

**Reading Material
on
Panchayati Raj
Institutions
and
Urban Local Bodies**

(Selected Press Clippings)

Regional Training Institute, Kolkata

July 2009

Leading Aids

1911

Sanchez, M. R.

1830-1840

1850

1860-1870

1880-1890

1900-1910

1920

RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER CALLS FOR ENSURING PROPER UTILISATION OF BUDGET FOR SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES

[Press Information Bureau Releases – June 11, 2009]

Union Rural Development Minister Dr. C.P.Joshi has emphasized the need to ensure proper utilization of budget for speedy implementation of Centrally sponsored schemes. Addressing a two day meeting of the Performance Review Committee (PRC) organised by the Department of Rural Development here today, he called upon the representatives from various States Governments/Union Territory Administrations to formulate a time bound action plan in this regard.

The two day meeting will discuss in detail the analysis of State wise performance in Financial Year 2008-09 for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) on following parameters: Unmet demand in 2008-09, districts with declining performance, Works related completion rate & wage- material ratio, Notified wages & average wages paid, Wage disbursement through accounts Transparency & accountability, Personnel Recruitment & trainings, State cell, State fund and Status of Complaints forwarded by the Ministry and VIP references, Grievance redressal rules, and MIS operationalization in 2008-09. The provision of additional financial assistance and marketing facilities to rural artisans under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) and allotment of more dwelling units to rural homeless persons in Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) for Rural Housing will be discussed. The need to post the entire household data and BPL data on the web site of the ministry by all the States/UTs urgently is high on the agenda. The issue of the training facilities for rural development functionaries, members of Village Monitoring Committee and elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in rural development and the performance under the National Social Assistance Program will also be taken during the meeting.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER REVIEWS THE PERFORMANCE OF FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES. SEEKS NOVEL AND CREATIVE IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

[Press Information Bureau Releases – June 13, 2009]

Dr. C.P.Joshi, Union Minister for Rural Development has urged the officials of the State Governments incharge of implementation of flagship programmes to suggest novel and creative ideas capable of ensuring efficient implementation of the programmes. The minister noted several examples that can be internalized in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). He was speaking at the first meeting of the Performance Review Committee (PRC), held here recently. The Minister of States for Rural Development Shri Pradeep Jain, Shri Sisir Adhikari and Ms. Agatha Sangma participated. Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Dr. Rita Sharma, Senior Officers of the Department of Rural Development and the Principle Secretaries/ Secretaries/ Senior Officers of State Governments were also present in the review meeting.

Dr. Joshi also advised State Governments to strengthen social audit and grievance redressal mechanism in the respective areas and incorporate convergence of activities of various Central and State Government schemes, without diluting the main thrust of the NREGA. The State Government officials responded with suggestions such as the ways to maintain the ratio 60 : 40 between wage and material components in NREGA Scheme, increasing the basket of permissible works under NREGA and modalities for payment of wages through bank and post office accounts.

Dr. Rita Sharma placed before the house the various advantages of NREGA that are captured in the different studies conducted by reputed research institutions. The benefits of NREGA were highlighted in the field of reducing distress and seasonal migration, increasing bargaining power and also purchasing power of NREGA workers. The positive support role played by the NREGA programme in the face of economic slowdown was highlighted by many participants. Under NREGA, 4.49 crore households have been provided employment in 2008-09 and 216 crores person days of employment have been generated. In the review meeting, issues relating to quality of works, issue of job cards, definition of household, conducting of social audit, ombudsman, mechanism of concurrent monitoring and appraisal, convergence to enhance land and agriculture productivity and staffing and training issues were discussed.

In the PRC meeting, various aspects to restructure Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) in a focused and target oriented approach and for time bound delivery was discussed. Various ways to universalize the Self Help Groups movement to each and every BPL family and federating them at various levels were deliberated. Under Indira Awaas Yojana, ways to achieve higher physical target of house construction were deliberated. As against the target of construction 60 lakh houses from 2005-06 to 2008-09, 71.72 lakh houses have been constructed and 18.13 lakh houses are at various stages of construction. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Training and Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census were also reviewed and discussed.

The Performance Review Committee (PRC) is one of the main tool of monitoring in the Ministry of Rural Development for the monitoring of the programmes implemented.

SIKKIM CHIEF MINISTER CALLS ON MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SHARES THE EXPERIENCE OF NREGA AND OTHER FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES IN THE STATE

[Press Information Bureau Releases – June 18, 2009]

Union Rural Development Minister, Dr. C.P. Joshi has assured support to Sikkim for the implementation of flagship programmes of the Government under the Ministry of Rural Development in the State. The State Chief Minister, Shri Pawan Chamling called on the Minister and felicitated him. The two leaders discussed the progress of Centrally sponsored Rural Development Schemes in the state specially the NREGA, Indira Awas Yojna, Rural Drinking Water Supply and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Mr. Chamling highlighted the efforts made by the state to implement the NREGA with its emphasis in the plantation sector and asked for generous support from the center. Dr. Joshi assured him of full cooperation from centre in respect of timely aid by the Ministry and said that the efforts should be made to strengthen the implementation of NREGA and other schemes for the benefit of rural population.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY RELEASES NIRMAL GRAM PURASKAR (NGP) AWARD MONEY TO SIX STATES

[Press Information Bureau Releases – June 19, 2009]

The Ministry of Rural Development has released an amount of Rs. 3219.5 lakh for distribution as cash awards to the Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) winning Panchayats of six States during 2008. These States are Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Kerala has been granted Rs. 5.00 lakh as balance fund for NGP award money as cash award amongst successful Panchayati Raj Institutions of the State. With this release full and final amount of Rs. 2992.00 lakh stands released to Kerala State for awardees Gram Panchayats in NGP 2008.

Rs. 2757.00 lakh has been granted to Tamil Nadu State Government as full and Final funds for distribution as cash awards under Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) amongst successful Panchayati Raj Institutions of the State.

Andhra Pradesh has been granted Rs. 29 lakh as balance fund for NGP award money as cash award amongst successful Panchayati Raj Institutions of the State. With this release full and final amount of Rs. 878.00 lakh stands released to Tamil Nadu State for awardees Gram Panchayats in NGP 2008.

Bihar has been granted Rs. 4.00 lakh as balance fund for NGP award money as cash award amongst successful Panchayati Raj Institutions of the State. With this release full and final amount of Rs. 658.00 lakh stands released to Bihar State for awardees Gram Panchayats in NGP 2008.

Karnataka has been granted Rs. 188.00 lakh as balance fund for NGP award money as cash award amongst successful Panchayati Raj Institutions of the State. With this release full and final amount of Rs. 1401.00 lakh stands released to Karnataka State for awardees Gram Panchayats in NGP 2008.

Similarly, Maharashtra has been granted Rs. 236.00 as lakh balance fund for NGP award money as cash award amongst successful Panchayati Raj Institutions of the State. With this release full and final amount of Rs. 4959.50 lakh stands released to Maharashtra State for awardees Gram Panchayats in NGP 2008.

Of these six States, the successful Panchayati Raj Institutions of Bihar were awarded at a function held in Guwahati on 20th October, 2009 while the remaining five States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu at a function held in Pune on 8th December, 2008 by the President Pratibha Devi Singh Patil.

The "Nirmal Gram Puraskar" "Clean Village Award" was started in 2005 under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) to honor, felicitate and encourage those Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) which have achieved full sanitation coverage in their area of operation and become Open Defecation Free and clean villages, for making TSC into a mass movement. This year 12,075 Gram Panchayats have been honored with Nirmal Gram Puraskar by Her Excellency, President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil at Haryana (Hisar), Assam (Guwahati) and Maharashtra (Pune). 105 Block Panchayats and 8 District Panchayats were also honored with NGP award in a function held on 21st November 2008 in Vigyan Bhavan. These NGP award winning villages showcase the progress made under Total Sanitation Campaign, the flagship programme of sanitation of the Ministry of Rural Development.

**CHATTISGARH CM CALLS ON UNION RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DR. CP.JOSHI
ASSURES SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NREGA AND OTHER FLAGSHIP
PROGRAMMES IN THE STATE**

[Press Information Bureau Releases – June 23, 2009]

Union Rural Development Minister, Dr. C.P. Joshi has assured full cooperation from Centre to Chattisgarh in respect of timely aid by the ministry for the implementation of NREGA and other flagship programmes of the Government under the Ministry of Rural Development in the State. The assurance came during a meeting when the Chattisgarh Chief Minister, Dr.

Raman Singh called on the Rural Development Minister today and felicitated him. The two leaders discussed the progress of Centrally sponsored Rural Development Schemes in the state specially the NREGA, Indira Awas Yojna ,Rural drinking water Supply and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Mr. Singh raised the issue of payments under NREGA and underlined the need to facilitate cash payments to the beneficiaries in view of lesser number of post offices and bank branches in the state. Dr. Joshi highlighted the need to ensure transparency and efficiency and said that the efforts should be made to strengthen the implementation of NREGA and other schemes for the benefit of rural population in Chattisgarh. The Chattisgarh Chief Minister was accompanied by the State Rural Development Minister Shri Ram Vichar Netam.

**RD MINISTRY RELEASES GRANT-IN-AID WORTH RS.54.48 CRORES FOR
DEVELOPMENT OF ROADS IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI
GRAMEEN SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY).**

[Press Information Bureau Releases – June 26, 2009]

The Ministry of Rural Development has released Rs.54,48,50,000/- for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Arunachal Pradesh. The amount comes from the special window created in NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) towards payment for works taken up under Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana.

Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme to provide road connectivity in rural areas of the country. PMGSY envisages connectivity to all habitations with a population of 500 persons and above in rural areas and about 250 persons and above in respect of the Hill States, Tribal areas and the Desert Areas through good and all weather roads.

**STATE SECRETARIES MEETING ON JULY 1ST TO REVIEW NATIONAL RURAL
DRINKING WATER PROGRAMME (NRDWP) GUIDELINES**

[Press Information Bureau Releases – June 26, 2009]

The Department of Drinking Water Supply in the M/o Rural Development has organised a meeting of all State /UT Secretaries for Rural Development on next Wednesday i.e. July 1st , 2009 to review the implementation of revised Guidelines for the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Issues pertaining to status of projects taken up for Water Quality Sustainability and Plan thereof would be high on agenda. The meeting would provide a forum for the intimation of targets under the 20-Point Program for the participating States/UTs. Among other issues status regarding the setting up of required institutions and respective bank accounts for Programme Funds and Support Activity Funds are likely to be taken up during the meeting. The State/UT Secretaries would be sharing the status of re-alignment of existing data and filling up the gaps , the status of rural population management and their water supply schemes along with the status of State Policies. The objective behind the meet is to put in place comprehensive plans as envisaged in the guidelines for village level water security. Issues such as the identification of State Technical Agency and status of action for the MoU which would primarily identify the policy of the state for de-centralised Service Delivery through the PRI's and the status of strengthening the network of laboratories for National Water Quality Management and Services (NWQM&S) are likely to be taken up during the meeting.

