

CHAPTER-X

PANCHAYAT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

10.1.0 The Directorate of Panchayat and Rural Development at the State Headquarters has been functioning with two vital Wings, the Panchayat wing and the Rural Development wing. Both the wings are implementing various State and Centrally sponsored Programmes through the network of 20 nos. of Zilla Parishads, 219 nos. of Development Blocks and 2487 nos. of Gaon Panchayats (Excluding Gohpur, Roha and Titabar Gaon Panchayats which have been converted into Town Committees).

PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTION (PRI):

10.2.0 After the completion of the Panchayat election, the Panchayati Raj Institution (PRIs) with its three tier bindings came into existence. Accordingly, the Zilla Parisad at the District level, Anchalik Panchayat (intermediary Panchayat) at the Block level and Gaon Panchayat at the village level have been formed. 29 subjects have already been handed over to the Panchayati Raj Institutions to empower the Local Self Government.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMME THROUGH PANCHAYAT WING:

10.3.0 The Panchayat wing basically deals with the PRIs and some smaller nature of State Plan schemes such as rural roads, minor irrigation schemes like digging of canals, health and sanitation schemes like installation of ring well/tube well are taken up. It may be stated that the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) which was implemented by the Social Welfare Department has now been transferred to the Panchayat and Rural Development Department from 01-01-2003. This is an earmarked sector schemes.

The Central Sector schemes like National Programme for Improved Chulha (NPIC) and National Programme for Biogas Development (NPBD) have now been transferred to the State sector from the beginning of the 10th Plan. The State Govt. released Rs. 43.58 lakhs at the last quarter of 2002-03 to install 437 nos. of Biogas plants. The fund is being utilized in 2003-04.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMMES THROUGH RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

10.4.0 *Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY)*

1. (a) This is a holistic programme covering all aspect of self-employment such as Organization of the rural poor into Self-help Group (SHG), training, credit technology, infrastructure and marketing. The scheme is funded by the Central and State Government at the ratio of 75:25 basis. The objective of SGSY is to assist the rural poor popularly known as swarajgaries to come above the poverty line in three years by providing them income generating assets through bank loan and Government subsidy. The subsidy under SGSY is 30% of the schematic cost for the general category people subject to maximum of Rs.7500.00. However, in respect of SC/ST and disabled, it is 50% subject to maximum of Rs.10,000.00. For group of Swarajgaries (SHGs), the subsidy is 50% of the project cost per capita subsidy of Rs.10,000.00 or Rs.1.25 lakhs for the group whichever is less. Government has emphasized on group approach and has discouraged the sanctioning of subsidy to Individual swarajgaries by issuing circular to have separate identity of the programme from the earlier IRDP and effective implementation of the programme.

The allocation for the year 2003-04 was Rs.7674.47 lakhs. During the year 2003-04 an amount of Rs.7418.91 lakhs was spent under the SGSY programme. The programme was covered by assisting a total number of 802 individual swarojgaries and a total number of 3703 group swarojgaries (SHGs) under different economic activities. The percentage of achievement were 4.6% and 99.68% accordingly.

Special SGSY:

(b) The programme has been implementing since 1999-2000 in the form of "Golden Thread" for development of the indigenous Eri and Muga industry of Assam in eight selected Districts only viz. Goalpara, Dhubri, Kamrup, Lakhimpur, Kokrajhar, Karbi-Anglong and Golaghat. The targeted year of completion of the project was 2002 – 2003. Upto the end of the year 2002-03 Rs.802.77 lakh was utilized against the total fund available of Rs.829.05 lakh. The numbers of SHGs assisted with Bank loan and subsidy was 171 covering 1775 numbers of Swarojgaries. Assets created under the project are 20 numbers of community spinning and weaving centres, 18 numbers of muga seed production centres, 20 numbers of reeling and spinning centres for Muga and 5 numbers market yard-cum-training centres. During the year 2003-04, Rs. 841.93 lakhs was utilized against the total fund available of Rs.890.90 lakhs. The number of SHGs assisted with bank loan and subsidy was 192 covering 1975 numbers of swarojgaries. Assets created under the project are 20 nos. of community spinning and weaving centers, 24 nos. of Muga seed Production Centres and 20 nos. of Reeling and Spinning centers for Muga and 4 nos. of Market Yard-cum-Training Centres.

