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Grameen Bharat

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ग्रामपंचायती राज मंत्रालय
Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Government of India

ग्रामपंचायती राज दिवस'
हेतु राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन

Conference to Celebrate
Panchayati Raj Day

नई दिल्ली
2011
New Delhi



National Panchayati Raj Diwas Commemorated

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Snapshots of the Month



Minister of Rural Development, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Chairperson, NCP, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, and Secretary MoPR, Shri A.N.P. Sinha at the Conference Celebrating Panchayati Raj Day



Dr. Manmohan Singh and Smt. Sonia Gandhi presenting an award



PRI awardees and functionaries



Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh with senior dignitaries and an awardee at the Conference



Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh with dignitaries and VIPs at the Conference



Awardees, dignitaries and delegates at the Conference



India accounts for about 2.4 per cent of the world's geographical area and 4 per cent of global water resources, but supports about 17 per cent of the world's human population and more than 15 per cent of the livestock. Thus, the land and water resources of the country are under considerable strain. The need for providing food and water for the growing population while sustaining the natural resource base has emerged as one of the main challenges in the 21st century.

Sixty per cent of the net sown area (84 million hectares) is rainfed in India. Rainfed areas are home to majority of our rural poor and marginal farmers. These areas are characterized by high incidence of poverty,

high distress in farming sector, distress migration, low employment opportunities, and vulnerability to a variety of high risks. More than 400 million of the rural population lives in the rain-fed regions. Repeated water scarcities leading to large scale droughts have severely affected livelihoods of these rural poor.

The challenge, therefore, is to improve rural livelihoods through a participatory watershed development programme, reinforced by an integrated farming systems approach that would increase productivity in a sustainable manner and contribute to livelihood security. It is important to strengthen institutional arrangements, improve project content and augment budget support to integrated watershed approaches in rain-fed areas. Watershed development programmes in India are considered an effective tool for addressing the problems of rainfed areas and recognized as a growth engine for inclusive growth and poverty alleviation in the rainfed areas.

The **Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)** of the Department of Land Resources has been conceived as a long-term measure for restoration of ecological balance by conserving, developing and harnessing land, water, livestock and human resources. With people's participation, this programme seeks to promote the economic development of the village community and improve the economic conditions of the resource poor and disadvantaged sections of society in the rural areas.

I am confident that active participation of all the stakeholders will certainly bring about the desired changes in the rural scenario through scientific watershed management.

(Anita Chaudhary)

Secretary

Department of Land Resources

Government of India

National Panchayati Raj Diwas Commemorated

Panchayats have played an important role in strengthening our democratic processes and devolving power to the village level, since Independence. Gandhiji, the father of the nation, in 1946 had aptly remarked that the Indian Independence must begin at the bottom and every village ought to be a Republic or Panchayat having powers.

Gandhiji's dream has been translated into reality with the introduction of the three-tier Panchayati Raj system to ensure people's participation in rural reconstruction.



Dr. Manmohan Singh presenting an award while Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Shri A.N.P. Sinha and Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh applaud

The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, passed by Parliament in 1992, came into force with effect from 24 April 1993 institutionalizing Panchayati Raj through the village, intermediate and district level Panchayats. This Act registers a defining moment in the history of decentralization of political power to the grassroots level. To mark this momentous occasion, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj celebrated 'National Panchayati Raj Diwas' on 24 April 2011. The function witnessed the gracious address by the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and National Advisory Council (NAC) Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi.

The Diwas was commemorated with a call to work collectively and sincerely in empowering the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country. On the occasion Union Minister

of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, gave away the Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar 2011, e-Panchayat Puraskar 2011 and the prizes for The National Level Winners of Drawing Painting and Essay Competitions held during the "Year of the Gram Sabha " (2nd October 2009-2nd October 2011).

The theme of the National Panchayati Raj Diwas this year was the "Roadmap for the Panchayati Raj (2011-16): A National Perspective" and "Positioning the Gram Sabhas at the core of Panchayati Raj for true self-governance and ensuring transparency and accountability of the Gram Panchayats". Accordingly, the "Roadmap for Panchayats: challenges and way forward" was presented to the experts, academicians, editors of major newspapers/journals and

officials during the day-long deliberations preceding the National Panchayati Raj Diwas. This document charts the future path of the decentralization agenda for Panchayat bodies in India for 2011-2016 that set out strategies and action plans to accomplish the desired goal. It is expected that this Roadmap will lead to strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions; real devolution of power; proper functioning of Panchayats; and establishment of efficient and accountable Panchayats.

Congratulating the award winners on the occasion Shri Deshmukh said, "The impact of the 73rd Amendment in rural India is very much visible as it has changed power equations irrevocably. Accordingly, the Government of India, in consultation with the States, decided to celebrate 24 April as National Panchayat Day".

