwant Sandhu, in her address referred to the scanty and uneven distribution of rain fall in the country resulting in acute shortage of drinking water. She said since intensive water based industry and municipal bodies do not recycle and reuse the waste water it ultimately finds its way into water bodies and pollutes them, resulting in further depletion of fresh water reserves. Also at present, the storage capacity developed in India is not even sufficient to meet the demand for one season during the drought period. As such the storage of water should be increased to the extent that it could meet the demand for 2 to 3 seasons. For this a large number of medium sized storages should be created in strategic locations. However, these storages should not be used for agricultural activities and should be exclusively reserved for drinking water supply, to ensure drinking water security.

Under the new National Rural Drinking Water Programme guidelines, which is one of the largest funded rural drinking water programmes in the world with about Rs. 9000 crore support to States, 20% of the funds have been earmarked for taking up sustainability structures. Regarding potability of water, the Secretary mentioned that there is a strong linkage between quality of drinking water and health. More than 30% reduction of diarrheal diseases can be achieved by focusing on water quality.

Working Groups on Drinking Water and Sanitation

The Department of Drinking Water Supply under the Ministry of Rural Development on **13 May 2010** has constituted two Working Groups, one on Drinking Water and one on Sanitation, to develop the strategic plan of the Department for the remaining two years of the current five - year plan and also for next two plan periods. The issues to be taken up will include defining the aspiration, assessment of situation, developing the strategy and plan implementation, steering mechanism and the monthly meeting for the same.

The Working Group on Drinking Water under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Drinking Water would consist of representatives from the Planning Commission, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Agriculture, Health, Women and Child Development, Education along with members of Technical Experts Groups, Technical Advisers from Department of Drinking Water Supply, Representative of WSP-SA, UNICEF, World Bank, Representative from four Key Resource Centres including IIT Kanpur, National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) along with Secretaries in-charge of Rural Drinking Water of Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Mizoram.

The Working Group on Sanitation under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Sanitation would comprise of the representatives from the Planning Commission, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA), Department. of Rural Development , Education, Health, WCD, Agriculture along with Secretaries in-charge of Sanitation of Haryana, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Sikkim. Besides the Technical Advisers from the Department, UNICEF, WSP-SA, Plan International, WaterAid. Representatives from four Key Resource Centres along with the National Scheme Sanctioning Committee members will be assisting the Working Group.

The Working Groups will deliberate upon the proposed strategy in the four regional consultations with States to be held in June, July, August and September, 2010 in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development. Regional consultation meetings would be held in Chandigarh in June 2010 for Northern States, in July in Mysore for Southern States, in August in Ahmedabad for Western States and in September in Guwahati for Eastern and North-eastern States. The final meeting will be held in Hyderabad in October, 2010. It is expected that the deliberations will facilitate the planning process in rural drinking water supply and sanitation.

Impact Assessment of Nirmal Gram Puraskar

The Department of Drinking Water Supply under the Ministry of Rural Development organized the “Assessment Study of Impact and Sustainability of Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP)” for awarded Gram Panchayats during 2005-2008 in collaboration with the Centre for Media Studies, New Delhi on **13 May 2010**. It is proposed to conduct surveys in 12 States by the selected agencies. A sampling methodology for this purpose has been developed in consultation with the Ministry of Rural Development and UNICEF.

The objective is to assess the impact of NGP on the pace of progress of sanitation availability and usage in the country under TSC and its related impacts on health, education, gender empowerment, social inclusion in rural areas on different user groups particularly the rural poor. This study will also assess the durability and sustainability on the provision and usage of sanitary facilities over time. The rationale of this evaluation study will be to provide important evidence on the NGP component of the TSC. The Study will provide a national level report on assessment of impact of NGP.

The “Nirmal Gram Puraskar” “Clean Village Award” was started in 2005 under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) to honour, felicitate and encourage those Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) which have achieved full sanitation coverage in their areas of operation and have become Open Defecation Free (ODF) and clean villages, which is essential for making TSC into a mass movement.