A Special SGSY Project called Economic upliftment of Rural Weavers was sanctioned by the Govt. of India for development of Economic Empowerment of Rural Women through handloom sector in the three districts viz. Nalbari, Barpeta and Darrang. The project period is two years. The project was sanctioned on 28-03-2003. The estimated cost of the project is Rs.535.00 lakhs out of which Central Govt. share is Rs.251.25 lakhs and State Govt. share is 83.15 lakhs and Bank credit is Rs.200.00 lakhs. Govt. of India has already released an amount of Rs. 100.50 lakhs as 1st instalment out of which the allocation for Nalbari, Barpeta and Darrang are Rs. 40.20 lakh, Rs.30.15 lakh and Rs.30.15 lakh respectively. A total number of 2031 beneficiaries organized in 200 Self Help Groups are targeted under the project out of which 80 SHGs are formed in Nalbari, 60 number of SHGs are in Barpeta and 60 number of SHGs are in Darrang District.

2. (a) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY stream – 1)

This is a restructured programme of earlier Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). The primary objective of the programme is to create additional wage employment opportunities during the period of acute shortage of wage employment through manual works for the rural poor living below poverty line.

The secondary objectives of the programme is the creation of durable community based social and economic assets for sustained employment and economic development. The scheme is open to all the rural poor who are in need of wage employment. Since the programme is self-targeting in nature and only the minimum wage rate prevailing in the State are to be paid, it is expected that the persons below poverty line would only come under the purview of the scheme. While providing the employment and creation of economic assets preference is given to SC and ST people and accordingly 22.5% of fund is earmarked for taking up schemes for SC and ST individual people.

During the year 2003-2004, under SGRY Stream-I an amount of Rs.19324.61 lakhs was spent out of available fund of Rs.23147.40 lakhs alongwith 145268 M. Ts of rice to generate 299.48 lakh mandays. The physical achievement was 78.29% of the target and the financial achievement was 83.49% over available fund. During the year 2003-04 the physical assets created were 1641 nos. of school buildings, 14754 kms. of rural roads, 2788 nos. of bridges and 375 nos. of community halls.

Under this stream of SGRY special emphasis has been given for upliftment of the SC and ST people. For this purpose, 22.5% fund is earmarked over the total allocation for Individual Beneficiaries Scheme (IBS) for taking Scheme for income generating activities. Now, this IBS have been extended to group approach also. For implementation. of this Scheme, 40% of the fund allocation for a district under this stream is released to the concerned Zila Parishad and the remaining 60% is released to the Anchalik Panchayat.

(b) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, Stream –II

This is a restructured Programme of earlier Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY). The implementation of the programme is entirely restored to the Gaon Panchayat to develop infrastructure at village level. During 2003-2004 an amount of Rs.22098.63 lakhs was spent out of the total available fund of Rs.24226.23 lakhs. The percentage of expenditure achievements was 91.22%. Regarding food grains 161468 MTs of rice were distributed to generate 337.72 lakh mandays. The infrastructure created under the programme were 17309 kms of Rural Roads, 2047 nos. of School Buildings, 3398 nos. of Bridges/Culverts and 826 numbers of Community Halls. For special safeguard of the SC/ ST people 50 per cent of the fund under this stream is earmarked for SC/ST people.

Now from the year 2004-05 both the streams have been merged together as SGRY. Accordingly 50% of the SGRY funds released to the Gaon Panchayats, 30% to the Anchalik Panchayats and 20 % to the Zila Parishad in the Plains districts where there is elected PRI in existence. In sixth Schedule area, the entire fund is utilized by the Blocks.

