



# ANNUAL PLAN

WEST BENGAL  
1999-2000

Volume I



DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

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**ANNUAL  
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1999-2000  
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## FOREWORD

This is the third year (1999-2000) of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002). The proposals for the Annual Plan (1999-2000) have been prepared, once again keeping in view the overall objective of the Ninth Plan in the State level.

In formulating this overall social objective and adopting the consequent steps, we have in West Bengal followed an alternative approach—alternative of what is being followed at the national level. The overall objective has been formulated in clear terms as one of increasing the employment generation, to the furthest extent possible, through efficient enhancement of levels of production and expansion of services in all the relevant sectors within the feasible powers in the State. For attaining this objective, it is important to adopt two types of actions. First, there should be a move towards equal competition domestically. Secondly, in known areas of market failures, relating to infrastructures and social services, there should be social action, and this social action should be, as far as appropriate, decentralised. This decentralisation, in its turn, should be democratically participatory and accountable, and it should be encouraged by giving more powers to the elected Panchayats and Municipalities, and by ensuring involvement of the local people in formulation and implementation of the plan schemes.

Keeping these basic objectives of productive employment generation and consequent courses of action in view, we have emphasised the following major areas of priority :

- (1) Land reforms and land utilisation
- (2) Agriculture and cropping pattern
- (3) Expansion of irrigation facilities
- (4) Provision of improved seeds and implements
- (5) Development of animal resources, fishery and forestry
- (6) Improvement of roads and mass transport
- (7) Marketing and public distribution system
- (8) Industrial resurgence
- (9) Cooperative banking sector
- (10) Education
- (11) Public health
- (12) Development of Backward classes, Minority communities and Women
- (13) Regional development of North Bengal, Western laterite districts and Sunderban areas
- (14) Decentralisation and accountability

With these priorities emphasised, we have given corresponding thrust and provided financial allocation in the State Plan of the current year. For instance, land reforms provide the basis for equal competition and increase in production and employment generation in agriculture. We therefore have begun by reaffirming our special priority for land reforms.

Along with this priority for land reforms, it has become essential for sustaining the process of growth and employment generation in agriculture, to formulate afresh and with a view from the State as a whole, a comprehensive plan for cropping pattern for each district, block and Gram Panchayat by involving through the Panchayats the local common farmers. This plan for cropping pattern will be worked out by the first half of the next year, and while working out this plan, a special priority will have to be so accorded as to reduce for all the major crops the gap between the State's demand and the internal supply within the time frame of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002).

For implementing this plan of cropping pattern and sustaining the growth of employment generation in agriculture, it is important to take a new initiative in expanding irrigation facilities. Towards this end, we have set the target of increasing the net agricultural area under irrigation potential from 58 per cent in the current year to 66 percent within the Ninth Plan period, and have accordingly proposed to increase the total plan outlay for irrigation sector from Rs. 359 crores in the previous year to Rs. 396 crores in the current year. In the sphere of irrigation, particularly for the minor irrigation projects, the responsibility of operation and maintenance of these projects will remain with the local farmers through the beneficiary committees and under the general supervision of the Panchayats. In the management of these projects, issue relating to water rate should be settled through discussion so that the cost of operation and maintenance is recovered, and some revenue surplus is generated, out of which investment for new projects can be made by the same beneficiary committees. In the sphere of large irrigation, the Panchayats will again be involved in coordination with the Irrigation and Waterways Department in setting up of beneficiary committees to help the management of water use at the ground level. Regarding certain important works, the Irrigation and Waterways Department may decide to avoid the contractors and implement the works directly through the Zilla Parishads, by providing technical assistance and involving the local people.

For executing the plan of cropping pattern, it is also important to have, along with expansion of irrigation facilities, adequate provision of improved seeds. To this end, for attaining self-sufficiency in the production of improved seeds within the State over the Ninth Plan period, fullest utilisation of the agricultural farms under the Department of Agriculture as well as areas under the Comprehensive Area Development Project will be necessary. Keeping in view this requirement as well as other related needs of the sector, the total plan outlay for agriculture is proposed to be increased from Rs. 43 crores in the previous year to Rs. 50 crores in the current year.

In order that the small and marginal farmers can participate adequately in the sustained growth and employment generation in agriculture, on the basis of equal competition and by getting proper access to the use of improved implements (i.e. power tillers, pump sets etc.), it is considered important to take a new initiative in setting up under the leadership of small and marginal farmers the service cooperatives which can take the responsibility of local and collective use of these implements. The State Government will provide an assistance of Rs. 1 lakh for one such cooperative for each Gram Panchayat, and the members will contribute an equal amount and obtain, on the basis of that, loans from the cooperative banks. These service cooperatives should, from the very beginning, be so managed that some revenue surplus is generated, out of which new investment will be made by these cooperatives themselves. Keeping

this total perspective in view, we have proposed an additional outlay of Rs. 34 crores for assistance to these cooperatives at the level of each Gram Panchayat.

Along with the growth of production in agriculture, it is also important to enhance production in the allied sectors relating particularly to animal resource development, fishery and social forestry. If production is enhanced through adoption of appropriate technology and training by involving the local people through the Panchayats, then not only will the gap between the State's demand and internal supply be reduced but substantial employment will also be generated. Keeping this objective in view, the plan outlay for these allied sectors has been proposed to be increased from Rs. 111 crores in the previous year to Rs. 129 crores in the current year.

For augmentation of irrigation as well as development of agricultural, allied and industrial activities in the districts, and also for social purposes, it is essential to extend rapidly rural electrification so that 90 per cent of rural mouzas of the State are electrified by the end of the Ninth Plan. To accomplish this task expeditiously, in appropriate coordination with the West Bengal State Electricity Board, a new body—the West Bengal Rural Energy Development Corporation—has already been set up, with branches in every district under the leadership of Zilla Parishad Sabhadhipatis and with the specific responsibility of implementation of the time-bound programme of rural electrification by involving the Panchayats in a decentralised and accountable manner. The engineers and technical staff of this Corporation will be employed on deputation from the West Bengal State Electricity Board, and if necessary, some engineers and staff will also be employed on contract basis. Thrust of management of this Corporation should, from the beginning, be such that the schemes are implemented efficiently and some surplus revenue is generated. Keeping the importance of power sector in view, we have proposed to increase the plan outlay on power from Rs. 1577 crores in the previous year to Rs. 2011 crores in the current year and then further add Rs. 120 crores from West Bengal Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation for strengthening rural electrification through the West Bengal Rural Energy Development Corporation.

For development of agriculture and industry, it is essential to improve condition of roads in all the districts. After according a priority to the development of roads, we have therefore proposed to increase substantially the plan outlay on the road sector from Rs. 305 crores in the previous year to Rs. 594 crores in the current year. While implementing the road development schemes, the quality of works will be properly maintained and the Public Works Department will act in coordination with the Panchayats, so that a joint monitoring is effected by involving the beneficiary committees. In certain important schemes, the Public Works Department may avoid the contractors and implement the scheme directly through the Panchayats by providing appropriate technical assistance and involving the local people in the process of implementation.

Along with the development of roads, there is also a need for further extension of mass transport facilities in every district. Keeping this in view, the plan outlay for the transport sector is proposed to be increased from Rs. 110 crores in the previous year to Rs. 120 crores in the current year, with further Rs. 20 crores added as loan from the State Cooperative Bank for this sector.

In order to protect the interests of both the common farmers and the common consumers, it is essential to have social control over the sphere of marketing. It is for this reason that our basic demand is for introduction from the national level a comprehensive public distribution system in all the essential commodities with appropriate subsidy. Along with reiterating this demand with the Central Government, we have decided to strengthen, within the limited powers of the State Government, the Public Distribution System in the State on the basis of internal procurement of rice by involving the Panchayats and providing some subsidy. In this State-initiated Public Distribution System, along with rice, provision is also being made for inclusion of handloom clothes, electric bulbs and detergents produced particularly by the small-scale units in the State. We shall place our demand on the Centre for providing funds for subsidies on these accounts. Till such time as the Central funds are available, we have proposed an additional outlay of Rs. 100 crores for the purposes of required subsidy.

Due to the land reforms-based growth in agriculture, not only has the average annual rate of growth of foodgrains production (4.5%) been the highest in the country in recent years (1981-82 to 1996-97), but the purchasing power of the common people in rural areas of the State has also increased significantly. On the basis of national Sample Survey data, it is found that nearly Rs. 11 thousand crores are now being spent by the common people in rural areas on industrial goods every year, and that this demand is increasing at the rate of at least 10 per cent per year. In other words, a new internal market has been created within the State. This internal market creation, along with the availability of skilled workers, improvement in power situation, locational advantage, and social stability of the State has created a climate of industrial resurgence in West Bengal. In order to support this industrial resurgence, along with providing a simplified tax structure, incentive schemes and infrastructural facilities for setting up new industrial units, a special thrust is being given for reviving/opening the viable sick/closed units. Since industry, as a subject, is in the Union List, the main responsibility for opening these units lies with the Central Government. Yet, within the limited powers, the State Government is making efforts on a regular basis for opening these units. As a part of these efforts, we have proposed to set up a fund of Rs. 100 crores through the West Bengal Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (WBIDFC) for the specific purpose of opening the closed factories. Any industrialist intending to open a closed industrial unit with a proper proposal relating to infrastructural facility, utilisation of factory land related to the opening of the unit, diversification, training, etc. may apply for access to this fund. In the present industrial resurgence in the State, the small scale industries, because of their potentiality of bringing in the competition and employment generation, will have a specially significant role to play. Keeping this significance in view, it has already been decided to extend all the advantages of the new industrial incentive scheme to the small-scale sector.

For the small industrialists (as well as the small and the marginal farmers), availability of loans from the nationalised banks is a major problem. In this State, not only is the credit deposit ratio of the nationalised banks below 50 per cent, the proportion of their total loans to the small industrialists (and the small and the marginal farmers) is even below 20 per cent. In this context, the role of the cooperative banks is much better. Not only have the deposits of the Central Cooperative Banks in the districts and the State Cooperative Bank increased from Rs. 363 crores and Rs. 281 crores respectively (as on March 31, 1993) substantially to Rs. 1019 crores and



Rs. 881 crores respectively (as on march, 1998) the average credit-deposit ratio of the Cooperative Banks in these two levels has also been above 70 per cent over this period of five years, and credit provision by these cooperative banks for the small sector industries and the small and the marginal farmers has also been above 80 per cent of their credit disbursement. We urge the nationalised banks to play a more positive role in the industrial and agricultural development of the State. Simultaneously, the cooperative banks will also play a significant role in the credit provisioning for the important sectors. In recent years, in this progress of cooperative banks in the State, role of women in cooperative banking management has also been particularly significant.

We now also want to add a special dimension to this sphere of cooperative banking and to the provisioning of loans to the small industrialists, small traders, small service enterprises and small and marginal farmers. This new dimension will be added by encouraging these small entrepreneurs in rural and urban areas (particularly in slums and areas inhabited by the lower income groups) to form small 'self-help' groups. These 'self-help' groups will first collect their small savings, and use this fund for taking loans as a group from the nearest cooperative bank, use the loans for growth of their enterprises, pay back the loans and then take higher loans for further development of their units. On the basis of a firm connection with the cooperative banks, these 'self-help' groups will flourish as 'small cooperatives within the cooperatives', provide a further basis of equal competition and set an example of growth on the basis of self-reliant internal mobilisation of resources. Within a small frame, this process will be an important part of the type of alternative self-reliant and domestically competitive model that we have proposed in our alternative approach planning.

For sustaining the process of growth and employment generation in industry and agriculture, it is essential to have appropriate expansion of educational facilities. Keeping this in view, decision of the State Government to achieve the target of universalisation of primary education within the period of Ninth Plan (1997-2002) has already been taken in the context of the last year's Annual Plan. Prof. Amartya Sen's Nobel prize in economics and his views on the need for universalisation of primary education have lifted our resolve to achieve the target to a higher level.

According to the data of the School Education Department of the State Government, for achieving this target of universalisation of primary education within the Ninth Plan period, it would be necessary to add at least 8000 new primary schools to the existing number of 51,521 primary schools. Towards this end, it was already decided that along with the setting up of 1000 conventional primary schools, 2000 child education centres with the same syllabus of primary education, will also be set up under the supervision of the Panchayat Samities and management of village education committees (with 75 per cent representation of the guardians), where teachers will be recruited on the basis of accountability. These child education centres have already started functioning in the districts. We have therefore decided that in the current year, 4000 such child education centres will be additionally set up in both rural and urban areas of the districts. We are determined to achieve this time-bound target of universalisation of primary education, upholding at the same time high standard of education. To this end, there will be regular quarterly meeting at the State headquarters and in the districts, involving the concerned department, the Panchayats and the Municipalities.

In consonance with the requirements of agricultural and industrial development a high priority has been accorded to the sphere of vocational and technical education. Keeping this priority in view, we have decided to set up vocational training centres at the level of one higher secondary school in each block in the districts, with trainers employed on the basis of accountability and syllabus in conformity with emerging needs in agriculture, allied sectors and industry along with a continued emphasis on setting up of engineering colleges in joint sector in the districts.

With this total perspective in view, we have proposed to increase the plan outlay for the entire education sector from the present level of Rs. 208 crores in the previous year to Rs. 296 crores in the current year.

In the sphere of public health engineering, after ensuring the availability of at least one source of safe drinking water in every village of the State, we have now adopted a higher target of providing at least 40 litres of safe water per capita per day within the period of the Ninth Five-year Plan. With this target in view, we have proposed to increase the plan outlay for the public health engineering sector from Rs. 112 crores in the previous year to Rs. 123 crores in the current year.

In public health, with emphasis on decentralisation, a decision has been taken to associate directly the Gram Panchayats in the management of sub-centres below the block level, the Panchayat Samities in the management of New Primary Health Centres at the block level and the Zilla parishads in the management of at least one hospital at the district level. In addition, it has also been decided to appoint doctors and para-medical staff on contract basis at the level of district as well as blocks. With a firm decision to ensure standards of health service and accountability, the targets have been set for lowering the birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate at 20, 6.5 and 40 respectively by the end of the Ninth Plan period. Keeping the objectives in view, we have proposed to increase the plan outlay for the health sector from Rs. 193 crores in the previous year to Rs. 235 crores in the current year.

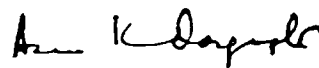
For giving a special thrust on employment generation for women, we have proposed through the State Cooperative Bank an additional provision of Rs. 5 crores for the West Bengal Women Development Undertaking. With the same emphasis on employment generation of minority communities, plan outlay for the Minorities Development & Welfare is proposed to be increased from Rs. 7 crores in the previous year to Rs. 10 crores in the current year. For similar objective of employment generation for backward classes, the proposed plan outlay for the concerned department will be increased from Rs. 54 crores in the last year to Rs. 66 crores in the current year.

In order to strengthen the developmental activities in North Bengal, the Western region and Sunderban areas of the State, an outlay of Rs. 45 crores through the West Bengal Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation has also been provided.

It is not simply a matter of providing these additional plan outlays for the different sectors. It has been decided that within the overall general priorities as mentioned at the outset, formulation and implementation of plan schemes for all the concerned departments (as per the recommendations of the State Finance Commission) will be decentralised to the level of districts,

and then to the blocks and further below. To this end, district-level allocation of each concerned department has been earmarked and shown as such in the State Budget. This process of decentralised planning will begin from the open mass meeting at the level of each village under Gram Panchayat in rural areas, and each ward under Municipality in urban areas, and will then be integrated in the form of Block Plans at the block level and finally in the form of District Plan at the district-level. Not only will people be involved through the Panchayats and Municipalities in the formulation of plan schemes, but they will participate through beneficiary committees' in the implementation of these schemes as well. Finally, statement of expenditure and physical progress will have to be mandatorily shown in a local public place in both rural and urban areas. This will ensure not only democratic and participatory decentralisation, but also accountable decentralisation.

If plan outlays of all the sectors are now added, then the total plan outlay will increase from Rs. 4950 crores in the previous year to Rs. 6289 crores in the current year. With additional efforts at decentralisation, for decision-making in more than 50 per cent of the total plan outlay, the Panchayats and the Municipalities, and through them the local people, will be directly involved. On the basis of this augmented plan outlay and improved decentralisation, the forces of production and employment generation will be further strengthened in the current year, leading to a targeted growth rate of the State Domestic Product at 7.5 per cent, which is likely to be much higher than the rate of growth of Gross Domestic Product at the national level. On the basis of this stipulated increase in production, we have set the target of additional employment generation in the current year to about 7 lakhs which again would be higher than the anticipated addition to the registered unemployed (anticipated at the level of 2.50 lakhs), thus helping to redress the problem of backlog of the employment.



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## **Introduction**



## INTRODUCTION

The Eighth Plan of West Bengal centred around the prime issues of employment generation, self-reliance and involvement of people in decentralised process of planning. Land reforms, increase in the level of production and services by provision of modern inputs, technology and infrastructural facilities and emphasis on socio-economic welfare of the needy sections of the society were the major thrust areas of planning.

The Eighth Plan thus prioritised the activities under energy, social services, industry, irrigation, rural development and agriculture. Main objectives of the Plan were the sustenance of the tempo of growth with redistributive justice for increasing the labour intensity of agricultural and industrial activities, strengthening the network of basic infrastructures and provision of improved amenities for human development.