100 DAYS AGENDA FOR ACTION OF MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT UNVEILED
[Press Information Bureau Releases – June 29, 2009]

Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, Union Minister for Urban Development said that the response to the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has been spontaneous and overwhelming, as a consequence projects costing Rs.95,385 crores have already been sanctioned which are under various stages of implementation. This was stated by the Minister while addressing a press conference on the Agenda for Action for 100 days of the Ministry of Urban Development, here today. Minister of State, UD Shri Saugata Ray, Secretary, Urban development Dr. M. Ramachandran and other senior officers of the Ministry were also present.

Following is the text of Agenda for Action for 100 days:

The Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) has the responsibility of broad policy formulation and monitoring of programmes/schemes in the areas of urban development, urban water supply, sanitation and urban transport. Although these are primarily State subjects, the Government of India plays a coordinating and monitoring role and also supports these programmes through centrally sponsored schemes.

However the UPA government—taking into account fast urban growth in India—took the historic step of launching the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December 2005 with a view to give fillip to urban infrastructure development in 65 major cities by mobilizing Rs. 50, 000 crores from the central budget and by getting a matching Rs. 50, 000 crores from the State governments and the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). The response to JNNURM has been spontaneous and overwhelming. As a consequence, projects costing Rs 95, 385 crores have already been sanctioned and which are under various stages of implementation.

1. Provision of additional funding under JNNURM

The Government of India, State governments and ULBs have committed to raise Rs. 1,00,000 crores of investments in the urban sector through JNNURM. However, it is recognized that further amount of Rs. 50, 000 crores would need to be raised urgently. Efforts will be made to raise the amount from Rs. 1, 00, 000 crores to Rs. 1, 50, 000 crores. To reach this goal, Government of India has to contribute Rs. 25, 000 crores.

2. Inclusion of more cities under JNNURM

When JNNURM was launched on 6th December 2005, the stress was laid on cities with population of only 10 lakhs and above (2001 Census). Now a concerted effort will be made to include such cities having population of 5 lakhs and above. This will mean adding 28 more cities to the current list of 65 Mission cities.

3. Emphasis on small and medium towns

Along with the scheme of Mission cities, another scheme for small and medium towns was launched in 2005 known as Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme in Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT). Rs. 11, 400 crores was allocated under this scheme. The demand from such cities is growing at a very high rate. Therefore, we will try to secure further additional allocation under the UIDSSMT so as to meet the needs of small and medium towns.

4. National Mission Mode Project (NMMP) on e-Governance in Municipalities under JNNURM

The National Mission Mode Project (NMMP) on e-Governance in Municipalities is an important initiative of the Government of India for improving operational efficiencies and promoting transparency and accountability in delivery of eight services namely:

§ Registration and issue of birth certificate

- § Payment of property tax & utility bills
- § Citizen grievances
- § Building plan approvals
- § Procurements and monitoring of projects
- § Health programmes including licenses and solid waste management
- § Accounting system and
- § Personal Information System

NMMP on e-Governance is presently being implemented in 35 cities with a population of above 10 lakhs as per 2001 census under JNNURM. Now it is proposed to increase the coverage from 65 Mission cities by including 28 more cities having population of 5 lakhs and above. Ultimately the aim is to cover all 423 towns with population of over 1 lakh as per 2001 census.

5. **Scheme for Infrastructure Development in Satellite Towns and Counter magnets**

In order to lessen pressure on large cities, the Ministry will launch the scheme for satellite towns/counter magnets around mega cities to address basic infrastructure deficit such as drinking water, sewerage, drainage and solid waste management. An amount of Rs. 500 crores will be invested in this scheme.

6. **Metro Projects**

The Metro projects in Bangalore (42.3 kms costing Rs. 8,158 crores) and Kolkata (14.6 kms at Rs. 4,874 crores) will be provided all assistance.

The work on Chennai metro (45 kms at a cost of Rs. 14,600 crores) and Mumbai Metro Line 2 from Charkop to Mankhurd via Bandra (32 kms at a cost of Rs. 7,660 crores) will be formally launched.

Kochi metro project will be taken up for sanction.

The National Capital (NCR) Region of Delhi will get connected to Delhi Metro with NOIDA link getting commissioned in August 2009.

The Metro in Gurgaon will become functional in January 2010 and it shall get connected to Delhi by June 2010.

7. **Buses for City transport**

Buses are the major means of public transport for all the cities. For the first time in the history of independent India, substantial assistance has been made available for purchase of 15,220 modern buses for city transport for 61 mission cities. These buses will be delivered by December 2009. As we consider public transport in cities a critical issue, we will try to organize assistance in procurement of such buses in 118 cities having a population of two lakhs and above.

8. **Metro experience on the city buses**

To provide Metro experience on bus services to commuters, modern buses with low floor or semi low floor and wide doors, vehicle tracking system, on-line passenger information system, LED sign boards, electronic ticketing, smart cards etc. are envisaged. About 20% buses will provide air-conditioned comfort as well. A unique public transport help line number will be established for all cities across India.

9. **Initiatives to dispense with tax burden on public buses**

Our Ministry pleaded with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) for completely doing away with the excise duty on public buses. Consequently, in the budget of 2008-2009, the excise duty was reduced from 16 to 12 percent, and it was further reduced from 12 to 8 per cent in January 2009. We are making further efforts with the MoF for reducing the excise duty from eight to nil per cent. Efforts will be made to prevail upon the State/ ULBs to waive off State/ULB taxes on public buses in cities.

10. Reciprocal Common Transport Agreement (RCTA)

RCTA between Delhi, UP, Haryana and Rajasthan will become operational for both Stage carriage and Contract carriage. It will facilitate free movement of Buses, Taxis and Auto rickshaws across state borders without stopping.

11. Centres of Excellence

The work for opening of 13 Centres of Excellence located in the India Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, and other institutions of national importance to focus on urban transport and urban affairs will commence and financial assistance for same will be provided by the Ministry. These Centres would take up research and training in various aspects of urban development and urban transport and also provide technical support to the Ministry. In the area of Urban Transport, the Centres of Excellence will also conduct M. Tech. and PHD programmes for students and in-service professionals. MOUs will be signed with these Institutions.

12. National Mission on Sustainable Habitat

The National Mission for Sustainable Habitat will address issues related to sustainable development with co-benefits for climate change. We will promote sustainability of habitats through appropriate changes in legal and regulatory frameworks, improvements in energy efficiency in buildings, integrated urban planning, improved management of solid and liquid waste including recycling, power generation from waste, modal shift towards public transport and conservation of resources. We will also seek to build capacities for adaptation to climate change, community-based disaster management systems, comprehensive mobility, spatial and environment planning, and advance warning systems for extreme weather events. As a first step, our Ministry's endeavour will be to develop sustainable habitat parameters within next three months.

13. Implementation of the National Urban Sanitation Policy

The Ministry proposes to launch a nation-wide media campaign for awareness-generation towards sanitation. It is proposed to support 50 cities for drawing up the City Sanitation Plans. It is also proposed to take up rating of cleanest cities on sanitation-related parameters.

14. North Eastern Region Urban Development Programme (NERUDP)

To address the urban infrastructure deficit in the, the Asian Development Bank-assisted North Eastern Region Urban Development Programme will be launched for implementation at project cost of about Rs 1,371 crores. Five cities of Agartala, Aizawl, Gangtok, Kohima and Shillong will be taken up in the first phase. States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Manipur will be taken up in 2010.

15. Matter relating to the Delhi Master Plan 2021

The Delhi Master Plan 2021 envisages involvement of private sector in the development of land and provision of infrastructure services as an improvement over the current scheme of large-scale development and acquisition of land entrusted to the Delhi Development Agency (DDA). Focused efforts will be made to finalize the policy. Every effort will be made to finalize the Zonal Development Plans of Delhi.

16. Real Estate Regulator for Delhi

Real Estate Management (Regulation & Control) Bill for NCT of Delhi will be taken up for decision.

17. Building up 65, 000 houses by the DDA in next four years

In order to meet acute shortage of houses for urban poor, economically weaker sections and lower income groups of city of Delhi, construction of about 40, 000 houses will be taken up. Tender documents for construction of such houses have already been made ready with fast mode of construction adopting pre-fabricated technology. Here, about 10, 000 houses are phased to be completed every year from the year 2010 onwards.

In addition to above, about 10,000 houses for middle-income group will be taken up on the same technology of pre-fabricated construction in four years' time in phases.

Apart from the above, about 15, 000 houses will be completed (ongoing projects) in various phases. These houses will be constructed on conventional technology and these will be available from the year 2009 to 2011 (details enclosed at Annexure 1).

18. In-situ development of houses for Jhuggi-jhompri (JJ) clusters and slum-dwellers

The DDA will take up in-situ development towards rehabilitation of slum-dwellers and JJ clusters in next five years for 23 clusters (details enclosed at Annexure 2). The total numbers of dwelling units of about 25 square meters will be about 47, 500. These will be taken up on public-private partnership model in which the land to in question that is presently occupied by the JJ/slum-dwellers will be made available to developers, which will construct EWS houses in accordance with the numbers identified by the DDA. These houses will be constructed on part of the area while in the remaining area, the developer will be allowed to carry out commercial exploitation of the land. The bidding parameter is envisaged to be the amount to be paid to the DDA in addition to the number of houses identified by the DDA in each cluster/land.

19. Bio-diversity parks by the DDA

DDA has launched a unique conservation initiative by establishing a network of bio-diversity parks in Delhi that are developed and maintained by the DDA with scientific inputs from the 'Centre for Environmental Management for Degraded Eco-systems' (CEMDE), Delhi University. This is a task taken up for the conservation and preservation of the environment.

These bio-diversity parks are uniquely landscaped and designed in-house by the landscape department of the DDA. A first of its kind in India and perhaps in the world are natural resources that harbor hundreds of varieties of species living together in the form of diverse communities providing ecological balance and educational benefits to the urban society.