3. Indira Awaas Yojana :-

Housing is one of the basic requirement for human survival. For normal citizen owning a house provides significant economic security and status in society. The objectives of Indira Awaas Yojana is primarily to build dwelling units to members of SC/ST, free bonded labourers and also non SC/ST rural poor below poverty line by providing them grants-in-aid to the tune of Rs.25,000/- for plain districts and Rs. 27,500/- for the Hills and difficult areas. A maximum amount of 40% of the total IAY allocation for the year can also be utilized for construction of dwelling units for non SC/ST rural BPL families. Provision of safeguards for the woman and mentally disordered persons have also been made up to 40% and 3% of the target respectively. The programme is implemented in two separate streams viz. IAY (New Construction) and IAY (Up gradation) where 80% and 20% of the total allocation respectively are used. During the year 2003-04 an amount of Rs.11483.55 lakh for IAY new construction and Rs.2347.59 lakhs for IAY upgradation had been spent. The physical achievement were 50215 nos. for new houses and 28537 nos. for upgradation. The percentage of physical achievement for new construction and upgradation were 74.15% and 83.44% respectively.

4. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (Rural Shelter)

The programme has been introduced in the year 2000-01. It envisages the allocation for additional Central Assistance to State and Union Territories for selected basic minimum services in order to focus on certain areas of development. The PMGY has five components viz. Primary Health, Primary Education, Rural Shelters (Gramin Awas), Rural Drinking Water and Nutrition. Out of these, Gramin Awaas is implemented through the Panchayat and Rural Development in Assam. It is fully funded by the Government of India and the implementation strategy to like Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). During the year 2003 –2004 the total fund available for new construction was Rs.2769.34 lakhs and the expenditure was Rs.2769.34 lakhs with 100% achievement. Similarly for upgradation the total fund available was Rs.439.22 lakhs and the expenditure was Rs.439.22 lakhs with 100% achievement.

5. Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) :

The programme is being implemented by the Department from the year 2000-2001 where the funding pattern is 91.67 : 8.33 between the Central and State. The objectives of the programme are-

- (i) Developing wasteland /degraded lands, draught prone and desert areas on watershed basis, keeping in view the capacity of land, site condition and local needs.
- (ii) Promoting the overall economic development and improving the socio-economic condition of poor and disadvantaged sections inhabiting the programme area.
- (iii) Mitigating the adverse effects of extreme climatic conditions such as, draught and desertification on crops, human and live stock population for their overall improvement.
- (iv) Restoring economical balance by harnessing, conserving and developing natural resources in land, water and vegetative cover.
- (v) Employment generation, poverty alleviation, community empowerment and development of human and other economic resources of the village.

Under the programme altogether 40 (forty) number of projects have been sanctioned and are being implemented throughout the State up to 2002-03

During the year 2003-04, 14 nos. of IWDP Projects under the guidelines of HARIYALI are sanctioned.

Upto to the end of March, 2004 an amount of Rs.3818.75 lakh were utilized against the total available fund of Rs.5915.98 lakhs and the physical achievements under area treated were 37952.70 hectares against the target of 52110.15 hectares.

6. National Programme of Bio-gas Development (NPBD)

Earlier this programme was implemented under 100% Central Share. Now from 2002-03 the programme has since been transferred to State Government.

During the year 2003-04 no. fund has been released by the State Government for the scheme.

7. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

Regarding the programme of PMGSY, the entire plan and execution has been entrusted to the PWD Department for implementation of the PMGSY works in the State vide Govt. notification No. RBPC.40/2004/10 dated Dispur the 10th September'2004.

8. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

Formerly the scheme was executed by the Social Welfare Department. Since, 2002-03 it has come under the purview of Panchayat and Rural Development Department. During the year 2002-03 an amount of Rs.10.00 lakhs was sanctioned and drawn out of the budget provision of Rs.4149.00 lakhs. Due to insufficient fund the programme could not be implemented during the year 2002-03. Again, during the year 2003-04 an amount of Rs.3221.00 lakhs was received against budget provision of Rs.4149.00 lakhs. The entire fund amount was released against the target of 307330 nos. of beneficiaries under NOAPS and 13733 nos. of beneficiaries under NFBS.