The Eighth Plan outlay as originally approved, was of Rs. 9760 Crore. This was subsequently increased to Rs. 9930 Crore by additional Central Assistance of Rs. 170 Crore. The Sectoral position in respect of approved plan outlay and budgetted outlay and actual expenditure during Eighth Five Year Plan are given below :—

Sl. No.	Major Head	Eighth Plan outlay 1992-97	Percentage	Budgetted outlay for 5 yrs. from 1992-93 to 1996-97	Percentage	Actual expenditure of 8th Plan
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7
I.	Agriculture and Allied Activities	60932.00	6.14	45953.49	4.62	36163.71
II.	Rural Development	68662.00	6.92	73047.79	7.36	68444.16
III.	Special Area Programme	14435.00	1.45	15985.00	1.61	14343.23
IV.	Irrigation and Flood Control	119800.00	12.07	92417.00	9.31	86916.43
V.	Energy	302088.00	30.42	305868.00	30.80	287367.07
VI.	Industry & Minerals	107478.00	10.82	85603.98	8.62	70242.82
VII.	Transport	57515.00	5.79	62955.17	6.34	59562.66
VIII.	Science Technology & Environment	2587.00	0.26	1982.90	0.20	781.70
IX.	General Economic Services	9455.00	0.95	70573.69	7.11	34304.71

*Introduction*

Sl. No.	Major Head	Eighth Plan outlay 1992-97	Percentage	Budgetted outlay for 5 yrs. from 1992-93 to 1996-97	Percentage	Actual expenditure of 8th Plan
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7
X.	Social Services	239231.00	24.09	235514.37	23.72	166360.21
XI.	General Services	10817.00	1.09	14622.43	1.47	11650.52
<b>GRAND TOTAL :</b>		<b>993000.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1004524.40</b>	<b>101.16</b>	<b>836137.22</b>

It would appear that sectoral budgetary allocations of the Eighth Plan underwent some changes as revealed in the above statement. This had been necessitated by the emerging priorities and felt need of the people of the State. Needless to mention that they were very minor in the context of the overall priorities of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

The position of sectoral expenditure vis-a-vis budgetted outlay during the Five Year Annual Plan of the Eighth Plan is as follows :

Sl. No.	Head of Development	Budgetted outlay/ Actuals during the 1992-93	Budgetted outlay/ Actuals during the 1993-94	Budgetted outlay/ Actuals during the 1994-95	Budgetted outlay/ Actuals during the 1995-96	Budgetted outlay/ Actuals during the 1996-97
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7
I.	Agriculture and Allied Activities	8933.46	6437.35	8832.05	9676.95	11958.10
		4510.29	5978.01	6984.52	8387.62	10303.27
II.	Rural Development	9733.25	9441.00	13170.19	15243.00	25410.35
		9653.61	11946.15	17948.42	13631.95	15264.03
III.	Special Area Programme	3193.87	2363.99	3355.03	3044.50	4028.19
		1519.24	2505.77	3661.81	3129.64	3526.77
IV.	Irrigation & Flood Control	15799.00	15247.00	18583.00	17070.00	25718.00
		9789.27	18729.31	15916.63	18003.79	24477.43
V.	Energy	46155.00	32190.00	30109.50	75786.50	121677.00
		27261.92	35842.31	57307.33	97356.42	69599.09
VI.	Industry & Minerals	18437.35	12916.58	13699.00	19369.05	21182.00
		6891.91	8827.09	21633.56	10656.32	22233.94



Sl. No.	Head of Development	Budgetted outlay/ Actuals during the 1992-93	Budgetted outlay/ Actuals during the 1993-94	Budgetted outlay/ Actuals during the 1994-95	Budgetted outlay/ Actuals during the 1995-96	Budgetted outlay/ Actuals during the 1996-97
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7
VII.	Transport	9503.67 8604.38	8392.00 9838.12	11719.50 12129.51	15070.00 13647.49	18270.00 15343.16
VIII.	Communication	—	—	—	—	—
IX.	Science & Technology Environment	315.90 60.90	206.00 100.05	192.00 133.82	222.00 168.80	1029.00 318.13
X.	General Economic Services	1369.39 614.25	36971.26 826.59	27747.63 5298.94	2230.08 5696.66	2388.91 21868.27
XI.	Social Service	34494.39 18686.54	129494.54 24361.64	41591.13 27660.15	58395.30 40143.24	71539.01 55508.64
XII.	General Service	2164.72 1184.13	1340.28 1411.25	1600.97 1526.49	4622.62 3320.73	4893.84 4207.92
<b>Total :</b>		<b>150100.00</b> <b>88776.44</b>	<b>155000.00</b> <b>120366.29</b>	<b>170600.00</b> <b>170201.18</b>	<b>220730.00</b> <b>214142.66</b>	<b>308094.40</b> <b>242650.65</b>

The financial and physical performance of all the sectors and departments during the 8th Plan period have been mentioned in the respective sectors. Since this is the 3rd year of the 9th Plan we have initiated the process of mid-term review of the 9th Plan. The source of finance considered at the time of preparation of the 9th Plan has undergone substantial changes. West Bengal Infrastructural Development & Finance Corporation has come out as a major source of finance for the 9th Plan. Naturally the outlay of the sectors/departments which have availed themselves of the WBIDFC finance has increased considerably. The concepts of Basic Minimum Services and the Minimum Adequate provision for the same, the schemes under Border Area Development Programme etc. also will have effects on plan outlay.

Taking into consideration the budgetary allotments, two years' performance, the sources of resource, the latest development regarding the tied schemes under implementation viz. externally aided projects, projects financed under 10th Finance Commission's Grants, BADP, AIDP, RIDF and projects financed by WBIDFC, the sectoral and the departmental outlay for 9th Plan has been recast.

A good number of externally aided projects were contemplated at the time of preparation of the 9th Plan and the corresponding outlay was taken into consideration. Most of them have not materialised as yet. As such the expenditure for such schemes during the 9th Plan, will be very little even if some of them get approval during the last two years of the plan. The position of the externally aided schemes as on 31.3.99 is given below. The schemes mentioned in serial nos. 15 to 21 are new schemes expected to be taken up during the plan. They have not yet materialised (Table—A).

**Table A**  
**Progress of EAPs as on March 31, 1999**

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Donor	Total Project Cost (Original/ Revised)	Loan/ Grant Amount	Opening/ Closing Date	ACA Received in 1997-98	Plan Outlay 1998-99		Likely Reimbursement		Expenditure incurred in (1998-99)	Of which reimbursible component (1998-99)	ACA Received upto 31.03.99 (1998-99)	Claims sent to CAA & A But ACA not received	Plan Outlay 1999-2000	Likely Reimbursement
							Original	Revised	Original	Revised						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>OECE Project</b>																
1.	Bakreswar Thermal Power Project	OECE	(O) Unit 1 & 2-3365.00 (O) Unit 3-1007.00 (R) Unit 1 & 2-2659.00 (R) Unit 3-805.00	820.00 262.00 1035.00 354.00	11.3.94/11.3.99 12.4.95/12.4.2001 19.2.98/19.2.2003	319.68	900.00	960.00	756.00	810.00	1017.00	857.00	754.39	417.00	915.00	775.00
2.	Teesta Canal Fall Project	OECE (Japan)	526.59	14274 MY	13.2.87/31.3.2000 5.2.92/31.3.2000	44.42	39.30	39.30	33.80	33.80	32.32	28.62	29.11	9.12	16.10	13.65
3.	Purulia Pumped Storage Project	OECE (Japan)	3188.90	20500 MY	12.4.95/12.4.2003	19.06	348.00	135.00	302.80	115.00	17.29	15.92	10.49	5.85	575.00	485.00
4.	Power T & D Improvement Project	OECE (Japan)	861.40	11087 MY	29.5.97/29.5.2004	0.59	60.00	60.00	48.00	48.00	12.50	10.40	2.52	1.20	320.00	256.00
5.	Industrial Pollution Control Project	OECE (Japan)	40.15	35.36	12.4.95/11.4.2001	2.56	16.55	4.00	14.50	8.80	4.77	3.36	2.45	—	8.50	7.50
6.	Calcutta Urban Transport Project	OECE	400.08	340.08	7.5.97/Jan, 2002	9.60	50.00	5.40	42.50	3.40	1.82	1.82	1.94	1.75	50.00	42.50
<b>Total</b>						<b>395.91</b>	<b>1413.85</b>	<b>1203.70</b>	<b>1197.60</b>	<b>1019.00</b>	<b>1085.70</b>	<b>917.12</b>	<b>800.90</b>	<b>434.92</b>		
<b>Non-OECE Projects</b>																
7.	North Bengal Terai Development Project	Dutch Project	33.06	23.02	1.1.95/31.12.99	3.66	7.95	7.95	6.60	6.60	7.25	7.16	0.09	0.55	8.00	6.60
8.	Shrimp & Fish Culture Project	IDA	(O) 102.66 (R) 65.15	89.52 55.76	29.1.92/30.6.99	8.52	20.00	20.00	17.00	17.00	8.84	7.47	10.36	1.07	11.20	9.50

Introduction

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Doner	Total Project Cost (Original/ Revised)	Loan/ Grant Amount	Opening/ Closing Date	ACA Received in 1997-98	Plan Outlay 1998-99		Likely Reimbursement		Expenditure incurred in (1998-99)	Of which reimbursible component (1998-99)	ACA Received upto 31.03.99 (1998-99)	Claims sent to CAA & A But ACA not received	Plan Outlay 1999-2000	Likely Reimbursement
							Original	Revised	Original	Revised						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9.	ADB Assisted Road Project	IDB	(O) 106.00 (R) 236.40	US \$ 43.408M	28.5.91/31.12.98	27.41	71.30	48.00	66.80	36.00	50.74	37.99	18.19	9.19	70.00	21.00
10.	State Highway Improvement						20.00		13.30		6.02	4.21				
11.	Calcutta Bustee Improvement Project	UK	12.10	12.10	19.2.98/31.3.2001	12.19	3.45	2.55		4.80	2.19	2.19	1.55	3.72	6.00	4.80
12.	Bolpur Raghunathpur Water Supply Project	KFW	149.76	106.00	24.7.96/30.12.2002	9.30	30.00	30.00	20.00	20.00	7.15	7.11	7.04	1.05	40.00	30.00
				(100% Grant)												
13.	Technical Education Project	IDA	(O) 86.16 (R) 131.43	95.84 111.47	16.12.91/30.6.99	13.98	28.20	28.20	25.40	25.40	25.64	22.21	15.74	11.64	41.16	5.80
14.	State Health System's Development Project	IDA	701.46	602.86	26.6.96/31.3.2002	7.92	100.00	50.00	88.80	47.00	31.78	28.28	12.35	14.48	150.00	142.40
15.	Coastal Areas Development						1.00		1.00							
16.	Infrastructural Development of Ten Towns							0.07							5.00	5.00
17.	Calcutta Environmental Improvement														57.00	40.00
18.	Rural Development														32.00	24.15
19.	State Road														16.00	16.00
20.	Calcutta Haldia Expressway														4.00	4.00
21.	Improvement of Primary Health Care														5.00	5.00
<b>Grand Total</b>						<b>478.89</b>	<b>1675.75</b>	<b>1390.47</b>	<b>1423.20</b>	<b>1175.80</b>	<b>1220.29</b>	<b>1029.53</b>	<b>866.22</b>	<b>476.62</b>	<b>2329.96</b>	<b>1893.90</b>

(xix)

A good number of schemes have been taken up by various departments under RIDF financed by NABARD. As such the outlay of the departments which have undertaken the RIDF schemes have increased considerably. Activity-wise, Agency-wise and Year-wise sanction and disbursement of RIDF schemes is given below in Table (B) (C) and (D).

**Table B**  
**Activity-wise Sanction and Disbursement Under RIDF in West Bengal.**

(Rs in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Activity	RIDF I			RIDF II			RIDF III			TOTAL		
		Sanction		Disb	Sanction		Disb	Sanction		Disb	Sanction		Disb
		No	Amount		No	Amount		No	Amount		No	Amount	
1.	Rural Roads	—	—	—	65	7341.30	2008.79	96	14823.76	1482.47	161	22165.06	3491.26
2.	Rural Bridges	—	—	—	31	2842.00	698.65	7	487.29	48.73	38	3329.29	747.38
3.	M I (Ground Water)	1	5259.00	5054.00	2895	4267.94	360.73	—	—	—	2896	9526.94	5414.73
4.	M I (Surface Irrigation)	10	1536.00	774.82	468	2499.77	249.94	22	968.58	96.87	500	5004.35	1121.63
5.	Medium Irrigation	5	1297.00	1019.82	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1297.00	1019.82
6.	Major Irrigation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Watershed Management	6	1358.80	1021.43	—	—	—	12	764.26	76.44	18	2123.06	1097.87
8.	Flood Control	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	740.58	74.06	14	740.58	74.06
<b>Total</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>9450.80</b>	<b>7870.07</b>	<b>3459</b>	<b>16951.01</b>	<b>3318.11</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>17784.47</b>	<b>1778.57</b>	<b>3632</b>	<b>44186.28</b>	<b>12966.75</b>

**Table C**  
**Agency-wise Sanction and Disbursement under RIDF in West Bengal (As on 30 March 1999)**

(Rs in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Agency	RIDF I		RIDF II		RIDF III		RIDF IV		TOTAL	
		Sanction	Disburs	Sanction	Disburs	Sanction	Disburs	Sanction	Disburs	Sanction	Disburs
1.	WIDD	5259.00	5054.00	5307.86	1632.00	—	—	—	—	10566.86	6686
2.	I & WD	4191.80	2816.07	—	—	2473.42	840.08	1382.68	138.26	8047.90	3794.41
3.	PWD	—	—	4057.30	1934.53	5721.89	1967.77	8820.69	882.07	18599.88	4784.37
4.	PW (R) D	—	—	4830.00	2625.30	6815.02	—	10121.26	1012.12	21766.28	3637.42
5.	WBFC	—	—	—	—	—	—	250.00	145.00	250.00	145
6.	Total Z. P.	—	—	2755.85	209.54	2774.14	—	856.90	85.69	6386.89	295.23
(ixx)	(i) SMKP—R & B	—	—	—	—	56.48	—	—	—	56.48	—
	(ii) Bardhamann —M.I.	—	—	661.00	66.10	883.81	—	—	—	1544.81	66.1
	—R & B	—	—	733.00	73.30	—	—	—	—	733.00	73.3
	(iii) Midnapur —M.I.	—	—	—	660.45	—	688.87	—	—	1349.32	—
	—R & B	—	—	563.00	56.30	—	—	—	—	563.00	56.3
	(iv) U. Dinajpur	—	—	—	—	337.50	—	—	—	337.50	—
	(v) D. Dinajpur —M.I.	—	—	138.40	13.84	717.48	—	—	—	855.88	13.84
	—R & B	—	—	—	—	—	—	856.90	85.69	856.90	85.69
	(vi) Birbhum	—	—	—	—	90.00	—	—	—	90.00	—
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9450.80</b>	<b>7870.07</b>	<b>16951.01</b>	<b>6401.37</b>	<b>17784.47</b>	<b>2807.85</b>	<b>21431.53</b>	<b>2263.14</b>	<b>65617.81</b>	<b>19342.43</b>

**Table D**  
**Year-wise Disbursement under RIDF**

Sl. No.	Year	RIDF Disbursement in Lakh			
		RIDFI	RIDF II	RIDF III	RIDF IV
	1995-96	1452.00	—	—	—
	1996-97	5748.10	1579.00	—	—
	1997-98	669.97	1739.11	1161.00	—
	1998-99	—	3083.26	1646.85	2263.14
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7870.07</b>	<b>6401.37</b>	<b>2807.85</b>	<b>2263.14</b>

As a result of all these the sectoral outlay has been tentatively changed in the following manner. This will be further reviewed and firmed up at the time of mid-term review.

	Originally approved by Planning Commission	Revised 9th Plan outlay (1997-2002)
I. Agriculture & Allied Activities	71213.24	61206.00 (excluding Forestry & Wild Life)
II. Rural Development	110775.73	101420.00
III. Special Area Programmes	21682.19	47100.00
IV. Irrigation & Flood Control	140357.06	149900.00
V. Energy	563688.24	564184.00
VI. Industries & Minerals	132629.55	124975.00
VII. Transport	106431.56	123314.00
VIII. Science, Technology & Environment	5895.57	6208.00
IX. General Economic Services	20569.51	39961.00
X. Social Services	479826.77	415849.00
XI. General Services	36930.58	37983.00
XII. Forestry & Wild Life	*	17900.00
<b>Grand Total :</b>	<b>1690000.00</b>	<b>1690000.00</b>

\* Included in Agriculture & Allied Activities.

The position of the principal poverty alleviation programmes during 1997-98 and 1998-99 is given in the following statements.

**Table E***(Rupees in lakh)*

Name of the scheme	Year	Ratio of share of the Centre and the State	Release by G.O.I.	Release by State Govt.	Total release of fund
IRDP	1997-98	50 : 50	1936.28	2141.32	4077.60
	1998-99	50 : 50	2251.35	2460.34	4711.69
JRY	1997-98	80 : 20	9005.97	2251.51	11257.48
	1998-99	80 : 20	10295.59	2573.91	12869.50
EAS	1997-98	80 : 20	8150.00	2037.50	10187.50
	1998-99	80 : 20	8270.00	2067.50	10337.50
IAY	1997-98	80 : 20	5346.96	1333.40	6680.36
	1998-99	80 : 20	6460.89	1589.03	8049.92

The utilisation of fund available under various programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and National Social Assistance programme (NSAP) has not been very satisfactory in the year 1997-98 and 1998-99.