New Hope in the Nubra Block



Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed in the year 2005 by the Government of India and by 2006-07 the Scheme was launched in some districts of India. In 2008-09 all the districts of J & K State implemented the MGNREGA by creating awareness among all the people of the blocks of Leh District. Self Help Groups were given training regarding the new Scheme, so that they understood the full concept of MGNREGA. Moreover special trainings/awareness camps were held for the Hon'ble Councillors of LAHDC (Leh) and BDO's of all the blocks along with the

staff. They faced a lot of difficulties in the implementation of this new Scheme because of low wages i.e. Rs.70/- only per labour / day considering the high market rate i.e. Rs.200/- to Rs. 250/- per labour / per day as per the topography and harsh conditions of Leh. Due to the pressing demand of the general public and recommendations of LAHDC Leh, the Government of J & K has approved the rate at Rs.110/- labour/day (unskilled). However, as per the topography and harsh climatic conditions of Leh district the prevailing rates are still low and the rural people want to increase the prevailing rates.

The population of the Nubra Block is 17367 as per the census of 2001 and it has an area of 18652 hectares as per the village papers. A number of awareness camps/trainings were launched in Panamik block of Nubra valley for the rural masses and covered all the 20 Panchayats, starting from Khardungla Pass which, at 18380 feet is the highest motorable road in the world, and ending in Siachen Belt and L.O.C. Village "Thang" motivated the rural masses regarding the Scheme. As per the last year's progress under MGNREGA, (2009-10), the labour payments were achieved up to 40.00 lakh by covering the various works under Irrigation and Flood Control and Communication etc. as per the demand of the rural masses. Similarly Irrigation Khule Canal at New Pachathang along with Link Road, 3 Kms (approx.) were completed under the Scheme. The people of the area are backward and poor and have no means of livelihood. They approached the B.D.O.'s office in Nubra to seek jobs under the MGNREGA, and this necessity of their's was fulfilled under this Scheme. The people of the area worked day and night on the piece rate basis and completed the work. This canal will cover 12000 kanals of command area, which will be a new hope for the livelihood of the rural people in the near future.



Provision for Maintenance of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Roads

Studies indicate that physical isolation is a strong contributor to poverty. Populations without reliable access to social and economic services are poorer than those with reliable access. The PMGSY, as a measure of poverty reduction, was launched in December 2000 to provide all-weather connectivity to habitations with designated populations. PMGSY roads are designed for a 10 year life. If quality of construction and proper maintenance is ensured, the PMGSY roads can give continued service even beyond its 10 year design life. While the cost of construction is fully funded by the Central Government, the responsibility of maintaining and its funding vests fully with the respective State Governments. A World Bank study entitled 'Managing and Financing Rural Roads' indicates that the return on investment in rural road maintenance is generally above 40% which is far higher than investment on construction or rehabilitation.



The key requirements, as per the PMGSY Guidelines, include putting in place of institutional measures to ensure systematic maintenance and providing adequate funding for maintenance of the rural road network, particularly the Through Routes. It also provides for covering all the road construction by a five year maintenance contract to be entered into along with the construction contract with the same contractor as per the Standard Bidding Document. Funding is required to be budgeted by the State Government and placed at the disposal of the State Rural Road Development Agency (SRRDA) in a separate maintenance account. The Guidelines also stipulate that the roads which are linking many habitations (Through Routes or Main Rural Links), in particular, are required to be kept in good condition as these carry larger traffic and also provide connectivity between the farm and the market. It is envisaged that on expiry of the five year post construction maintenance contracts such roads should again be placed under a five year maintenance contract including surface renewal as per cycle.

The nodal department is required to prepare an annual estimate of funds for proper maintenance of rural roads network and adopt a prioritization criteria based on the pavement condition to make optimum use of the available funds.