9. Annapurna

Formerly the scheme was executed by the Food & Civil Supply Department. Since, 2002-03 it has come under the purview of Panchayat and Rural Development Department. Due to non-availability of fund the programme could not be implemented during the year 2002-03. During the year 2003-04 an amount of Rs.253.36 lakhs was received. The entire amount of Rs.253.36 lakhs has already been released for implementation of the programme with the physical target of 26640 numbers of beneficiaries.

The physical and financial achievements under various rural development programmes in Assam during 2002-03 and 2003-04 are furnished at Table -10.1, 10.2 and 10.3.

TABLE-10.1								
PHYSICAL ACHIEVEMENT UNDER VARIOUS RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN ASSAM								
Sl. No	Name of the Programmes	Physical Target		Unit	Physical achievement		Percentage of achievement	
		2002-03	2003-04		2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	SGSY	3,715	3715	Group Swarozgaries	3078	3703	82.85	99.68
		12,382	17,382	Individual Swarozgaries	5043	802	40.73	4.61
2.	SGRY (Stream I)	382.50	338.12	Lakh Man Days	289.59	299.48	75.72	78.29
3.	SGRY (Stream II)	382.55	338.28	Lakh Man Days	227.65	337.72	59.49	88.26
4.	IAY (New Construction)	62,174	67,721	Nos.	43043	50215	69.22	74.15
	Upgradation	34,199	34,199	Nos.	22483	28537	65.74	83.44
5.	N.P.B.D.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	PMGY (Rural Shelter) New construction	9,934	9264	Nos.	10,667	11800	107.37	127.37
	Up-gradation	5,000	5,000	Nos.	3,397	3,400	67.94	68.00
7.	PMGSY	-	-	Roads in K.M.	154.94	-	-	-

TABLE- 10.2

FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER VARIOUS RURAL
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN ASSAM

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Programmes	Allocation		Total fund available including unspent balance of previous year		Total expenditure over fund available		Percentage of expenditure over fund available	
		2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	a) SGSY	4403.45	7674.47	4489.28	8533.29	3587.09	7418.91	79.90	86.94
	b) Spl. SGSY	-	-	829.05	-	802.77	-	-	-
2.	SGRY-I	17080.50	19778.00	19323.11	23147.40	15925.00	193124.61	82.41	83.49
3.	SGRY-II	17088.10	19786.71	15605.64	24226.23	12679.74	22098.63	81.35	91.22
4.	a) IAY-New Construction	13,678.40	14124.59	9,635.76	13464.84	8,303.53	11483.55	86.17	85.29
	b) Up-gradation	3419.67	3531.15	2,489.90	3479.13	2,122.18	2347.59	85.23	67.48
5.	N.P.B.D.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	N.P.I.C.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	I.W.D.P.	-	21695.28	2,342.03	5915.98	986.08	3818.75	42.10	64.55
8.	a) PMGY(R/S) – New Const.	-	2000.00	1,999.92	2769.34	2,028.55	2769.34	-	100.00
	b) PMGY(R/S)-Up Gradation	-	500.00	733.69	439.22	548.20	439.22	74.72	100.00
9.	PMGSY	15,492.00	-	8,000.00	-	7898.07	-	98.72	-

TABLE-10.3

FOODGRAINS UTILISED UNDER SAMPOORNA GRAMEEN YOZANA

Year	Allocation (MT)		Lifting (MT)		Utilised (MT)	
	SGRY-I	SGRY-II	SGRY-I	SGRY-II	SGRY-I	SGRY-II
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2002-03	179880	179879	115699	88968	118090	102212
2003-04	134850	134846	199601	196234	145268	161468

SGRY-I: Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (Stream-I)
SGRY-II: Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (Stream- II)