The performance of the State in terms of utilisation of central resources for the above mentioned programmes has not been encouraging in the year 1997-98 and 1998-99 for various reasons including the Panchayet Elections. The State Government would like to emphasise that while all attempts would be made to ensure better utilisation of central resources available for these programmes, the quality of expenditure and its effectiveness are also very important issues for the State Government and the State Government would always give topmost priority to quality aspects.

The strategies suggested by the Planning Commission for ensuring poverty alleviation and rural development are by and large in line with the views of the State Government and we would like to utilise the centrally sponsored Poverty Alleviation Programmes to address the issues within the limitations of the guidelines. While the restructured Poverty Alleviation Programmes are more flexible than the previous ones, there are still certain stringent and uniform conditionalities in the guidelines which may hinder smooth implementation of these programmes in our State.

Rural Development Department has already taken up these programmes with the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

### **Basic Minimum Services Programme**

The Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) was launched in the Fifth Five Year Plan to ensure a basic minimum standard of life for all sections of people in the country. The objective of the programme was to establish a network of facilities to attain acceptable level of social consumption in respect of certain selected items. There were twelve components covered under the MNP by the end of the seventh Plan, with special focus on rural areas. While in some areas of MNP significant achievements were made, in the case of other components the extent of achievement was far below

acceptable levels. Resource constraint faced by individual States meant less than optimal allocation for social sectors. Further the differences in achievements between States were also high. Therefore, a bold initiative was taken in July 1996, with the introduction of the Basic Minimum Services (BMS) charter, focussing on seven components with the objective of achieving universal access of all to these Services in a time-bound manner. The MNP was thereafter replaced by the BMS, for those seven components.

### **Objectives**

The broad objective of the programme is to ensure that all people have access to minimum infrastructural facilities for the provision of selected social services with a view to improving the quality of life of all sections of society. While contributing directly to social justice this would also improve the capacity to work and the employability of both men and women who have thus far not been able to participate productively in the development process.

The seven Basic Services identified for priority attention are :

1. 100 per cent coverage of provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas.
2. 100 per cent coverage of primary health service facilities in rural and urban areas.
3. Universalisation of primary education.
4. Provision of Public Housing Assistance to all shelterless poor families.
5. Supplementary Nutrition via Extension of Mid-Day Meal Programme in primary schools to all rural blocks and urban slums and disadvantaged sections and supplementary nutrition programme implemented as part of ICDS.
6. Provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations.
7. Streamlining of the Public Distribution System with a focus on the poor.

Within these an all out effort should be made to achieve the first three objectives at the beginning and thereafter focus could shift to any of the remaining four components. While flexibility was accorded to choose any of the seven components for implementation during the first two years of the BMS programme in 1996-97 and 1997-98, from 1998-99 onwards the first three components of BMS must receive the highest priority. In pursuance of the objectives laid down in the National Agenda for Governance, detailed Action Plans have been formulated at the National level for priority action to achieve the first four objectives in a time bound manner.

The BMS Programme focusses on taking up appropriate schemes which would reduce the existing infrastructural gaps as well as improve delivery of services in each of the seven identified areas. To illustrate, in the health sector, it is necessary to establish the sub-centres, primary health centres and community health centres in rural areas. But this in itself would not be enough. It would be necessary to have the minimum required staff, the doctors, the ANMs and the multi-purpose workers as also the minimum equipment and medicines, necessary to deliver health care services. Hence, a holistic approach is required in order to ensure the delivery of services to the people.

In each of the identified seven sectors, to begin with, States would have to identify the existing infrastructural gaps so that it would be possible to monitor the reduction in these gaps overtime, through the implementation of a time bound action plan for the BMS.

The provision of funds for items covered under the BMS are primarily a part of the plan of a State/UT. These funds are earmarked and no diversion is possible. However, in some critical areas



Centrally Sponsored Schemes were introduced in order to provide additional resources to supplement the resources of the States e.g. the Scheme of Operation Black Board in the education sector, and the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme for drinking water in rural areas. In 1996-97, the Government of India introduced a budget head for providing additional funds for BMS to the States and UTs in the form of Additional Central Assistance (ACA). Therefore, the financing of the BMS is from the State Plans, the selected Centrally Sponsored Schemes as also the ACA.

West Bengal has given maximum emphasis on the implementation of BMS Schemes as will be reflected from the sectoral allocations and programmes. The financial performance of BMS is given below. Physical performances are reflected in the respective sectoral programmes.

**Table F**  
**Sectorwise Actual Expenditure and Outlay in Respect of B.M.S. Programmes**

Sl. No.	Name of the Sector	1996-97 (Rs. in lakhs)	1997-98 (Rs. in lakhs)	1998-99 (Rs. in lakhs)	1999-2000 (Outlay)
1.	Universalisation of Primary Education (both Urban & Rural)	3421.10	5195.75	4263.97	8038.00
2.	Primary Health Care (both Urban & Rural)	2392.18	1030.62	3616.00	3246.00
3.	Drinking Water (both Urban & Rural)	5870.82	12441.73	10721.00	11486.00
4.	Shelter for Shelterless	2919.59	1333.00	1589.03	2831.32
5.	Connectivity of Roads	8793.77	14205.59	9950.00	8130.00
6.	Nutrition/Mid-day Meals	1779.85	1186.54	3613.00	3200.00
<b>Total :</b>		<b>25177.31</b>	<b>35393.23</b>	<b>33753.00</b>	<b>36931.00</b>

### District Plan

In pursuance of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendments the State Govt. has formalized the process of preparation of plans towards achievement of economic development and social justice in such a manner that these Local Self-Govt. Bodies, in each of their respective tiers, can prepare plan for themselves and thereafter, within a district, the District Planning Committee can integrate and consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the district, prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole and send the same to the State Government.

Keeping in view the subjects mentioned in the Eleventh Schedule and the Twelfth Schedule, recommendation of the State Finance Commission and the illustrative list of "District Sector Schemes" already prepared, the different Administrative Department will—

(a) Prepare a comprehensive list of plan and non-plan schemes that they either implement themselves or have them implemented through their respective Directorates.

(b) Select those schemes the implementation of which are to be passed on to the Panchayats and the Municipalities and,

(c) Issue appropriate Govt. orders to that effect passing on the requisite amount of fund to the Panchayats and the Municipalities as also appropriately instructing the officials of their respective

departments for making the services of officers and staff available at district level and downwards to the Panchayats and/or Municipalities for utilisation in the execution of the schemes of the respective departments now being transferred to local bodies.

Consequent upon the transfer of subjects under the Eleventh and the Twelfth Schedule of the Constitution, the State Sector Schemes will remain with the concerned departments for execution as before. The District Sector Schemes, appropriately identified, will be transferred for execution to the local bodies, the Panchayats for rural areas and the Municipalities/Corporations for urban areas. In the overall State Plan, such schemes would be shown as District Plan/Lump District Plan Component of the State Plan. The responsibility of execution of continuing external aided projects will similarly rest with the existing executing agencies. Necessary consultation with the District Planning Committee will be required for new externally aided projects.

## CHAPTER I

### Agriculture and Allied Activities

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## I. AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED ACTIVITIES

### 1.1 CROP HUSBANDRY (Including Other Programmes)

#### 1.1.1 Programme of the Agriculture Department

West Bengal is a small State having geographical area of 88.75 lakh ha. with a population of a little over 68 million. With 2.7% of geographical area, it supports about 8% of population of the country. The density of population is 767 persons per sq. km. which is higher amongst all states of India. Scheduled Caste (S.C.) and Scheduled Tribe (S.T.) categories constitute 23.62% and 5.59% respectively of the total population. It is a state having the highest concentration of small and marginal farmers (17.62% and 73.82% respectively) and 91.44% of the farmers operate 66.46% of net cultivable area. per capita availability of net sown area is less than 0.1 ha. and the average size of operational holding is only 0.86 ha. and that too highly fragmented and scattered.

Net cropped area of the state is 54.63 lakh ha. which is 61.56% of geographical area of the state. The cropping intensity is very high being 167% during 1997-98.

On the basis of topography, soil, climate, cropping pattern, the state has been divided into six Agro-climatic Zones for effective utilization of resources including specific technology for higher production.

The annual rainfall is highest in the Hill zone being 2500 mm. to 3500 mm. and lowest in the Lateritic Zone being 1100 mm. to 1400 mm. About 80% of the total rainfall is received during the monsoon months. The intensity of rainfall is maximum during July-August. Vast area of the Hill, Terai and Lateritic Zones suffer from substantial soil loss due to undulating topography causing adverse effect of crop production on various ways. There are also large areas in the coastal saline zone suffering from acute drainage congestion, soil salinity, tidal influence of sea and weather hazards like flood, cyclone, tornado etc., while lateritic zone very often suffer from irregular, scanty rainfall and drought resulting in damage of crops. The productivity is highest in the New Alluvial zone having highest cropping intensity of about 200%. It is low in the Hill, Terai and coastal saline zones.

#### Agricultural Production

The present green fields of West Bengal bear the testimony to the great changes that have taken place in Agriculture. This has been the result of progressive and systematic planning and implementation of various development programmes launched by the State, the dedication of our people engaged in Agriculture and the application of advanced crop production technology in the field.

The State of West Bengal was chronically a deficit State in its basic need of foodgrains production. In spite of introduction of H.Y.V. of rice and wheat in the mid sixties, and the expansion of irrigation sources, the level of production could not be increased to the desired extent till the sixth plan. The average increase of foodgrains production per year was around 1 lakh tonne till 1984-85, the terminal year of sixth plan from 1947-48. The production of foodgrains was increased by 52.55 lakh tonnes from sixth plan to eight plan in a span of twelve years.

Out of the gross cropped area of 90.32 ha. (1996-97), foodgrains occupy 71% in area. Rice the main staple food of the state, accounts for about 90% of the area under foodgrains

## *Agriculture and Allied Activities*

and contributes about 92% of total foodgrain production. Wheat is the second most important cereal crop of the state, occupy 5.4% in area and contributes 6% towards total foodgrain production. Other cereals like maize, barley, jower, bazra, ragi and millets are also cultivated to some extent. Various pulse crops together occupy 3.6% in area and contribute 1.7% to the total foodgrain production.

The production of foodgrains, both cereals and pulses together has reached a level of 130.82 lakh tonnes during the eighth plan (five years average from 1992-93 to 1996-97) from 40 lakh tonnes from the time of independence.

During the 1st year of Ninth Plan viz., 1997-98, there has been a record level of production of foodgrains being 143.54 lakh tonnes as against the target of 136.38 lakh tonnes, which has been possible mainly through augmentation of productivity. Out of total foodgrain production, the production of rice was 132.36 lakh tonnes which is also a record.

The Kharif season of 1998-99 experienced drought situation in the three Western districts viz., Bankura, Purulia, Midnapur West and devastating flood in eleven districts viz., Malda, Murshidabad, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar, Nadia, Midnapur East, North 24-Parganas, Hooghly and Burdwan. The State also experienced severe cyclonic storm in the latter part of kharif season causing damage to kharif crops in seven districts namely South 24-parganas, Hooghly, Midnapur East, Howrah, North 24-Parganas, Nadia and Burdwan.

In order to compensate the loss of Kharif production, a massive restoration programme was launched by the State Govt. immediately after the occurrence of the said eventualities by distributing quality seeds to the tune of 6982-07 M.T. in the form of seed minikits numbering 12,54,743 at the cost of 15.19 crores under Calamity Relief Fund and State Plan Schemes to strengthen Rabi production programme. Seed minikits of wheat, oilseed crops, hybrid vegetables, pulses, potato, boro paddy etc. were distributed amongst the affected small and marginal farmers.

In the event of such natural calamities, there might be some fall in the production of kharif crops which would compensate to a large extent through massive Rabi production programme undertaken during the year.

It is hopefully expected that the production of Summer rice would surpass all previous records during this year. As per provisional estimate the production of foodgrains would be around 145.96% lakh tonnes against the target of 144.21 lakh tonnes during the year 1998-99.

There has been a steady increase in the production of total foodgrains in the recent years which has been possible mainly through increase in rice production and to some extent by wheat. While pulses, one of the important constituents of total foodgrain production, could not be increased upto the desired level. Similarly, the production of oilseeds is not upto the mark. Steps have been undertaken to augment production of both pulses and oilseed crops by increasing area, and productivity.

The production target of important crops during the Ninth Plan period, achievements of Eighth Plan, (average of five year), first year of Ninth Plan (1997-98) and estimated production of 1998-99 has been presented in the following table.

## Area, Production and Productivity of Crops

A = Area in thousand hectares ; P = production in thousand tonnes ; Y = Yield rate in kg. per hectare

Crop	Item	8th Plan (Average of 5 Yrs.)	Ninth Plan						
			1997-98 Target	Anticipated Achievement	1998-99 Target	Anticipated Achievement	1999-2000 Target	2000-2001 Target	2001-2002 Target
Autumn Rice	A	512.629	530.00	423.121	535.00	—	545.0	555.0	560.0
	P	858.276	928.00	751.970	989.70	740.88	1035.5	1082.2	1120.0
	Y	1674	1751	1777	1850	—	1900	1950	2000
Winter Rice	A	4273.638	4270.00	4270.328	4275.00	—	4280.00	4280.0	4280.0
	P	8096.572	8368.20	8915.100	8763.70	8463.70	9416.0	9844.0	10277.0
	Y	1894	1959	2080	2250	—	2300	2300	2400
Summer Rice	A	1033.116	1050.00	1206.829	1075.00	—	1100.0	1150.0	1200.0
	P	3108.346	3281.20	3569.520	3440.00	4455.00	3630.0	3910.0	4200.00
	Y	3008	3125	2958	3200	—	3300	3400	3500
Total Rice	A	5819.384	5850.00	5900.278	5885.00	—	5925.0	5985.0	6042.0
	P	12063.114	12577.50	13236.590	13193.50	13655.78	14081.25	14836.2	15597.0
	Y	2073	2150	2243	2242	—	2377	2479	2581
Wheat	A	318.722	325.00	367.374	360.00	—	370.0	280.0	400.0
	P	705.634	725.10	810.480	828.00	795.37	888.0	950.0	1040.0
	Y	2214	2225	2206	2300	—	2400	2500	2600
Pulses	A	243.933	310.00	221.957	320.00	—	330.0	345.0	400.0
	P	164.053	208.00	152.673	224.20	150.00	244.2	267.4	320.0
	Y	672	672	688	700	—	740	775	800

Contd.

*Agriculture and Allied Activities*

Crop	Item	8th Plan (Average of 5 Yrs.)	Ninth Plan						
			1997-98 Target	Anticipated Achievement	1998-99 Target	Anticipated Achievement	1999-2000 Target	2000-2001 Target	2001-2002 Target
Total Foodgrains	A	—	6545.6	6558.002	6645.0	—	6710.0	6800.0	6942.0
	P	—	13638.0	14354.264	14421.5	14596.15	15404.95	16258.3	17187.0
	Y	—	2083	2189	2170	—	2296	2391	2474
Total Oilseeds	A	518.17	580.0	508.08	600.00	—	620.0	621.97	650.00
	P	407.96	527.8	386.57	555.00	390.00	582.8	575.99	630.50
	Y	787	910	761	925	—	940	926	970
Jute	A	522.48	535.0	641.57	540.00	—	535.0	524.58	525.00
	P	*6005.56	*6545.0	7549.7	6575.0	7373.6	6600.0	6548.19	6693.75
	Y	**11.49	*11.80	11.77	12.12	—	12.34	12.48	12.75
Sugarcane	A	15.65	20.0	25.79	22.0	—	24.0	24.92	28.00
	P	1040.41	1430.0	1825.7	1606.0	1860.00	1776.0	1848.47	2128.00
	Y	66467	71500	70772	73000	—	74999	74170	76000
Potato	A	250.84	250.0	281.64	250.0	—	255.0	269.97	275.00
	P	6047.97	5640.0	5916.13	5971.0	6632.51	6311.0	6796.04	7012.00
	Y	24110	24000	21006	24375	—	24750	25173	25500

\* Production in thousand bales.

\*\* Productivity in bales per ha.



## 1.2 SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

### 1.2.1 Programme of the Development & Planning Department

#### State Land use Board (SLUB)

SLUB was reconstituted in the year 1991. The Primary function of the Board will be to study different factors which affect adversely the land and soil resources of the State and suggest remedial measures therefor so as to ensure proper arrangement of such resources.

A number of meetings were held in the past and some decisions as to modus operendi were taken.

Attempts are being made to revitalise the SLUS. For this a regular Director should be appointed and the vacant post of the Chairman should be filled up.

