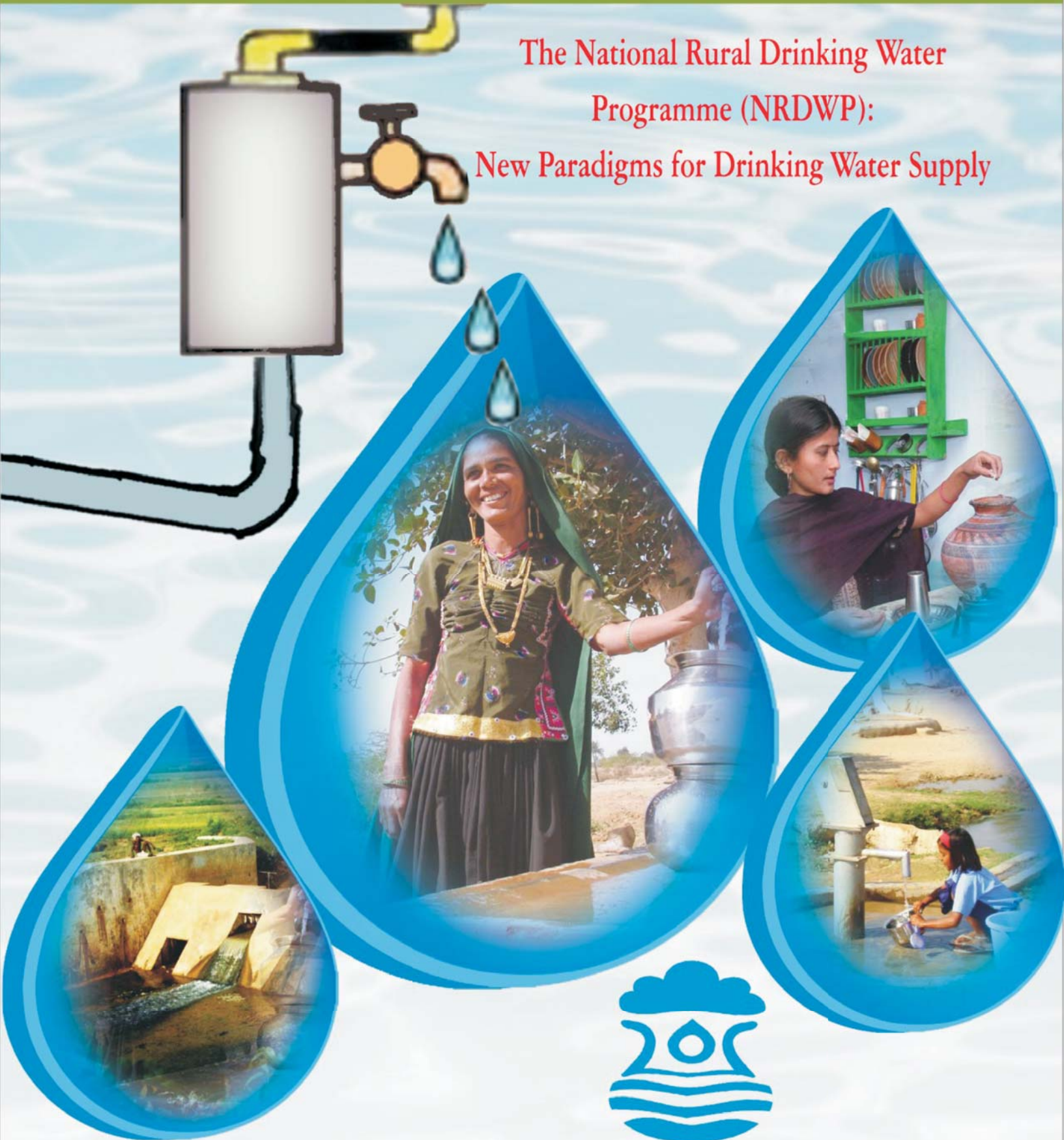


grammeen BHARAT



A monthly Newsletter of the
Ministry of Rural Development
Vol. 8 Issue 58: April 2009

The National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP): New Paradigms for Drinking Water Supply





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Published & Distributed by Fountainhead Solutions (Pvt) Ltd., New Delhi on behalf of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Towards Democratisation of Water Use

The General Election is just around the corner and the whole atmosphere is electrified. The enthusiasm that the elections have generated in rural areas speaks volumes for the success of our democratisation process at the grass roots level. The elections also give an opportunity to reiterate our commitment to the democratic values and ethos that we have been able to ingrain into our overall value system. One of the basic precepts of democracy is to imbibe the habit of sharing the scarce resources for the common societal good.

With increasing population, food production and industrial activities, demand for multiple usage of water is multiplying every year leading to water pollution. Though more than 70 per cent of the surface area of the earth is covered with water, less than three percent of it is safe for consumption. In India, though sweet water resources are in abundance, their distribution across the geographical area is not uniform and therefore some areas have frequent floods while other parts face frequent droughts. India, which is developing at a faster pace, is starting to feel the water stress. This is also beginning to make water a marketable commodity and may cause serious problems to the poor, especially in rural areas. It is in this context, "Democratisation of Water" is gaining importance.

In India, there is a need for providing drinking water in 55,067 uncovered and about 3.31 lakh slipped back habitations. In addition, 2.17 lakh quality affected habitations need immediate improvement in the condition of available water. Rural water supply is a State subject and the Union Government's role is to supplement the State initiatives through financial and technical assistance. As per the estimates of the Ministry of Rural Development, there was a need to invest Rs. 20,748 crore and Rs 55,099 crore during the Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plan period.

To ensure judicious utilization of available resources, participation of the community and society is also of cardinal importance. Unfortunately in a rural society, water is still controlled by the dominant class or caste or powers that be. This makes the poor and the marginalized, who form the vast majority of our rural community, lukewarm in their approach towards water conservation and other related issues as they feel that they have no real stake and are not part of the decision making process.

Availability of potable water in rural areas is strongly interlinked with rural development and growth and displays direct, positive results for human health and well-being, especially for women and children. As the burden of obtaining drinking water is shouldered by young girls, easy availability results in better school attendance among girl children. Women tend to benefit from the reduced drudgery and improved quality of life.

The process of democratising water resources in rural India can thus be a real starting point to further strengthening the overall democracy in the country....