Two bio-diversity parks are under active development to protect and conserve the two natural elements in Delhi, i.e., (i) Yamuna Bio-diversity Park at Wazirabad to revive the lost ecological systems of Yamunan River, and (ii) Aravalli Bio-diversity Park at Vasant Vihar in the extension of the ridge area to revive its lost eco-systems.

DDA will fully develop a chain of such bio-diversity parks in Delhi as mentioned hereunder:

- Northern Ridge
- Tilpath valley
- Neela Hauz
- River Front Development (Yamuna River front)

20. Sports Complexes in Delhi

In addition to the development activities and construction of housing complexes, DDA is also engaged in development of Sports Complexes, multi-gyms for the citizens of Delhi. DDA has already developed 14 such Sports Complexes and 39 multi-gyms.

In the near future, DDA will develop four new Sports Complexes, namely:

- A Racquet Sports Complex at Sector 17, Dwarka
- Sports Complexes at Sector 8, 19 and 23, Dwarka
- Sports complex to be developed at Sector 24, Rohini
- Sports Complex at Narela

21. 50% Reservation for women in Urban Local Bodies

Steps are being initiated towards moving a draft bill and for Consultation with States as a follow up of the Hon'ble President's address to Parliament towards 50 per cent reservation for women in ULBs.

22. Facilitating of City Volunteer Technical Corps

Facilitating the formation of setting up of professionals as City Volunteer Technical Corps in all the 65 Mission cities through the State governments will be undertaken.

23. Service Level Benchmarks

Benchmarks for e-Governance in Urban Local Bodies and Urban Transportation will be set up.

NEAR DOUBLE BENEFICIARIES RECORDED UNDER NSAP
[Press Information Bureau Releases – June 30, 2009]

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) launched by the Ministry of Rural Development has recorded a near double growth in the number of beneficiaries for its Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) during the last financial year 2008-09. The number of beneficiaries under the scheme has gone up from 87 lakh in 2006-07 to 154 lakh in 2008-09.

Among the 154.37481 lakh beneficiaries 8.54522 lakh beneficiaries got their pension through Bank Accounts while 70.0135 lakh beneficiaries received their pension through Post Office Accounts. Number of persons getting their pension in cash stood at 41.15469 lakh while 30.11376 persons received their old age pension via Money Order.

Budget Estimate for the financial year 2008-09 was Rs.3500 crore which was revised to Rs.4500 crore at the Revised Estimate Stage. As per the latest reports, Rs.3694.89 crore has been spent under NSAP during 2008-09 which includes three schemes, namely the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), the National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and the Annapurna Scheme. The Share of NOAPS stood at Rs. 331966.17 lakh while expenditure on NFBS and Annapurna scheme stood at Rs.32246.03 lakh and Rs.5140.67 lakh respectively.

Funds worth Rs. 416661.75 lakh were released to 20 States during the last financial year while Rs. 351270.83 lakh were spent by these states in the period being reported upon. The scheme wise expenditure for NOAPS, NFBS and Annapurna was Rs.315120.41 lakh, Rs. 31420.52 lakh and Rs.5229.50 lakh respectively.

North Eastern States got an allocation of Rs.27562.06 lakh of which the expenditure stood at Rs. 14923.91. The share of expenditure in respect of NOAPS, NFBS and Annapurna was Rs.13790.43 lakh, Rs.722.31 lakh and Rs.411.17 lakh respectively.

In the case of Union Territories the allocation for NSAP was 5776.00 lakh while the expenditure was Rs.3284.13 lakh. The expenditure share in respect of NOAPS and NFBS stood at Rs.3055/33 lakh, 101.80 lakh while no expenditure was reported in respect of Annapurna Scheme.

The coverage under National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) stood at 349970 beneficiaries during 2008-09 while during the financial year 2006-07 and 2007-08 it stood at 243972 and 334053 beneficiaries respectively. As per the norms under NFBS, Rs. 10000 is provided to a BPL family on the death of a primary bread winner between the age of 18-64 years of the family.

In February, 2009 NSAP was expanded by addition of two new pension schemes for BPL Widows(40-64 years) and persons with severe or multiple disability(18-64 years). These schemes are Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS). Majority of states are already implementing their Widow Pension Schemes and Disability Pension Schemes from their own resources were requested to operationalize these new schemes in their states by selecting eligible beneficiaries and placing their names in public domain and opening of bank/post office accounts. The work is still in progress. The coverage under State Widow Pension Scheme was expanded to 7387285 beneficiaries during the previous fiscal year while A total of 2694144 beneficiaries were covered under States disability Pension Schemes.

In order to have transparency in the disbursement of pension to the eligible pensioners, it has been decided that the States should maintain a data base of beneficiaries and it has to be kept in public domain. Accordingly the states have agreed and are likely to furnish sample data as well as complete data very shortly. All the states have been asked to start operationalizing the software for the districts for which data have been already uploaded. States have also been requested to provide data to the M/o Rural Development.

At the time of enhancing the rate of pension from Rs.75 to Rs.200 per month, the states have been requested to contribute up another Rs.200 per person per month so that a pensioner could get at least Rs.400 per month.

Presently 16 States are contributing Rs.200 or more, 10 States are contributing less than Rs.200 whereas there is no contribution from the remaining 09 States.

SHELTER FOR THE RURAL POOR CENTRAL RELEASE OF RS. 8795 CRORE FOR INDIRA AWAAS YOJANA DURING 2008-09

[Press Information Bureau Releases – June 30, 2009]

The Ministry of Rural Development has allocated and released Rs.8795.77 crore to 33 States/Union Territories during the previous financial year 2008-09 for construction of 21.27 lakh houses under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and an additional target of 18.02 lakh houses under the Economic Stimulus Package. The Stimulus Package amounted to Rs. 3050 crore was accordingly released to the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) for use as the 1st instalment. The 2nd instalment is to be utilised out of the IAY funds of the current financial year 2009-10.

As per the information received from the State Governments, so far out of the total available funds of Rs.14453.48 crores, an amount of Rs.8308.25 crore has been utilised which

comes to around 57.48%. For the current financial year 2009-10, so far 40% of the allocation of Rs.8800 crore has been released as part of 1st instalments to 514 districts across the country.

Indira Awaas Yojana is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development to provide houses to below the poverty line people (BPL) families in rural areas. It has been operation since 1985-86. The funding of IAY share between the Centre and States is in the ratio of 75:25. In case of UTs entire funds of IAY are provided by the Centre. However, in the case of North Eastern States, the funding pattern has been changed and at present the ratio is 90:10. Further, 60% of the IAY allocation is meant for benefiting SC/ST families, 3% for physically handicapped and 15% for minorities. Also the IAY houses are expected to be invariably allotted in the name of women. In addition, 5% of the central allocation can be utilized for meeting exigencies arising out of natural calamities and other emergent situations like riot, arson, fire, rehabilitation etc.

In order to introduce transparency in selection of beneficiaries permanent IAY waitlists have to be prepared gram panchayat wise by the States/UTs. These lists contain the name of deserving BPL families who need IAY houses in order of their poverty status, based on the BPL list 2002. Gram Sabhas select the beneficiaries from the list of eligible BPL households/Permanent IAY Waitlist wherever it has been prepared. Construction of an IAY house is the sole responsibility of the beneficiary. Engagement of contractors is prohibited and no specific type, design has been stipulated for an IAY house. However, sanitary latrine and smokeless chullah are required to be constructed alongwith each IAY house. For construction of a sanitary latrine, in addition to financial assistance provided under IAY, the beneficiary can avail of financial assistance as admissible under the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC).

In order to facilitate smooth implementation of the program necessary instructions have been issued to all the DRDAs regarding Convergence of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) with IAY. IAY beneficiaries can get the benefits available under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), Janshree and Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana and Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme etc

Under IAY, during 2005-06, 15.52 lakh houses were constructed against a target of 14.41 lakh houses and during 2006-07, against the target of 15.33 lakh houses, 14.98 lakh houses were constructed. In the financial year 2007-08, 19.92 lakh houses were constructed against the target of 21.27 lakh houses. Again for 2008-09, 18.04 houses have been constructed as on date. Over the last four years 68.46 lakh houses have been constructed which is more than the target set under Bharat Nirman.

PURCHASE OF BUSES UNDER JNNURM
[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 02, 2009]

“Rajya Sabha”

State-wise details of buses sanctioned under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) as a one time measure under second economic stimulus package are given at Annexure.

ANNEXURE**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA USQ NO.109 FOR 2.7.2009.**

S.No.	State	Total Fleet Number
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1540
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	25
3.	Assam	200
4.	Bihar	125
5.	Chhattisgarh	100
6.	Delhi	1600
7.	Goa	50
8.	Gujarat	730
9.	Haryana	150
10.	Himachal Pradesh	75
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	150
12.	Jharkhand	250
13.	Karnataka	1150
14.	Kerala	350
15.	Madhya Pradesh	525
16.	Maharashtra	2530
17.	Manipur	25
18.	Meghalaya	120
19.	Mizoram	25
20.	Nagaland	25
21.	Orissa	125
22.	Pondicherry	50
23.	Punjab	350
24.	Rajasthan	435
25.	Sikkim	25
26.	Tamil Nadu	1600
27.	Tripura	75
28.	UP	1310
29.	Chandigarh UT	100
30.	Uttarakhand	145
31.	West Bengal	1300
Total		15260

This information was given by Shri Saugata Ray, MOS Urban Development in reply to a question by Shri T.T.V. Dhinakaran in Rajya Sabha today.

BUSES FOR ANDHRA PRADESH CITIES
[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 02, 2009]

“Rajya Sabha”

An amount of Rs. 90.88 crore has been released as first installment of additional central assistance in February and March, 2009 to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for purchase of buses for urban transport system under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). The details of release are as under:-

Hyderabad:	Rs. 49.70 crores
Vijaywada:	Rs. 18.02 crores
Visakhapatnam:	Rs. 18.76 crores
Tirupati:	Rs. 04.40 crores

So far, orders have been placed for purchase of 1500 buses by Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation of which 4 buses have been received.

The details of buses sanctioned for these cities are as under:

Hyderabad:	- 1000 nos.
Vijayawada	- 240 nos.
Visakhapatnam	- 250 nos.
Tirupati	- 150 nos.

This information was given by Shri Saugata Ray, MOS Urban Development in reply to a question by Shrimati T. Ratna Bai in Rajya Sabha today.

JNNURM FUNDS FOR HERITAGE AREAS **[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 02, 2009]**

Two projects for development of Heritage areas have been sanctioned under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), namely 'River Front Development North Bank Zone-3', Nanded, Maharashtra for Rs. 43.13 crore and 'Construction of Heritage precincts along EVR Periyar Salai', Chennai, Tamil Nadu for Rs. 6.10 crore. In Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh a project "Road Widening on Outer Ring Road and Inner Ring Road under Charminar Pedestrianisation Project", at cost of Rs. 35.10 crore has also been sanctioned.