The Minister said that the Panchayati Raj Ministry has, in consultation with the States and Union Ministries finalized the Roadmap for strengthening of Panchayati Raj for the next five years, to almost coincide with the 12th Five Year Plan and hopes that the Roadmap would provide an effective decentralization agenda to the States and Union Ministries. The Roadmap sets out strategies and action plans for real devolution of functions and funds, efficient and accountable Panchayats and true self-governance. He further added, "Information, Communication and Technology is a necessary tool for transparency, disclosure of information and social audit, efficient delivery of services, improving internal management of Panchayats, procurement, etc.

At this Diwas the first ever **e-Panchayat Puraskar** was given to those states who have implemented Model Accounting System for the Panchayats and PRIA Soft. He hoped that this award will motivate other states to adopt PRIA Soft urgently which is a highly user-friendly accounting software and would put daily receipt and expenditure of the Panchayats online.

Shri Deshmukh said that the most important aspect of self-governance is devolution of Functions, Funds and Functionaries (3Fs) to the Panchayats. It is necessary for the states to expedite devolution of the 3Fs.

Highlights

1. Maharashtra bags maximum awards – (RGGGS, PEAIS -3rd prize, two prizes for national drawing and painting and Second Prize in e-Panchayat Puraskaar)
2. Haryana bags three awards (RGGGS, PEAIS 5th in incremental index and Winner of National Drawing Painting Competition -2nd prize).
3. J & K bags one prize in Drawing and Painting competition.
4. Karnataka bags three awards (RGGGS and two PEAIS awards)
5. Odisha bags First prize in e-Panchayat Puraskar.
6. Sikkim bags two awards (RGGGS and PEAIS)
7. Rajasthan gets two awards (RGGGS and 1st prize in PEAIS Incremental devolution)

Welcoming the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the NAC Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, the Union Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh said strengthening of Gram Sabha is a priority for his ministry as otherwise, the people of this country will be deprived of their legitimate rights.

The National Panchayati Raj Diwas was observed with a call from the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh to act collectively in bringing decentralisation of self governance at the grass roots level. He said though the concept of Self Government has now constitutional and legal recognition but still we have to go a long way.

Dr. Manmohan Singh expressed gratitude to the whole hearted efforts of late Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi in empowering Panchayats and said the impact of the 73rd Amendment on the administration of the country is very much visible and it was his endeavour that today nearly 28 lakh people have a formal place in our democratic setup through about 600 District Panchayats, 6,000 intermediate Panchayats and 2,30,000 Gram Panchayats.



Awardees, functionaries and delegates at the Conference.

The Prime Minister said, "Panchayats have a definitive role in preparing village level schemes on the basis of local needs and requirements. Panchayats also play an important role in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme and the Indira Awaas Yojana. He further added that decentralized and perspective Planning is a pre-requisite in the Backward Regions Grant Fund Scheme. This emanates from the village level so as to cater to the local needs. He said the government is considering on the means of capacity building of Panchayats so that they could deliver in a more effective and efficient way.

Speaking on the occasion the NAC Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi stressed upon the need to strengthen the Panchayati Raj institutions and called for Gram Sabha meetings regularly with a fair representation of women participants. She also called for utmost transparency and accountability in the working of Panchayats.

On this occasion the Panchayat Empowerment & Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS) Awards for 2010-11 2011 were also given to the Government of Kerala, Karnataka, Sikkim, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Haryana by the Prime Minister and the NAC Chairperson jointly.

Shri A.N.P. Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj while giving his vote of thanks said the most important aspect of self-governance is devolution of Functions, Funds and Functionaries to the Panchayats. It is necessary for the states to expedite devolution of the 3Fs. The Union Government also has a critical role in the devolution of the 3Fs because it makes increasingly large fiscal transfers to the States in the functional domain of the PRIs, mainly through CSSs and ACAs. He urged the Prime Minister to give a major role in the 12th Plan to the Panchayats in planning and implementation of all Central and State Schemes.

RD Ministry Releases Rs. 8.32 Crore under TSC for Uttarakhand

The Ministry of Rural Development has released grant-in-aid worth ₹ 832.79 lakh (₹ Eight crore thirty two lakh and seventy nine thousand only) to the state of Uttarakhand; ₹ 585.52 lakh (₹ Five crore eighty five lakh and fifty two thousand only) to the state of Tripura; ₹ 1433.78 lakh (₹ Fourteen crore and thirty three lakh and seventy eight thousand only) to the state of Himachal Pradesh under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) of the Central Rural Sanitation Programme during 2010-11.

The details of the grant-in-aid to the States is as follows :

Uttarakhand

S. No.	Name of the District	Amount of instalment being Released (₹ in lakhs)
1.	Almora	216.28
2.	Bageshwar	59.94
3.	Chamoli	61.35
4.	Champawat	57.87
5.	Dehradun	130.12
6.	Haridwar	74.34
7.	Nainital	47.33
8.	Rudraprayag	33.91
9.	Tehri Garhwal	151.65
TOTAL		832.79

Tripura

S. No.	Name of the District	Amount of instalment being Released (₹ in lakhs)
1.	Dhalai	117.29
2.	South Tripura	167.81
3.	North Tripura	300.42
TOTAL		585.52