Plan outlay and expenditure on account of SLUB are given below :

Year	Plan outlay	Expenditure
1997-1998	6,00,000.00	3,62,000.00
1998-1999	6,60,000.00	
1999-2000	7,00,000.00	

### 1.2.2 Programme of the Forest Department

#### (a) Protective Afforestation

Very high rainfall and weak rock formation, lead to frequent land slip, soil wash and gully formation in mountains. The situation is aggravate by deforestation and faulty agricultural practices. In laterite zone mainly sheet erosion take place due to absence of tree cover. Deep gulleys are formed which are aggravated by uncontrolled grazing and illicit hijacking and felling of trees. Rivers get silted by causing flash floods. In order to take care of the problems enumerated above, afforestation and soil conservation works are taken up in the vulnerable areas of North Bengal and South-West Bengal.

#### (b) Integrated Eco-afforestation Project in Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Bankura, Midnapore and 24-Parganas District

Government of India already issued administrative approval for execution of above work on watershed basis in the districts of Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Bankura, Midnapore and 24-Parganas (Sunderbans). Plantation, soil conservation, silvipasture, Farm Forestry and eco-development works are under progress.

## 1.3 ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

### 1.3.1 Programme of the Animal Resources Development

The rural areas of the State are now faced with a grim prospect of over population. Almost entire arable land has been brought under cultivation and optimum level of production reached. Scope for manpower engagement in agriculture may not be of much significance. In this background, the Animal Resources Development Department can play an important role in the generation of rural employment as well as creation of resources which percolates upto the lowest strata of the society.

The Annual Plan 1999-2000 being the third year of the Ninth Five Year Plan has been formulated to pursue the following social and technical objectives :

- (a) employment generation ;
- (b) induction of modern technology in livestock farming practices ;
- (c) increased production of proteinous food, processing and marketing of selected items ;
- (d) development of veterinary education and research ;
- (e) effective co-ordination with Panchayats and other departments for better implementation of programmes in Animal Husbandry and Dairying Sectors for overall growth of rural economy.

### **Cattle and Buffalo Development**

Breed upgradation of the low yielding non-descript variety of local cattle through cross-breeding by artificial insemination is one of the most important activities of the Department. At present, thrust is on Frozen Semen Technology in Artificial Programme. With an eye to bring entire breedable cow population under Frozen Semen A.I. coverage, grassroot level units of A.I. operation is expected to be opened in each and every Gram panchayat by the end of 2000 A.D. Artificial Insemination through frozen requires an elaborate arrangement for production, storage and supply of liquid nitrogen (LN<sub>2</sub>) and Frozen Semen Straw (F.S. Straw). For this purpose 12 LN<sub>2</sub> Plants, 2 Frozen Semen Stations and 18 Frozen Semen Banks have been established. Capacity of F.S. Stations are going to be increased to reach a production target of 12 lakh doses of F.S. straw annually. During 1997-98, 6.26 lakh A.I. were done and about 1.87 lakh cross-breed calves were born of which about 1.02 lakh were cross-bred female calves.

### **Poultry Development**

The State Government has 21 State Poultry Farms and their activities are concentrated maintaining layer parent stock and selling hatching eggs and day old chicks. Stress is now being given to actively encourage the broiler sector. Poultry has immense scope to supply nutritious food for everyone and also may be a main source of income of poor farmers. There are two schemes for the below poverty line peasants, namely, (a) distribution of exotic/improved/drakes and (b) family based programme with subsidy. These schemes are executed under S.C.P. and T.S.P. programmes also.

### **Animal Health**

Through a network of 110 State Veterinary Hospitals, 612 Animal Block/Addl. Block Animal Centres, 3243 Veterinary First Aid Centres, 82 M.A.H.C., 34 Veterinary Pathological Laboratories, 11 C & L Laboratories, 21 P. C. Units 2 Mobile Veterinary Dispensaries, 3 Mobile Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories supported by 5 Regional Laboratories and 1 Central laboratory with vaccine production unit, the A.R.D. Department is providing Animal Health Care upto the level of Gram Panchayat.

This State is self-sufficient in vaccine production and also supplies such vaccines to neighbouring States. The State has attained the status of Rinderpest Free State.

### **Fodder and Feed Development**

With the increase in number of cross-bred cattle and with awareness created through training, demonstration etc. need for growing fodder and feed is being felt. Supply of seeds/cuttings/minikits are made to the farmers. Training is imparted to popularise fodder development activities in the rural areas.

During 1998-99 to encourage fodder cultivation 104 M/T fodder seed/cuttings, 19000 fodder minikits were distributed, 1299 demonstration plots organised and Kishan Vans/Gram Vans were created. About 1.30 lakh hectares of land has been brought under fodder cultivation. Two Fodder Research & Training Centres have been set up at Salboni in Midnapur and Jatikhali in Jalpaiguri for

training of farmers. This Department is trying to improve the quality of feeds produced in 8 feed plants under DAIRPOUL and 6 feed mixing units under Directorate.

### **Sheep, Goat, Rabbit & Wool Development Programme**

Sheep and Goat Rearing is a common economic activity among the Tribals, S. C. and other economically backward communities. For production of good quality sheep and goat, the existing State Sheep and Goat farms are being modernised, strengthened and expanded.

Rabbit rearing is also being encouraged. This will increase meat supply and create a source of additional income to the poor farmers. There is a proposal to maintain pure-bred stock of Russian Chinelulla and great giant breed of Rabbit at District Composite farms for popularising them.

### **Piggery Development Programme**

Schemes for upgrading the local stock by creassing them with Yorkshire variety has been undertaken. The regional Piggery Station at Haringhata and five other small piggery farms are in operation within the State.

## **1.4 DAIRY DEVELOPMENT**

### **1.4.1 Programme of the Animal Resource Development Department**

Dairy Development Sector has two fold objectives, namely, mopping up of surplus milk from rural areas and supply of pasteurised milk in urban and semi-urban areas.

There are 15 organised Dairy Plants in the State (2 run by Co-operative Milk Unions, 5 run by the Department, one by the Dairpoul—a State Govt. undertaking, one managed by the Milk Federation, one under Joint Sector Company and the rest 5 are in the Private Sector) with total processing capacity of more than 17.00 lakh ltrs. per day of which 16.00 lakh ltrs. per day from dairies other than private sector. Efforts are on to procure more milk from the rural areas and market the same in urban areas through own outlets and agents. There is demand for pasteurised milk in district towns. One smaller Dairy Plant with 10,000 ltrs. per day capacity is under constructions in Coochbehar. Special thrust is given on procuring milk from rural areas and to create suitable infrastructure for collection, storage chilling and transport of milk from remote areas. Efforts are also being made to market more milk in uncovered areas through agents and own outlets called "Suravi" in addition to existing milk depots. For collection of milk from rural areas, there are about 34 chilling plants under Government and Co-operative sectors. Four more chilling plants under Co-operative sector is under construction. This infrastructure of procurement of milk from the producers and marketing of milk and milk products after processing in the State Dairies are benefitting millions of people, directly or indirectly.

For smooth supply of milk 5 numbers of Road Milk Tankers and 9 numbers of Milk Vans were placed into operation during 1997-98.

### **Hill Areas' Grant to DGHC**

Certain amount of fund from the plan outlay of AH Sector is ear-marked every year for implementation of AH programmes in the hill areas of Darjeeling. So, Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council budget provision for this purpose during 1999-2000 is Rs. 20.00 lakh.

### **Other Activities**

In order to make Animal Husbandry activities to be accepted by the rural people as an alternative means of gainful employment, elaborate training programme has been arranged by the Department in almost all the districts. Farmers are trained in different aspects of livestock in State farms and other units.

The administrative set-up of the Department has been streamlined from the State Headquarters

level upto Gram Panchayat level to make available the basic services of this Department to the door steps of the farmers at gram panchayat level.

## **1.5 FISHERIES**

### **1.5.1 Programme of the Fisheries Department**

In the context of prevailing agro-based economy of the country the importance of fisheries resources hardly need to be over emphasised. The contribution so far made by the fisheries sector towards creation of employment opportunities, supply of protein food, conservation of eco-system and earning of foreign exchange is quite significant. Also it bears a promise for further exploitation of its enormous resources. Starting from marine fisheries in the Bay of Bengal, West Bengal is endowed with a wide range of fishery resources right upto the Himalayan foothills.

During the last few years, West Bengal has made considerable progress in the field of fish seed production and fish culture. With the sustained efforts of the State Government and active participation of fish farmers/fishermen at the grass root level, it has been possible to increase the fish production in the State from 3.55 lakh tonne during 1983-84 to 9.95 lakh tonne in 1998-99. It is expected that by way of implementation of schemes for increasing production of fish per unit water area in fresh water sector, development of new sites and adoption of modern technology in shrimp culture in brackishwater area and mechanisation of a large number of crafts to harvest more fish round the year from the coastal areas, the State's endeavour to bridge the gap between the demand and the supply of fish in the State will be filled by the end of the Ninth Plan period. The advancement of the State in the fisheries sector can be gauged by its receiving the National Productivity Awards for the last nine consecutive years. Simultaneously, with the programme for increasing fish production, the State Government has undertaken a number of welfare measures for the fishing community who are the prime contributors to production.

Fisheries Department, has achieved noteworthy success in multi-disciplinary sectors of aquaculture during the plan period. With much emphasis on technology transfer among fishermen/fish farmers aquaculture is accepted as a profiteering vocation at present. Necessary infrastructural development for socio-economic growth of fishermen community has been provided to gain success in aquaculture creating additional mandays.

### **The Major Scheme of the Department are—**

#### **Fish Seed Production**

This state meets up more than 75% of requirement of fish seed in India and thus acquires the top most position in respect of fish seed production in the country. In 1997-98, this Department achieved success in fulfilling the target in producing 8500 million of fish seed. In 1998-99 the target of 8610 million has been almost achieved. The target of fish seed production is fixed at 8725 million for 1999-2000.

#### **Fish Production**

During 1997-98, fish production was 9.5002 lakh M.T. (Inland 7.8602 and marine 1.64 lakh M.T.) 1998-99 target of 9.95 lakh M.T. (Inland 8.13 lakh M.T. marine 1.82lakh M.T.) has been achieved and the target for 1999-2000 has been fixed at 10.45 lakh M.T. with break-up Inland 8.57 lakh M.T. & marine 1.88 lakh M.T.

#### **Fish Farmers' Development Agencies**

These agencies are steadily developing water bodies with a view to socio-economic uplift of fishermen/fish farmers in all districts of this State. Technology transfer enriched fish production. Additional mandays have also been created under this programme.

During 1998-99, these agencies covered 2100 ha. and developed 150 units of Jhora fishery in Hill areas. This project will continue during 1999-2000.

### **Social Fishery Scheme**

This scheme envisages to utilise public and institutional water bodies for Socio-economic growth. The department is set to achieve the target of 568 ha. for the year 1998-99 and this scheme will also continue in 1999-2000.

### **Sewage-fed Fisheries**

This is an unique system of recycling urban waste into productive use. Sewage-fed fisheries in the eastern fringe of Calcutta is an eye-opener to the World as to how the urban waste water can be purified through pisciculture. Sewage-fed fisheries not only maintains the eco-system but also conforms to be the principal source of fish supply in living condition to Calcutta. There is no record of any health hazard due to consumption of sewage fed fish and hence, in Ganga Action Plan, the Sewage-fed fisheries has been included. The Fisheries Department of West Bengal has set up two Sewage-fed fisheries under this project in two municipal towns, Nabadwip and Serampore.

### **Development of Beel Fisheries**

West Bengal has approx. 41 thousand ha. of water area under Beel Fisheries (ox-bow lake) which are the most potential sources of livelihood of the fishermen community who undertake Pisciculture with the formation of primary fishermen's co-operative societies. Previously these beels were connected with rivers. Natural fish seed of commercially important species like crops used to fatten in these productive beels. Since most of the beels lost their connections with the mother river systems, these beels have been brought under carp culture mainly to augment fish production. With the endeavour of the fishermen, the production of fish in ox-bow lakes is the highest in the country. So far, 2335 ha. of water area under beel fisheries was reclaimed through R.L.E.G.P. and 2754 ha. of water are being developed with the assistance of the N.C.D.C.

### **Brackishwater Fish Culture**

West Bengal has the largest impounded Brackish Water area in the country. West Bengal alone produces about 50% of the total Prawn production from this culture in the country. Considering enormous prospect of development of brackish water fish farming, three B.F.D.As. have been set up in the coastal districts of Midnapore, South 24-Parganas and North 24-Parganas. The farmers have adopted extensive, improved extensive and scientific semi-intensive methods so that no environmental hazards crop up. Already some guidelines have been framed in this regard.

Macro-bracium culture has become a new source to the fish farmers throughout the State. Instead of depending too much on natural prawn seed collection, 14 Macro-bracium hatcheries have been set up in the State and 4 (four) *P. monodon* hatcheries are being set up in coastal areas of this State.

A new Island has been taken over for aquaculture. The Island named "Meendwip" is located near Haldia. While one part will be utilised by co-operative societies with the assistance of N.C.D.C., the rest is for individual entrepreneurs. Infra-structural facilities are being provided in this Island. It is expected that after completion of the project, it will be the biggest shrimp farm area in the country.

#### **Achievement (Cumulative Total) Under B. F. D. A.**

Year	No. of Seed collectors trained	No. of Farmers trained	Water area covered (Ha.)	No. of beneficiaries
1995-96	5090	5706	1710.664	2040
1996-97	—	6,217	2,027.250	2405
1997-98	—	7,011	2,354.754	2954
Apart from B.F.D.A. more than 40,000 ha. water area are covered under Brackish water fisheries.				
1998-99 (P)	—	8151	2950.550	2779

### **World Bank Aided Shrimp Culture Project**

About 470 hectares of brackish water area at four sites, namely Canning and Dighipar in South 24-Parganas and Digha and Dadanpatrabar in Midnapore district will be developed under the World Bank aided shrimp Culture Project which aims at a production level of 2 metric tonnes of shrimp per hectare per crop with semi-intensive practices. The work relating to construction of ponds, support service facilities such as hatcheries, ice plants, feed mills, individual quick freezing (IQF) is in progress. This project on completion will augment shrimp production, provide employment to rural people and earn foreign exchange through export of quality shrimp.

### **Fishermen's Co-operative Societies for Exploitation of Marine Fishery**

Marine Fishermen's Co-operative Societies have been formed to augment marine production. mechanised boats are provided to those societies through N.C.D.C. assistance. Midnapore, North & South 24-Parganas, Howrah and Hooghly districts are included in this programme. Up to 1997-1998 mechanised boats to the tune of 3143 and 350 have been introduced under NABARD Refinance and N.C.D.C. scheme respectively. Fishermen Community got benefit from this scheme. Loan repayment trend is satisfactory. This scheme will also continue in 1999-2000.

### **Infrastructure Development & Welfare Measure for Fishermen Community**

Need based infrastructure have been developed to augment fish production which ultimately uplift socio-economic status of fishermen community. Fish landing ghats, minor fishing harbour etc. have been set up. Construction of fishing harbour at Sankarpur (stage-II) to accommodate berthing of 250 nos. of mechanised fishing boats is almost complete. Besides, model fishermen's villages have been set up including creation of infrastructural facilities like sinking of tubewells, construction of net/boat making yard, community halls, development of village roads etc. One model fishery village will be set up in each district. As welfare measure old age pension is provided to deserving fishermen. This scheme started from 1990-91 when pension amount was paid @ Rs. 100/- per month/fishermen. From 1997-98 the pension amount is increased to the tune of Rs. 300/- per month/fishermen. In this year, 1500 fishermen were covered under this programme. This scheme will continue during 1999-2000. It is proposed to cover fishermen community under Group Insurance scheme. This scheme is operated since 1984-85. Benefit of Rs. 35,000/- in case of death and Rs. 17,500/- in case of permanent disablement is available against premium cost of Rs. 12/- only. Under this scheme 1,52,380 fishermen are covered and this will continue in 1999-2000. Besides, Diesel subsidy and Savings-cum-Relief scheme etc. are in operation and walky-talky is distributed to marine fishermen for aware ness of cyclone warning. Sattelite service facility is given to fishermen community to locate fishing zone. In addition, sincere effort is given in fields of research, training and extension programme in establishing district laboratory, mobile laboratory vans and setting up demonstration centres.

### **Introduction fo Fishing Crafts Under nabard Fefinance, Institutional Finance and N.C.D.C. Scheme**

#### **Nabard Refinance Scheme (Cumulative Total)**

Year	Number of boats introduced		Number of beneficiaries
	Mechanised	non-mechanised	
1990-91	1488	3012	16540
1991-92	1737	3446	20651
1992-93	1845	3769	23121
1993-94	2069	4361	27883
1994-95	2554	4507	35093
1995-96	2584	4850	39765

**N.C.D.C. Scheme (Cumulative Total)**

Year	No of boats introduced Mechanised	Number of beneficiaries
1996-97	300	3000
1997-98	350	3500
1998-99	390	3900

Word for 60 in progress

**Fishing Gear Used in Marine Fishing**

Type of Gear	Number Used
Gill Net	2467
Bag Net	6200
Shore Seine	436
Hook & Line	869
Others	2839

**1.6 PLANTATION****1.6.1 Programme of the Commerce and Industries Department****(a) West Bengal Tea Development Corporation Ltd.**

The West Bengal Tea Development Corporation Ltd., was set up with the objectives to promote, develop and rejuvenate the Tea Industry in West Bengal.

