

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH LIVELIHOODS

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Rural Development holds the key to sustainable economic growth and human development. The reduction in poverty is fastest when rural economies are resurgent, providing opportunities for diversification of livelihoods in farm and non-farm sectors. India's emergence as a global power depends on its ability to tackle the challenge of rural poverty and development effectively. It is for this reason that the Government accords the highest priority to transforming lives in rural areas through livelihoods and to improving infrastructure to improve the well being of households. It is only through an inclusive rural development agenda that sustainable human progress is possible.

Rural poverty has many dimensions. It is for this reason that a need is felt to simultaneously address all the dimensions of poverty effectively. A household can be poor if they are homeless; they can

be poor because they are uneducated and without skills; they can be poor because they are assetless; they can be poor because of ill health. There can be a variety of reasons and multiplicity of dimensions that affect the ability of an individual to develop their fullest human potential. The real challenge of rural development is to afford an opportunity to every rural household to develop their fullest human potential through an access to services for human development and economic growth.

The Department of Rural Development with a Budget of over Rs. one lakh crore annually addresses many of the dimensions of poverty and also coordinates with other Departments to ensure better livelihoods and well being of poor households in rural areas. Over Rs. 3-4 lakh crore are spent annually in rural areas if we add up the Budgets of all Departments and State Governments being spent in those regions.





farm ponds and dug wells to individual beneficiaries to improve their livelihood diversification for higher incomes.

Performance of Rural Development programmes 2016-17

The achievements under most of the Rural Development programmes have been very significant in 2016-2017. Construction of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) roads from 73.5 kms per day in 2011-2014 to 100 km per day in 2014-2016 and 130 kms per day in 2016-2017 is a reflection of efforts made. Similarly, under Rural Housing (RH) programme, where the thrust was on completing all incomplete houses of Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and starting construction under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) after its launch by Hon'ble Prime Minister on November 20, 2016, States have reported completion of 32.14 lakh houses. This is 2 to 3 times higher than the average completion reported during 2011-2014. Likewise, under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), from the usual completion of 25 lakh to 30 lakh works, 52 lakh of works have been completed in 2016-2017. 88 lakh assets have been geotagged for the first time under MGNREGS. Placed below is a summary of some of the salient achievements under different programmes in 2016-2017:

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- **A record 47,350 kms. of PMGSY road was constructed during 2016-17.** This is the highest construction of PMGSY roads in a single year, in the last 7 years.
- **11,614 habitations were provided connectivity** by construction of 47,350 kms. of PMGSY roads during 2016-17 (an average of 32 habitations being provided connectivity every day). In terms of number of habitations connected with PMGSY roads, 11,606 is highest ever in the last 7 years.
- With a view to reduce the "carbon footprint" of rural roads, reduce environmental pollution, increase the working season and bring

The thrust on water conservation in the light of the drought condition has ensured attention to development of an integrated farming system that includes crop, horticulture and animal husbandry besides promotion of non-farm employment as well. The resources under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) have been seen as a livelihood resource and efforts have been made to use them to diversify livelihoods of households. Under the Mission Convergence guidelines adopted recently for MGNREGS resources will be used with adequate scientific and technological basis, to drought proof watershed regions on a Ridge to Valley principle.

The micro credit plan under the Deen Dayal Antayodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), works through women Self Help Groups (SHGs) to provide institutional credit to households for economic activities. Over 31 lakh women Self Help Groups and nearly 3.6 crore women are part of the Mission. After developing effective social capital through Self Help Groups (SHGs), Village Organisations (VOs) and Community Resource Persons (CRPs) the thrust has shifted to mobilising these groups for economic activities with appropriate Bank linkage. Women SHG members have leveraged over Rs. 85,000 crore as credit over the last 3 years. A lot of these resources have been put to effective use for diversifying livelihoods and for improving incomes of poor households. Resources of MGNREGS have been utilised to provide goat sheds, poultry sheds, dairy sheds,

cost effectiveness, PMGSY is aggressively encouraging use of “Green Technologies” and non-conventional materials like waste plastic, cold mix, geo-textiles, fly-ash, iron and copper slag etc. in rural roads.