Nilam Sawhney
Editor-in-Chief

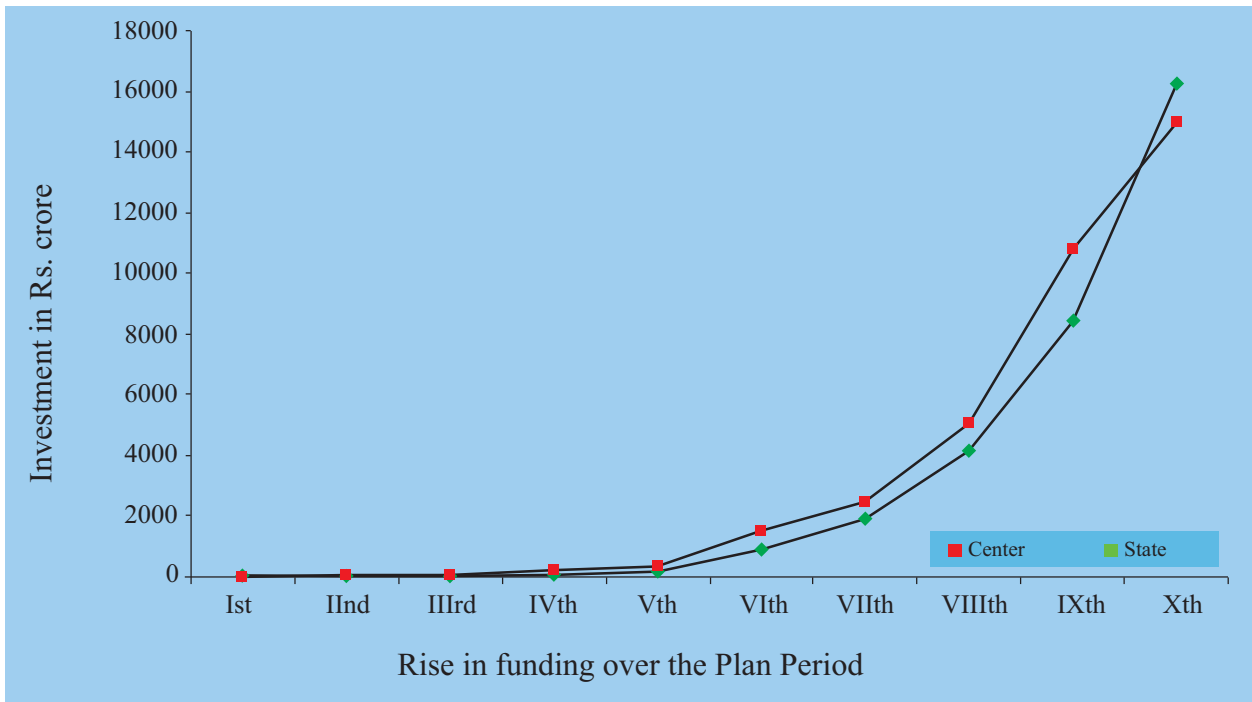
The National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) : New Paradigms for Drinking Water Supply

The Government of India has been striving to achieve the goal of providing safe drinking water to the people of India since the early days of planning. **Sbri R.K. Sinha, Director, Department of Drinking Water Supply** and **Mr. Benny George, Consultant** take us through the various stages that led to the emergence of the NRDWP.

Adequate availability of drinking water is one of the prerequisites for healthy living. Till the end of the 10th Five Year Plan, almost Rs.70,000 core had

been invested by Central and State Governments in providing drinking water in the rural areas. The Central outlay in the Eleventh Plan, for the Rural Water Supply

Sector is Rs. 39,490 crore. As per UNICEF and WHO (2008), 86 per cent rural population in India had access to 'improved' water supply in 2006.



Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)

To accelerate the pace of coverage of problem villages, the Government of India introduced the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) in 1972-73 to assist States and Union Territories with 100% grants-in-aid to implement drinking water supply schemes in such villages. The Coverage Norms were:

1. 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd) of drinking water for human beings.
2. 30 lpcd of additional water for cattle in areas under

the Desert Development Programme (DDP).

3. One hand pump or stand post for every 250 persons.

4. Availability of water source within a distance of 1.6Km in plains and within an elevation of 100m in hilly areas.



Mobilizing communities for Water Budgeting





Sustainability measures - Recharge Shafts for Ground Water

National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)

India has come a long way in providing drinking water to its rural population. However, life has changed greatly since the early days of ARWSP. Water is no more an abundant resource. India, with 2.4% of the world's total area, has 16% of the world's population but has only 4% of the total available fresh water. The rapid extraction of ground water has led to its over exploitation in the country.

Global warming and its fallout on drinking water availability along with the scourge of 'Slipped back' habitations pose challenges to the drinking water programme.

Against this backdrop, NRDWP was launched on 1st April this year, which heralds a paradigm shift to move away from single source coverage of habitations to universal access to safe drinking water in a sustained manner for all rural people (NRDWP, Framework available

at <http://www.ddws.gov.in/popups/FinalRWSGuideLines.pdf>).

The Programme seeks to provide every individual residing in rural areas with adequate water for drinking, cooking and other basic domestic needs on a sustainable basis by adopting an integrated approach to revive traditional systems and promote conjunctive use of surface water, ground water and rain water.

The programme recognizes that mere installation of a water supply system in a habitation does not confer on the habitation the status of a fully covered habitation unless every household in the habitation has been fully covered with potable water in sufficient quantity.



Rainwater Harvesting in Institutions



NRDWP Components

NRDWP retains all the components of ARWSP. However, there are radical changes in funds earmarked and funding patterns.

Components of NRDWP, funds earmarked for them, interventions to be made and the funding pattern are given below.

Component	Funds Earmarked	Purpose	Funding Pattern
NRDWP (Coverage)	38%	Coverage	50:50 GoI and States
NRDWP (Water quality)	20%	For addressing quality problems	50:50 GoI and States
NRDWP (Sustainability)	20%	To achieve drinking water security through ensuring sustainability of sources and systems	100% GoI
NRDWP (O&M)	10%	For the O&M of water supply systems	50:50 GoI and States
NRDWP (DDP areas)	5%	For providing drinking water in DDP areas	100% GoI
NRDWP (Natural calamity)	5%	For restoration of water supply suffered on account of natural calamity	100% GoI
NRDWP (Support)	2%	For activities relating to IEC, HRD, Computerization (MIS), water quality monitoring, R&D, CCDUs, etc.	100% GoI

Funding - 90:10 for N-E States and J&K

Source: National Rural Drinking Water Programme, Framework for Implementation 2008-2012

Innovative Steps taken by the Government of India...

