

TOPIC NO.20

POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME / SCHEMES AND THEIR SOURCES OF FINANCE

I. Public Distribution System:

The supply of foodgrains at subsidized prices to the Public under Public Distribution System is a poverty alleviation scheme being implemented by Government of Tamil Nadu.

In 1997, the Government of India introduced the Targeted Public Distribution System throughout India, classifying families based on economic criteria - as families below the poverty line (BPL) and families above the poverty line (APL). The Government of India allots foodgrains to the States based on the above classification. Under Public distribution system in Tamil Nadu, the families whose monthly income is less than Rs.5000 are alone eligible to draw the commodities from the PDS outlets. Further, it has also been ordered that with effect from 1.9.2003 under PDS, the entire drawal of rice could be made at Rs.3.50 per Kg. This scheme is being introduced with an objective to give subsidy to those who are in need and cannot afford to buy at market prices.

Yet another commodity, which is being sold at subsidized rate is Kerosene. Keeping in mind the poorer and weaker sections, Kerosene is being sold at the rate of Rs.9.00 to Rs.9.60 per litre depending on the distance between the oil terminal and distribution point. The Government bears a subsidy of 60 paise per litre. The subsidy on this account is of the order of Rs.41.52 crores per annum and this is borne by the State Government.

The details of food subsidy from 1998-99 to 2003-04 are as follows:

Year	Subsidy (Rs in lakhs)
1998-99	90700.00
1999-2000	114500.00
2000-2001	154000.00
2001-02	154000.00
2002-03	124000.00
2003-04 (BE)	60000.00

II. Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana: (SGRY)

This is a Centrally Sponsored Programme, which aims at generating wage employment opportunities and food security to the rural poor. The scheme is funded by the Centre and State in the ratio of 75 : 25.

The primary objective of the scheme is to provide additional wage employment in all rural areas and thereby provide food security. A secondary objective is the creation of durable Community, Social and Economic Assets and Infrastructure Development in rural areas. The labourers engaged in works taken up under the programme receive rice as part of wages.

This scheme is implemented with effect from 1.4.2002 in two streams. First stream is implemented through District Panchayats and Panchayat Union. Second stream is implemented entirely through Village Panchayats.

The Physical and Financial achievement under SGRY I and SGRY II in the year 2002-03 are as follows:

Scheme	Financial Achievement			Physical Achievement (No. of works)	
	Government of India's Share	State	Total	Taken up	Completed
SGRY I	10355.290	3230.323	13585.613	33413	25327
SGRY II	10045.890	3126.980	13172.870	39614	27397
Total	20401.180	6357.303	26758.483	73027	52724

During 2003-04, drought relief works are being taken up on a large scale. Over 1,00,000 works including renovation of village tanks, threshing floors and buildings for Self Help Groups are being taken up. A sum of Rs.55.05 crores is provided in the year 2003-04.

III. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY):

Government of India launched a new poverty alleviation self - employment programme, i.e., Swarnajayanti Grama Swarozgar Yojana with effect from 1.4.1999 by merging earlier self employment schemes like IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA, Ganga Kalyan Yojana, SITRA and Million Wells Scheme which were implemented upto 1998-99. This is a holistic programme of self employment. Under this scheme, the rural poor who are living below the poverty line are helped to organise into Self Help Groups. They are also provided training for help to get credit linkage with financial institutions and infrastructure and marketing support for the products they produce.

The objective of this programme is to assist the families living below poverty line so as to generate sustainable monthly income of not less than Rs.2,000/- per month.

The scheme is funded by the Centre and State in the ratio of 75 : 25. Since the inception of the programme, 34,649 Self Help Groups benefiting 5,19,735 families were provided with revolving fund of Rs.34.65 crores. Similarly, 13,662 Self Help Groups benefiting 2,04,930 families were provided with loan assistance involving subsidy and credit of Rs.131.72 crores and Rs.179.12 crores respectively. This apart, 33,359 individual beneficiaries were also provided with subsidy and credit of Rs.222.44 crores and Rs.40.36 crores respectively. In all, 1,15,505 beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST and 2,14,808 women have been benefited under the programme.