Himachal Pradesh

S. No.	Name of the District	Amount of instalment being Released (₹ in lakhs)
1.	Chamba	233.67
2.	Kangra	419.27
3.	Kinnaur	31.77
4.	Kullu	138.02
5.	Lahaul & Spiti	22.53
6.	Mandi	297.21
7.	Shimla	164.88
8.	Solan	126.43
TOTAL		1433.78

The purpose of the release is to accelerate sanitation coverage in rural areas and access to toilets for all by 2012. Total Sanitation Campaign is a comprehensive programme to ensure sanitation facilities in rural areas with a broader goal to eradicate the practice of open defecation. TSC as a part of reform principles was initiated in 1999 when the Central Rural Sanitation Programme was restructured making it demand driven and people centric. It follows a principle of "low to no subsidy" where a nominal subsidy in the form of incentive is given to rural poor households for construction of toilets. TSC gives strong emphasis on Information, Education and Communication (IEC), Capacity Building and Hygiene Education for effective behaviour change with involvement of PRIs, CBOs, and NGOs etc. The key intervention areas are Individual Household Latrines (IHHL), School Sanitation and Hygiene Education (SSHE), Community Sanitary Complex, Anganwadi toilets supported by Rural Sanitary Marts (RSMs) and Production Centres (PCs).

Connecting Rural Roads

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is a 100 % centrally sponsored scheme to provide road connectivity in the rural areas of the country. PMGSY envisages connectivity to all habitations with a population of 500 persons and above in the rural areas and about 250 persons and above in respect of the hilly states, tribal areas and desert areas through good and all weather roads. During the month of April 2011, the Ministry of Rural Development released funds from the special window created in NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development) under RIDF as grants-in-aid to the following states:

- 1. Mizoram :** ₹ 5,59,00,000/- (₹ Five crore and fifty nine lakh only) as part payment of 2nd installment of Phase VI for construction of rural roads was released to the Mizoram Rural Roads Development Agency (MRRDA). MRRDA is the agency executing the works taken up under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the state.
- 2. Manipur:** ₹ 56,15,00,000/- (₹ Fifty six crore and fifteen lakh only) as part payment of 1st installment of Phase-VII for construction of rural roads to the Manipur State Rural Roads Development Agency (MSRRDA). MSRRDA is the agency executing the works taken up under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the state.
- 3. Arunachal Pradesh:** ₹ 20,21,00,000 (₹ Twenty crore and twenty one lakh only) as part payment of 2nd installment of Phase VII, to the Arunachal Pradesh Rural Road Development Agency (ARRDA). ARRDA is the agency executing the works taken up under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the state.
- 4. Uttar Pradesh:** ₹ 62,00,00,000/- (₹ Sixty two crore only) as part payment of 2nd installment of Phase-VII for construction of rural roads in Uttar Pradesh to the Uttar Pradesh Rural Roads Development Agency (UPRRDA). UPRRDA is the agency executing the works taken up under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the state.
- 5. Rajasthan:** ₹ 30,00,00,000/- (₹ Thirty crore only) as part payment of 2nd installment of Tranche-V to the Rajasthan Rural Road Development Agency (RRRDA). RRRDA is the agency executing the works taken up under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the state.
- 6. Punjab:** ₹ 37,33,00,000/- (₹ Thirty seven crore and thirty three lakh only) as part payment of 2nd installment of Phase-VIII for construction of rural roads in Punjab to the Punjab Roads and Bridges Development Board (PRBDB). PRBDB is the agency executing the works taken up under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the state.
- 7. Uttarakhand:** The Ministry of Rural Development has released grant-in-aid worth ₹ 44,82,00,000/- (₹ Forty four crore and eighty two lakh only) as part payment of 1st Installment of Phase-VII, for construction of rural roads to the Uttarakhand State Rural Roads Development Agency (URRDA). URRDA is the agency executing the works taken up under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the state.

(Source: PIB)

RD Ministry Organizes National Seminar on Lab to Land Initiative in Gangtok

The Ministry of Rural Development organized a National Conference of Secretaries of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj and Heads of State Institute of Rural Development (SIRDs) at Gangtok on Lab to Land Initiative on **27 April 2011**, followed by a two-day Workshop on Accelerating Rural Development and Strengthening Local Self Governance on **28th-29th April 2011**. The National Seminar was chaired by Shri B.K.Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development and attended by the Secretaries of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj from states/UTs, the heads of State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDs) along with select 43 District Collectors from 28 states across the country and the District Collectors awarded under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

The meeting assumes significance in the backdrop of the Lab to Land Initiative by the Ministry of Rural Development. Under the initiative, 43 districts have been identified from 28 states across the country wherein on a pilot basis the effectiveness of programme implementation would be enhanced through field level training. The initiative aims to build collaborative knowledge and innovation and demonstrate full achievement of the objectives of all schemes of the rural sector (Rural Development, Agriculture, Watershed, Environment, Income Generation, Employment, Roads, Health, Education, Sanitation, Drinking water, Electrification, Food Security, Land Records, Industries, Irrigation, Citizen's Charter, Grievance Redressal Mechanism etc.). The list of selected districts and blocks where the pilot project is being undertaken is as follows:

List of Selected Districts/Blocks Under Lab to Land Initiative

S.No.	State	District	Block
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Manchal
		Warangal	Parvathagiri
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Papumpare	Doimukh
3.	Assam	Kamrup	Dimuria
		Marigaon	Marigaon
4.	Bihar	Patna	Maner
		Vaishali	Hajipur
		Nalanda	Biharsharief
		Bhojpur	Koilwar
		Begusarai	Barauni
5.	Chattisgarh	Jehanabad	Jehanabad Sadr
		Dhamtari	Dhamtari
6.	Goa	North Goa	Pernam
7.	Gujarat	Sabarkantha	Prantij
		Banaskantha	
8.	Haryana	Karnal	Karnal
		Mahendergarh	Mahendergarh

Landmarks of the Month

9.	Himachal Pradesh	Solan	Kandaghat
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu	Akhnoor
		Laddakh	
11.	Jharkhand	Dhanbad	Baliapur West
12.	Karnataka	Davangere	Harihar
13.	Kerala	Kollam	Sasthamcotta
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	Patan
		Satna	Majhgavan
15.	Maharashtra	Wardha & Sangli	Deoli
16.	Manipur	Thoubal	Kakachin
17.	Meghalaya	Ribhoi	Umsning
18.	Mizoram	Kolasib	Thingdawl
19.	Nagaland	Kohima	Jakhama RD Block
20.	Odisha	Cuttack	Kantapada
		Kandhmal	
		Keonjhar	
		Mayurbhanj	
		Gajapati	
21.	Punjab	Fathehgarh Sahib	Kheri
22.	Rajasthan	Bhilwara	Sawana
23.	Sikkim	South District	Jorethang
24.	Tamilnadu	Villupuram	Olakkur
25.	Tripura	West Tripura	Kathalia
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Chitrakoot	Mau
27.	Uttarakhand	UdhamsinghNagar	Rudrapur
28.	West Bengal	Nadia	Shantipur

The action plan prepared under the initiative will be implemented with available resources under various programmes. Training programmes will be completed in one block within a period of three to four months. The total implementation period may typically be for a period of two years, On successful completion of the training programme in three to four months, similar activities will be taken up in other blocks of the district by the District Administration. States may take another block in another district for undertaking this initiative. The achievements in the block may be showcased at different venues as the best practices which can be used as a guide for adopting the Initiative in the other blocks. Subsequently this would have a ripple effect in the area to customize and use the model to ensure effective implementation of Government programmes.

1. Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project – “JEEViKA”

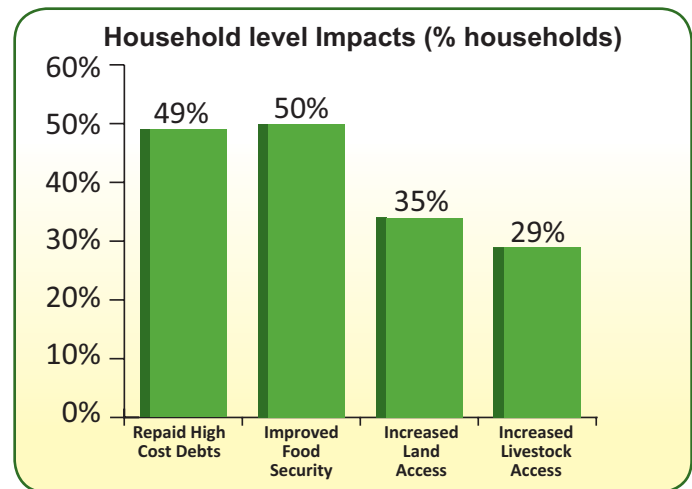
The poverty in Bihar is one of the highest in the country and it will be difficult for India to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) without a scaled up programme of poverty reduction in Bihar. The World Bank supported Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project (BRLP), 2007-2012, builds on the experiences and lessons emerging from Government of Bihar’s (GoB) efforts at poverty reduction and other similar projects. The objective of the project, locally known as “JEEViKA”, is to improve livelihoods of the rural poor through social and economic mobilization and enable them to access credit, assets and services such as social safety nets from public and private sector agencies, including commercial banks. In order to work intensively with the target population and to demonstrate an effective and efficient model of project implementation for livelihoods development, the GoB has set-up the “Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society” (BRLPS) for implementing the project.

2. Project Outreach and Costing

The World Bank (IDA) support for BRLP is USD 63 million out of the total estimated project cost of USD 73 million. While the Government of Bihar is contributing USD 7 million, the community is expected to contribute USD 3 million. The target of BRLP is to create 44,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs) covering 5, 90,000 households in 42 blocks in six districts of Bihar. In addition, the project is going to receive 30 million dollars from the Bank as part of the Kosi Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project to expand its scale of operations to 13 more blocks across 3 districts. The target is to create 15,000 more SHGs covering 1, 60, 000 households in these flood affected districts.