Introduction of "Sajal Gram Puraskar" award to Panchayats which have achieved the distinction of sustainable drinking water supply and have controlled water borne diseases during the last three years.

Creation of Technical Agencies to breathe innovation and fresh thinking into planning and implementation of rural drinking water supply programmes.

Drinking water coverage/security at the household level.

Recognition of water as a fundamental right.



Land Records Computerisation in Kurukshetra

In this article Sbri. G. S. Saini, NIC Haryana gives us an inspiring example of how Kurukshetra town, which is about 160 km north of Delhi, has harnessed information technology to get its land records in order.

The computerisation of Land Records was initially started in 1995 under the CLR (Computerisation of Land Records) scheme of the Government of India. All the 419 jamabandies of Kurukshetra district in Haryana were entered in the computer using the Unix/FoxBASE based software. But this data was not fully used for citizen services due to various reasons such as the disinterest of patwaries in data finalization and the fact that all the software modules were not integrated.

In June 2000 the Haryana Government decided to computerize the deed registration work at tehsil/sub-tehsil level with the help of HARIS (Haryana

Registration Information System) software. Implementation of HARIS gave new direction to the Land Records' computerization. The Revenue Department of Haryana decided to integrate the land records with property registration. NIC (National Informatics Centre) developed the necessary software solution under the name of **HALRIS (Haryana Land Records Information System)**.

The Revenue Department took a very bold and ambitious decision to shift the delivery center of revenue services from patwari to tehsil/sub-tehsil using HARIS and HALRIS integration model.

Challenges of integration of the property registration and land records:

- ❖ Importing the legacy data from unix to windows environment.
- ❖ Development of software solution for seamless integration.
- ❖ Entry of backlog mutations.
- ❖ Training of data entry operators, patwaries and kanoongos.

In Kurukshetra, the deputy commissioner personally monitored the implementation and created the strategy in consultation with the Revenue



HALRIS Centre inauguration in Kurukshetra



Improvements & Innovations

and NIC officers. In the first stage, villages with low pending mutation were chosen and patwaris of these villages were deputed to the HALRIS computer centers to help the mutation entry. After entering the pending mutations and making the jamabandi data up-to-date and online, revenue records of these villages were taken back from the patwaris as per the orders of the deputy commissioner. This methodology was used to make the 416 out of 419 villages online and work on remaining villages is already in progress.

HALRIS centers were established in all the tehsil/sub-tehsils to provide services such as jamabandi nakal, mutation, etc. User charges have been fixed for these services to make the

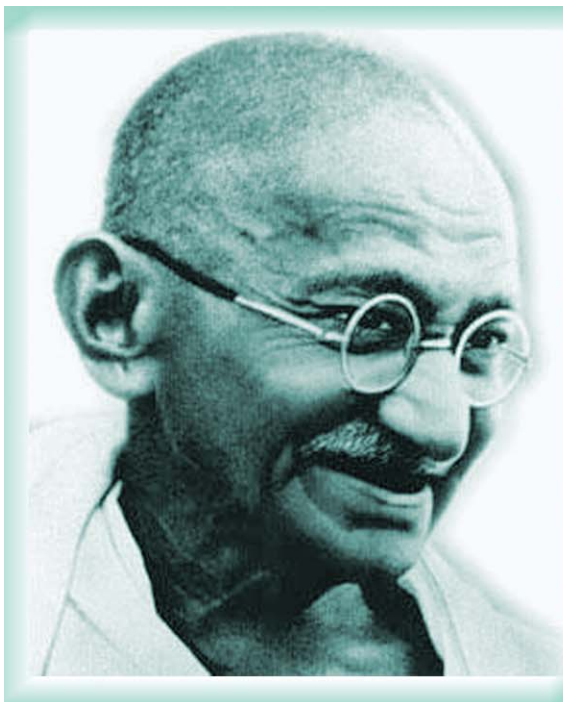
project self-sustainable. District Information Technology Society (DITS) is managing the service charges collected from the public.

At present 416 jamabandies out of 419 of Kurukshetra district are online and mutations are recorded immediately after the deed is registered. In case mutation is triggered by the deed registration or if mutation is triggered by other sources, concerned person, can come to HALRIS centers to record the mutation.

In each tehsil/sub-tehsil, 5 patwaris are posted to run the citizen services after extensive training on the software. Data entry operators are being used for back office operations like mutation entry, mutation scanning, etc.

Benefits of Integrated operation of HARIS and HALRIS in Kurukshetra:

- ✓ More than 400 jamabandi nakals are being issued daily and a maximum of 15 minutes are being taken to deliver each nakal.
- ✓ Timely preparation of jamabandies, this year all the 81 jamabandies of 2007-2008 have been prepared by the HALRIS software.
- ✓ Elimination of the pending Mutations.
- ✓ Correction of revenue records, number of mistakes were identified and corrected as a part of jamabandi updating process.
- ✓ Anytime, anywhere availability of jamabandi on web.



“You must realize that it is not cities that make India, but the villages, and that you cannot reconstruct them unless you revive the village life with its defunct handicrafts.”

- Mahatma Gandhi



Vindhya Valley: Branding for Marketing of Agro/Forest Products

Faculty members of the Hyderabad NIRD (National Institute of Rural Development), Dr. Shankar Chatterjee and Dr. N.V. Madhuri give us an account of how the Madhya Pradesh Government has taken an initiative to develop a brand name- 'Vindhya Valley' for the agro/forest based products manufactured by Self-Help Groups (SHGs)/ rural producers with marketing and technical guidance from Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL).

The project 'Vindhya Valley' mainly facilitates Rural Self-Help Groups through standardization of their products, attractive packaging, quality control, marketing support and proper pricing. Their unique feature is the Public-Private Partnership between the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Hindustan Unilever Limited. The Government of Madhya Pradesh, through Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB) has been providing support through forward linkage, while Hindustan Unilever Limited has been providing the know-how. Madhya Pradesh Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB) is the nodal agency for the project.

Phase 1 of the project started in 2002-03 with the funding support of Rs.2 crore from the State Government. Phase 2 of the project which started in 2005, will continue up to 2010 as a special SGSY project with Rs.15 crore funding from the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (75%) and the MP Government (25%). Initially, small-scale entrepreneurs of REGP (Rural Employment Generation Programme of KVIB) were also linked in this project. Now these units have been phased out.