The main thrust of the activities the Corporation is to bring about overall development of the existing five gardens of the Corporation. Efforts are being made by the Corporation to enhance the productivity of the gardens through various developments programmes which include modernisation of its existing factories in phases. In respect of Darjeeling gardens WBIDC Ltd., the marked realisation was very favourable and encouraging as there was increasing trend in the average price per kg. of tea.

The Corporation has, by this time taken various development programmes for augmentation production of tea. Recently the management of the corporation has been changed to induct more expertise in it.

An outlay of Rs. 255.00 lakhs has been proposed in the Annual Plan 1999-2000.

**(b) Schemes of Cinchona and other Medicinal Plants**

The Directorate of Cinchona and other Medicinal Plants, has 26,000 acres of land in Darjeeling district of which 10,000 acres are under cultivation of crops like Cinchona, ipece diascoria as main Crops and Cardamom, rubber as subsidiary crops. The cultivation of better varieties of diascorea continued during the year. About 40 acres of land have been brought under rubber cultivation. The construction of model Labour houses for workers is one of the programmes of this Directorate. About 80 such houses were constructed and allotted during 1996-97 to the workers of plantation and factories. The supply of piped Drinking Water to the workers has been augmented. To continue its various research programmes for increase of principal medicinal and aromatic plants and also to continue various development programme of the Corporation, a provision of has been suggested during 1999-2000.

## **1.7 AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION**

### **1.7.1 Programme of the Forest Department**

#### **Research and Seed Propagation**

The research will mainly focus in seed and tree improvement, establishment on seed stands and seed orchards, vegetative propagation trials, progeny trials, seed-testing, grading and certification, species introduction, improvement of nursery practices, agro-forestry, silvi-pasture and ecological studies.

## **1.8 CO-OPERATION**

### **1.8.1 Programme of the Co-operation Department**

#### **Introduction**

The year 1999-2000 marks the 3rd year of the 9th 5-Year Plan. In most of the cases the major ongoing schemes which were in operation during the last plan period whether in the short-term or long-term or consumers or marketing sectors, have been retained only with a more vigorous thrust and greater emphasis.

The total financial outlay for the Annual Plan for 1999-2000 has been fixed at Rs. 1700.00 lakhs out of which an amount of Rs. 1348.60 lakhs is to be spent for implementation of the plan at the district level, while a substantial portion of the total amount has been kept for the apex level cooperative organisations, which is also meant to be utilised towards implementation of schemes and programme at the district level.

The objectives of the Annual Plan for 1999-2000 in the Co-operative Sector are indicated hereunder :

- (i) To make adequate credit and other inputs available to the farmers and also to enable them to get their produce marketed at remunerative price through strengthening of the grass root level co-operative organisations like PACS, FSCS, LAMPS and marketing societies.
- (ii) To effect greater participation of poor farmers as members of Cooperatives through operation of the Universal Membership Scheme.
- (iii) To bring the societies engaged in deposit mobilisation as a part of the Business Development Plan within the fold of the deposit Insurance Scheme to allay fear and apprehension in the mind of the depositors.
- (iv) To assist PACS to attain viability and self-reliance through implementation of the Business Development Plan.
- (v) To assist the Co-operative Societies at the base level to create additional storage for marketing of agricultural produces of the farmer-members.
- (vi) To arrange to supply fertiliser, insecticides and other agriculture inputs and requisites at the grass root level.
- (vii) To create infrastructure for processing and storing agricultural produces for ensuring remunerative price for the farmers.
- (viii) To strengthen the distribution system in the consumer sector for making the essential commodities available at reasonable prices in the urban and rural areas.



- (ix) To put greater emphasis on development of Human Resources in the Co-operative Sector through training and education.

In Short-term sector, during year 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 213.90 crores was invested by the Central Cooperative Banks against a target of Rs. 210.00 crores, while during the year 1998-99, such investment was targetted to the tune of Rs. 230.00 crores. The investment for the year 1999-2000 is likely to reach a target of Rs. 260.00 crores.

The Long term credit is advanced under the aegis of the West Bengal State Coop. Agriculture and Rural Dev. Bank Ltd. through its 2 branches and 24 Primary Agriculture and Rural Dev. Banks. The floatation of special and ordinary debentures under the monitoring of NABARD is the main sources of the fund of such banks.

During the Annual Plan for 1999-2000 major emphasis has been put on the following :

- (a) Strengthening of infrastructures for farm as well as non-farm projects and activities.
- (b) Special measures for rehabilitation of weaker banks through soft loan/Risk Fund etc ; and
- (c) Steps being taken for greater flow of fund to the weaker section of the rural people.

In the long term sector West Bengal State Cooperative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank Ltd. advanced an amount of Rs. 64.58 crores in the year 1997-98 against a target of Rs. 86.00 crores. During the year 1998-99, the target of such investment was to the tune of Rs. 98.00 crores, while Investment for the year 1999-2000 is likely to reach a target of Rs. 120.00 crores.

### **Marketing and Processing**

The Annual Plan for the Marketing and processing sector has been framed with a view to achieve the following objectives.

- (a) Effective linking of credit with marketing through providing loans to farmers against pledging of goods for preventing distress sale of harvest by prior farmers.
- (b) Brocurement of agriculture produce, mainly, Jute and potato to ensure remunerative price to the farmers ;
- (c) Timely distribution of agricultural inputs. viz. seeds, chemical fertilisers, pesticides etc. to farmers at their door step ;
- (d) To provide sufficient godowns for marketing and storing of agricultural produce both at the PACS and LAMPS level ;
- (e) To increase the capacity of the existing cold storage units and also to set up new cold storages to cope with the growing need and demand for such space ;
- (f) To modernise the cooling system of the existing cold storages through their conversion from the diffuser to the bunker system ;
- (g) To set up processing units for fruits and vegetables ;
- (h) To set up new Horticulture units or societies under the N.H.B. scheme ;
- (i) Revitalisation of the existing Corporation Rice Mills ; and
- (j) Extension of larger dose of financial assistance to the societies in the form of margin money, share capital etc. for undertaking diverse economic activities in a bigger way.

The Annual Plan for the year 1999-2000 has been prepared, keeping in view the necessity for bigger investment towards uplifting the financial conditions of the Consumers sector within the parameters of the outlay suggested. The major portion of the proposed outlay for the Annual Plan for 1999-2000 would be made available to the Consumers Societies in the urban areas for strengthening their share capital base for diversifying their business and also for rendering more extensive services to consumers through setting up of department store/large size retail outlet/small size retail outlet/self service system/shop-cum-godowns etc. The provisions has also been made for rehabilitation of weak/sick Wholesale Consumers Cooperative Societies and also the West Bengal State Cooperative Consumers Federation Ltd.

**Others**

In the Annual Plan for the year 1999-2000 there is a proposal for organising a large number of Unemployed Engineers' Cooperatives in order that the weaker sections of the societies might derive direct benefit from them through joint endeavour.

## CHAPTER II

### Rural Development

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## II. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

#### 2.1.1 Programme of the Panchayats and Rural Development Department.

##### Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).

During the 8th plan period ending 1996-97, 6.77 lakh families were benefited from IRDP. In 1997-98, 91733 families were covered under IRDP and in 1998-99, 71134 families could be covered under the programme. Since inception of IRDP 34.00 lakh families have been assisted under IRDP upto 1998-99. The Proposed Annual Plan Outlay for the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 3420.00 lakhs.

A programme allied to IRDP is the Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM). During 1997-98, TRYSEM 19,970 Youth were trained under the programme. In 1998-99, 19,630 Youths were covered under TRYSEM. Till December, 1998 2.26 lakh Rural Youths have been trained under TRYSEM. The Proposed Annual Plan Outlay for the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 523.20 lakhs.

Another IRDP allied scheme is the Supply of Improved Tool Kits to Rural Artisan (SITRA). In 1997-98, 14514 Rural Artisans were provided Tool Kits under SITRA and in 1998-99, 13174 artisans were covered under SITRA.

The scheme for Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas is another IRDP allied programme. In 1997-98, 1986 DWCRA groups were formed for the upliftment of women and children living below the poverty line in rural areas. In 1998-99, 1920 groups were formed under DWCRA. The proposed Annual Plan Outlay for the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 200.00 lakhs.

GKY another sub-scheme of IRDP was introduced in February, 1997, for exploitation of ground water for irrigation purpose by small and marginal farmers with Govt. subsidy and bank credit. Proposed Annual Plan Outlay for the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 5.00 lakhs.

With the coming into operation with effect from 01.04.1999 Swarna Jayanti Gramin Swarajgar Yojana (S.G.S.Y) replaces IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA, SITRA, GKY and MWS. The unspent balances as on 01.04.1999 under these erstwhile programme will be pooled under SGSY and utilised as per guideline of SGSY.

The objective of SGSY is to bring 30% of the poor families in each block above poverty line through economic activities by a mix of bank credit and Govt. subsidy in next five years. Subsidy will be 30% of the Project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 7500/-; for SC/STs subsidy will be 50% of the Project cost subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 10,000/-. For Groups, the subsidy would be 50% subject to a maximum of Rs. 1.25 lakh. There will be no monetary limit on subsidy for irrigation projects. Subsidy will be back ended.

SGSY will be funded by the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75 : 25.

### 2.2 RURAL WAGE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

#### 2.2.1 Programme of the Panchayats and Rural Development Department.

##### Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY)

In 1996-97, under JRY, 178.53 lakh mandays of employment were generated in the state entailing an expenditure of Rs. 128.38 crore. Of the total mandays of employment generated in the

State under JRY, in 1996-97, 67.67 lakh mandays were for scheduled castes and 23.32 lakhs mandays for scheduled tribes. That is the share of SC and ST beneficiaries in total mandays generated under JRY in 1996-97 was 51 per cent. The Share of Women in total mandays generated was 45 per cent. In 1997-98 total expenditure under JRY was Rs. 125 crore generating employment of 154.62 lakh mandays ; about 54 per cent of the total employment generated under JRY were for SC and ST beneficiaries and the Share of women in total mandays generated was 26 per cent. In 1998-99 137.41 lakh mandays of employment have been generated under JRY, against a total expenditure of Rs. 243.38 crore. During 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 4419.20 lakhs has been proposed as plan only.

Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). In 1996-97, 162.7 lakh mandays of employment were generated under EAS, of which the share of SC and ST beneficiaries was 58.68 per cent. Total expenditure on EAS in 1996-97 was Rs. 118.42 crore. In 1997-98, total expenditure under EAS was Rs. 114.11 crore generating employment of 139.44 lakh mandays. About 58.5 per cent of the total mandays generated under EAS were for beneficiaries belonging to SC and ST communities. In 1998-99, employment generated under EAS was for 105.00 lakh mandays, of which the share of SC and ST beneficiaries were 36.18 lakh and 15.38 lakh respectively. During 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 4050.46 lakhs has been proposed as plan outlay.

Jawhar Rojgar Yajana (JRY) has since been renamed as Jawhar Gram Samridhhi Yojana (JGSY) from the current financial year 1999-2000. The objectives of JGSY are given below :

- (i) JGSY is create demand driven community village infrastructure.
- (ii) 22.5% of the allocation must be spent for Individual Beneficiary Schemes for SC and ST.
- (iii) 3% of the allocation would be utilised for creation of barrier free infrastructure for the disabled.
- (iv) Maximum 15% of the allocation may be spent for maintenance of public assets.
- (v) No fund shall be utilised for religious purposes, monuments, statues, bridges, Higher Secondary school & Colleges etc.
- (vi) It is desirable to keep wage, non-wage ratio to 60 : 40.
- (vii) Wage employment shall be given to BPL families only.
- (viii) Appointment of contractor is totally bad.
- (ix) Diversion of fund not allowed.

### **Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)**

In 1996-97, 34819 houses were constructed under IAY, of which 18594 houses were for scheduled caste and 5882 houses for scheduled tribe beneficiaries. That is SC and ST beneficiaries constituted 70 per cent of the total beneficiaries under IAY in 1996-97. In 1997-98, under IAY, 43931 houses were constructed of which, 21145 houses were for SC and 6708 houses for ST beneficiaries. Thus, in 1997-98, SC and ST beneficiaries were 63 per cent of the total beneficiaries under IAY. Total expenditure on IAY in 1997-98 was Rs. 7832.57 lakh. In 1998-99, up to October, 1998, Rs. 2912 lakh have been spent on IAY and 18407 houses have been constructed and another 10402 houses are under construction. Rs. 2366.32 lakhs has been proposed for 1999-2000.

### **Million Wells Scheme (MWS)**

In 1996-97, expenditure of MWS was Rs. 3507.65 lakh ; of this total expenditure 60 per cent were spent on SC and ST beneficiaries. Under MWS in 1996-97, 6376 different types of schemes were

completed benefiting 7734 hectares of land and another 1938 lakhs of canals and embankments were also constructed. In 1997-98, different schemes implemented under MWS benefited 9088 hectares of land and another 1443 km. of field channels were constructed. The total expenditure of MWS in 1997-98 was Rs. 3088.87 lakh, of which 61 per cent were for SC and ST beneficiaries. In 1998-99, under MWS, 6154 number of minor irrigation schemes were completed entailing an expenditure of Rs. 2640.06 lakhs. Rs. 871.36 lakh proposed for 1999-2000 Annual Plan.

## **2.3 LAND REFORMS**

### **2.3.1 Programme of the Land and Land Reforms Department**

Land Reform occupies a vital place in the strategy of development in the State. It aims at re-ordering the most important primary asset i.e. land by redistributive measure through implementation of the ceiling laws. It ensures not only social justice but development of agricultural production also.

Besides, the bulk of the rural population in our State being entirely dependent on land, land reforms occupy a major component in the scheme of rural development. The main feature of the programme of land reforms in our states are :

1. The vesting of ceiling surplus land is continuing as before. During this financial year, 8000 acre-have vested in the State taking the total area to 29.25 lakhs acre under the West Bengal Estates Acquisition Act and the West Bengal Land Reforms Act of which 13.55 lakhs acre are agricultural land.

2. 10.32 lakhs acre of the vested agricultural land have been distributed among 25.32 lakhs landless and land-poor people. Out of them 8.91 lakhs belong to Scheduled Castes and 4.90 belong to Scheduled Tribes.

3. Over the last four years pattas are being issued to the husband-wife jointly. More than 4.00 lakhs joint pattas have so far been issued.

4. The recording of Bargadars is proceeding on continuing basis 14.86 lakhs bargadars have so far been recorded and they are cultivating about 11.00 lakh acres of land.

5. So far 5.31 lakh families of agricultural labourers, artisans and fishermen have been provided with homestead plots, out of which, 2.92 lakhs under the West Bengal Acquisition of Homestead Land (for Agricultural labourer, Fisheries—Artisan) Act. 1975 and 2.39 lakhs under Section 49 of the West Bengal Land Reforms Act. 1955.

6. This Department is providing land for new industry and relevant provisions have been made in West Bengal Land Reforms Act. for enabling the government to permit the holding of land in excess of ceiling limit for new mills, factories, tea-gardens, poultry, dairy farms and townships.

7. About 280 new tea-gardens have come up in the districts of Uttar Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and Coochbehar over an area of around 40,000 acres.

8. Work of settlement operation for preparation of Record-of-Right is nearing completion. Records of 37, 952 mouzas out of 42,067 have been finally published.

9. The programme of computerisation of land records and supplying copies of the same to the public through computer is in progress in all the districts of the State. In many of the Blocks in the districts of Burdwan, Hooghly, Howrah and Jalpaiguri, Record-of-Rights have been computerised and copies of Khatians are being supplied to the interested raiyats.

10. In 1978, government issued an order exempting land revenue to the raiyats owning land upto 6 acre in non-irrigated areas and 4 acre in irrigated areas. Till November 1998, 37, 43, 632 raiyats applied for exemption and out of these, 35, 63,716 raiyats have been given exemption. 1,02,367 applications are in the process of disposal.

11. To meet the need for new industries and different development projects acquisition of land under the Land Acquisition Act has become a very important item of work of this Department. Acquisition of land for Indo-Bangladesh Border Roads, Bakreswar Thermal Project, Teesta Barrage Project, Rajarhat Township Project etc. are going on in full swing. During the period from April '98 to January '99 about 3217 acres of land have been acquired and given possession to different requiring bodies. A sum of Rs. 51 crores, during this period has been paid as compensation for the acquired land.

12. In terms of provisions of the West Bengal Land Reforms and Tenancy Tribunal Act, 1997, Tribunal has been formed in August, 1998. The Tribunal, however, could not start functioning due to an Injunction issued by the Calcutta High Court.

13. The West Bengal Premises Tenancy Bill, 1997 has very recently received assent of the president of India. The Rules for implementation of the Act are under preparation.

14. 26,000 Thika Tenancies under the Calcutta Thika Tenancy (Acquisition and Regulation) Act, 1981 have been regularised and around 10,000 cases are under examination.

15. During the last financial year, Rs. 2181 lakhs as royalty, Rs. 793 lakh as cesses and Rs. 130 lakh as land revenue have been collected.

As a measure of integrating and strengthening land reforms set up the administration has been taken to Gram panchayet level.

For modernisation of survey and settlement work a centrally sponsored scheme namely strengthening of Revenue Administration and updating of land Records plan is implemented in the State with state and central share being 50 : 50.

The summary proposals of the incomplete works started during the Eighth Five Plan period are to be continued during Ninth Five Year Plan period.