This information was given by Shri Saugata Ray, MOS Urban Development in reply to a question by Shri Mohd. Ali Khan in Rajya Sabha today.

UTTAR PRADESH, BIHAR , MAHARASHTRA AMONG THE STATES WITH LARGE NO. OF PEOPLE LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE

[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 03, 2009]

LOK SABHA

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra figure among the list of states with large number of people living below poverty line. The latest estimates released by the Planning Commission for the year 2004-05 reveals that Uttar Pradesh has the largest BPL population with 590.03 lakh people living below the poverty line. While Bihar with 369.15 lakh and Maharashtra with 317.38 lakh BPL population follow it. These figures are based on URP Consumption.

In sharp contrast the Union territories of Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and states like Mizoram and Goa are on their way to become the places without any BPL population..

The estimation of poverty in the country is done after a period of five years approximately and the latest estimates are available for the year 2004-05. As per available estimates the percentage of people living below poverty line has come down from 37 percent in 1993-94 to 27.5 percent in 2004-05.

Reduction in poverty is one of the monitorable targets adopted in the 11th Five year plan. The 11th Five year plan targets to reduce the head count Ratio Of Consumption Poverty by 10 percentage points during the five year period of the plan.

This was informed by the Union Minister Of State for Rural Development, Shri Pradeep Jain in reply to a question in Lok Sabha today.

Annexure-I

Number of persons living Below Poverty Line by States/UTs – 2004-05 (Based on URP-Consumption)

Sl. No	States/ Uts	No. of Persons (Lakhs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	126.10
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2.03
3	Assam	55.77
4	Bihar	369.15
5	Chhattisgarh	90.96
6	Delhi	22.93
7	Goa	2.01
8	Gujarat	90.69
9	Haryana	32.10
10	Himachal Pradesh	6.36
11	Jammu & Kashmir	5.85
12	Jharkhand	116.39
13	Karnataka	138.89
14	Kerala	49.60
15	Madhya Pradesh	249.68
16	Maharashtra	317.38
16	Maharashtra	317.38
17	Manipur	3.95
18	Meghalaya	4.52
19	Mizoram	1.18
20	Nagaland	3.99
21	Orissa	178.49
22	Punjab	21.63
23	Rajasthan	134.89
24	Sikkim	1.14
25	Tamil Nadu	145.62
26	Tripura	6.38
27	Uttar Pradesh	590.03
28	Uttarakhand	35.96
29	West Bengal	208.36
30	A & N Islands	0.92
31	Chandigarh	0.74
32	Dadra & N. Haveli	0.84
33	Daman & Diu	0.21
33	Daman & Diu	0.21
34	Lakshadweep	0.11
35	Puducherry	2.37
	All-India	3017.20

URP consumption = Uniform Recall Period consumption in which the consumer expenditure data for all the items are collected from 30-day recall period.

Notes:

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
3. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Puducherry and A & N Island.
4. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
5. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
6. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
7. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

REVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONING OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS ON, SAYS DR. C.P.JOSHI
[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 03, 2009]

Lok Sabha

Union Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Minister Dr. C.P. Joshi has stated that Consultative mechanisms have been set up to review the functioning of Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs) in the States/UTs. These mechanisms at different levels have been constantly monitoring the progress and implementation of decisions related to the devolution of powers to the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The Council of Ministers of Panchayati Raj chaired by Minister of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development reviewed the progress during the last three years in its meetings in August, 2007 and April 2008. In addition a Committee of Chief Secretaries of States and Panchayati Raj Secretaries of the State Governments chaired by the Union Secretary of Panchayati Raj has been set up to monitor the progress and implementation of the Action Points resulting from the Round Tables held previously. Six meetings of this Committee were held during last three years. Various issues impinging on the functioning of PRIs are discussed by the Council of Ministers and the Committee chaired by Union Secretary of Panchayati Raj. The issues include Devolution of Powers to PRIs, Activity Mapping, Capacity Building & Training, Setting up of District Planning Committee (DPCs) & Preparation of District Plan, IT enabled e-governance, Role of Gram Sabhas, Implementation of PESA, Annual Reports on the State of Panchayats, Centrality of PRIs in implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Rural Business Hubs through Public-Private-Panchayat Partnerships, Accounting and Audit, etc. State Governments take necessary follow-up action on the decisions/action points emerging from these meeting. This was informed by the Union Minister Of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj ,Dr. C.P.Joshi in reply to a question in Lok Sabha today.

SECRETARY URBAN DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS FUNDING FOR PURCHASE OF BUSES
FOR URBAN TRANSPORT SYSTEM UNDER JNNURM
[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 03, 2009]

A Workshop/Review Meeting on funding for purchase of buses for urban transport system under JNNURM and associated reforms was held under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Dr. M. Ramachandran, here yesterday. Principal

Secretaries (Urban Development) and Transport Secretaries of the States attended the meeting. Briefing the Media Persons, Dr. Ramachandran stated that States have been alerted to get fast in placing the orders for buses and initiate steps for procuring the same at the earliest so that JNNURM buses are available by the end of the year. He further informed that about 15260 buses for 61 JNNURM cities have been sanctioned so far. The estimated cost of the funding of buses as a onetime stimulus package is Rs.4735 crores. The Government of India will provide Rs. 2090 crore as the Additional Central Assistance (ACA). He also stated that orders for 10,380 buses have already been placed and by the end of July, orders for 3000 more buses are expected to be placed.

The sanctioning of buses was done with certain conditions by the Ministry including some related to various reforms in Urban Transport namely setting up for Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (UMTA), mechanism to enforce parking policy, advertisement policy which taps advertisement revenue on public transport, setting up dedicated Urban Transport Fund, Intermediate Public Transport and Public Utilities, setting up of Control-cum-Information Centre with toll free number, prioritisation of buses with demarcated /dedicated lanes and setting up of City Specific SPV for City Bus Service Operations etc. The Secretary mentioned that Cities like Bangalore, Mumbai and Hyderabad, etc., already have unified Metropolitan Transport Authority and separate Transport fund and a good number of States have assured that they will soon initiate steps and implement reforms in Urban Transport within a reasonable time. States were told that at the time of sanctioning of second instalment of ACA, reform initiated by the States will again be reviewed.

Dr. Ramachandran informed that Maharashtra has placed orders for 2119 buses, Andhra Pradesh for 1500 buses, Karnataka for 1150, Kerala for 2010, Tamil Nadu for 1500 buses, UP for 1410 buses. West Bengal, Haryana Tripura have ordered for 1300, 150 and 75 buses respectively. In Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka the process of delivery of buses have already started. The lot of buses would consist of low-floor, semi-low floor, AC low-floor and Mini/Midi buses. Out of the 15,000 buses sanctioned, 8566 are Standard Buses, 11, 00 semi-low floor buses and 1793 are Mini/Midi buses. Ten JNNURM cities have ordered for CNG buses due to the availability of CNG pump stations, Delhi being one of them has placed orders for 1600 CNG buses. All the sanctioned JNNURM buses will have Global Positioning System (GPS). A common helpline no. 155220 has been allotted to the Ministry to facilitate the commuters all over the country. Other value added services like common SMS no. for seeking information is under active consideration of the Ministry and necessary steps are being taken to operationalise it.

PURCHASE OF BUSES UNDER JNNURM
[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 03, 2009]

‘Lok Sabha’

The Union Government has released first installment of Central assistance to States/Union Territories under JNNURM for procurement of buses for 54 mission cities.

The details of cities are given at Annexure-I.

The names of cities where orders have been placed on the manufacturers for purchase of buses are given at Annexure-II.

The names of the cities where orders have not been placed for purchase of buses are at Annexure-III. As reported by the States/UTs/ULBs/ Para-statal, the delay was on account of tendering process and enforcement of model code of conduct during general election to the Lok Sabha, 2009.

The progress of implementation of the scheme for procurement of buses is monitored at highest level on regular basis.

ANNEXURE-I

LIST OF THE CITIES FOR WHOM UNION GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN GRANT FOR PURCHASE OF BUSES.

<u>S. NO.</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>S. NO.</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>S. NO.</u>	<u>CITY</u>
1.	Hyderabad	19.	Mysore	37.	Jaipur
2.	Tirupati	20.	Kochi	38.	Chennai
3.	Vijayawada	21.	Trivandrum	39.	Coimbatore
4.	Vishakhapatnam	22.	Bhopal	40.	Madurai
5.	Itanagar	23.	Indore	41.	Agartala
6.	Guwahati	24.	Jabalpur	42.	Agra
7.	Bodhgaya	25.	Ujjain	43.	Allahabad
8.	Patna	26.	Mumbai	44.	Kanpur
9.	Raipur	27.	Nagpur	45.	Lucknow
10.	Delhi	28.	Nanded	46.	Mathura
11.	Panaji	29.	Pune-Pimpri-chinchwad	47.	Meerut
12.	Ahmadabad	30.	Imphal	48.	Varanasi
13.	Faridabad	31.	Aizwal	49.	Chadigarh
14.	Shimla	32.	Bhubaneswar'	50.	Dehradun
15.	Dhanbad	33.	Puri	51.	Nanital
16.	Jamshedpur	34.	Amritsar	52.	Haridwar
17.	Ranchi	35.	Ludhiana	53.	Asansol
18.	Bangalore	36.	Ajmer	54.	Kolkata

ANNEXURE-II

LIST OF THE CITIES WHICH HAS PLACED ORDERS FOR BUSES.

<u>S. NO.</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>S. NO.</u>	<u>CITY</u>
1.	Hyderabad	17.	Pune-Pimpri-chinchwad
2.	Tirupati	18.	Agra
3.	Vijayawada	19.	Allahabad
4.	Vishakhapatnam	20.	Kanpur
5.	Guwahati	21.	Lucknow
6.	Raipur	22.	Mathura
7.	Dhanbad	23.	Merrut
8.	Panaji	24.	Varanasi
9.	Ranchi	25.	Chandigarh
10.	Bangalore	26.	Asansol
11.	Mysore	27.	Kolkata
12.	Kochi	28.	Jamshedpur
13.	Trivandrum	29.	Imphal
14.	Ujjain	30.	Chennai
15.	Mumbai	31.	Coimbatore
16.	Nagpur	32.	Madurai

ANNEXURE-III**LIST OF THE CITIES WHICH HAVE NOT PLACED ORDERS FOR BUSES**

SL.		SL.		SL.	
NO.	CITY	NO.	CITY	NO.	CITY
1.	Itanagar	2.	Bodhgaya	3.	Patna
4.	Ahmadabad	5.	Faridabad	6.	Shimla
7.	Delhi	8.	Haridwar	9.	Bhopal
10.	Indore	11.	Jabalpur	12.	Nanded
13.	Agartala	14.	Aizawl	15.	Bhubaneswar
16.	Puri	17.	Amritsar	18.	Ludhiana
19.	Ajmer	20.	Jaipur	21.	Dehradun
22.	Nanital				

This information was given by Shri Saugata Ray, MOS Urban Development in reply to a question by Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad, Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi and Shri E. G. Sugavanam, in Lok Sabha today.