A Case Study of sustainable REGP:



Operating a Pouch-Packing machine

Entrepreneur Vijay Joshi, from Hatod village of Indore district, after completing his Master's Degree in Personnel Management decided to start his own venture. In 1998 KVIB, Madhya Pradesh extended support under REGP with an amount of Rs.10 lakh which included 65% bank loan, 25% margin money from KVIB and 10% individual contribution. With this amount he started chilli, coriander, turmeric powder making and packaging business under the brand name of "Shubham". Subsequently in 2002, to widen the business "Vindhya Valley" brand was extended to him.

When he was marketing his products under "Shubham", business was not adequate as the brand was not familiar to the people but "Vindhya Valley" helped him to broaden his marketing as "Vindhya Valley" is a popular brand name in many places.

He recalled how Mr. Shenoy of Hindustan Unilever Limited helped and guided him in maintaining quality aspects. Shenoy was appointed as consultant for brand building of Vindhya Valley products. He had established a small laboratory for assessing the quality of the products. This laboratory was looked after by a chemist. Apart from the chemist, 4 more staff members worked under Joshi. All of them together earned around Rs.18000 per month.

Another noteworthy point is the for the last 4 years, 10 SHG women members have been working in the venture. The women are paid according to their production capacity. Different SHGs were brought to his venture for showing them how to produce and pack. Joshi proudly submits tax return every year and his monthly income ranges between Rs.20, 000 and Rs.25, 000.

Joshi is now an ideal example in the area. Many unemployed youths, even some highly educated, instead of taking up salaried employment are encouraged to opt for different type of enterprises. Thus Joshi the entrepreneur not only provides jobs to many individual persons and employed SHG members; he also inspires local youth to become entrepreneurs.



Feature

Every month we focus on a significant aspect of the Ministry of Rural Development's flagship programme, NREGA. We have already featured articles on 'Job Cards', 'Social Audits', 'Muster Roll' and 'Financial Inclusion'. In this issue, we give you the Phases of NREGA Implementation

Implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is the flagship programme of the government that directly touches lives of the poor and promotes inclusive growth. The Act aims at enhancing livelihood security of households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Phases of NREGA Implementation

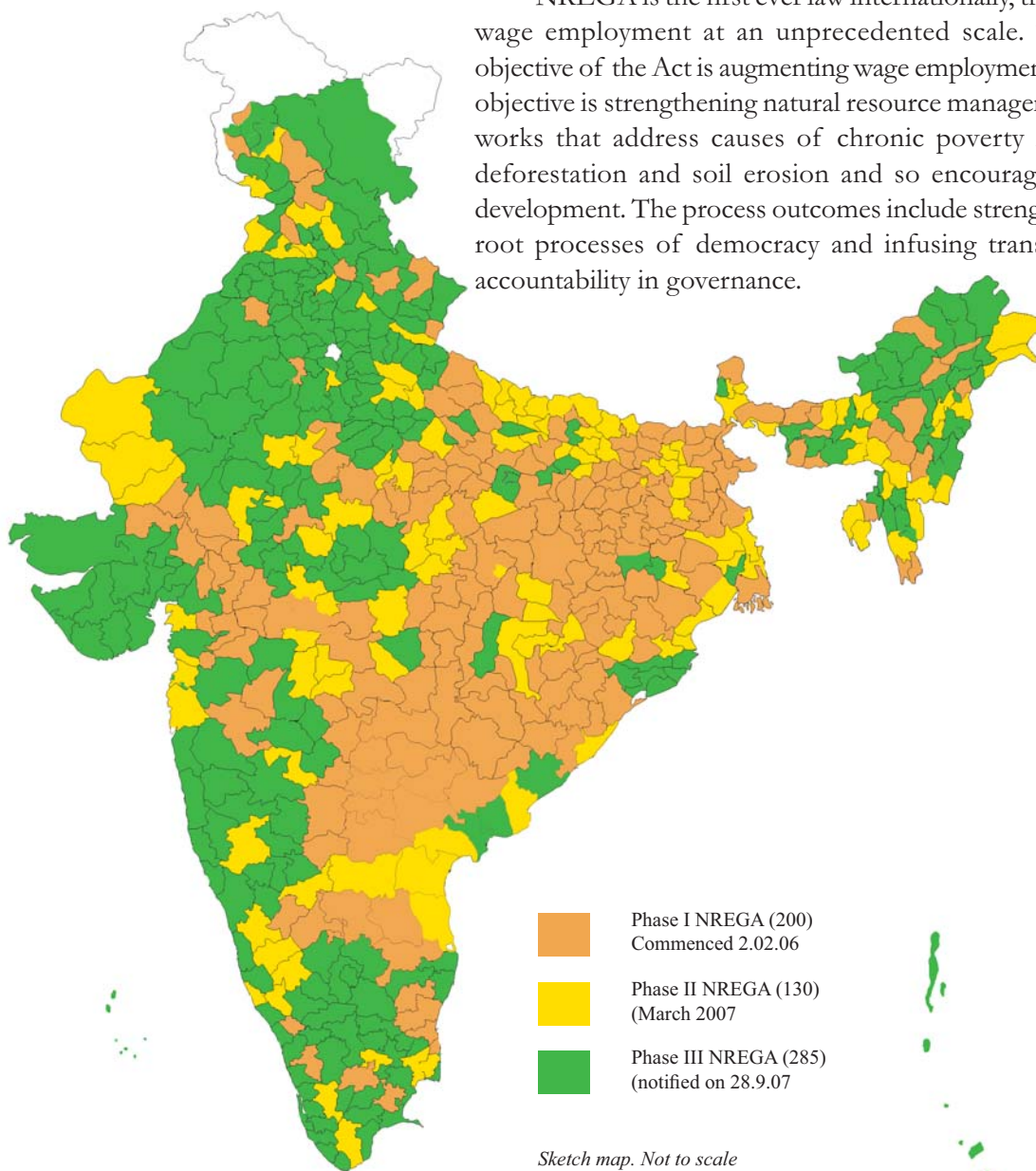
The Act came into force on February 2, 2006 and was implemented in a phased manner.

In Phase 1, NREGA was introduced in 200 of the most backward districts of the country.

In Phase 2, it was implemented in an additional 130 districts during 2007-2008. As per the initial target, NREGA was to be expanded countrywide in five years.

In Phase 3, in order to bring the whole nation under its safety net and keeping in view the demand, the Scheme was extended to the remaining 285 rural districts of India from April 1, 2008.

NREGA is the first ever law internationally, that guarantees wage employment at an unprecedented scale. The primary objective of the Act is augmenting wage employment, its auxiliary objective is strengthening natural resource management through works that address causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion and so encourage sustainable development. The process outcomes include strengthening grass root processes of democracy and infusing transparency and accountability in governance.