## **2.4 OTHER RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

### **2.4.1 Programme of the Panchayats and Rural Development Department.**

#### **Community Development**

Under this head two programmes are taken up :

- (a) Providing vehicles to the Block Development Office in this State, and
- (b) Construction of Administrative headquarters and Residential Quarters for BDOs, Joint BDOs and their Staff :



**(a) Providing Vehicles to the Block Development Officers in this State :**

Out of 341 Blocks of the state 88 Blocks are yet to be provided with vehicles. All these remaining blocks may be provided with vehicles in phased manner. During the Eighth Plan Period 6 vehicles could be purchased and distributed.

**(b) Construction of Administrative Buildings and Staff Quarter :**

Out of 341 Blocks of this State, 96 Blocks have no Administrative Buildings of their own and for which a huge amount is spent for rental charges. This apart, 175 Block Development Officers are yet to be provided with Residential quarters of BDO and their staff.

In is intended to take up a big programme during the Ninth Plan Period.

**Panchayat**

**(i) Strengthening of implementation machinery for Panchayats**

This scheme aims at providing infrastructural assistance to the Panchayat Bodies to strengthen their administrative machinery so that these Institutions can function smoothly and efficiently. Vehicles for Panchayat Samities and Zilla Parishads and funds for construction of residential quarters for the officers of Zilla Parishads sanctioned under this scheme.

**(ii) Training of Panchayat Functionaries**

The main objectives of this scheme is to impart training to all the elected members and functionaries of the Panchayat Raj Bodies in phased manner so that they can participate in rural development schemes in a more effective manner.

**(iii) Construction of buildings for the Panchayati Raj Training Centres**

Besides one training centre at Kalyani, there are four training centres located in rented buildings for imparting training to the members and the functionaries of Panchayats. It has been decided to construct two more training institutes, one at Digha and another at Cooch Behar. In the Eighth Five Year Plan there was a total outlay of Rs. 110.55 lakh. During Eighth Plan Period the expenditure incurred on this account was not satisfactory because of the fact that a lot of time was consumed for selection of site and other formalities. However, considering the present escalation of costs of building materials and labour etc. the estimates for the above two training centres have been revised to Rs. 208.92 lakh i.e. Rs. 108.92 lakh for training centre at Digha and Rs. 100.00 lakh for Cooch Behar.

**(iv) Grants-in-aid to P. R. Bodies for augmentation of Resources-Incentive Grants**

The scheme provides for Incentive Grants to the selected Panchayat Bodies on the basis of their overall performance so as to enable them to augment their resources for implementation of development schemes for creating remunerative assets and to improve their functioning. For awarding prizes under this scheme there are Block level, District level and State Level Selection Committees. On an average 408 P. R. Bodies receive such award in each year based on their overall performance in the preceding year.

**(v) Grants for construction of Panchayat Ghars (office buildings of Gram Panchayats and extension of existing Panchayat Ghars)**

The scheme provides for assistance to Gram Panchayats for construction of their office buildings and extension of their existing office buildings. At the end of the Eighth Plan there remained 5661 Gram Panchayats without their own office buildings. It is necessary that all Gram Panchayats should get their own office buildings constructed as early as possible. The estimated cost of a model

Panchayat Ghar is, at present market price, about Rs. 90,000/- without the cost of land. We have proposed to sanction a matching grant of Rs. 60,000/- in each case. Similarly the Gram Panchayats which got their own office buildings require assistance for extension of their buildings to create additional accommodation for staff and storage facilities. It has been proposed to sanction a grant of Rs. 30,000/- in each case for the purpose.

**(vi) Infrastructure Development of Panchayat Bodies and creation of Remunerative Assets and other Development Programmes in Panchayat Bodies.**

Pursuant to 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution, the Tenth Finance Commission, constituted under Article 280, recommended ad-hoc grants to augment resources of the States for the purpose of supplementation of the resources of Local Bodies. In so far as Panchayats are concerned a total sum of Rs. 333.45 crores has been recommended for the State of West Bengal on the basis of 100 per capita of rural population as per 1971 Census (333.45 lakhs) with the stipulation that the said sum would be available in four instalments from the financial year 1996-97 onwards.

As envisaged in the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission, this amount should be distributed amongst the Panchayat Bodies, over and above their due by way of their share of assigned taxes, duties, tolls, fees, transferred activity related budgets and grants. The recommendations envisage that the ad-hoc amount should be an additionality over and above the amount flowing from the State Govt. for distribution amongst the Panchayats for the discharge of their enhanced responsibilities. This fund will be utilised for infrastructure developments that increased administrative efficiency of the Panchayati Raj Bodies and for other development works as would generate and/or augment regular earnings of the Panchayat and would also sustain employment opportunities for the poor in general. Upto 1998-99, out of an allotment of Rs. 104.20 crores, an amount of Rs. 57.05 crores has been utilised by the different tiers of Panchayets. Proposed outlay for 1999-2000 is Rs. 20279.34 lakhs.

**Child Education Centres run by the Panchayets**

In order to achieve universalisation of Primary Education by 2002, it was decided to open Child Education Centres under the auspices the Panchayets in this state. During 1999-2000, 3000 Sishu Siksha kendra have been approved to be opened. During 1997-98 and 1998-99, 1033 Centre have already been opened. Allocation for 1999-2000 have been fixed of Rs. 1500.00 lakhs.

## CHAPTER III

### Special Area Programmes

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### III. SPECIAL AREA PROGRAMME

#### 3.1 HILL AREAS

##### 3.1.1 Programme of the Hill Affairs Department

The Hill Affairs Department acts as the nodal Department of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council who have the prime responsibility of preparation of Annual Action Plan under Hill Areas Development Programme. The plan funds under Hill Affairs Sector are generally released direct to the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council for implementation of different schemes and projects as formulated by the Council. During this year emphasis will be given on Health and Family Welfare Sector, Education Sector, Tourism Sector, Irrigation and Waterways Sector, Fisheries Sector, Public Health Engineering Sector etc. The Plan outlay for 1999-2000 for Hill Affairs Sector is Rs. 2123.00 lakh. This apart development works in the Hill Areas are also carried out under Accelerated Development of Hill Areas Programme for which there is a provision of Rs. 400.00 lakhs during 1999-2000. Thus the total Plan outlay of Hill Affairs Department comes to Rs. 2523.00 lakh. So far as non-transferred departments are concerned development activities in the hills are done out of the Plan funds of respective departments.

#### 3.2 OTHER SPECIAL AREA PROGRAMME

##### 3.2.1 Programme of the Department & Planning

###### (a) Development of North Bengal

In addition to sectoral programmes undertaken by the various Departments, special provision is being made in the Annual Plan of the State since 1973-74 for taking up schemes relating to construction and improvement of roads, bridges, culverts, embankments and drainage facilities, excavation and renovation of tanks, provision for repairing and sinking tubewells and sanitation and other infra-structural facilities especially in the rural areas of the six backward districts of North Bengal viz. Malda, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar and Darjeeling. In Darjeeling District, only the areas outside the hill areas of the District are taken into consideration as hill areas covered by DGHC. The schemes under this programme are selected and implemented by the concerned Zilla Parishad/ Mahakuma Parishad (in respect of Darjeeling District). The proposed outlay for the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 20 lakhs. The following basic points will be taken into consideration while implementing schemes under the programme during Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) and the Annual Plan (1999-2000) :

(a) The entire outlay will be spent on schemes benefiting the rural people of North Bengal District.

(b) As employment generation will be one of the main objectives of the programme, labour intensive schemes in preference to Capital intensive schemes will be taken up.

(c) Care will be taken to safeguard environmental needs while implementing schemes under the programme.

There is a contemplation of setting up and organisation for the exclusive development of North Bengal during this financial year.

###### (b) Development of Jhargram Region

Jhargram sub-division is one of the under-developed regions of West Bengal. It's population is 8,77,312 out of which 30.56 per cent belong to the Scheduled Tribes and 18.10 per cent to the Scheduled Castes who are especially backward and under-privileged. Jhargram Development Board spends about 50 per cent of its allocation for schemes benefiting Tribal population and about 25 per

## *Special Area Programme*

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cent of its allocation for schemes benefiting scheduled castes population. Jhargram is principally an agricultural area, but it is drought-prone with low fertility and very small yield per acre.

The main objective of this programme is to increase agricultural production through extension of irrigation facilities, watershed development schemes, soil conservation measures, improvement of communication facilities through the construction of roads, link roads, bridges and culverts, improvement of the general standard of education through construction/reconstruction of educational institutions, arrangement of supply of drinking water, improvement of drainage system in Municipal Area, afforestation, creation of infrastructural facilities for development of small scale industries, rural electrification, land reforms measures, special schemes for lodhas, and encouragement of cultural activities of tribal people by helping in organising fairs, festivals, etc.

Sectors under which various schemes so far implemented by Jhargram Development Board are given below :

1. Minor Irrigation
2. Roads
3. Education
4. Small Scale Industries
5. Forestry
6. Rural Electrification
7. Miscellaneous

Another function of Jhargram Development Board is to co-ordinate various vital important schemes with various State Government's Departments. In pursuance of this policy, JDB could achieve the start of construction of a bridge at Rohini over Dulung which connects four Panchayat Samities in Jhargram sub-division.

Schemes pertaining to the above sectors were implemented as far as practicable in the year, 1997-98. In the year 1998-99 the next phases of the running schemes were taken up along with some new schemes.

Budget provisions and extent of expenditure are given below.

Year	Budget provision (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
1997-98	1,70,00,000.00	1,55,65,610.00
1998-99	1,87,00,000.00	1,86,33,484.00
1999-2000	2,50,00,000.00	

### **(c) Comprehensive Area Development Programme**

The West Bengal Comprehensive Area Development Corporation has been working in rural areas of the State, through its 21 projects and one Krishi Vigyan Kendra. All agro-climatic zones of the State are covered by the Projects. The Projects are in close liaison with the districts authorities, panchayets and local people. The Development and Planning Department, Govt. of West Bengal is the nodal department of this Corporation.

Amongst its multifarious activities in rural development, agriculture has been the main stay of WBCADC programmes in the project areas. The objective of agricultural activities of WBCADC has been to develop the socio-economic condition of the rural people who are directly or indirectly related with the agriculture, by utilising the local resources and adopting latest technology.

Production of quality seeds by the WBCADC has been well-accepted by the farmers. This Corporation has been engaged in production of quality certified seeds of various crops since last few years. WBCADC had made a successful experiment in production True Potato seed in Haringhata project of Nadia. This experiment has been well appreciated by the International Potato Centre. During 1998-99, 18 kgs. T.P.S. will be produced at our Haringhata farm. An experimentation on Tea production in Ajodhya Hills project has been proved successful.

Under horticultures development programme two new programmes have been undertaken (1) *Kumari Kanan Prokalpa* at Ajodhya Hills Project, where about 150 acres of land have been covered under plantation of fruit plant, (2) *Kanchan Kanan Prokalpa* at Siliguri-Naxalbari Project where 25 acres of land have been covered with an objective to get sufficient no. of graft and gooties of fruit plants—which may meet demand of quality saplings for horticultural development of the districts and also the State as a whole. The required land have been provided by the concerned Zilla Parishads.

In order to ensure sustained agricultural growth, this Corporation has been trying to maintain the irrigation infrastructure with at least about 158 deep tubewells, 877 shallow tubewells, 601 mini deep tubewells, 4 R.L.T. and 4 infiltration galleries and 21 surface lift irrigation.

In the field of Animal Resource Development, this Corporation has emphasised on both curative and preventive measures over and above popularising in fodder cultivation and training of farmers.

Under Fishery Programme, at Kaliyaganj Boinchees, Balarampore, Saharjore Projects and at Sonamukhi K. V. K., hatcheries have been establishment for fish production. A Prown hatchery has been established at Tamluk Project of Midnapore District.

Farmers' Service Co-operative Societies have been catering to the needs of the farmers at large with short term and medium term credit facilities, supply of agricultural inputs and in some banking facilities too. Since inception total volume of business of FSCS depicted upward trend despite various difficulties. Performance during the last three years are hereunders—1993-94 = Rs. 750.37 lakhs, 1994-95 = Rs. 867.63 lakhs, 1995-96 = Rs. 1041.04 lakhs, 1996-97 = Rs. 1137 lakhs, 1997-98 = Rs. 1392.12 lakhs, It is anticipated that achievement will exceeded Rs. 1500 lakhs, the target fixed for the year 1998-1999.

It was also noticed that only through economic programmes total development cannot be achieved. Therefore, an integrated development approach was taken with the introduction of various social and human resource development programme like, Health, Social Welfare, Women and Children Development, non Formal Education, etc.

Special mention may be made of cultivation of coffee in Terai region of West Bengal. A research programme for the cultivation of coffee has been proved to be a success in marginal lands. The result had been commended by the Indian Cofee Board. A mushroom spawn production laboratory has been set up at Sonamukhi K.V.K.

### **3.2.2 Programme of the Sundarban Affairs Department**

#### **Development of Sundarban Area**

The activities of the Sundarban Development Board are in line with the Area Development Programme of the State Govt. The Board has been trying to prepare plan proposals for sustaining the developmental activities already in operation in the Sundarbans.

The operational area is confined to all the 19 blocks of Sundarban region—6 of North 24-Parganas and 13 of South 24-Parganas districts. From its inception, the Board has earnestly been trying to prepare such schemes so that maximum benefits may trickle down to the lowest strata of the society inhabiting this part.

Previously the activities of the Board has been mainly concentrated on (i) creation of sweet water reservoirs through re-excavation of derelict channels and ponds and construction of closures, (ii) improvement of drainage system through construction of H.P. sluices and master sluices, (iii) improvement of rural communication system through construction of B. P. Roads culverts and small bridges and jetties. The Board has extended its support to create Social Forestry, agricultural inputs support services and wild type brackish water fish culture.

Since annual plans of 1990-91, a few new programme elements like rural water supply, animal husbandry and veterinary services, cottage and small scale industries and mushroom cultivation have been introduced in addition to the activities already mentioned. For 1998-99 the approved plan outlay was Rs. 850.00 lakh and Rs. 663.05 lakh has been reported to be utilised for the programme elements as stated.

#### **10th Finance Commission Grant**

For the period of 1996-2000, the 10th Finance Commission has recommended Rs. 35 crore for an integrated area development programme for Sundarban. Accordingly Sundarban Development Board has prepared an action plan for utilisation of the recommended grant of Rs. 35 crores.

The budget allocation of 1998-99 was Rs. 1000.00 lakh. Rs. 716.87 lakh has been reported to be utilised for construction of Brick Paved/Water bound mecadam roads, jetties, culverts, Haroa bridge and Power sub-stations at Haroa, Minakhan, Hingalganj and Canning-I, metal road from Jamtala to Petkulchand, installation of tubewells for drinking water and piped water supply schemes and creation of mangrove plantation etc. against the fund of Rs. 722.50 lakhs released by Finance Department.

Public participation in selecting schemes, their sites and locations is ensured through direct involvement of the people's representatives. Based on the need and potentialities, the selection of such schemes and their locations are determined.



## CHAPTER IV

### Irrigation and Flood Control

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## IV. IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL

### 4.1 MAJOR AND MEDIUM IRRIGATION

#### 4.1.1 Programme of the Irrigation and Waterways Department

The main activities of this Department are providing irrigation facilities to the agricultural fields through Major and Medium Irrigation Projects and management of floods. There are 5 (five) Major Irrigation Projects and 26 Medium Irrigation Schemes being run by this Department. Out of those, the work of Mayurakshi Reservoir Project has been completed, the works of the Barrage & Irrigation System of the Damodar Valley Project and Kangsabati Reservoir Project will be completed within the Ninth Five Year Plan Period. The works of Teesta Barrage Project and Subarnarekha Barrage Project are continuing. A cumulative irrigation potential of 1396 thousand hectares would be created through the Major and Medium Irrigation Projects at the end of June, 1999. A further potential of 50 thousand hectares is expected to be created during 1999-2000 with an outlay of rs. 126.25 Crores inclusive of loan assistance from NABARD under RIDF, CLA under AIBP and Grants of Zilla Parishads/Urban Local Bodies. A potential of 97,200 hectares is anticipated to be created from Teesta Barrage Project upto the end of June, 1999. A further potential of 21,000 hectares is expected to be created during 1999-2000 from this Project. The Teesta Barrage Project is already helping West Bengal State Electricity Board to generate hydel power from its three canal falls. The total generation is likely to be about 30 WM during this year. The work of Subarnarekha Barrage Project is going on in respect of catchment area treatment and other allied works. The major constructional activities could not be started for want of adequate additional allocation of fund. The Project is poised for being started in right earnest during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The medium irrigation schemes are supplying irrigation water in the drought prone districts of the State. A large tract of land in the Southern portion of the State has been brought under irrigation for cultivation of summer paddy by judicious utilisation of tidal water of the rivers.

The State of West Bengal happens to be the southernmost State in the Ganga Basin within India, located at its extreme tip end. The State is often ravaged by destructive floods even on occasions when there is no appreciable rainfall within the geographical limits of the State. The State has all possible facets of floods, drainage, bank erosion, cyclonic storm etc. and their attendant problems which this Department is to combat with. The problem of flood and erosion of the state truly deserve to be adjudged as a problem having national dimension. The critical situation arising out of devastating erosion of river Ganga/Padma in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad also has certain national dimension and poses a serious threat to the State exchequer.