BIHAR , JHARKHAND. ORISSA AMONG THE STATES LAG BEHIND IN PROVIDING RURAL HOUSEHOLDS WITH TOILET FACILITIES

[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 03, 2009]

LOK SABHA

Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa figure among the list of states lagging behind while it comes to providing the toilet facilities in rural households. The percentage of rural households without toilet facilities in Bihar stands at 72.58 percent while in Jharkhand 69.08% households lack the basic sanitation. In Orissa 64.79 percent rural households are without the toilet facilities. This was stated by the Union Minister Of Rural Development, Dr. C.P.Joshi in reply to a question in Lok Sabha today.

In sharp contrast Sikkim is the only state in the country which has achieved a unique distinction of having achieved Universal Sanitation with no backlogs while Kerala and Tripura are on the way to achieve the similar feat.

The findings appear in the backdrop of a nationwide Total Sanitation Campaign. The campaign was launched by the Central Government in 1977 to provide toilet facility in each and every household in the rural areas of the country. Based on the proposals received, Total Sanitation Campaign projects (to be implemented over a period of 4-5 years) have been approved for 593 rural districts in the country since the inception of TSC.

The major components of the TSC include information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities, incentive of Rs. 1500 from Government of India and Rs. 700 from State Government per toilet for BPL households to construct toilets, provision of toilets in schools and Anganwadis, provision of community toilets, rural sanitary marts, etc. and assistance for village solid and liquid waste management.

Since it is a demand - driven program, funds are released as per eligibility criteria based on utilization of funds by the districts

Awareness generation campaign is taken up under Information, Education and Communication (IEC) component to create demand for access to and use of sanitary facilities in rural areas in households, schools, anganwadis, and the community. It includes mass media campaigns, use of folk media, street plays, outdoor media like wall painting, hoarding, engaging local NGOs for interpersonal communication, engaging motivators etc. 15% of the project outlay of each district is earmarked for IEC activities..

IAY TARGETS
[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 03, 2009]

LOK SABHA

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development Shri Pradeep Jain 'Aditya' today informed the Lok Sabha that as per the information furnished by the Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI), based on 2001 Census, the total housing shortage in rural areas in the country is 148.34 lakh houses. For calculating this shortage, the RGI have taken non-serviceable houses and shelter less households. A Statement showing the State-wise housing shortage in rural areas, is at Annexure-I. However, the Working Group on Rural Housing set up for 11th Five Year Plan had estimated a housing shortage of 474.3 lakh houses during the period 2007-2012. For this purpose, it had taken households without shelter in 2007, the number of temporary houses in 2007, shortage due to congestion in 2007, shortage due to obsolescence in 2007 and additional housing shortage arising between 2007 to 2012.

The targets fixed under IAY in terms of houses to be constructed and the targets achieved in terms of houses constructed during the last three years are given in the Table below:

Year	Target	Achievement
2006-07	1533498	1498367
2007-08	2127184	1992349
2008-09	2127165	2132971
Total	5787847	5623687

As may be seen from the above, achievement of target was more than 90% in 2006-07 and 2007-08 and achievement of target was more than 100% in 2008-09. Short achievement of target during 2006-07 and 2007-08 is mainly because some houses under construction during a particular year are completed in the subsequent years. A statement showing the State-wise details of funds allocated, utilized and houses constructed during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure-II.

During the 'Bharat Nirman' period from 2005-06 to 2008-09, 60 lakh houses were envisaged to be constructed under IAY. It has now been proposed to double this figure and to construct 120 lakh houses during next five year's period starting from the current year.

The Minister was replying to a written question regarding the number of homeless people in the rural areas of the country, achievement of targets set for construction of houses under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and the details of funds allocated, utilized and houses constructed during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and proposals to increase the targets for the next five years under the scheme and the steps taken in this regard.

Details of State wise findings are given in the annexure-I and II

Annexure-I

S.No.	State	Total Number of Rural Households	Rural households without toilets as on 30-6-09	% of Rural households without toilets
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	12451474	4089579	32.84
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	211732	111772	52.79
3	ASSAM	5894841	2928123	49.67
4	BIHAR	12932905	9386498	72.58
5	CHATTISGARH	3539420	2166216	61.20
6	GOA	113186	11570	10.22
7	GUJARAT	5386100	1031862	19.16
8	HARYANA	2488610	135534	5.45
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH	1150688	170746	14.84
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR	1786158	1026839	57.49
11	JHARKHAND	3979287	2748866	69.08
12	KARNATAKA	6719320	3506022	52.18
13	KERALA	5093763	1492	0.03
14	MADHYA PRADESH	8652440	4021303	46.48
15	MAHARASHTRA	11815219	4582543	38.79
16	MANIPUR	492916	252269	51.18
17	MEGHALAYA	401335	213982	53.32
18	MIZORAM	139825	6144	4.39
19	NAGALAND	369894	160949	43.51
20	ORISSA	7579920	4910756	64.79
21	PUNJAB	2291492	676957	29.54
22	RAJASTHAN	8029718	4789842	59.65
23	SIKKIM	141452	0	0.00
24	TAMILNADU	9432802	2738041	29.03
25	TRIPURA	979647	37392	3.82
26	UTTAR PRADESH	24452726	10457269	42.77
27	UTTARAKHAND	1264297	531562	42.04
28	WEST BENGAL	12139370	2782264	22.92
29	A & N ILANDS	49653	28635	57.67
30	CHANDIGARH	21302	6704	31.47
31	D & N HAVELI	8159	2443	29.94
32	DAMAN & DIU	22091	15017	67.98
33	DELHI	169528	62920	37.11
34	LAKSHADWEEP	5351	367	6.86
35	PONDICHERRY	33467	16017	47.86
Total	15,02,40,088	6,36,08,495	42.34	6.86

State-wise release position during the year 2009-10 as on 30.06.2009

(Rs. In lakh)

S. No.	State	Balance available as on 31-3-09	Release during 2009-10	Total funds available
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	2721.42	0.00	2721.42
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1414.02	0.00	1414.02
3	ASSAM	9420.12	726.18	10146.30
4	BIHAR	9226.68	0.00	9226.68
5	CHATTISGARH	2513.01	0.00	2513.01
6	D & N HAVELI	1.48	0.00	1.48
7	GOA	22.39	0.00	22.39
8	GUJARAT	3461.26	0.00	3461.26
9	HARYANA	1890.26	0.00	1890.26
10	HIMACHAL PRADESH	1121.93	0.00	1121.93
11	JAMMU & KASHMIR	1995.35	0.00	1995.35
12	JHARKHAND	3432.99	0.00	3432.99
13	KARNATAKA	3436.60	1857.01	5293.61
14	KERALA	953.74	975.45	1929.19
15	MADHYA PRADESH	8437.47	0.00	8437.47
16	MAHARASHTRA	3373.13	0.00	3373.13
17	MANIPUR	450.35	0.00	450.35
18	MEGHALAYA	667.25	0.00	667.25
19	MIZORAM	477.63	0.00	477.63
20	NAGALAND	21.18	1059.27	1080.45
21	ORISSA	11016.74	0.00	11016.74
22	PONDICHERRY	23.87	0.00	23.87
23	PUNJAB	1004.05	0.00	1004.05
24	RAJASTHAN	3892.68	4352.64	8245.32
25	SIKKIM	246.31	0.00	246.31
26	TAMILNADU	1963.63	0.00	1963.63
27	TRIPURA	396.70	0.00	396.70
28	UTTAR PRADESH	26630.19	0.00	26630.19
29	UTTARAKHAND	941.79	0.00	941.79
30	WEST BENGAL	10005.59	0.00	10005.59
		1111,59.83	89,70.55	1201,30.38

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS- RURAL DEVELOPMENT
[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 06, 2009]

- Aam Aadmi is the focus of all UPA's schemes
- Mandate for inclusive growth
- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) Allocation hiked by 144% to Rs.39,100 crore
- NREGA provided employment opportunities to more than 4.479 crore households in 2008-09
- Rs. 100 per day as entitlement under NREGA
- Pilot Project to be taken up in 115 districts by converging NREGA with other schemes
- Bharat Nirman allocation hiked by 45%
- Indira Awaas Yojna allocation up by 63% to Rs 8,883 crore
- Rs 2,000 crore for rural housing fund under National Housing Bank
- Rs 100 crore one-time grant to expand banks in unbanking areas
- PM Gram Sadak Yojna hiked up by 59 per cent to Rs.12,000crore.
- PM Grameen Adarsh Yojna on pilot basis in 100 villages with SC/ST population.
- Swarna Jayanti Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY) now as National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) to make it universal, more focussed and time bound for poverty alleviation by 2014
- Target to enrol 50% cent of rural women in self-help groups over the next five years
- Rural mega clusters in Bengal and Rajasthan
- Incentives in interest rates to farmers to pay back
- Interest subsidy for home loans up to Rs 1 lakh
- Work on National Food Security scheme for subsidised food
- Govt to shift to nutrient based fertiliser subsidy regime
- Fertiliser subsidy to go directly to farmers
- Incentives in interest rates to farmers to pay back
- Target for agriculture credit raised to Rs 3,25,000 cr in 2009-10
- Additional budget allocation to farmers
- Allocation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna stepped up by 30%
- Banking network to be expanded
- One banking centre in every bloc

NREGA ALLOCATIONS HIKED BY 144% TO RS. 39,100 CRORE
ENTITLEMENT OF RS. 100 PER DAY FOR NREGA BENEFICIARIES

[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 06, 2009]

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) Allocations have been hiked by 144% to Rs.39,100 crore in the proposed Union Budget for the financial Year 2009-10. The beneficiaries would henceforth be entitled for a minimum wage of Rs. 100 per day under NREGA. This was announced by the Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee while presenting

the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha today. it is expected to benefit a large number of rural poor by augmenting the wage employment and helping them to live with dignity.