Sketch map. Not to scale



Economic Stimulus and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is a long standing scheme implemented for providing financial assistance to rural BPL households. Every year, the amount allocated under the scheme is being enhanced to eradicate shelterlessness in the countryside. Till date 195.91 lakh houses have been constructed with Rs. 42828.75 crore. Smt. S. H. Khurana (Director, RH) highlights the new Economic Stimulus of the Government for IAY.

During the current year, when the Government of India released the Economic Stimulus Package, houseless rural BPL households got a special benefit as Indira Awaas Yojana is one of the schemes to get additional funds of about Rs. 3050 crore. This amount was sufficient for the construction of an additional 11.2 lakh houses. However, to ensure that this fund reaches the rural poor immediately, the amount has been released for use as the first installment for the construction of 22.3 lakh additional houses.



Special Areas:

There are some areas in the country which need special attention and efforts to ensure that people living therein become part of the mainstream, socio-economic life of the country. Hence these areas received special packages as detailed below:

Naxal-affected Districts:

A special package of Rs. 413 crore has been allocated to the Naxal-affected districts as the first instalment for the construction of 3.15 lakh houses.

Border Districts:

Rs. 5.04 crore allocated to the border districts of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam for the construction of 2908 houses for the rural BPL households which have been displaced by border fencing etc. Allocation of Rs. 15.72 crore has also been made to the border districts of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh as the first instalment for the construction or upgradation of 19912 houses.

Kala-azar Districts:

The Kala-azar affected districts in Bihar, where many rural houseless people get exposed to disease and death have been allocated Rs. 96.00 crore for the construction of 0.73 lakh houses to ameliorate their condition.

Tribal Areas:

Primitive tribal groups in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and West Bengal needing special attention have been allocated Rs. 35.25 crore for construction of 0.27 lakh houses.

The remaining amount of Rs. 2428.48 crore out of the allocated Rs. 3050 crore is to be disbursed under normal IAY to the States proportionately and released as first instalment for construction of 18.13 lakh houses.



Findings of the Evaluation Study of DRDA Administration

An evaluation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of DRDA Administration was conducted by an independent research organisation in a field survey of 56 districts spread over 28 States. Dr. N.K.Sabu (Director, Monitoring division) highlights the findings of its report.

The effectiveness of the governance system of the DRDAs is varied both in structure and function. Human resource management and the synergy and synchronisation amongst departments and schemes were studied and a mixed picture emerged. Aspects like financial management of the scheme, monitoring and planning of rural development programme were also covered. A few of the crucial findings are:

- The professional wing - based organisational structure has not been maintained. Instead, there has been mere implementation of schemes based on human resources availability leading to adversely affecting the purpose of the agency.
- 32 districts out of 56 districts surveyed have more than 50 percent vacant posts of programme staff as against defined norms. Thirty five (35) districts do not have the Executive Engineers position filled in DRDAs, thereby, affecting its envisaged technical support functions. Only 11 districts have Project Economist and two fifths of sampled districts across have neither senior Accounts Officer nor an Accounts Officer.
- The objective of employing staff on deputation for increasing staff motivation has not been fulfilled. In most of the districts, staffs on deputation are not satisfied with DRDA, and are keen to join their parent departments.
- Lack of pre-service training or DRDA specific training, has led to lack of clarity on role of DRDAs. The Programme staff has limited themselves to scheme coordination, monitoring rather than generating learning on rural development.
- The study revealed lack of role clarity on integration and coordination with other agencies as per the DRDA guidelines. A number of DRDA staff indicated issues of coordination with line departments due to variation in level of Project Directors and Line Department Officials.
- There is a gap between funds entitlement under DRDA Administration scheme and funds release. This gap is in base level entitlements finalized in 1999-2000. The provision of enhancing the allocations annually by 5% have not been implemented leading to huge gaps in the requirement and availability of funds.
- The performance of DRDAs do not vary in a significant measure if they are under PRI or district administration. In the PRI merged DRDAs there is relatively senior staff functioning at Project Director Level. There is no significant variation in vacancy positions in both categories of DRDAs. Relatively greater numbers of APOs are handling multiple schemes in PRI merged DRDAs. The status of integration with other agencies is slightly better in DRDAs of PRI merged districts. Monitoring and evaluation status is also better in PRI merged DRDAs. The financial management of DRDAs under PRI is better than those under District Administration.

Though the sphere of developmental activities of the Ministry has widened over the years, however the DRDA is engaged in coordination of only limited number of programmes/schemes. The functionality of DRDAs is affected due to limited availability of resources and the increase in development demands. The study also revealed that DRDAs in some states play a facilitative role in district level planning. The following options emerge for the transformation of the role of DRDAs.

- To work as planning and management unit as part of District Planning Committee;
- Function as a resource agency for strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions; and
- Function as a coordination agency for all developmental programmes of the Ministry.



IEC - Creating Awareness: Scaling new heights...

The Information, Education and Communication (IEC) division carries out various campaigns throughout the year to spread awareness about the Ministry's programmes. **Mr.B.Narayanan, Director (IEC)** summarizes the activities and highlights the key achievements.



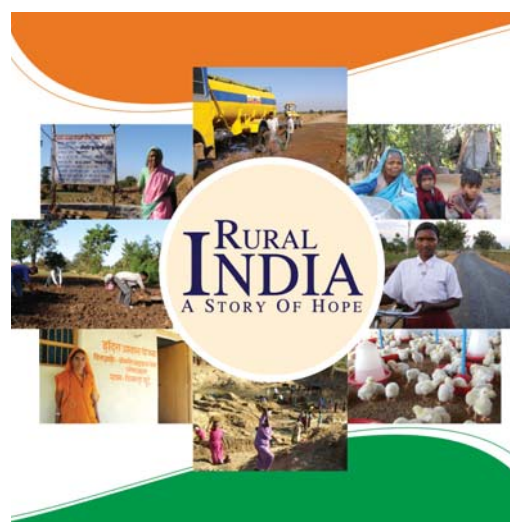
A view of public awareness rally during Special Publicity Campaign on Rural Development at Tawang.

Ministry's campaign, for the first time ever, of using railway tickets to spread awareness of entitlements and schemes aimed at the poor. Twenty (20) lakh tickets per month, spread over four months, were printed with the messages, and issued by the Railways on behalf of the Ministry.