Till March 2010, approximately 2.74 lakh kms of PMGSY roads have been constructed or upgraded. Various impact assessment studies have indicated that PMGSY roads have improved the socio economic life of the rural population. To ensure that these benefits continue, it is essential that the State Government, which is mandated to keep such roads in good condition, do their part. The Ministry, realizing the huge requirement of maintenance funds, had submitted a Memorandum to the 13th Finance Commission on making grants to the State Government for maintenance of rural roads. The Finance Commission has recommended liberal grants of over Rs. 19,000 crore to the States over a four year period for maintaining PMGSY roads. This, coupled with other measures stipulated in the PMGSY Guidelines, would help the States in providing the required level of service on PMGSY roads.

MGNREGA Helps Villagers Build Road to Happiness

by Sibabrata Champatiray

(Courtesy- The Statesman)

For Mamuni Behera, a college student attending classes was once a nightmare. Not that she hated studies but her nightmare was due to the fact that she had to walk for few kilometers from her house in Seulakunda village to reach Chandanpur Canal Embankment where she would board a bus to Bhubaneswar.

It is not that Mamuni's family could not afford a bicycle. Having or not having a bicycle for moving to and from Seulakunda Village under Balipatna block hardly mattered as the lone road to the village was just a footway, not suitable even for bicycles let alone motorcycles. The situation was worse during the monsoon.

But things have changed...

Maumi now-a-days happily pedals directly to her college. The approach road to her village has been transformed into a 20 foot- wide road, the construction work completed just a month ago.

The improvement of the road, as well as the positive change in the lives of the villagers is attributed to the Mahatma National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Quite interestingly, a majority of villagers are daily wagers, who work in various construction sites in Bhubaneswar. However, their village was devoid of communication, which was fulfilled under the flagship poverty alleviation programme.

Officials of Khundra district administration, who are involved with the implementation of the scheme pointed out that the villagers, though they were facing trouble due to lack of a good road, never bothered since they were earning more at the private construction works than the MGNREGA work.

However, when they were motivated and made to realize that a tiny contribution on their part would usher in a lasting positive change to the village, they understood, appreciated and actively participated. No wonder, the 20-foot and about 1 Km long road was completed just within two weeks.

The road work started on 24 October and was finished by 8 November this year. "With a cost of one lakh, we could create 733 person days and were able to finish work " said DRDA project director, Mr. Manoranjan Patnaik.

Seulakunda village is not just an isolated case; in fact, scores of villages have started tasting the benefits of the scheme.

Balugaon and Banpur areas, which were known for large-scale migration to other states, are also showing good response in executing the MGNREGS project work, thus considerably mitigating the migration rate, he claimed.

Khundra district which could spend about 35% of the total allocation in previous years, has been able to spend more than 68% of the received funds till date this fiscal year.

According to official sources, out of the 11,508 persons who applied for work, as many as 10,640 have been provided with work this year, while 1,66,740 man-days of work have been created. A total of 19,748 bank/post office accounts have been opened for wage payment. Similarly, social audits have been conducted in 140 Gram Panchayats (GPs) of the total 168 GPs in the district.



In the News...

Fiscal Health Improves & A New Mural For Rural



AT THE START OF THE decade, marked by soaring oil prices, a global economy struggling to recover after the bursting of the information technology bubble and the war in Kashmir, India's finance minister, Yashwant Sinha was bold enough to say that the next 10 years would be India's decade of development.

And it was in 2000 that one of the most critical reforms which resulted in the structural transformation of the economy was undertaken — the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM). It took a further four years for this legislation to come into force, but it was truly a game changer. Political acceptance of fiscal prudence and better management of government finances helped not just the central government but also states to clean up their balance sheets. Dharendra Swamy, former expenditure secretary who was part of the committee which worked on the legislation, terms it as one of the most important reform measures after independence. "The FRBM made a world of a difference by giving a sense of responsibility to the governments — both at the Centre and states," he says.