- **4,113.13 kms. of PMGSY roads were constructed using ‘Green’ technologies, in 2016-17.**
- **MGNREGS – Governance transformation and water conservation thrust as focus in 2016-17**

FY 2016-17 witnessed an unprecedented governance transformation in MGNREGS with a sustained thrust on water conservation. With over 82 per cent active workers (9.1 crore) with Aadhaar seeding in NREGASoft, 4.6 crore workers on Aadhaar Based Payment Bridge, electronic payment of 96 per cent wages through Bank/Post Office accounts, more than 89 lakh assets geo tagged so far, 93 lakh job cards deleted so far through proper verification, large scale drought proofing water conservation works in rainfall deficient regions, MGNREGS established itself as a well governed programme creating durable assets for livelihood security in poor regions, while providing employment on demand. MGNREGS achieved 230 crore person days which is higher than the revised labour budget. The total provisional expenditure of Rs. 58,056 crore (Central plus State) is the highest ever in MGNREGS in any year. 56 per cent women in the wage employment generated is also the highest ever.

The pace for water conservation was set by Hon’ble Prime Minister’s meetings on water conservation with the Chief Ministers of the drought affected States. States undertook their region specific unique water conservation initiatives using MGNREGS resources. Mukhya Mantri Jal Swalamban Yojana to drought proof 3200 villages with 92000 water conservation structures in Rajasthan, Dobhas or farm ponds in clusters in every revenue villages of Jharkhand, Neeru Chettu in Andhra Pradesh with thrust on farm ponds, Mission Kakatiya in Telengana, Kapildhara dug wells in Madhya Pradesh, Jal Yukta Shivar and other water conservation measures in Maharashtra, all used



MGNREGS as a resource for drought proofing for livelihood security. 15.47 lakh water related works were completed in FY 2016-17 including 5.66 lakh farm ponds. Nearly 90 lakh hectares of irrigation potential has been created through MGNREGS in FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17, as revealed by the new practice of preparing Annual Performance Outcome Report of MGNREGS.

MGNREGS promoted large scale individual beneficiary schemes (over 14.61 lakh beneficiaries) for livelihood security like construction of poultry, goatery and dairy sheds; farm ponds and dug wells; support for housing and individual household latrines (IHHLs) in FY 2016-17. It also undertook innovative convergence initiatives for solid waste management in 11000 villages of Tamil Nadu and constructed over 4 lakh ‘magic pits’ for liquid waste management in Telengana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and many other States. To move unskilled MGNREGS workers up the skilling ladder, 29704 were trained for self-employment at Rural Self Employment Training Centres, 3812 were trained to become Barefoot Technicians, besides placement based wage employment to over 3000 workers under DDUGKY and training of Rural Masons under PMAY Gramin.

PMAY-G – From Houses to Homes

Hon’ble Prime Minister launched the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) in November, 2016. The new Rural Housing programme is designed to meet the needs and aspirations of households. With a higher unit cost, it allows for construction using local materials and local house designs. Homes will have cooking

area, toilet, LPG connection, electricity connection and water supply through convergence, and beneficiaries can plan their homes as per their need. Training programme for Rural Masons has been launched to meet a critical skill requirement for quality construction. The thrust in 2016-17 was to launch PMAY-G with all the tasks completed regarding selection of beneficiaries, IT/DBT platform, space technology use, training programme for Rural Masons, finalisation of housing design typologies, etc. The other major thrust was to complete most of the 36 lakh incomplete Indira Awaas Yojana houses which had been pending from anywhere between 1 to 4 years.

As part of the Governance Reform, from anywhere between 2 to 20 Bank accounts in every District for the Rural Housing programme earlier, there is now a **Single Nodal Account** at the State level from where funds are directly transferred electronically on the AwaasSoft-PFMS platform to the beneficiary account.

The beneficiaries under PMAY Gramin have been selected up to 2022 based on the prioritisation and in a transparent manner. The three filters have ensured that the genuinely poor homeless and those living in dilapidated houses, have been selected. Large number of households from vulnerable groups and large number of women have been selected as beneficiaries. House design typologies incorporating disaster resilient features have been finalised and are being used by the State Governments under the programme. States like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Assam have taken the lead in the implementation of the PMAY-G. States like Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Maharashtra have done well in completing a very large number of incomplete Indira Awaas Yojana houses.

The Department of Rural Development hopes to complete 51 lakh houses in 2017-18. An additional 33 lakh houses will be sanctioned for 2017-18 shortly. A similar number is proposed to be completed in 2018-19 making the completion during 2016-19 period of 1.35 crore houses. This will pave the way for Housing for All by 2022.