Indeed, 2008-09 was a year when IEC for the Ministry scaled new heights. As the Ministry's total budget for its programmes rose to a whopping Rs.74,000 crore, the pressure to come up with new strategies and fresh IEC material led to a lot of hard work and re-thinking in the IEC division. The strategy for IEC was revamped in February, 2008 under the guidance of the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and the Secretary (RD) Dr. Rita Sharma. Following this, several steps were taken to clear the way for smooth and effective IEC.

Professional advertising agency

It was decided that a professional advertising agency had to be selected for improving the creative inputs for designing the IEC materials of the Ministry. A Committee, with officers from within the Ministry and from organizations such as DAVP, AIR and Doordarshan held meetings over several months, and selected an advertising agency for designing advertisements, spots, films, etc. When the agency, Concept, was finally selected, it played an important role, especially in designing print advertisements under tight deadlines. A documentary film, "A Story of Hope" was made by the agency and shown to delegates at the AARDO conference in January to much acclaim.



Documentary film made by IEC

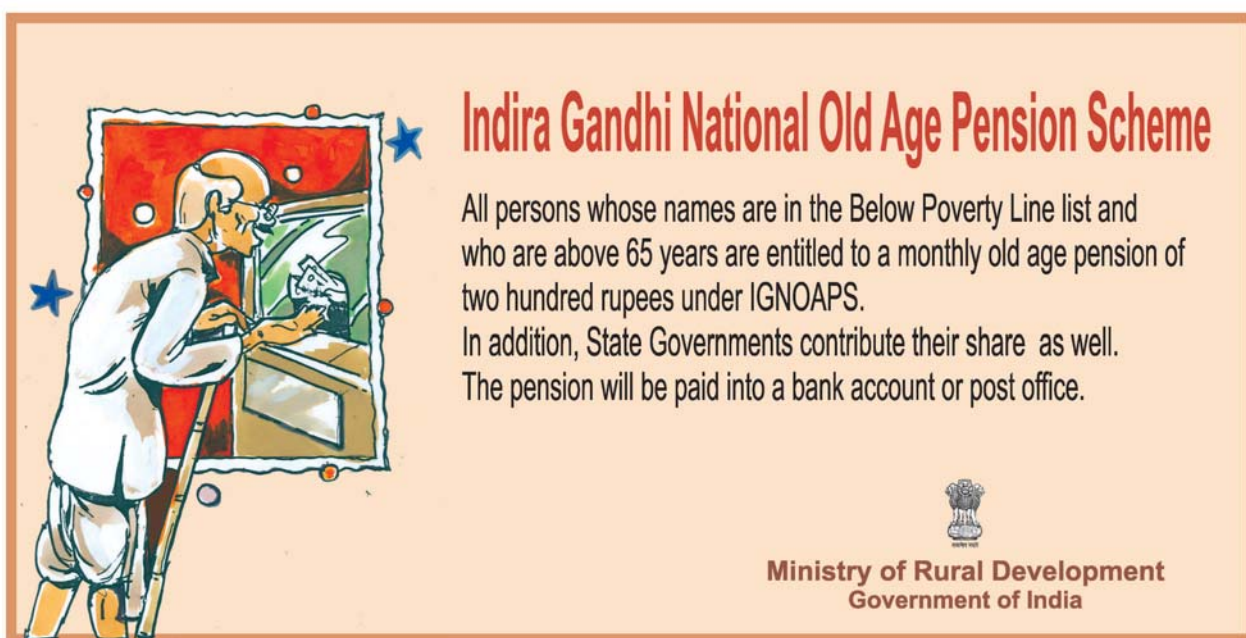


Free Wheeling

New initiatives

New initiatives were taken in other fields as well. For the first time, the Directorate of Field Publicity was given funds to carry out outreach programmes in rural areas. Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) booklets and posters were developed in 11 languages, and sent to the DFP offices in 22 regions by post, so that those who attend the programmes would have some material as a “take-away” to reinforce the message. Every month, 7 road shows were held in each district of the country every month, involving sections of society ranging from schoolchildren to housewives. The road shows were built around photo exhibitions, film shows, public awareness meetings and group discussions.

Wall paintings are another important medium of communicating to the rural population. One Hundred and Fifty (150) of the country’s most backward districts were handpicked and 100 paintings were put up in each district, in simple language and colourful line drawings.



Master copy of a wallpainting on Old Age Pension

Other new initiatives this year included revamping of the newsletter of the Ministry, “Grameen Bharat” by outsourcing its designing and production to a professional agency, printing of Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Schemes messages on postal stationery, and the setting up of an inter-ministerial advisory group to guide IEC activities.

Commercials/Ad campaigns

A record number of 16 television commercials or “spots”, advertising the features of various schemes were produced in the year. Keeping in view the explosive growth of television in recent years, 9 campaigns were run on TV, including special campaigns for NREGA, on platforms ranging from regional bulletins of Doordarshan and regional cable channels to Olympic broadcasts and North-East broadcasts. On All India Radio, an important medium for reaching out to the illiterate, especially in rural areas, spots were run in national news broadcasts, Vividh Bharati stations and regional news broadcasts.

Finally, with vernacular print media too growing at a rapid pace, the largest number of print advertisements ever put out in any one year was published, informing the public about the features of the programmes, the eligibility criteria and details of money spent on them.



Adding Colour to Life

With the continuous support of the DRDA in Kancheepuram, the local Self Help Groups dealing in embroidery, have grown and are now spreading their wings even outside of India. Dr.R.Anandakumar, IAS, Additional Collector (Dev.) sends us this Success Story from Kancheepuram DRDA.

Thirumangalam Kandikai is a village panchayat of Sriperumbudur Block in Kancheepuram District. Here there are 35 SHGs engaged in the activity of embroidery. They undertake embroidery work on saris, bed spreads, kids wear, table cloths, etc. These embroidered products besides being marketed at Chennai are also exported to other countries of Africa, South-East Asia etc.



Using Computer Assisted Designing (CAD)

Under the SGSY infrastructure fund, a workshop has been constructed at a cost of Rs.10 lakhs where the groups are engaged in their activity. With the additional effort on the part of DRDA Kancheepuram, a sum of Rs.1.52 lakhs was spent for constructing a crèche, formation of weathering course and lavatory, etc. Out of the 35 SHGs, about 18 Self Help Group members have got Revolving fund of Rs.25,000 each and 15 SHGs have got Economic Assistance of Rs. 22,50,000.