Key Project Impacts

- ☞ 3,70,000 poor households have been mobilized into 27,317 Self-Help Groups and 1,305 Village Organizations (VO)
- ☞ Own funds of USD 19.81 million managed by SHGs leveraging USD 10.07 million from the Commercial Banks
- ☞ Household level impacts as a result of the use of the above funds are :



- ☞ Out of the total 1305 VOs, 516 VOs are managing the Food Security Fund Intervention worth USD 2.30 million and 515 VOs are managing the Health Risk Fund Intervention worth USD 1.72 million.
- ☞ More than 1,50,000 farmers have adopted modern farming techniques such as System of Rice Intensification, System of Wheat Intensification and Participatory Varietal Selection & Promotion, and increased yields by 2 times.
- ☞ 122 new Dairy Cooperative Society (DCS) are formed and 7000 dairy farmers are linked to the markets increasing price gain by 30 – 35% on average.
- ☞ 700 young people are trained and placed in jobs through private sector partnerships.

3. Key Project Activities

3.1 Institution Building and Social Capital Development

a. Building self-managed organizations of the poor at all levels. Mobilization of poor to form their ‘own institutions’ is the core investment for the project. Strong institutions of the poor such as SHGs and their village level and higher level federations are necessary to provide space, voice and resources for the poor, and, for reducing their dependence on external agencies. They also act as instruments of knowledge and technology dissemination, and hubs of production, collectivization and commerce. These institutional platforms most importantly ensure sustainability of the interventions taken up under the project. The project has therefore focused on setting up these institutions at various levels i.e. Self Help Groups (SHGs), Village Organizations (VOs) - federations of SHGs and Block Level Federations - federations of VOs.

- ◆ **SHG's:** The SHGs typically have 10 to 15 members in it and serve the purpose of providing women space for self-help, mutual cooperation and collective action for social and economic development. It promotes savings, builds own funds and is the local financial institution to provide a range of financial services including providing credit for debt-swapping and livelihoods.
- ◆ **VOs and BLF:** 10 to 15 SHGs are federated to form a VO and 15 to 20 such VOs are federated to form a BLF. The VOs and BLFs essentially serve as platforms for collective action, greater solidarity, bargaining power, economies of scale and larger linkages
- b. Social Capital Development;** The project has invested heavily in creating a large pool of 'social capital' i.e. institutions of the poor, their members and office bearers, community resource persons (CRPs), community professionals (community mobilizers (CMs), book keepers (BK) to support poor communities. The basic premise of the social capital is that poor need an institutional platform to make markets and services work in the last mile. Each livelihoods project basically invests in creating these institutional platforms and build community capacities to manage them using the support of paid community professionals. This social capital created is also crucial for scaling up and ensuring sustainability. A brief description of the people who constitute this social capital is as follows:
 - ◆ **CRPs:** CRPs are community leaders, who have long experience as members of organizations and have developed the faith that SHGs are strong tools for empowerment and eradication of poverty. They help in scaling up the programme by helping social mobilization of groups in new block/villages and also support capacity building
 - ◆ **CMs:** CMs are mostly woman, identified from the same village community to act as facilitators for conducting timely and regular SHG/VO meetings and also maintain their books of records. They work towards building and nurturing community institutions.
 - ◆ **BKs:** Bookkeepers are youth from the community who are trained to write and update books of records of the VOs.

3.2 Financial Inclusion

Concurrent efforts both on the demand side and supply side have been taken up to enable financial inclusion. Making poor the preferred clients of the banking system forms the core of the demand side efforts. This includes financial literacy and counseling of the poor combined with capitalization of the institutions of the poor to enable them to strengthen their financial management capacity. On the supply side the effort is to closely work with the mainstream financial institutions at all levels to enable mobilization of the bank credit for the poor.

- a. Financial literacy and financial counselling:** A key component of financial literacy and counseling is the micro planning process. Micro plans help the poor and SHG to know, monitor, and effectively use financial resources to enhance their economic well being and also educate them on responsible borrowing besides offering counsel on debt restructuring plans for members who are in distress.
- b. Capitalization through the Community Investment Fund:** CIF is designed to transfer financial and technical resources directly to the community based organizations on a demand driven basis through a participatory micro planning process. This is used as a catalyst to leverage bigger resources from mainstream banking & financial institutions.
- c. Mobilizing bank credit:** The project is working with the commercial banks to help poor meet the credit needs of their families including asset creation; investments in higher education, health and jobs trainings; and improving shelters. The strategies used include signing of MoU's with leading public sector banks and sensitizing the local branch managers through exposure visits to places where bank linkage has been successfully scaled up.
- d. Improving service quality at the branches through bank mitras:** Community institutions set up help desks manned by locally trained educated women to function as Client Relationship Managers (Bank Mitras) to help poor clients in opening of savings accounts, facilitating banking transactions, updating of passbooks, supporting loan documentation, providing product information and financial counseling.