Out of an estimated flood prone area of 37,660 sq. km., an area of 21,980 sq. km. could be provided with reasonable protection against flood and drainage congestion upto the end of the year 1998-99. During the year 1999-2000, a further area of 250 sq. km. is likely to be protected against flood with an outlay of Rs. 165.75 crores inclusive of the award of the Tenth Finance Commission for anti-erosion measures on the river Ganga/Padma, financial assistance from NABARD and Grants to Zilla Parishads/Urban Local Bodies.

The drainage outfall channels carrying both waste water and sewerage of Calcutta and suburbs being maintained by Irrigation Department, face enormous problems due to heavy siltation, rapid urbanisation and indiscriminate disposal of bio-undegradable wastes. A considerable amount of fund is required for proper upkeeping of these drainage channels.

The Irrigation and Waterways Department is entrusted with the key role of extension of irrigation facilities in the State through construction and maintenance of Major and Medium Irrigation Projects in order to meet the need of State's optimum agricultural production.

Considering static condition of cultivable area and the uneven distribution of rainfall being inescapable natural phenomenon, the growing needs of food and fibre of the people of the State can only be realised through multiple cropping system in the limited available culturable area. Since ushering of First Five Year Plan, emphasis was placed on development of irrigation in the State through implementation of major and medium irrigation projects so as to boost up agricultural production to ensure supply of food and fibres essential for sustenance of the growing population. In recent years, the agricultural activities of this State have increased considerably, narrowing thereby the gap between demand and production of crops. This has been made possible through creation of additional irrigation potential and by conversion of monocropped land of the past into multiple cropping lands.

### **Record of Performance**

In the pre-plan period i.e., prior to 1951, irrigation in the State was undertaken in a modest manner mainly through Midnapore Canal System, Eden Canal System and Damodar Canal System. Starting from an irrigation potential of only 139 thousand hectares in the pre-plan period, the State has been able to elevate the level of creation of irrigation potential to the extent of 1256 thousand hectares before the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan. During this period four major and twenty six medium irrigation projects were taken up for implementation under the Plan head of the Department. Out of these, one major (Mayurakshi Reservoir Project) and nine medium irrigation schemes have already been completed. The rest of the projects spilled over to the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) and substantial extent of irrigation potential has also been developed through these continuing projects. The creation vis-a-vis utilisation of irrigation potential through the completed and continuing irrigation projects borne under the plan head of the Department plan period is furnished in Table-4.1.

**Table 4.1**  
**Generation and Utilisation of Irrigation Potential through Completed and Continuing Major and Medium Irrigation Projects under the Plan Head of Irrigation & Waterways Department**

Year	Potential in '000 Ha	Utilisation in '000 Ha
Cumulative up to the end of 1997-98 (Actual)	1356.54	1239.95
During 1998-99 (Anticipated)	40.00	30.00
During 1999-2000 (Target)	50.00	35.00

Construction works for three major and nineteen medium projects, special repair works for two completed major projects (Midnapore Canal and Mayurakshi Reservoir Project) are continuing during the Ninth Plan period. The Subarnarekha Barrage Project obtained the investment clearance from the Planning Commission midway the Eighth Plan but only the infrastructure development and catchment area treatment works of the projects are being executed with the fund that could be allotted for the purpose.

### **Kangsabati Reservoir Project and Barrage & Irrigation System of D.V.C.**

These two projects are very close to completion and remaining minor works are scheduled to be completed within the Ninth Plan period with the plan allocation and loan assistance from AIBP (Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme). Completion of these projects is, however, linked up with adequate provision under the Non-Plan sector and the matter is under due consideration.

### **Teesta Barrage project (1st, Sub-stage)**

Teesta Barrage Project, one of the largest irrigation projects in Eastern India, will cater irrigation to an area of 9.22 lakh hectares (all stages taken together) in the 6 (six) northern districts of West Bengal. The 1st. Sub-stage of Stage-I of this project, which is now under execution, will create an irrigation potential of 5.33 lakh hectares.

This project was given a special thrust during the Eighth Plan in order to safe-guard the national interest associated with it. Major constraints and bottlenecks standing in the way of smooth and speedy execution of the project have suitably been taken care of by now and pace of the works of the project has been accelerated considerably. A High Power Steering Committee with Hon'ble Chief Minister as the Chairman and High Level Monitoring Committee with Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge of Irrigation and Waterways Department as the Chairman have been set up exclusively for this project to ensure the desired progress according to the plan and programme.

The 9th, Plan allocation for the project presently stands at Rs. 415.00crores. The revised estimated cost of the Sub-stage-I of the project, at October, 1996 price level, has been worked out to Rs. 1177.00 crores. The project will thus automatically spill over to the Tenth Plan period as well.

In achieving both physical and financial target, the project faces two major impediments. There are :

- (i) Delay in land acquisition under L. A. Act-I, and
- (ii) Delay in construction of railway crossing structures, taken up by the North-East Frontier Railway since 1988.

However, an irrigation potential of nearly 91610 hectares has been created through this project upto the end of 1997-98 and the cumulative target of creation of irrigation potential through the project at the end of 1998-99 is 97210 hectares.

### **Subarnarekha Barrage Project**

Subarnarekha Barrage Project envisages creation of an irrigation potential of 114.20 thousand hectares in the district of Midnapore at a revised estimated cost of Rs. 595 crores. After making financial provision for Teesta Barrage Project, it is not possible for the State's limited financial resources to fund another major project of such magnitude. Efforts for obtaining Central Loan Assistance (CLA) for the project under AIBP did not materialise. Attempts are being taken for obtaining finance for the project from other sources. However, with the available fund, catchment area treatment and other infrastructural works have been taken up. A provision of Rs. 5.00 crores has been proposed in the year 1999-2000 for the project.

### **Other New Major Projects**

Some new projects namely, Modernisation of Kangsabati Reservoir Project, Siddheswari Noon Beel Reservoir Project and Darakeswar-Gandheswari Reservoir Project, Dolons Irrigation Scheme and Ajoy Reservoir Project are under different stages of investigation and planning and processing and are proposed to be taken up in the later part of the Ninth Plan for which necessary fund has to be provided for. But inadequacy of availability of land required for compensatory afforestation due to possible damages to the forest land because of construction of the embankments, reservoirs and for rehabilitation of affected people has become the main bottleneck in the planning and preparation of major projects. In order to improve the water management and for stabilising the existing irrigation potential a provision of Rs. 7 crores have been made in the Ninth Plan for modernisation works

of the three existing Major Projects namely, Kangsabati Project, Mayurakshi Project and Barrage and Irrigation System of DVC Project.

### **Medium Irrigation Schemes**

Nineteen numbers of Medium Irrigation Schemes are on-going irrigation facilities to different districts of West Bengal. There have been time over runs in completing the Schemes in the district of Purulia due to delay in land acquisition. In 1998-99, National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has extended assistance to the State of West Bengal in completing eleven numbers of Medium Irrigation Schemes in Purulia district. A total provision of Rs. 32.25 crores, inclusive of assurance from NABARD and Grants to Zilla Parisad/Urban Local Bodies has been proposed for the Medium Irrigation Schemes for the financial year 1999-2000.

### **Irrigation from Tidal Waters**

A large tract of land in the districts of Howrah, Hooghly, 24-Parganas (North), 24-Parganas (South) and Midnapore has been brought under irrigation during the critical summer months for cultivation of summer paddy by judicious utilisation of tidal water of rivers.

### **Decentralisation**

Starting from the level of framing up of Block Plans, District Plans, and State Plan, the Department acts in close liason with the Panchayets, Block level and District level Planning Committees and with the State Planning Board. Officers of the Department interact with the Planning Committees for formulation of Annual Plan of the Department.

### **Externally Aided Programme**

At present none of the projects under Irrigation sector is externally aided. But projects like Modernisation of Kangsabati Reservoir Project and Water Resources Consolidation Project (WRCP) are proposed to be posed for external aid during the Ninth Plan period.

### **Employment Generation**

The employment generation out of the irrigation projects during the Eighth Plan 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and the targets for the same during the Ninth Plan 1997-2002 is furnished in Table-4.2.

**Table 4.2**  
**Employment Generation during Eighth Plan**  
**and Target for the Ninth Plan 1997-2002**

Item	(In Lakh Mandays)		
	Nineth Plan (1997-2002) (on proposed Target outlay)	Annual Plan 1998-1999 (on Anticipated Expenditure)	Annual Plan (1999-2000) (on proposed Target outlay)
1. On Construction Works			
A. Engineers			
(i) Graduate	5.33	0.97	1.02
(ii) Diploma	18.25	3.32	3.48
B. Skilled Labours	59.32	7.10	8.95
C. Un-skilled Labours	410.83	50.65	63.90
2. Additional Employment Generation in the Command Areas	—	—	—

## **4.2 MINOR IRRIGATION**

### **4.2.1 Programme of the Water Investigation & Development Department**

Minor Irrigation Programmes of the Govt. are implemented in two major sectors namely (i) Minor Irrigation & (ii) Command Area Development, under the Water Investigation & Development Department. Main activities in M. I. Sector include investigation and assessment of both surface and ground water resources. Investigation & assessment of water resources are made by the State Water Investigation Directorate (SWID) while the Development Programmes are implemented through Water Resources Development Directorate (WRD). Besides, the Development Programmes are also taken up by the West Bengal Minor Irrigation Corporation Ltd. (WBSMIC). In addition, Tank Improvement Scheme and the Boro Bundh Schemes are also taken up by this Department with the District Authority direct.

In the State Minor Irrigation Schemes, ultimate gross potential has been assessed at 44.34 lakh hector out of which 32.39 lakh hector irrigation potential is reported to have been created upto the end of 1998-99. This Department also took up projects under RIDF of NABARD for creation of irrigation potential. On completion of RIDF II Projects, additional irrigation potential of 59,000 ha. (gross) is expected to be created, these new M.I. Installations, on completion, are being handed over to the beneficiaries committees for taking up the responsibilities of operation and management. The WBSMIC, in addition to their own M.I. Installation Schemes, have also taken up projects for revival of defunct M.I. Schemes with the credit assistance from West Bengal Infrastructure Development Corporation (WBIDFC). For the purpose, a loan amount of Rs. 30.00 crores was earmarked during 1998-99 and a provision of Rs. 40.00 crores has been made during the current financial year by the WBIDFC.

## **4.3 COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT**

### **4.3.1 Programme of the Water Investigation & Development Department**

In the C.A.D. Sector, this Department is continuing the programmes for construction of Field Channels in the Command Area of D.V.C., Mayurakshi & Kangsabati. So far 1.15 lakh ha. of potential has been created under C.A.D. activities upto the end of 1998-99. Moreover, this Govt. has taken up programme for implementation of C.A.D. activities within the Command Area of Teesta Project in North Bengal from this year.

## **4.4 FLOOD CONTROL**

### **4.4.1 Programme of the Irrigation & Waterways Department**

West Bengal happens to be the southern most State in the Ganga Basin within India, located at its extreme tail end. As a result, the State is quite often ravaged by destructive floods, even on occasions when there is no appreciable rainfall within the geographical limits of the State. Flood Control measures adopted in the upper riparian State further accentuate the problem in West Bengal. In this background, the flood and erosion problems of West Bengal truly deserve to be viewed as a problem having National dimension. Extensive basin areas of two of the mightiest river systems of India, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra pass through the State and their extensive basin areas occupy about 95 percent of the geographical area of the State. Along with floods, various allied problems like bank erosion, drainage congestion, cyclonic disaster etc. further accentuate the flood situation. The State with an estimated flood prone area of 37,660 sq. km. happens to be one of the prime flood prone States in the country. In the 350 km. long coastal belt of the State, Cyclonic Storms cause devastating wave action with consequent breaching of embankments and ingress of saline water into the country

side. Nature and extent of the flood vary from place to place due to geographical and meteorological diversities of the State.

Flood problems in the northern part of the State are due to heavy precipitation leading to bank erosion, land slides in the hills, bank spilling and changing of river courses. Consequent upon heavy rain fall being more than 30% over normal, there were extensive damages to the flood protective works under North Bengal Flood Control Commission (NBFCC) in Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling Districts during 1998. All the streams in the North Bengal region carry flash flood of the sub-mountainous terrain. The beds of those streams are rising up fast because of uncontrolled soil erosion and indiscriminate mining of dolomite and other useable rocks and minerals. A provision of 8.50 crores has been proposed in the budget for 1998-99 for the flood control activities in the areas under North Bengal Flood Control Commission.

Flood problems of central part of the State are due to inadequacy of drainage facilities, bank spilling and severe bank erosion along the Ganga-Padma and Bhagirathi-Hooghly river systems. The districts of Malda and Murshidabad situated on either bank of Ganga-Padma System are severely affected by bank erosion, resulting in loss of rich and fertile agricultural lands and habitation of people. Many towns, industrial complexes, places of historical and religious importance are also being threatened by the severe bank erosion of the Bhagirathi-Hooghly System. Problems of Southern Bengal originate from acute drainage congestion in the low lying areas due to heavy rainfall. The terrain being very flat, tidal ingress and drainage congestion due to tide lockage inundate widespread agricultural land. The problems are further compounded by cyclonic storms and coastal erosion.

### **Record of Performance**

Over the years the maladies due to flood has accentuated owing to gradual encroachment of the natural flood planes for habitation and agricultural purpose due to increase in population pressure. As the limited plan outlays from the State resources alone are mostly spent to meet the local emergent needs of some severely affected areas, no long term approach towards the solution of flood problems could be undertaken. The flood protective measures in the State are mainly in the form of flood embankment, a little progress could be achieved in building storage reservoirs in the upper most reaches of the major Interstate and International rivers flowing through the State. Most of the available fund is spent in raising, strengthening, remodelling, retirement and providing protection to them. For effective prevention of severe bank erosion of the Ganga-Padma and other rivers in the State larger investment is required over and above the normal budgetary provision.

Upto the end of the Eighth Plan, it has been possible to provide reasonable protection from flood and drainage congestion to more than half of the flood prone areas of the State by undertaking various Flood Protective and Drainage Schemes. The physical achievements in respect of Flood Control Sector upto the end of 1997-98 are shown in the Table-4.3.

**Table 4.3**

Plan Priod	Area reasonable protected from flood & Drainage congestion in square kilometre	Length of Embankment (KM)	Length of Drainage Channel (KM)
Upto end of 1997-1998 (Actual)	21680	16327	7125
During 1998-1999 (Anticipated)	300	22	12
During 1999-2000 (Target)	250	14	15



### **Bank Erosion Problem of River Ganga-Padma**

The loss of territorial land mass due to erosion of the Ganga-Padma system & apprehension of probable Avulsion of the river Padma into the Bhagirathi has become a matter of great concern for the State. The riverine lands are thickly populated and many important towns, prosperous villages & trading centres are situated on the river banks. The severe erosion of the left bank of river Ganga in the district of Malda upstream of Farakka Barrage may have a disastrous effect of outflanking of the barrage itself. Due to the erosion of the right bank of the river system downstream of the Farakka Barrage the gap between the Ganga and the Bhagirathi at Fazilpur in the Murshidabad district has narrowed down. If these two rivers are connected, then the entire densely populated Bhagirathi basin would face severe flood problem and the Farakka Barrage would also turn out to be completely redundant. In addition to the loss of fertile lands, the existence of the state and National Highways, Railway Track, Jangipur Barrage, Feeder Canal of the Farakka Barrage is being threatened and could not be checked with the limited financial resources of the State alone.

A total provision of Rs. 22.50 crores inclusive of assistance of Rs. 20.00 crores from 10th Finance Commission has been made in the budget for 1999-2000 for tackling the special problem of bank erosion of the River Ganga/Padma in the district of Malda and Murshidabad. The short-term measures, as recommended for the State sector by the Experts' Committee constituted by the Planning Commission, Government of India, are proposed to be taken up in phases according to priority. In this connection, it is pointed out that the State Government proposes to execute the entire works included in the short-term measures, worth Rs. 186.00 crores, during the 9th Plan period of 1997-2002 in a phased manner. Out of that, a sum of Rs. 139.50 crores has been sought for from the Government of India during the Ninth Plan period as a special Grant.

### **Drainage Schemes**

Except for the Himalayan foot hills and the Chhotonagpur Plateau on the Western Fringes, the remaining basin areas are subjected to flood spill and congestion during the monsoon period. Implementation of all the important drainage schemes cannot be commenced in right earnest with the available fund.

In some of the southern districts of the State, large networks of drainage channels are being extensively used for irrigation of summer paddy by induction of tidal water during spring tides without much capital outlay. Likewise, drainage aspect of the tail end areas of the major and medium irrigation projects command have been included in the Ninth Plan Programmes. This would provide additional irrigation benefit annually during Ninth Plan. But this has led to considerable straining of the drainage system requiring more fund for their proper upkeepment. Dredging programme of some critical drainage channels have been included in the Ninth Plan.

A Pilot Scheme with an estimated cost of Rs. 4.38 crores for Kaliaghai-Kapaleswari-Baghai Basin has received clearance from Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) and work has already been started. This will mitigate the drainage problem of the basin partially. The main scheme amounting to Rs. 20.67 crores is under examination by Ganga Flood Control (GFCC) and is awaiting clearance for obtaining sanction from Government of India.