Further the DRDA has supplied a Government of India sponsored computerized Japanese Embroidery Machine, worth Rs. 41.20 lakhs. The Handicrafts Department of the Government of India organised special training by a designer to the SHGs. This brought in the aesthetic aspect which is much appreciated by the public.

The DRDA Kancheepuram assisted the SHGs to undertake Computer Assisted Designing (CAD) work and has also helped to create a website for their marketing.

Apart from this, the district Administration helps them to participate in various Melas, Fairs and Exhibitions. This is helping them in their marketing efforts and in increasing their business contacts.



SHG members at work



The Media...on the Ministry

पेयजल आपूर्ति पर दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय कार्यशाला शुरू पीएचई को मिलेगा 'इन्सैंटिव'



गुरुवार को होटल लेक व्यू अशोका में दो दिवसीय कार्यशाला शुरू हुई।

प्रासंगिक संवाददाता, मोहन

पेयजल आपूर्ति की योजनाएं ग्राम पंचायतों को सौंपने पर लोक स्वाम्य यांत्रिकी (पीएचई) विभाग को केंद्र सरकार की ओर से इन्सैंटिव (प्रोत्साहन राशि) दिया जाएगा। यह प्राथमिक राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण पेयजल कार्यक्रम की नई गाइड लाइन में किया गया है। अगामी एक अप्रैल से इस गाइड लाइन के अन्तर्गत ही ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों को पेयजल आपूर्ति योजनाएं अमल में लाई जाएंगी।

केंद्र सरकार ने इसी सत्रल राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण

पेयजल कार्यक्रम की नई गाइड लाइन पर मूर ललाई है। 1999 के बाद पहली बार इसमें संशोधन किया गया है। नई गाइड लाइन के हिसाब से कार्यक्रम के क्रियान्वयन के लिए गुरुवार को होटल लेक व्यू अशोका में दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय कार्यशाला शुरू हुई। इसमें 20 राज्यों के पीएचई विभाग के डाटा मैनेजमेंट से जुड़े 50 प्रतिनिधि शामिल हुए।

पहुंचे पुष्ठा जानकारी

केंद्रीय ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय के जल आपूर्ति विभाग के डायरेक्टर रीकंका सिन्हा ने कहा पेयजल का महत्व और उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित हो, इसके लिए यह जरूरी है कि जमीनी स्तर की पुष्ठा जानकारी वहां तक पहुंचे जहां योजनाएं बनती हैं। इसके लिए ऐसी एकीकृत सुचना प्रणाली प्रणाली विकसित होना जरूरी है, जिससे देश के हर गांव को पेयजल की तस्वीर समने आ जाए। इसके लिए केंद्र ने जो सॉफ्टवेयर बनाया है उसे मुहम्मद बनने के लिए यह कर्मचारी अवगत कर रहे हैं। सुकाने के आधार प्रोग्राम में डाटा सिस्टम को फाइनेल किया जाएगा। पीएचई के प्रमुख सचिव अकेल स्वई, मूख अखियां सुधीर रामेश्वर, ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय के जल आपूर्ति विभाग के उप सहायक के मजूमदार, सीसी मिश्रा व सीमान्ती सेन गुता ने पेयजल अख्यार से जुड़े मुद्दे पर विचार व्यक्त किया। श्री सिन्हा ने दैजिक भास्कर से चर्चा में कहा कि नई गाइड लाइन में मुख्य रूप से पेयजल योजनाएं ग्राम पंचायतों के हाथों में सौंपने पर जोर दिया गया है। इसके अंतर्गत योजनाओं के मॉडर्न के लिए पीएचई को फिर जाने वाली राशि में कामी को आ रही है।

गांवों में भी जरूरी है जल स्रोतों की रिचार्जिंग

भोपाल। राजीव गांधी पेयजल मिशन के तहत गुरुवार को कार्यशाला शुरू हुई। 'इंटीग्रेटेड मैनेजमेंट इंफार्मेशन सिस्टम' विषय पर आयोजित इस कार्यशाला में विभिन्न राज्यों के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में पेयजल की आपूर्ति किस प्रकार हो और पानी की उपलब्धता बनी रहे, इस पर चर्चा हुई। दो-दिवसीय कार्यशाला में 20 राज्यों के विशेषज्ञ एवं अधिकारी भाग ले रहे हैं। देश के ग्रामीण अंचलों में उपलब्ध जल एवं इसके आपूर्ति से संबंधित डाटा के कंप्यूटराइज्ड करने और इसके अपडेशन पर वक्तव्यों ने अपने सुझाव रखे। पेयजल आपूर्ति विभाग, भारत सरकार के संचालक आरके सिन्हा, उप संचालक के मजूमदार, तकनीकी संचालक सीमान्ती सेन गुता एवं वरिष्ठ

तकनीकी संचालक डीसी मिश्रा ने बतौर रिसेसर्स पर्सन अपने विचार रखे। लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी के प्रमुख सचिव आरके स्वई ने पेयजल स्रोतों के स्थायित्व और रि-चार्जिंग पर जोर दिया। विभाग के प्रमुख अभियंता सुधीर सक्सेना ने मद्र में पेयजल संबंधी आंकड़े प्रस्तुत किए। उन्होंने बताया कि भविष्य में इन्हीं आंकड़ों के आधार पर योजनाएं बनाई जाएगी तथा बजट का आवंटन होगा। कार्यशाला में अधिकारियों एवं विशेषज्ञों को चार घुमें में बांटकर उन्हें पेयजल की मानिटोरिंग हेतु फार्मेट विकसित करने को कहा गया। विभाग, भारत सरकार के संचालक आरके सिन्हा, उप संचालक के मजूमदार, तकनीकी संचालक सीमान्ती सेन गुता एवं वरिष्ठ



होटल अशोका में कार्यशाला को संबोधित करते विशेषज्ञ।

NREGA beneficiaries to work at Rs 100 a day

fe Bureau New Delhi, Mar 24

Believing that 'success' of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) would pay a huge electoral dividend in the forthcoming general elections, the Indian National Congress (INC) has pledged at least 100 days of work at a wage of Rs 100 a day for each of the beneficiaries. The party has maintained its focus on farm aid, in the manifesto released by the INC on Tuesday that gave main thrust to employment generation in rural India along with skill development programme.

There has been significant rise in the daily wage figures in the last two years. According to the data compiled by ministry of rural development, the average daily manual wage has risen from Rs 65 two years back to Rs 85 at present following the introduction of NREGA.

In the states like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Orissa, there has been significant rise in

prescribed daily wage rates given to agricultural labourers following the introduction of NREGA.