Launched on 2nd February, 2006 from the Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh in 200 districts of the country NREGA, one of the flagship schemes of the Government has now been extended to all the 614 districts across the country. It has provided employment opportunities to more than 4.479 crore households in 2008-09. The act envisages providing of 100 days employment to one member of each rural family residing below poverty line. Unique features of the Act include, time bound employment guarantee and wage payment within 15 days, incentive-disincentive structure to the State Governments for providing employment as 90 per cent of the cost for employment provided is borne by the Centre or payment of unemployment allowance at their own cost and emphasis on labour intensive works prohibiting the use of contractors and machinery. The Act also mandates 33 percent participation for women.

The primary objective of NREGA is to augment wage employment besides strengthening the natural resource management through works that address causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion and to encourage sustainable development. It was introduced in 200 districts in 2006-07 and extended to 130 additional districts in 2007-08 before being expanded all over the country from 2008-09. During the first year of implementation (FY 2006-07) in 200 districts, 2.10 crore households were employed and 90.5 crore persondays were employed. In 2007-08, 3.39 crore households were provided employment and 143.59 crore person days were generated in 330 districts. In 2008-2009, 4.47 crore households have been provided employment and 215.63 crore persondays have been generated across the country.

At the National Level, average wage paid under NREGA has increased from Rs.65 (FY 2006-07) to Rs.84 in FY 08-09(provisional). The enhanced wage earnings have led to a strengthening of the livelihood resource base of the rural poor in India; in 2007-2008, more than 68% of funds utilised (Rs.10,738.47 crore as wage expenditure) were in the form of wages paid to the labourers. In 2008-2009, 67% of the funds have been utilized in the form of wages (Rs.18146.63 crore as wage expenditure in FY 2008-09). The Central Government has been encouraging the state governments to make wage payment through bank and post office accounts of wage seekers and over 7 crore accounts have been opened in banks and post offices throughout the country to disburse the wages. The Act implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development directly touches the lives of the poor and promotes inclusive growth.

IAY ALLOCATIONS UP BY 63% TO RS.8883 CRORE

[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 06, 2009]

The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) Allocations have been hiked by 63% to Rs. 8883 crore in the proposed Union Budget for the financial Year 2009-10. This was announced by the Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee while presenting the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha today. The proposed hike is expected to meet the demand of housing for the rural population living below the poverty line and thus provide shelter for a larger number of rural poor. In addition, a provision of Rs 2,000 crore for rural housing fund under National Housing Bank has also been made in the proposed budget.

Indira Awaas Yojana is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development to provide houses to below the poverty line people (BPL) families in rural areas. It has been operation since 1985-86. The funding of IAY is shared between the Centre and States in the ratio of 75:25. In the case of UTs, entire funds of IAY are provided by the Centre. However, in case of North Eastern States, the funding pattern has been changed and at present is in the ratio of 90:10. The ceiling on construction assistance under IAY has already been enhanced

from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 35,000 per unit in the plain areas and from Rs. 27,500 to Rs. 38,500 in hilly/difficult areas w.e.f 1.4.2008. For upgradation of kutcha house, the financial assistance has gone up over the years from Rs. 12,500 to Rs. 15,000 per unit w.e.f. 1.4.2008. In addition to the unit assistance availed under IAY, a beneficiary can also borrow a top-up loan upto Rs. 20,000/- from any nationalized Bank at 4% interest per annum under Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme. Sanitary latrine and smokeless chullah are required to be constructed along with each IAY house. For construction of a sanitary latrine, in addition to financial assistance provided under IAY, the beneficiary can avail of financial assistance as admissible under the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC).

Under IAY, during 2005-06, 15.52 lakh houses were constructed against a target of 14.41 lakh houses and during 2006-07, against the target of 15.33 lakh houses, 14.98 lakh houses were constructed. In the financial year 2007-08, 19.92 lakh houses were constructed against the target of 21.27 lakh houses. Again for 2008-09, 18.04 houses have been constructed as on date. Thus over last four years 68.46 lakh houses have been constructed which is more than the target set under Bharat Nirman.

PMGSY ALLOCATIONS UP BY 59% TO RS.12000 CRORE

[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 06, 2009]

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Allocations have been hiked by 59% to Rs 12,000 crore in the proposed Union Budget for the financial Year 2009-10. This was announced by the Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee while presenting the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha today. The allocation is expected to facilitate more and more construction of rural roads and enhance rural connectivity fostering reach of rural products to other parts of the country round the year.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is one of the Flagship programme under the Bharat Nirman concept of development launched by the Ministry of Rural Development. The sole objective is to provide all weather road connectivity to rural habitations with a population of 500 persons and above (250 persons and above in respect of hill States, the tribal and the desert areas) with an all-weather road . A total of 66,802 habitations was proposed to be covered under Bharat Nirman. Subsequently, based on ground verification by States, 54,648 unconnected habitations were found eligible to be connected under the programme. Till March, 2009, 31924 habitations have been connected by constructing 85,405.27 km. rural roads. Under the programme, up to March, 2009, project proposals for 1,00,215 road works measuring 3,88,498.03 km. and valued at Rs. 1,05,721.34 crore have been cleared by the Union Ministry of Rural Development.

SGSY RENAMED AS NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION (NRLM)

[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 06, 2009]

The Swarna Jayanti Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY) has been renamed as National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). With this the scheme will be made universal, more focussed and time bound for poverty alleviation by 2014. Accordingly, a target has been fixed to enrol 50% cent of rural women in self-help groups over the next five years. In order to enhance the skill of rural artisans Rural mega clusters are to be set up in Bengal and Rajasthan. This was announced by the Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee while presenting the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha today.

The objective of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaries) above the Poverty Line by ensuring appreciable sustained level of income over a period of time. This objective is to be achieved by inter alia organising the rural poor into Self Help Groups(SHG) through the process of social mobilization, their training and capacity building and provision of income generating assets. The SHG approach helps the poor to build their self-confidence through community action. Interactions in group meetings and collective decision making enables them in identification and prioritization of their needs and resources. This process would ultimately lead to the strengthening and socio-economic empowerment of the rural poor as well as improve their collective bargaining power.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES OF PANCHAYATS

[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 07, 2009]

RAJYA SABHA

The Union Minister for Panchayati Raj Dr. C.P.Joshi has informed the Rajya Sabha today that his ministry reviews the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the States/UTs covered under Part-IX of the Constitution through review meetings meetings and reports. Moreover, the Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS) intends to incentivize States for empowerment of Panchayats and enhancing accountability through a detailed review. Local self Government Institutions (Panchayats) is a State subject. Accordingly, monitoring of activities Panchayats is in the domain of the respective State.

The Minister was responding to a witten question whether Govenment has set up or is planning to set up any system for monitoring the activities of Panchayats.

NATIONAL LEVEL CONSULTATIONS WITH PANCHAYATS

[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 07, 2009]

RAJYA SABHA

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Ministry of Agriculture have written to all concerned Ministries and Departments, Agricultural Universities and State Governments to operationalize the National Policy for Farmers in accordance with the decisions taken /recommendations made during the National Consultation of Panchayats held last year on March 16-17, 2008. The Indian Council of Agriculture Research has also been requested to organise a conference of Vice-Chancellors of all the universities and other related organisations and PRIs in order to achieve greater technical support to farmers by involving Agricultural Universities students to strengthen the extension services at the grass root level.

This information was given by the Union Minister for Panchayati Raj Dr. C.P.Joshi in reply to a written question in the Rajya Sabha today.

URBANISATION AND DEVELOPMENT

[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 07, 2009]

RAJYA SABHA

Cities in India play a vital role in economic growth and employment and contribute 60 - 65% of the Gross Domestic Product which is expected to increase to 75% by 2021.

The Percentage of Urban Population in India has risen from 17.97% in 1961 to 27.78% in 2001. The number of urban agglomerations in towns has increased from 3768 in 1991 to 5161 in 2001. The phenomenon of concentration of urban populations in large cities and existing city agglomerations has led to tremendous pressure on civic infrastructure systems relating to water supply, sewerage and drainage, solid waste management and transport etc.

Government of India has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December, 2005 to give focused attention to integrated development of urban infrastructure and services in select cities with emphasis on provision of basic services to urban poor, urban, renewal, water supply, sewerage and solid waste management, storm water drains, urban transport, parking lots, development of heritage areas and preservation of water bodies.

The Government has also launched the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) under which cities which are not covered under JNNURM are eligible for financial assistance.

Apart from JNNURM, UIDSSMT and IHSDP, Government of India is also supporting implementation of other programmes like e-Governance in municipalities, National Urban Information System and Schemes relating to Capacity Building.

This information was given by Shri Saugata Ray, MOS Urban Development in reply to a question by DR. Janardhan Waghmare, in Rajya Sabha today.

RD MINISTRY RELEASES GRANT-IN-AID WORTH RS.50 CRORES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ROADS IN BIHAR UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)

[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 09, 2009]

The Ministry of Rural Development has released Rs.50,00,00,000/- (Rs. Fifty crore) for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Bihar. The amount comes from the special window created in NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) towards payment for works taken up under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The Project would be undertaken by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), the agency executing PMGSY works in Bihar.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme to provide road connectivity in rural areas of the country. PMGSY envisages connectivity to all habitations with a population of 500 persons and above in rural areas and about 250 persons and above in respect of the Hill States, Tribal areas and the Desert Areas through good and all weather roads.

**GRANT-IN-AID WORTH RS. 71.13 CRORE RELEASED FOR TOTAL SANITATION
CAMPAIGN (TSC) IN RAJASTHAN, ASSAM, NAGALAND & KERALA**

[Press Information Bureau Releases – July 09, 2009]

The Ministry of Rural Development has released funds over Rs.71.13 crore as grant-in-aid to the States of Assam, Rajasthan, Nagaland and Kerala under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) of Central Rural Sanitation Programme during the year 2009-2010 for Rajasthan , Assam, Nagaland and Kerala. The details are as follows :

State	District/s	Amount Released (in Crores)
Rajasthan	Ajmer, Alwar, Banswara, Barmer, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Churu, Dholpur, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Kota, Pali, Sawai, Madhopur, Sirohi, Tonk, Udaipur	Rs. 43,52,64000
Assam	Kokrajhar	Rs. 7,26,18000
Nagaland	Dimapur, Kohima, Mokokchung, Mon., Peren, Phek & Zunheboto	Rs. 10,59,26000
Kerala	Ernakulam, Idukki, Kannur, Kottayam, Mallapuram, Palakkad, Patahnamthitta, Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur, Wayanad	Rs.9,75,45000

Total Sanitation Campaign is a comprehensive programme to ensure sanitation facilities in rural areas with broader goal to eradicate the practice of open defecation. TSC as a part of reform principles was initiated in 1999 when 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 Centers (PCs). The main goal of the government is to eradicate the practice of open defecation by 2010. To give a fillip to this endeavour, government has launched Nirmal Gram Puraskar to recognize the efforts in terms of cash awards for fully covered PRIs and those individuals and institutions who have contributed significantly in ensuring full sanitation coverage in their area of operation. The project is being implemented in rural areas taking district as a unit of implementation.