Details of financial allocation made towards this scheme during 1999-2000 to 2003-04 are as follows:

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Year	Contribution made by the Centre	Contribution made by the State	Total
1999-2000	5499.460	1833.153	7332.613
2000-2001	4689.030	1563.010	6252.040
2001-2002	2713.050	904.350	3617.400
2002-2003	2713.050	904.350	3617.400
2003-2004	3748.100	1249.367	4997.467
Total	19362.690	6454.230	25816.920

IV. Integrated Rural Housing Programme:

a. IAY New Houses:

Under this scheme free houses are constructed for the houseless families living below the poverty line in rural areas. The scheme is funded by the Centre and the State in the ratio of 75:25. Unit cost has been fixed as Rs.20,000 for ordinary soil and Rs.22,000 for difficult soil. Besides this, the State Government provides a sum of Rs.12,000 per house for laying RCC roof. Beneficiaries are selected through Grama Sabha, Houses are allotted in the name of the female head of the family.

The Physical and Financial achievement under this scheme during the period from 1998-99 to 2002-03 are as follows:

Sl.No.	Year	Funds released			Expenditure	No.of Houses completed
		Centre	State	Total		
1.	1998-1999	7933.220	5076.730	13009.950	13942.160	68207
2.	1999-2000	5650.640	3971.180	9621.820	11209.060	39920
3.	2000-2001	5067.750	5734.579	10802.329	11057.338	33944
4.	2001-2002	4738.290	5274.350	10012.640	10464.456	28284
5.	2002-2003	5787.441	6451.472	12238.913	12482.327	39757

b. IAY Kutcha Houses:

This is a sub component of Integrated Rural Housing Programme of which 20% of the allocation is earmarked for upgradation of Kutcha houses of the families living below the poverty line in rural areas. Unit cost has been fixed as Rs.10000/- which is shared by the Centre and the State in the ratio of 75 : 25. Beneficiaries are selected by the Grama Sabha.

The Physical and Financial achievement under this scheme during the period from 1999-2000 to 2002-03 are as follows:

Sl.No.	Year	Funds released			Expenditure	No.of Houses completed
		Centre	State	Total		
1.	1999-2000	1169.170	3819.266	4988.436	4956.800	15589
2.	2000-2001	1169.160	395.791	1564.951	1581.098	15970
3.	2001-2002	1179.440	394.050	1573.490	1600.993	15256
4.	2002-2003	1435.610	478.528	1914.138	1938.417	19677

V. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana - Rural Shelter:

The main objective of the scheme is for construction of new houses free of cost to the rural folk below poverty line. The scheme is being fully funded by Government of India. Under this programme, the Government of India provides additional assistance for creating basic amenities such as shelter, primary education, primary health, nutrition, drinking water and electrification in rural areas. The unit cost of new house is Rs.32,000/- inclusive of RCC roofing cost. In the year 2003-04, it has been planned to take up 5,868 houses. A sum of Rs.18.78 crores has been provided in 2003-04.

The physical and Financial achievement are given as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Funds released	Expenditure		No. of Houses upgraded	
			Total	Exclusively for SC/ST	Total	Exclusively for SC/ST
1.	2000-2001	1199.930	1189.678	1034.520	4317	3754
2.	2001-2002	3422.690	3298.937	2633.647	5915	4437
3.	2002-2003	1877.760	1961.600	1384.904	8428	6084

VI. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana:

PMRY, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is for the "Educated Unemployed Youth" with less than Rs.40,000/- as an Annual Family Income. The District Industries Centres recommend the eligible candidates to the Bank and the eligible candidates are disbursed with loan through banks. This scheme aims to help the educated unemployed youth to overcome poverty.

VII. Innovative Stream for Rural Housing and Habitant Development:

This scheme intends to popularize low cost building technology and materials in rural areas. Under this programme, houses for the rural poor are constructed free of cost. Infrastructure facilities such as drinking water, drainage, streets, etc., are provided by dovetailing other ongoing schemes. This scheme is fully funded by the Government of India. Two projects can be taken up for each district. Cost of each project would vary from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs.50 lakhs. Since the inception of the scheme, proposals in respect of 20 Districts had been sent to Govt. of India for a total project cost of Rs.7.06 crores. Out of this, 14 projects were sanctioned at a cost of Rs.4.33 crores. The balance projects are under the scrutiny of Govt. of India.

VIII. Free supply of tools scheme:

Under this scheme, the iron boxes are supplied to such of those Washermen whose annual income does not exceed Rs.16,000/- in rural areas and Rs.24,000/- in urban areas. During 2002-03, a sum of Rs.33.90 lakhs have been spent towards this scheme by the State Government.

Further, sewing machines are supplied to Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes engaged in tailoring. A sum of Rs.3.74 lakhs has been spent towards this scheme during 2002-03 by the State Government.