In Haryana, the official minimum daily wage has been revised from Rs 90 two years back to Rs 135 at present. Uttar Pradesh has also revised the minimum daily wage from Rs 58 to Rs 100 while states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa have revised their daily wage upward.

Since its launch in February 2005, the government has spent over Rs 40,000 crore under NREGA, out of which Rs 26,000 crore is towards payment of wages. More than 21 lakh jobs mostly relating to water conservation have been taken up under NREGA benefiting more than five crore families in the current fiscal.

According to the manifesto, for enhancing the technical skill of rural youth, the allocation of Rs 30,000 crore that will be pumped under the National Skills Development Mission.

The manifesto also promised programmes for agricultural diversification, agri-processing and rural industrialization to be pursued systematically to ensure that farming becomes a profitable occupation. It also said that the party will examine the feasibility of direct income support to farmers in the ecologically vulnerable regions of the country.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) and procurement will remain in focus and procurement will ensure at the doorstep of farmers, it says. This assumes significance as the party targets to garner sizeable number of votes from the rural belt.

Due to rise in the MSP of wheat to the farmers last year, the state-owned Food Corporation of India could procure a record 22.4 million tonnes of wheat last year against a target of 15 million tonne. This procurement was more than double the amount that government agencies procured last year.

ed more than 1.8 million tonnes of wheat during 2006-7 as it could only procure about 11 million tonnes against the target of 15 million tonnes. Even during 2005-6, the wheat imports were to the tune of 5.5 million tonnes as procurement level was low at 9.2 million tonnes.

The INC's endeavour would be to ensure that at least half of the country's rural women population will be enrolled as members of self-help groups linked with banks and that they will get loans from banks at moderate interest rates. It also proposes to reserve one-third of all central government jobs for women, it says.

Eying employment opportunities through increased connectivity across the country in recent years, INC has proposed to connect every village to a broadband network within three years. This will, according to its manifesto, help locate new, non-agricultural jobs in villages and open vast new opportunities for rural youth.

The Financial Express, Delhi
Wednesday, 25th March 2009,

Silent but successful initiative

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme social audit in Andhra Pradesh owes much to the government's directives, finds former bureaucrat

LALIT MATHUR



WAS IT IMPLEMENTED PROPERLY? Work in progress under the NREGA. PHOTO: BALAJI KUNDA

ISSUES

While Andhra Pradesh Government quietly and unobtrusively, but effectively, has been conducting social audits in the context of the rural audit in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGA) using the 30 Act and thereby giving the rural a new vibrant revolution in the three years.

The government does not conduct the social audit in Andhra Pradesh in a comprehensive and wide as per the 30 Act. One reason has been the absence of a proper procedure and the second reason is that the government has not been able to conduct a social audit in a comprehensive manner. It has been a long time since the government has taken any steps in this regard.

At Kollamuri village, 150km from the capital, the government has been conducting social audits in the context of the rural audit in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGA) using the 30 Act and thereby giving the rural a new vibrant revolution in the three years.

The government does not conduct the social audit in Andhra Pradesh in a comprehensive and wide as per the 30 Act. One reason has been the absence of a proper procedure and the second reason is that the government has not been able to conduct a social audit in a comprehensive manner. It has been a long time since the government has taken any steps in this regard.

The Financial Express, Delhi
Wednesday, 25th March 2009,

Not just physical

How the job guarantee programme can launch a talent hunt

ANIL K. GUPTA

PROVIDING employment guarantee to people who are unemployed is not just a matter of providing work at a wage. It is also a matter of providing a platform for people to showcase their talents and skills. The government should focus on this aspect as well.

However, the present job guarantee programme is not designed to do this. It is only a matter of providing work at a wage. The government should focus on this aspect as well.

There are several levels at which changes are required to make this programme an employment opportunity for people. The government should focus on this aspect as well.

The opportunity for recasting the programme requires moving away from a colonial legacy of treating people as worthy of only manual labour. The government should focus on this aspect as well.

The Indian Express, Delhi
Wednesday, 16th March 2009,

Candid Camera



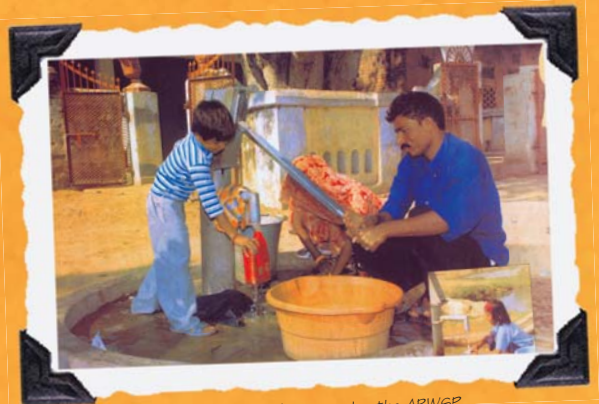
A Panchayat meeting in progress. Panchayati Raj Institutions play an important role in the implementation of Rural Development schemes.



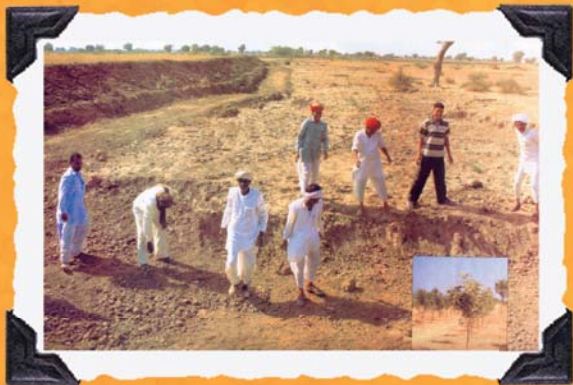
A beneficiary of the old age pension provided under IGNOAPS.



SGSY aims at providing self employment to rural poor through group formation, cluster activities, skill development, economic assistance and creating marketing avenues.



A family using a handpump under the ARWSP.



Improvement of land in progress at a site.



- Road under PMGSY in Assam.
- IAY beneficiary taking a break from building her house, and
- Women filling water under the ARWSP



- A family building a home for themselves using local materials under IAY
- A beneficiary looking up his turn under the IAY waitlist painted on a panchayat wall.



Women Sarpanches proudly displaying the Nirmal Gram Puraskar.

Please contribute to Grameen Bharat. Articles of upto 400 words in English or Hindi and photographs can be sent to Neena Thomas at neena04@gmail.com