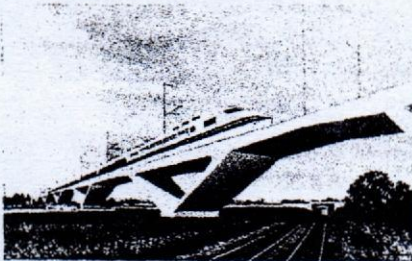
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
JANUARY 1964
The following is a list of the
members of the Department of
Chemistry who have been
appointed to the position of
Associate Professor of
Chemistry for the year 1964-1965.

NAME	DEGREE	DEGREE YEAR	DEGREE INSTITUTION
DR. J. H. GOLDSTEIN	Ph.D.	1958	University of California, Berkeley
DR. R. M. WATKINS	Ph.D.	1959	University of California, Berkeley
DR. J. E. HARRIS	Ph.D.	1960	University of California, Berkeley
DR. J. E. HARRIS	Ph.D.	1960	University of California, Berkeley
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Associate Professor of
Chemistry for the year 1964-1965.

Sustaining Urban Infrastructure

Usha P Raghupathi



***JNNURM,
therefore, provides a
unique opportunity
to cities to not only
get substantial
funds for urban
infrastructure
development but to
transform cities and
make them better
places to live***

THE NUMBER of people living in India's urban areas is rising rapidly. The country's urban population, which was 109 million in 1971, has grown to over 300 million at present (2009). Growth of urban population without concomitant investment in infrastructure exerts tremendous pressure on systems such as water supply, sewerage and drainage. Increasing quantities of uncollected solid waste poses serious threat to the health of citizens. Vanishing urban spaces such as parks and open areas lead to urban congestion and the ever-growing traffic on city roads creates daily traffic snarls. Lack of maintenance of existing infrastructure further adds to the pressure on civic services. According to the Eleventh Plan document, in 2001, 50.3% of the urban households had no piped water within their premises and 44% of them were devoid of sanitation facilities. The challenge is to address the infrastructure deficit by mobilising public as well as private sources of funds.

Urban areas make a significant contribution to the economy of the country. According to the 11th Five Year Plan document (Vol 3, Chapter 11) the urban sector contributes about 62%–63% of the GDP and this is expected to increase to 75% by 2021. It further states that "Indian cities will be the locus and engine of economic growth over the next two decades, and the realization of an ambitious goal of 9%–10% growth in GDP depends fundamentally on making Indian cities much more livable, inclusive, bankable, and competitive". There is an urgent need to ensure that good quality water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, roads and public transportation are in place to support this growth. The efficiency with which the cities are managed will determine the rate of the country's economic growth.

The Government of India has, in the past, provided funds for infrastructure through various schemes and programmes, but it was increasingly being realized that without bringing about reforms

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in the urban sectors, such funding will not be sustainable. Since the 1990s, the Government has initiated several reforms aimed at strengthening urban local bodies (ULBs), which are the bodies mainly responsible for provision of civic infrastructure.

Reforms in the Urban Sector in India

The 74th Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 was a major step to decentralize urban governance and provide constitutional status to ULBs. This reform aimed at improving governance through decentralization. This and other reforms initiated by the Government since 1990s mainly dealt with the restructuring and redefining the role of the ULBs. Further push to reforms came with the realization that the traditional ways of funding infrastructure projects through plan and budgetary allocations is not sufficient to finance the requirement for infrastructure investment. The ULBs have to find ways of mobilizing funds from other sources such as accessing capital markets. This would necessitate credit rating of ULBs and the financial instruments they issue. Reforms are essential to improve the credit worthiness of ULBs.

In the union budget 2002-03, the Central Government announced two fiscal incentives to accelerate the reform process: 1) The Urban Reforms Incentive Fund (URIF); and 2) The City Challenge Fund (CCF). Both URIF and CCF had an initial allocation of Rs. 500 cr. each. Both these were set up to provide reform linked assistance to states and have been subsumed under JNNURM. Other reforms have emphasized public-private partnerships as a means

of financing and managing urban services.

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)

In response to the investment requirements of the urban sector in the country, the Government of India launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December 2005. The Mission has a provision of Rs.50,000 crores for investment in urban infrastructure for 63 mission cities, which will be made available as reform linked Central assistance over a period of seven years beginning from 2005-06. Along with JNNURM, a parallel funding arrangement has been made for the other cities and towns of the country under UIDSSMT (Urban Infrastructure for the Development of Small and Medium Towns and IHSDP(Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme). The difference between JNNURM and the other infrastructure funding initiatives of the Government in the past is the linking of reforms to funding. JNNURM seeks to incentivize policy and institutional reforms, leading to improved service delivery and governance in the Mission cities. The emphasis on reforms is to ensure improvement in urban governance so that the urban local bodies (ULBs) become financially sound and self-sustaining and deliver services efficiently.

Each city seeking funds under JNNURM has to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) which is a tripartite agreement between the ULB/parastatal, the State Government and the Central Government. The MoA lists 23 reforms and the states/ ULBs have to indicate a time schedule within which each of the reforms will be

achieved during the seven-year period of the Mission.

There are two sets of reforms under JNNURM - mandatory and optional. Both sets of reforms are compulsory. Optional reforms only provide an option to the states and ULBs to select any two reforms in any given year.

The reforms under JNNURM are as follows:

Mandatory Reforms

At the Level of ULBs and Parastatal Agencies

- Adoption of modern double entry accrual-based system of accounting in ULBs and parastatal agencies.
- Introduction of e-governance using IT applications, such GIS and MIS for various services provided by ULBs and parastatal agencies.
- Reform of property tax with GIS – the collection efficiency to reach at least 85 per cent.
- Levy of reasonable user charges by ULBs and parastatals with the objective that the full operation and maintenance cost is collected.
- Internal earmarking of funds, within ULB's budgets, for basic services to the urban poor.
- Provision of basic services to the urban poor including security of tenure at affordable prices, improved housing, water supply and sanitation.

At the Level of States

- Implementation of 74th Constitutional Amendment Act.
- Repeal of Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act (ULCRA).

- Reform of Rent Control Laws.
- Rationalisation of Stamp Duty to bring it down to no more than 5 per cent
- Enactment of the Public Disclosure Law to release quarterly performance information to all stakeholders.
- Enactment of the Community Participation Law to institutionalise citizen's participation in urban areas.
- Associating ULBs with "city planning function".

Optional Reforms

(common to States, ULBs and Parastatal Agencies)

- Revision of bye-laws to streamline the approval process for construction of buildings, development of site etc.
- Simplification of legal and procedural frameworks for conversion of land from agricultural to non-agricultural purposes.
- Introduction of Property Title Certification System in ULBs.
- Earmarking at least 20-25 per cent of developed land in all housing projects (both public and private agencies) for EWS and LIG category.
- Introduction of computerised process of registration of land and property.
- Revision of byelaws to make rain-water harvesting mandatory in all buildings
- Byelaws for reuse of wastewater.
- Administrative reforms
- Structural reforms.
- Encouraging PPP.

Reforms are central to JNNURM and the funding available under it is an incentive to change. Reforms are crucial for sustainability of investments in the long run. The reform package when viewed as a whole is expected to transform ULBs, their finances and the way they function. The infrastructure created under JNNURM and the implementation of reforms is also expected to transform the urban areas. Reforms in Rent Control laws, repeal of ULCRA, reduction in stamp duty, property titling and revision of bye-laws has the potential to change the land and housing market dramatically.

Bringing reforms in property taxation will substantially increase the revenue generating potential of this tax and improve the quality of services in cities. Another reform, which would have long lasting effect on sustainability of infrastructure, through maintenance, and lead to improvement in the quality of services is the levy of user charges to recover operation and maintenance cost of service provision.. The Public Disclosure Law and the Community Participation Law together can make the ULBs accountable by bringing transparency in ULB's functioning and by building community pressure groups to demand accountability. Making rainwater harvesting compulsory in buildings and encouraging recycling of wastewater will go a long way in easing the critical water situation in urban areas. Earmarking of funds for the urban poor in ULB budgets and earmarking 20-25% of developed land in all the housing projects for the economically weaker sections will address the acute shortage of housing and access

to basic services for this strata of society. Encouraging public-private partnerships in urban infrastructure provision as well as in management will not only bring in the much required funds from the private sector but will also bring in efficiency in management of services.