Fiscal incentives to states to ensure fiscal discipline in line with the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission headed by C Rangarajan too helped a lot.

The early part of the decade was also the time when the government adopted a more liberal approach to boost the efforts of Indian corporates looking to acquire firms abroad. Overseas investment rules were eased as the government recognised that it needed to put in place the building blocks for encouraging the emergence of Indian multinationals in segments in which they

are competitive. This was to be a recurring theme in the next few years starting with the year 2000 as Indian firms started competing on the global stage. It was also the decade in which successive governments — both the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) — carried out tax reforms starting with the transition to a Value Added Tax, or VAT, and laid the foundation for a progressive reduction of tariff duties to the ASEAN levels. At the lag end of the decade, the groundwork for the next two critical reforms was also completed — of a Goods and Services Tax, or GST, and the Direct Tax Code, or DTC. They built upon the recommendations of an expert group headed by Vijay Kelkar on tax reforms.

Two other policy moves stand out. First, the shift in income distribution through funding of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act or NREGA which guaranteed 100 days of employment. The second being, the Right to Information Act, or RTI, a powerful tool which has helped improve transparency and laid the ground for a new kind of governance. Indeed, the latter half of the decade was significant for the greater policy emphasis on distributive spread of wealth. Financial inclusion was one such initiative.

Reforms aimed at addressing the chronic neglect of India's urban and rural infrastructure were kickstarted during the decade. The policy approach revolved around offering incentives to states to undertake reforms on urban land ceiling, water supply, sanitation, housing, roads, transport and rural development. What changed during the tenure of the two governments that ruled the country during these 10 years was only the

nomenclature of the programmes.

Along with the structural transformation of the Indian economy as reflected in the rapid growth in its domestic savings and investment rates, India's central bank also changed its policy tack by using the daily reverse repo and the repo rates, besides open market operations, as the main instruments for interest rate signalling. A new policy instrument to manage liquidity was also designed jointly by monetary and fiscal policy managers.

In the financial sector, there were initiatives which flourished, notably the proposal to cut the government's equity in state-owned banks to 33% and in the real sector, the ambitious plan to create several Special Economic Zones, or SEZs.

Along with the central bank, India's securities markets watchdog, SEBI, also emerged as a world-class regulator. For a good part of the decade and over the tenure of successive chancellors, India's stock markets and financial services infrastructure were upgraded, settlement systems honed, helped along the way by fiscal policy changes such as the extension of long-term capital gains tax and the Securities Transaction Tax. The other big policy shifts which many consider to be a game changer in the way it influenced India's global standing was the Indo-US nuclear deal.

SHAM VIKRAMAN

The Economic Times, Delhi
Thursday, 6th May 2010

5 States asked to provide buildings to panchayats

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, May 5

Noting that panchayats need basic minimum infrastructure to function effectively, the Centre has asked Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Assam and Andhra Pradesh Governments to prepare a time-bound action plan to provide them buildings and manpower on priority basis.

In a letter to the Chief Ministers of the five States, the Rural Development Minister, Mr C.P. Joshi, noted that as many as 3,955 gram panchayats (GPs) have no office building in Haryana, while the figure is 7,182 in Punjab, 5,306 in Maharashtra, 622 in Assam and 5,639 in Andhra Pradesh.

A large number of these GPs have been identified as backward. "Without proper buildings, the GPs are unable to seat their functionaries, keep records and transact their business," he said.

Mr Joshi underlined that panchayats need basic minimum infrastructure and manpower to function effectively as they are "increasingly" being given responsibilities in planning, implementation and monitoring of developmental programmes of the government.

Expecting an "early response" from the Chief Ministers of the five States, Mr Joshi said GP buildings would

not only symbolise the rise of the panchayats but also provide physical space for people to interact with the GP representatives and functionaries for transacting the "expanding" business of the panchayats.