DAY-NRLM – Transforming Lives Through Livelihood Thrust

The Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) is making a difference to the lives and livelihoods of over 3.6 crore households from where women have joined Self Help Groups (SHGs). The collectives of women under SHGs, Village Organisations (VOs) and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) has evolved transformational social capital that is changing gender relations, access to services and participation in Gram Sabhas and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The programme has given confidence to women to seek Bank loans for economic activity after developing skills and competencies through a sustained Community Resource Person (CRP) led handholding for livelihood diversification. One lakh fifty thousand women Community Resource Persons (CRPs) who have themselves come out of poverty, are today the greatest agents of change in promoting sustainable agriculture, providing Banking services, developing a cadre of Para Vets for animal care, Book keepers and Accountants to women's collectives, and most importantly an agent for social transformation of villages.

Since the inception of the programme in 2011, women members of SHGs have accessed Rs. 1.06 lakh crore as bank credit. From Rs. 20,000 crore bank linkage in 2014-15, SHGs have got more than Rs. 30,000 crore as credit in 2015-16. Till February 2017 over Rs. 29,000 crore had already been disbursed and it is expected that about Rs. 35,000 crore to Rs. 38,000 crore will be mobilised as credit in the Financial Year 2016-17. Analysis of Bank linkage in 2016-17 shows the remarkable increase in credit linkage in States like Assam, Bihar, Odisha, Rajasthan and West Bengal. There is a clear National spread in bank linkage as SHGs become vibrant and stronger institutions of the poor in many Northern Indian States as well. They are already strong and vibrant in the Southern Indian States.

Under the DAY-NRLM, over 30 lakh women farmers have been supported under Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) to promote sustainable agricultural practices. Women SHG led Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) for agricultural implements, power tillers etc have come up in some

States. Vermi Compost/NADEP pits have also come up through the efforts of these women SHG farmers besides the promotion of pesticide free agriculture and multi-tier cropping in rainfed regions for fodder, food, forest, fruits and fibre.

The DAY-NRLM programme has reached nearly 1/3rd of the Gram Panchayats of the country and efforts for its consolidation and expansion are being continuously made. During 2017-18, 52 lakh households through 4.5 lakh new SHGs were added to DAY-NRLM. Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) to develop 84,000 micro enterprises was started in 17 States covering 47 Blocks. Solid Waste Management initiative through convergence was done in 11,000 (nearly 90 per cent) villages of Tamil Nadu through their women SHGs. The successful initiative has been initiated by DAY-NRLM in 6 other States. DAY-NRLM published a Compendium of successful Business Models for Livelihood Diversification and also developed a Best Practice Volume based on National awards and recognition to the best SHGs during the year.

To facilitate diversification of livelihoods, skill development for Placement Based Wage Employment and for self-employment was promoted on a large scale through the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY) and Rural Self Employment & Training Institutes (RSETIs) respectively under DAY-NRLM. 1.60 lakh youth were trained and 79,400 placed under DDUGKY besides 4 lakh youth being trained in 585 RSETIs for self-employment in 2016-17. 12 new Champion Employers were selected under DDUGKY for high quality training and committed placements. Some of the Champion Employers are Cafe Coffee Day, Apollo Mediskills, Team lease, etc. Training of drivers was also started at a large number of RSETIs during the year.

The first National evaluation of DAY-NRLM has been completed recently by the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA). The draft report recognises the social capital developed through women's collectives at village level. The evaluation finds that the NRLM strategy has led to greater demand expression of rural poor not just through their weekly meetings but also through collective action in production as well as on

social issues. Transforming lives through an even larger scale diversification and development of livelihoods is clearly the way forward to reach the Mission Antyodaya objective of Poverty free Gram Panchayats.

Improved governance in addressing the multi dimensions of poverty is extremely important and for doing so the progress of deprived households will be tracked based on the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) baseline through a proposed Social Registry. Also, using 35 indicators on multi dimensionality of poverty under the Panchayat Darpan, the Department would be monitoring the progress of Gram Panchayats in reducing poverty of households. In the overall good governance framework, the department is using Aadhaar with consent for establishment of identity.

To ensure a saturation approach, the Ministry proposes to develop 50,000 Poverty Free Gram Panchayats/5000 Rural Clusters by simultaneously addressing the multi-dimensions of poverty. Following from the approach on Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY), the Ministry has developed 36 indicators to understand the state of development in a Gram Panchayat. These indicators cover infrastructure, connectivity, social development, access to services and banks, solid and liquid waste management, health, education, drought proofing, nutrition etc. The Ministry proposes to develop a composite index for poverty free Gram Panchayats and monitor the progress from the baseline. Through this process, the Ministry of Rural Development wants to ensure sustainable livelihoods for all households in 50,000 Gram Panchayats/5000 Rural Clusters with basic minimum infrastructure and facilities. The DISHA Committee at the District level would also be monitoring the progress of Gram Panchayats to becoming poverty free.

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