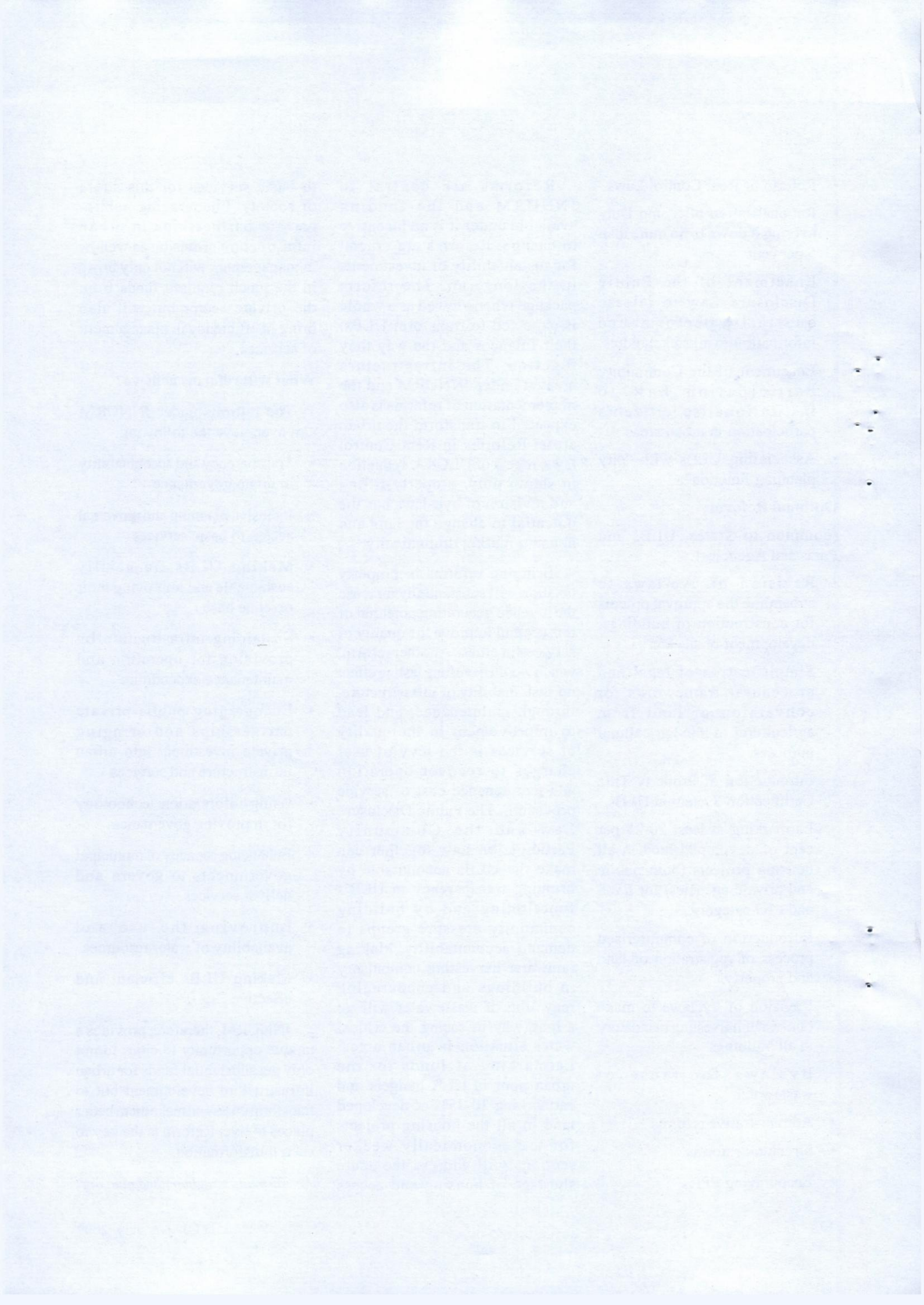
What will reforms achieve?

The reforms under JNNURM aim to achieve the following:

- Transparency and accountability in urban governance
- Inclusive planning and universal access to basic services
- Making ULBs financially sustainable and improving their revenue base
- Sustaining infrastructure by providing for operation and maintenance expenditure
- Encouraging public-private partnerships and bringing private investment into urban infrastructure and services
- Using information technology for improving governance
- Enhancing capacity of municipal governments to govern and deliver services
- Improving the use and availability of water resources
- Making ULBs efficient and effective

JNNURM, therefore, provides a unique opportunity to cities to not only get substantial funds for urban infrastructure development but to transform cities and make them better places to live. Reform is the key to such transformation. □

(E-mail : uraghupathi@niua.org)



Why Rethink Rotation of Reservation in Panchayats?

MAHI PAL

Extending the tenure of women in panchayats to 10-15 years as argued by Nupur Tiwari (EPW, 31 January 2009) will not automatically empower them. The existing pattern of reservation should be supplemented with various capacity-building measures. Action-oriented training programmes and adequate representation for women in the local administration will go a long way in ensuring their development and participation in the decision-making process.

The statement of the objects and reasons of the 73rd Amendment Bill, 1992 inter alia says that panchayats have not been able to acquire status and dignity due to a number of reasons including insufficient representation of weaker sections like the scheduled castes (scs) and scheduled tribes (sts), and women on these bodies. The issue of reservation for women in panchayats has to be analysed in the above context more closely, from its evolution to culmination with the 73rd Amendment, and the findings of the study sponsored by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has also to be examined further, in order to arrive at a conclusion for extending the terms of women to 10 or 15 years as argued in Nupur Tiwari's article entitled "Rethinking the Rotation Term of Reservation in Panchayats" (EPW, 31 January 2009).

During the colonial period women were neither voters nor candidates for the panchayat elections, as evident from provisions of the Central Province Village Panchayat Act, 1920, Bombay Village Panchayat Act, 1920 and Holkar State Panchayat Act of 1928. The Franchise Committee set up by the then British government threw the ball in the court of provincial legislatures to decide the issue of women's franchise keeping in view the local culture and sensitivity (Buch 2000: 34). Although the all governors' provinces led by Madras availed of the power to pass a resolution for extending franchise to women, rules made under the Government of India Act, 1919 did not make women eligible for membership of the council (ibid: 35).

Article 40 of the Constitution also left the issue of reservation for women to state legislatures. During late 1950s the Central Council of Local Government, 1957 argued for co-opting two women who are interested in work among women and children as members of panchayats. The report of

the Balvantray Mehta study team also endorsed this. In 1978 the Ashoka Mehta Committee reviewed the panchayati raj system and recommended that if no women were elected on their own, two women who get the highest number of votes in zilla parishad (zp) elections should become members and if no women came forward they might be enabled through co-option.

Political Involvement

The Committee on the Status of Women in India (CSWI), 1971, in view of the ineffectiveness of token representation of women in panchayats, recommended constituting separate women's statutory panchayats at the village level. But the idea could not be fructified as none of the states were in favour. The interesting turning point on the debate took place when the government of Andhra Pradesh in 1979 recommended 5% reservation for women for the post of sarpanches in each block for women where the percentage of women electors is comparatively higher.

The major breakthrough took place in 1988 after the emergence of the National Perspective Plan for Women (NPPW) which recommended:

Reservation should be made of 30% seats at Panchayat to Zilla Parishad level and local municipal bodies for women. Wherever possible, higher representation of dalits, tribals, women of weaker sections should be ensured. 30% of executive heads of all bodies from village Panchayat to district level and a certain percentage of chief executives of Panchayati Raj bodies at lower, middle and higher levels must be reserved for women. A more effective step would be to declare a certain percentage of constituencies in the lower tier of Panchayati Raj as exclusively women constituencies and all executive positions in certain number of territorial jurisdictions reserved for women candidates. (National Perspective Plan 1988: 164-65).

This was probably the basis for giving positive discrimination for women in panchayats by legislating the 73rd Amendment Act. Before this enactment, some positive changes took place for women participation in panchayats as exemplified by the Karnataka Panchayat Act 1983 reserving 25% seats for women in both at zp and mandal panchayat levels.

Views in the paper are purely those of the author.

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Similarly, Orissa, Maharashtra and Kerala also introduced 30% reservation for women in the membership of the panchayats.

It may be deduced from above that reservation for women had been confined to membership and rotation was not an issue at all.

Rotation Component

With this evolutionary trajectory of women reservation in panchayats let us come to the rotation aspect of reservation for women. The provision for reservation for women and its rotation is mandatory, but how it will be rotated or its periodicity is left to the state legislatures. That is the reason that in some states the seats are rotated biyearly. In this context, it becomes relevant to refer to the resolutions of the Seven Round Tables of Ministers In-Charge of Panchayati Raj which charted out the course of action by both the centre and states to deepen cooperative federalism in the country and in the context of rotation the compendium of resolutions says:

There are different practices being adopted in the different States and there are different practices under contemplation in several States. This being so, the option to reserve seats for more than one-term is open but it is for the State Legislature to decide the number of terms for which seats will remain reserved (GOI 2004: 12).

However, it may be stated that reducing the term to less than five years for one constituency is not in the letter and spirit of the Constitution and if some states have not been adhering to this provision, there are two ways to check it. First, to bring out an amendment to the Constitution and second, to build pressure from women panchayat leaders on the state legislatures for making provision for a five year tenure. The former appears to be impossible given the composition of the Parliament and the latter appears to be feasible provided women are educated, agitated and organised. Now, coming to the findings of the study which has been carried out by A C Nielsen ORG-MARG on behalf of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and cited in the *Study on Elected Women Representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions* (GOI 2008). In fact, it confuses the issue and if its recommendations are accepted then reservation for women in

panchayats will be questioned as some of its findings reveal:

...number of years of exposure as an elected representative reflects a positive relationship with performance. This is evident among all the categories, except female ward Member. For them, time served as a member has apparently no significant effect on their performance... Caste categories did not seem to have a significantly positive relationship with performance...among the Scheduled Tribes, it is negatively correlated. This implies that on the performance curve they were nearer the bottom, with most representatives from this category appearing not to perform well (ibid: 152).

The study further examines the reservation issue by using regression coefficients between performance index and independent variables and concludes:

As regards the impact of the type of seat contested by an individual representative on their performance, the corresponding regression coefficient is significant, but bears the negative sign. This implies that those who contested and won from female reserved constituencies were not performing much better than those elected from general constituencies... the net impact of reservation on performance turned out to be negative (ibid: 154).

And finally the study says:

...policy level, the rotation of seats may be discontinued for the women-headed Panchayats and wards (ibid: 161).

In view of the A C Nielsen ORG-MARG study, it appears more suitable to have rotation of seats for one term, i.e., five years because the study reveals that 15% of the women got re-elected in the subsequent term without any reservation and this is a commendable achievement by any standard within a spell of a decade of effective functioning of the local government system. The solution to the problem lies in undertaking a meaningful capacity-building campaign for them in action mode by dedicated institutions and persons, making panchayats local government in a defacto sense by devolving desired powers to them and creating space for women in local bureaucracy as recommended by the NPPW in these words:

50% of all grassroots functionaries must be women. To facilitate its implementation, relaxation of minimum educational qualification is needed which can be supplemented by short training courses for women... Conscious efforts are needed to elicit participation of women through establishing links

between the elected representatives and the development functionaries... Standing Advisory Committee at Central, State, District, Block and wherever possible at village level should be formed consisting of representatives of important women's organisation (ibid: 164-65).

This recommendation is required to be put into practice for women empowerment. And as the experience of working women shows, if this recommendation of the NPPW is implemented, it may not even be necessary to have reservation for women in panchayats.

To conclude, more women have come as leaders in panchayats than mandated in the Constitution and they have been instrumental in creating ripples in the existing system of governance which was dominated by their counterparts. Leaders at the local level consider women forces a potential threat, and are concerned about losing control over local governance and administration. Instead of granting 10 or 15 year terms for women, the existing pattern of reservation for them should be continued. The efforts of women could be supplemented by organising them into their associations and confederations, building their capacity by taking up action-oriented training programmes and giving adequate representation to women in local administration.

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