3.3 Livelihood Promotion

The project's main focus is to stabilize and promote existing livelihoods portfolios of the poor, in farm and in non-farm sectors. The business risks, life cycle risks, higher costs for consumption/production and exploitative terms of trade expose the poor to extreme vulnerability. Given this context the approach under the project is to work on:

- a) Vulnerability reduction through efforts on ensuring food and health security and access to entitlements
 - b) Livelihood enhancement through interventions in agriculture, dairy, select non-farm sectors and in the jobs sector
- a) Vulnerability reduction through efforts on ensuring food and health security and access to entitlements**

i. Health intervention towards ensuring health security:

Expenditures on health are a major drain on the household expenditures and very often to meet these sudden requirements the household ends up borrowing money from informal sources (money lenders) at high interest rates (5 – 10 percent per month). Many times assets are mortgaged to obtain these loans. Given this context, the project has introduced two interventions, the Health Risk Fund (HRF) and Women Outreach Worker (WoW).

- ◆ **Health Risk Fund:** HRF is a fund available to the VO's specifically to meet the financing needs of the SHG members for health purposes (incl. both minor and major illnesses). The expenditures can be on transportation, medicines, diagnostic tests, consultation fees, hospitalization fees etc. It has two components; the first includes health savings, wherein SHG members save an agreed amount every month and second includes health credit/loan, wherein members could borrow funds over and above their current savings in the health account. The interest rate charged is less than the usual rate and the process is simple and designed to ensure easy and immediate access
- ◆ **Women Outreach Worker (WoW):** The project has piloted the concept of a village Women Outreach Worker (WoW) in combination with mobile vans. A WoW

is appointed for 2 -3 villages and trained specifically in Reproductive Child Health by a technical partner – Janani. These WoWs facilitate the access of SHG members to professional health services at the block and district level. They also provide basic services such as testing the blood pressure, diabetic levels, and pregnancy to the households at their doorstep at reasonable rates. In addition they also mobilise SHG households for health checkups offered through the mobile vans once a fortnight. The mobile vans have a doctor and offer testing facilities for HIV rapid test, Kala Azar, TB and Diabetes.

- ii. **Food security intervention:** The food security programme is a community managed credit and food distribution mechanism. As part of this the VO assesses the food gap at the household level for each of its members, aggregates the food requirement, procures it in bulk from nearby markets and distributes it to the households as in kind credit. The households repay the amount in easy installment over the next 3 to 6 months and such cycles are repeated as per the need. In some places, the VOs have taken over the management of the Public Distribution System thereby ensuring that the households get a monthly supply of food entitlements which until then was happening only once in 4 to 5 months.

- iii. **Access to entitlements:** The community based institutions especially the village origination systematically work towards enabling access to entitlements like PDS [Public Distribution System], pensions, government sponsored insurance programmes (life and health). As part of this the VO's identify households that are entitled to benefit from specific government programmes but are currently not able to obtain them and take up their case with the relevant line departments.

b) Livelihood enhancement through interventions in agriculture, dairy, select non-farm sectors and jobs sector

- i. **Agriculture interventions:** A large proportion (around 70%) of poor families in Bihar are small and marginal farmers. For these families; with average landholding of less than 50 decimals - usually with no irrigation; the options in agriculture are limited to production of paddy, wheat or pulses for subsistence. Productivity is

From the States

low with food security of 3 to 5 months from own lands. Based on the above facts and figures, the Project has identified and successfully piloted the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in paddy and subsequently replicated the principles in wheat to enhance food security through higher productivity. In addition the project has been working on integrating the poor into the agri value chain by collective procurement of inputs through the village organization and by organizing them into producer companies that take up seed production, processing and distribution to ensure good quality seeds. A cross cutting feature of all the agriculture interventions is the community managed extension system that ensures extension inputs to small and marginal farmers at their doorstep.

- ◆ **SRI/ SWI methodologies and Participatory Varietal Selection & Promotion (PVSP) Programme to increase productivity:** SRI is a methodology rather than a technology, in which the management of soil, water, plant and nutrients is altered for greater root growth and nurturing microbial diversity resulting in healthier soil and plant conditions. The project replicated the SRI principles in wheat (named as the System of Wheat Intensification (SWI) and this also has led to a significant jump in productivity in wheat (two to three times yield enhancement). PVSP increases productivity through selection and use of appropriate seed for the soil, climate and preferences and leads to 30-40% increase in productivity, other things being same. SRI, SWI and PVSP have been piloted with technical support from PRADAN and ASA.
- ◆ **Community managed extension system:** VRPs are the local resources identified from the same or nearby villages, who have either worked in their own agriculture field or have been active farmers. Most importantly, they should have the vigour to disseminate the new agricultural methodologies among the small and marginal farmer. Introduction of VRPs is a sustainable strategy where VRPs provide quality services to the farmers at affordable prices.
- ◆ **Integrating poor into agri-value chains:** The project has facilitated the formation of two Women Farmers Producer Companies that have taken up seed production, processing and marketing. This seed is mainly sold at rates much lower than market rates to the SHG

households (mostly through the village organizations). This ensures that the small and marginal farmers have access to quality seeds at affordable prices. In addition the village organizations collectively procure inputs on behalf of the SHG households and thereby also ensure access to quality seeds at affordable prices the project intends to undertake collective marketing of input and output in order to reduce expenditure and increase income from the remunerative price for the poor SHG Household.