Mr Joshi suggested that the State Governments may "pool" the resources available under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF), Finance Commission grant, and other Central or state funds for the purpose of providing buildings and manpower to panchayats.

For those districts, which are identified as backward, the material component may be met from BRGF and the labour component from Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, he said.

"In case the material resources support from BRGF is inadequate, the same can be incurred under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provided the material component does not exceed 40 per cent at the district level," he said.

For the non-BRGF districts, Mahatma Gandhi NREGA would be the main source for funding the construction. "The material component can also be supplemented through other schemes including Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana of Ministry of Panchayati Raj," the Minister added.

Business Line, Delhi
Thursday, 6th May 2010

Labourers to get insurance cover

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

May 1: Labourers employed under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) will be provided with insurance benefits accorded to workers in the construction sector.

Announcing the government's decision during May Day celebrations at Ravindra Bharati, the Chief Minister, Mr K. Rosaiah, assured that his government would extend all benefits enjoyed by workers in the organised sector to those in the unorganised one.

"We have already been implementing this scheme to help construction workers. We would like to extend

this to the eight lakh labourers in the unorganised sector as well. For this purpose we have issued identity cards to nearly four lakh workers," said Mr Rosaiah.

Under the insurance scheme extended to construction workers, kin of those killed in accidents will get Rs 2 lakh as compensation, and injured workers would get an amount between Rs 25,000 and Rs 1 lakh. If a worker dies due to natural causes, his family would be paid Rs 30,000. Women workers would get Rs 5,000 as maternity benefit.

Mr Rosaiah recalled at the event how he used to enjoy participating in May Day celebrations when he was an MLA from Chirala.

Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad
Sunday, 2nd May 2010

NREGA job allocation

Press Trust of India
Kolkata, April 30

Purulia and Jalpaiguri districts, one hit by Maoist insurgency and the other affected by separatist demands for Gorkhaland, have provided maximum days of employment under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in West Bengal.

The districts have provided 64 days of jobs under the 100-day job scheme as against the State average of 45 days. Birbhum (56) and Burdwan (55) came close.

Business Line, Delhi
Saturday, 1st May 2010

Right to urban employment guarantee demanded

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Under the Campaign for National Urban Employment Guarantee Act, a number of students, workers and women gathered at Jantar Mantar here on Saturday to demand that the right to urban employment guarantee on the lines of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

The Campaign for NREGA being run by Disha Students' Organisation, Nabajwan Bharat Sabha, Bigul Mazdoor Dasta, Street Mukti League and Street Mazdoor Sangathan across the country wants the Union Government to draft a Bill for the urban poor and unemployed.

The five-point charter of demands seeks implementation of an Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme on the lines of NREGS. Under the scheme, the urban unemployed must be provided employment for 200 days in a year.

It also demands that pay-



Children participating in a candlelight prayer in New Delhi on Saturday to raise their voice against child labour on International Labour Day.

PHOTO: R. V. MOORTHY

ment for jobs under the scheme must be according to the standards of minimum wages; an unemployment allowance to maintain a minimum standard of living must be provided; and the scheme must be implemented across the year. Asserting that the

"It is now a well-known fact that the whole scheme of NREGS is plagued by corruption and under-utilisation of funds. Moreover, employment guarantee of a mere 100 days is not sufficient for the subsistence of the poor. While we have to fight for better implementation of NREGA and 200 days employment, we also have to emphasize that the urban poor and unemployed are equally deserving of such employment guarantee," he added.

Shivurth, a member of the Disha Students' Organisation, said the UPA Government earned accolades for implementation of NREGA though it did not bring about any qualitative change and most of the allocated money got siphoned off by the rural bureaucracy. "If the Government is honest in its claims of eliminating poverty, it should immediately draft a Bill and get it passed in Parliament."

The Hindu, Delhi
Sunday, 2nd May 2010