- ii. **Dairy intervention:** As part of the intervention the project has organized SHG households into Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCS) to enable access to markets. A partnership with COMFED (the State Cooperative Milk Federation) has been established for both input and market linkages. These DCS serve as centers where milk is collected, tested (for the fat content) and sold to COMFED. In addition inputs like feed and veterinary service are also routed through these DCS. A transparent fat based payment system is followed. All these services and the transparent payment system have ensured a 30 to 35% hike in price realization for the households.
- iii. **Non-farm sector:** In the non farm sector the project follows a cluster based approach for select traditional art and crafts sectors. As part of this approach the project identifies specific skill based artisan clusters and organizes them into producer collectives. These producer collectives are then linked with technical agencies (AHF, ITC) which equip them with skills that are in tune with the modern contemporary designs and provide marketing assurance. It also invests on building the management capacities of these collectives to enable them to develop business plans and have requisite quality control mechanism in place. These clusters currently include (a) Madhubani cluster (painting) (b) Sujani cluster (needle and thread work on fabrics) (c) Sikki cluster (a grass used to make decorative items and utensils) (d) Incense sticks clusters
- iv. **Jobs:** Creating one job per poor household, in formal sectors, brings the whole family out of poverty in a short period of time as it brings in stable and higher levels of income. Therefore the project has established partnerships with private and public sector agencies like AeA, G4S, Vardhman Yarns and CIDC to identify, train and place unemployed youth from SHG households in formal sector jobs.

MGNREGA Review Report of Six North-East States

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has made deep in-roads in states of the North-East of the country, providing employment under the flagship schemes of the Government of India. Following are the highlights in respect of performance of MGNREGA in six states during 2010-11 as reported upto 7th April 2011 on the online Management Information System (MIS) :

Parameter	Nagaland	Mizoram	Sikkim	Meghalaya	Tripura	Assam
No. of HHs provided employment under MGNREGA	93%	69%	67%	63%	62%	62%
Physical Performance against Labour Budget						
Households (HHs) provided employment:						
Approved Labour Budget (in Rs. Lakhs):	3.36	1.75	0.61	3.74	5.93	23
Reported on MIS upto 7th Apr, 2011 (in lakh HHs):	3.14 (93%)	1.21 (69%)	0.41 (67%)	2.34 (63%)	5.56 (62%)	14.17 (62%)
Persondays Generation:						
Approved Labour Budget (in Rs. Lakh):	335.60	174.67	55.80	246.80	529.60	989.51
Reported on MIS upto 7th Apr, 2011 (in lakh HHs):	212.94 (63%)	57.18 (33%)	19.70 (35%)	81.10*** (33%)	368.53 (35%)	351.09 (35%)
Financial Performance						
Total approved labour budget (in Rs. Crore):	559.37	339.45	89.33	395.52	1049.34	1748.19
Central Liability (in Rs. Crore):	537	325.87	85.75	379.70	1007.37	1678.26
Central Release (in Rs. Crore):	511.57	216.03	44.49	209.81	382.61	609.29
State Release:	NR	18.58	0.30	13.00	26.81	62.09
Total Availability (in Rs. Crore):	539.13	239.60	83.57	258.25	638.94	1255.71
Total Expenditure (in Rs. Crore):	348.07 (65%)	70.97 (30%)	44.45 (53%)	119.29 (46%)	619.62 (97%)	716.72 (57%)
Total Expenditure on wages (in Rs. Crore):	212.75 (61%)	59.48 (88%)	21.68 (51%)	79.63 (68%)	377.87 (64%)	373.52 (55%)
IV. Bank and Post Office accounts:						
No of accounts opened (in lakhs)	-	1.08	0.60	0.52	6.01	28.4
Wages disbursed through account (in Rs. Crore)	-	52.62	35.74	52.35	267.80	344.71
V. Capacity Building (Staffing):						
Gram Rozgar Sahayaks (Target posts/Appointed%)-	-	2176/88%	163/100%	2423/78%	2091/96%	2176/88%
Technical Assistants (Target posts /Appointed%)-	-	1313/76%	27/74%	219/65%	196/83%	1313/76%
Programme Officers (Target posts /Appointed%)-	-	205/93%	27/100%	53/91%	66/86%	205/93%
VI. Alerts and Analysis (FY 2010-11):						
Administrative Expenditure:	-	20% *	18%**	-	-	5% (state average)
Work completion rate:						
Taken up	13678	5702	2674	12452	81129	47096
Completed	93 (1%)	311 (5%)	1	636 (5%)	30117(37%)	1397 (3%)
Unemployment Allowance:						
Due (in persondays)	-	211037	49353	28721	13064	24123
Paid	-	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Delayed payment:						
Number of Muster Rolls with delay in payment	5531	7	331	21410	2099	51192
Amount (Rs.)	127.72cr.	0.94 lakh	1.78 cr.	14.19 cr.	1.20 cr	42.35cr
Number of workers with A/C numbers (details uploaded on MIS):						
Number of jobcards with photos on MIS:	25%	23%	43%	16%	87%	42%
Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra:	11%	9%	3%	80%	94%	23%
	-	-	-	25	81	64
VII. Ombudsman:	Nil	4 for 8 districts	1	NA****	Nil	Nil
VIII. State fund	Not yet setup					

*Saiha & Aizwal Districts

** North District

***None reported from South Garo Hills

****3 districts have willing/suitable candidates. Other 4 have been asked to readvertise

In the News...

PM & Sonia salute woman leaders from rural India

By Aman Sharma in New Delhi

RASILABEN Dalsaniya has unanimously been chosen *sarpanch* of her village for the last four years without any elections. Village, Depaliya in Rajkot, now has the record of not having a single FIR registered with the police in the last four years under her.

Raheesa Khatoon chose to stay in her village, Aradaka, so she could try to solve the age-old water woes and repair the orthodox mindset of not letting the girl child study, though this comes at the cost of staying away from her husband.

A relatively young Sangitabai Koli became the first-ever woman *sarpanch* of her village in Maharashtra last year, right after giving birth to her second child, and now, delicately balances her duties as a mother and the village head. Her aim: rid her village of the filth tag it is infamously associated with and ensure crime remains a rarity.

It was the spirit of these three women which was rewarded by the Centre which gave them the

first ever Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha awards. The Panchayati Raj ministry introduced these awards this year to recognise and encourage panchayats for outstanding performance through effective *gram sabhas*, especially for improvements in the social and economic structures of the village. As an incentive, a ₹10 lakh cash

award was instituted which will be spent by the winners in augmenting public services in their village. Among the seven *sarpanches* chosen for these awards, Dalsaniya, Khatoon and Koli were the three woman *sarpanches*.

"This list of awardees presents an interesting representation of efforts made by elected women

representatives in excellence observance of 'The Year of the Gram Sabha', Panchayati Raj minister Vilasrao Deshmukh said. Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who gave away the awards at a function on Sunday, said *sarpanches* should ensure that women are present at the meetings of the gram sabhas



CLOSE CAMARADERIE: Congress president Sonia Gandhi & Prime Minister Manmohan Singh share a light moment while giving away the *gram sabha* awards to winners.



WINNING WOMEN: Sangita Koli, Raheesa Khan (centre) and Rasilben Dalsaniya (right).

and should be allowed to express their thoughts. "There is still a lot to be done to achieve the dream of 'Gram Swaraj' of Mahatma Gandhi and Jan Janki Satta' dream of Rajiv Gandhi," she told the audience.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who was also present on the occasion, expressed his happiness over Jammu & Kashmir and Jharkhand joining the Panchayati Raj fold. "This shows that people now want to decide their future themselves. I completely trust the people to run their own government," Singh said.

Both the leaders were, however, taken a bit aback while on the dais when Panchayati Raj secretary, ANP Sinha frankly said during his vote of thanks that the 11th Five Year Plan "was not panchayat-friendly". He also requested Sonia to include Panchayati Raj as the next subject of the National Advisory Council (NAC). "I would request the Prime Minister to give a major role in the 12th Plan to the Panchayats in planning," Sinha said.

Toll-free No.

SIRSA, APRIL 23

The district authorities have started a toll-free number for villagers for providing all kinds of information regarding the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The toll-free number, 155321, has been set up in the office of the District Rural Development Authority.

Addressing elected representatives of PRIs at a convention of panchayats held in the local CMK PG College auditorium, Deputy Commissioner Yudhbir Singh Khyalia said Sirsa had achieved the first position in the state in the implementation of the MNREGS. — TNS

Shiraguppi bags model village national award

BANGALORE: Shiraguppi village in Belgaum district has bagged the national award for model village.

The award carries a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh and it will be presented to the Shiraguppi gram panchayat, Jagadish Shettar, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, told media persons here on Saturday.

"The gram panchayat president of Shiraguppi village will receive the award from the prime minister in New Delhi on April 24," the minister said.

Stating that the award was presented to Shiraguppi gram panchayat for its effort in implementing government schemes and providing infrastructure to the people, Shet-

tar said the village had all civic amenities like underground drainage system and good drinking water facility. "I had the chance to visit the village three months ago. It is indeed a model village," he said.

Shettar said the village topped in sanitation, as every house had a toilet, unlike many villages where people defecated in the open. "The village has a well-planned drainage system and roads," he said.

He said the villagers had ensured that all the government schemes were implemented without any misuse.

Shettar said the people of Shiraguppi in Kagvaad Constituency had utilised every bit of the funds allocated by the government to provide water

and ensure water sources for the residents.

"Not only the government funds, they have also utilised the MP and MLA funds besides generating their own resources," the minister said.

Scheme like the MGNREGS have been implemented to their fullest capacity.

"This is the best example of how good elected representatives and people can make a difference when they work together with a good intention," Shettar said.

Regarding the process of selection of the village as a model, Shettar said a team of officials designated by the Union government had visited Shiraguppi to study its achievements several months ago.

DH News Service