For implementation of the scheme, a provision of Rs. 1.10 crores has been proposed to be kept in budget for the year 1999-2000. Apart from that, loan assistance from NABARD under RIDF & Grants to Zilla Paraishad/Urban Local Bodies would also be utilised for this work.

Some works of raising and strengthening of embankments for flood control & drainage in Kandi area are proposed to be taken up with loan assistance from NABARD.



The entire drainage and city sewerage discharge of the City of Calcutta and its neighbourhood is drained through a number of channels and waterways. With phenomenal rise of population in these areas and due to rapid urbanisation, these channels are in a badly silted up condition and there is hardly any scope of widening these channels in many areas. Over and above, a lot of encroachments and inletting of cow-dung waste materials from numerous khatalas at many places of the channel system result in much hindrance towards proper drainage of the metropolis and its environs.

#### **Anti-Sea-Erosion Works**

The embankments along the sea and estuarine rivers in the deltaic of Sundarbans area and Midnapore district are mostly of inadequate section to with stand the devastating effects of wave actions during cyclonic storms. Active Sea-Erosion at places is also engulfing substantial land areas in the coastal fringes affecting large number of people. The embankments on the sea side of vulnerable places like Digha, Sunderbans and other estuarine rivers are required to be thoroughly improved and renovated with adequate protective measures. While short term measures are being undertaken at several places along the coastal belt to prevent beach erosion as well as ingress of saline water. A Comprehensive scheme for Beach and Estuarine protection works for the State has been prepared and submitted to the Central Water Commission for examination and processing. Additional fund would be required for taking up the scheme during the Ninth Plan Period. a provision of Rs. 1.95 crores has been made for the purpose in budget 1999-2000.

#### **Employment Generation**

The employment generation out of the Flood Control Projects during the Annual Plans 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and the targets for the same during the Ninth Plan 1997-2002 is Furnished in Table-4.4.

**Table 4.4**  
**Employment Generation during Annual Plans and Target**  
**for the Ninth Plan 1997-2002**

(In Lakh Mandays)

Item	9th Plan 1997-2002 (On Proposed Target Outlay	Annual Plan 1998-1999 (On anticipated Expenditure)	Annual Plan 1999-2000 (On Proposed Target Outlay)
I. On Construction Works			
A. Engineers			
(i) Graduate	3.55	0.65	0.68
(ii) Diploma	12.16	2.21	2.32
B. Skilled Labours	36.82	9.65	15.65
C. Un-skilled Labours	255.00	68.90	111.80

#### **Public Relations-cum-Statistical Cell**

Public Relations-cum-Statistical Cell has been working to create public awareness about the activities and development programme of this Department since 1994. 'SECH-PATRA' a quarterly irrigation journal in Bengali and English being published by the Cell has already earned wide recognition of the people. Some booklets are also being published and a number of seminars are being arranged in different places. In order to carry out the activities of this Cell, a sum of Rs. 15.00 lakhs has been proposed in the budget for the financial year of 1999-2000.

## CHAPTER V

### Energy

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## V. ENERGY

### 5.1 POWER

#### 5.1.1 Programme of the Power Department

The energy status is a key indicator the infrastructural base of a State. In this aspect Power and non-conventional sources of energy are two determining components that individually and collectively indicate the energy situation. The infrastructural base of the Power System in this State is built by works of the West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB), the West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC), the Durgapur Project Limited (DPL) and the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation (CESC). The WBSEB generates, transmits and distributes power in the State in areas excluding Calcutta and its suburbs. The WBPDC generates power at Kolaghat TPS (6 × 210 MW) to sell it to the WBSEB. The DPL supplies power to Durgapur area and sells excess power to WBSEB System. The CESC generates and distributes power in Calcutta area. The DVC and the DPSC supply power to the industries of their respective consumed areas.

The major power projects taken up during the Eighth Five Year were—

- (a) Kolaghat Thermal Power station (remaining works) (6 × 210 MW)
- (b) Rammam Hydro-electric Project (4 × 12.75 MW) Phase-II
- (c) Teesta Canal Falls Hydro-electric Project (3 × 22.5 MW)
- (d) Bakreswar Thermal Power Project (5 × 210 MW)

The implementation status of the above projects are indicated below :

(i) The works of the Kolaghat Thermal Power Station have been completed and it is now fully operational since 1993-94.

(ii) The Rammam Hydro-electric Project has also been completed and it has been put into operation during 1995-96. With these, installed capacity in the State-sector power stations have gone up by 471 MW in the first four years of the 8th Plan. Of this 51 MW is hydel power.

(iii) The construction work of the Teesta Canal Falls Hydro-electric Project however, went beyond Eighth Plan on various grounds including fund availability, land acquisition problems and delay in analysis of drawing etc. by the CWC. It is expected that the first unit of the power station-I will be commissioned during 1997-98.

(iv) The implementation of the Bakreswar Thermal Power Project was held up mainly because of withdrawal of the Russians and induction of Japanese and consequent formalities. The required formalities have since been over and the work in units-I & II have started in full swing in 1996.

Besides the above major power projects, renovation & modernisation of the existing thermal power stations and some small hydel power stations were also taken up and implemented as per programme.

Present installed capacity of Power utilities in West Bengal is 6671 MW. Details are furnished below :

<b>Under State Public Sector</b>	<b>M.W.</b>
1. West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd.	— 1260
2. West Bengal State Electricity Board	— 1246
3. D. P. L.	— 390

**Under Private Sector**

1. Calcutta Electric Supply Co. Ltd.	—	1065
2. Dishergarh Power Supply Co. Ltd.	—	40

**Under Central Public Sector**

1. D. V. C.	—	1040
2. National Thermal Power Corporation, Farakka	—	1630
		<hr/>
		6671

Capacity additions during the financial year 1998-99 are :

- (a) Three units ( $3 \times 7.5$  MW) of Teesta Canal Fall Hydro Electric Project of WBSEB.
- (b) Third units (210 MW) of Mejia Thermal Power Station of DVC.
- (c) Second unit (250 MW) of Budge Budge Thermal Power Project of CESC Ltd.

**Performance of Externally Aided Projects**

**1. Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project ( $3 \times 210$  MW)**

West Bengal power Development Corporation Ltd. has been implementing the project with loan assistance from the OECF, Japan. Construction works are in progress satisfactorily. Light up of Boiler of the Unit no. 1 of the project was done on 24th April, 1999 which was ahead of the time schedule. The unit is likely to be commissioned within by November 1999. For two other units major portion of construction activities will be completed by march, 2000 and commercial production would likely to commence during the year 2000-2001. During the year 1998-99 Rs. 1017 crores had been spent for execution of the project. There is budget provision of Rs. 915 crores for the year 1999-2000 (OECF funding Rs. 775 crores and State Govt.'s share Rs. 140 crores).

**2. Purulia Pumped Storage Project ( $4 \times 225$  MW)**

With a view to develop adequate energy storing system in the Eastern Region to cater to rising peak demand as well as for improving plantload factors, this project is being implemented by the WBSEB with loan assistance from OECF, Japan. The units are likely to be commissioned between march, 2004 and December, 2004 as per present schedule.

Infrastructural works like Township Project, Roads, Administrative Building Complex and Construction—Power are in progress and some of the activities have already been completed. Catchment area treatment and compensatory afforestation by Forest Department have been completed and other environmental mitigatory measures are in progress. Tender evaluation of various packages is in progress. There is budget provision of Rs. 575 crores for the project during the year 1999-2000 (OECF funding Rs. 485 crores and State Govt.'s share Rs. 90 crores).

**3. Teesta Canal Fall—Hydro Electric Project ( $3 \times 3 \times 7.5$  MW)**

The project is being implemented by the WBSEB with loan assistance from OECF, Japan. Unit No. 1, 2 & 3 of Power House No. 1 and unit No. 4 & 5 of Power House No. II have already been commissioned. Four other units are expected to be commissioned by the second half of 1999. There is budget provision of Rs. 16.10 crores for the project during the year 1999-2000 (OECF funding Rs. 13.65 crores and State Govt.'s share Rs. 2.45 crores).

**4. OECF Assisted Transmission Project**

To match with the system needs, WBSEB has taken up the project for augmenting its transmission net work. OECF loan amounting to Rs. 353 crores was sanctioned in the first tranche.

This project will add 22 CKM of 400 KV lines, 86 CKM of 200 KV lines and 1044 CKM of 132 KV line apart from addition of 630 MVA (400/220 KV), 2080 MVA (220/132 KV), 1090 MVA (132/33 KV) and 1638 MVA (33/11 KV).

### **Transformer in the system of WBSEB**

The project is schedule for completion by 2002 A.D.

The whole project has been sub-divided into four lots. LOI for lot No. I and lot No. II have already been placed on 18th February, 1999. Evaluation for lot No. III and lot No. IV is complete and clearance of OECF is awaited. Land acquisition for sub-stations is in progress.

### **Other Plan Programmes**

1. Durgapur Projects Ltd. has taken up renovation, upgradation and life extension programme of Unit, No. 1-5 of its power station with loan assistance from Power Finance Corporation Ltd. During the year 1998-99 PFC Ltd. sanctioned loan amounting to Rs. 286.82 crores out of total project cost of Rs. 363.4522 crores including I.D.C. In terms of the conditions of loan sanctioned by the PFC Ltd, DPL is required to provide 21% of the project cost (Rs. 76.63 crores) from its plan fund/other sources, for payment of interest during construction, upfront fee, commitment charges, overhead expenses, consultancy fee and service charges in connection with the project. In view of the DPL's inability to generate such additional fund it has become necessary to make provision for such fund during the 9th Five Year Plan though there was no such provision in the original plan outlay of the 9th Plan.

2. West Bengal Rural Energy Development Corporation has been formed to implement Rural Electrification Programme effectively through the centralised institutional mechanism involving Panchayets/Rural Electric Co-operative Societies. The Corporation will also take up distribution of power to the consumers in rural areas at 400 volts and below. Action plan of the Corporation is being formulated to take over the works from the WBSEB in phases. Provision for loan from West Bengal Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation amounting to Rs. 60 crores has been made in the Annual Plan for 1999-2000 for implementation of the Rural Electrification Programme by the West Bengal Energy Development Corporation.

### **Computerisation**

It has been decided by the Board to go all out for modernisation of the system for the power stations, transmission and distribution system, communication, monitoring, personnel, finance and commercial management by undertaking EDP system. The automation has already been commissioned for developing energy bill and collection of revenue, in a good number of sectors, covering mostly the district Hd. Qrs. and important field units having considerable revenue. As on 31.12.98, in the first phase, the Board has installed 11 computer centres from which billing of 577571 consumers are being prepared and in the second phase, 12 such centres were developed from which 336264 consumers have been covered and billed through these computer system i.e. 903835 consumers are being billed through computer system. This will continue in 1999-2000 also.

### **Energy Audit**

Energy audit system has also been taken up by the Board to quantify the pilferage and theft of power and take remedial measures. In the meantime, the Board has already installed 87 such meters in 11 kv. Feeder at 33 kv. Sub-stations in Howrah district involving a total cost of Rs. 362.06 lacs out of which Central Govt. sanctioned a grant to the extent of 50%. Such scheme was also

taken up in Garia and Baguiati areas. In 1999-2000, the Board made a target of fixing of 200 such meters in different theft prone areas. Another project was initiated by the Board covering 7 group E/S. under Baruipur Division in 24-parganas (South) District, of which PFC has already sanctioned an amount of Rs. 95 lacs at low rate of interest. A pilot scheme was taken up for conservation of energy in respect of illumination of office by remodeling the lighting arrangement at Vidyut Bhawan. Such scheme may also be adopted by different big offices in and around Calcutta. Another scheme has already been taken up by the Board by remote metering arrangement, which will cover 30 bulk consumers with 24-hours monitoring. A few meters were already installed and the balance will be installed in 1999-2000. Once all such meters are spread over the entire network, it is likely diminish the fixed cost to some extent and greater creativity in each sector finally improve the working result of the Board as a whole.

### **Plant Load Factor of WBSEB Power Stations Problems and Measures to Improve**

The Plant Load Factor of Thermal Power Stations of WBSEB at Bandel & Santaldih for the year 1994-95 to 1998-99 may be seen in annexed sheet. The Units of Bandel TPS (1 to 4) being very old are in urgent need of major renovation and modernisation for improvement in their performance level. Similar action is also required for Santaldih units and DPL units. Even in the existing condition the PLF of the stations could be somewhat higher but for the system constraint which in the case of West Bengal is such that there is substantial difference between the peak demand and off-peak demand. Moreover, in our State we have a very poor Hydro-Thermal mix. Situation shall substantially turn for the better with the commissioning of Purulia Pumped Storage Project in 2003-04.

PLF of Kolaghat Thermal Power Plant is quite good and could be better but for the system constraint.

### **Steps for Reduction of T & D Losses**

T & D loss is a major concern for all the power supply agencies, particularly, the State Electricity Board in India.

The following steps are being taken for reducing T & D losses in WBSEB.

1. Installation and commissioning of EHV transmission lines and Sub-Stations for improvement voltage profile and consequent reduction in transmission losses. This is being done through the OECF assisted West Bengal Transmission Scheme.
2. In most the grid Sub-Stations shunt capacitors totalling about 300 MVAR have been installed to improve voltage profile and thereby reduce transmission losses.
3. Sub-Transmission Systems at 33 KV level are being expanded with addition of new 33 KV Sub-Stations and associated lines every year. This also would improve voltage profile and reduce losses at Sub-transmission levels.
4. 11 KV Net-works and L.T. Net-works are being re-oriented in such a way that lengths in these voltage levels are reduced and consumers are directly fed by small capacity 11 KV transformers. This would reduce losses in M & LV system to a great extent.
5. Conductors of higher sectional area are being gradually introduced for reduction of Sub-Transmission and Distribution losses.

There are various reasons for the ill health of WBSEB. The low tariff in low and medium voltage however, appears to be the main reasons.



## Year Wise Generation and P. L. F. BTPS-STPS-KTPP &amp; D. P. L.

POWER STATION	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	GEN IN MU	PLF (%)	GEN IN MU	PLF (%)	GEN IN MU	PLF (%)	GEN IN MU	PLF (%)	GEN IN MU	PLF (%)
BTPS	2329.915	50.18	1720.607	36.96	2239.635	48.24	2110.918	45.47	1777.002	38.27
STPS	1316.888	31.32	1340.852	31.80	1227.925	29.20	1421.973	33.82	1472.829	35.03
KTPP	5804.955	52.59	6232.479	56.31	6235.077	56.49	5814.425	52.68	6689.378	60.61
DPL	907.324	26.56	905.670	26.44	1011.940	29.62	860.794	25.20	592.723	17.35
BTPS + STPS	3646.803	41.22	3061.459	34.51	3467.56	39.19	3532.891	39.93	3249.831	36.73
TOTAL	10359.082	44.46	10199.608	43.65	19714.577	45.98	10208.11	43.81	10531.932	45.20
HYDEL	83.638	—	128.983	—	273.92	—	291.169	—	356.042	—
GAS TURB.	15.715	—	14.657	—	11.815	—	15.412	—	23.766	—
BOARD TOT	3746.156	—	3205.099	—	3753.295	—	3839.472	—	3629.639	—
G. TOTAL	10458.435	—	10343.248	—	11000.312	—	10514.691	—	10911.74	—

## Energy

Loss suffered in the rural areas in the low and medium voltage sector during the year 97-98 has been analysed and a total picture of sale of power in different voltage sector has been shown mentioning recovery there against.

	Energy Sold (MV)	Revenue (Rs. in lakh)	P/Kwh	Cost of Sales (Rs. in lakh)	P/Kwh	Profit (+) KWH Loss (-)/KWH
1. Sale at 132 kv & 66 kv level	2384	46239	193.14	40316	168.40	24.74
2. Sales at 33 kv to 11 kv level	2642	85476	323.55	50059	189.49	134.06
3. Sales at 4 kv & below	4900	49155	100.32	145164	296.25	- 195.93
4. Total	9936	180870	182.04	235539	237.06	- 55.02

From the above position, it may be seen that the revenue earned and recovery by selling power in low and medium voltage sectors is very low as against average cost of sales of 237.06 p/kwh and not matching to the huge investment made by the Board by drawal of loan from Govt. as well as different financial institutions with rate of interest, which is now 15% on an average. The total power sold in 97-98 was 9936 MKWH. Out of this, 4900 MKWH was sold in low and medium voltage which is 49% of the total sale. But only 27% of total revenue is earned from this sector, which makes the imbalance in the sale mix of the Board. The Board suffered loss of 195.93 p/kwh in low and medium voltage sector in the year 97-98. If there was scope for selling more power to the high voltage, extra high voltage sectors where rate of recovery is comparatively high, the loss suffered by the Board in the rural areas could be cross subsidised even without not increasing the traiff to some extent. In the event of uneven growth of sales mix of the Board compared to other power utilities, there is an inbuilt deficiency in the system. Due to poor growth in high voltage and extra high voltage sector in the SEB area and high growth of consumers in the low and medium sector, the recovery of cost could not be achieved during the last few years.

### The Position Regarding the Progress of Rural Electrification is Given Below :

	Upto 31.3.1998	Upto 31.3. 1999
1. No. of Mouzas Electrified	29,319	29,402
2. No. of SC Mouzas Electrified	5,809	5,831
3. No. of ST Mouzas Electrified	2,160	2,172
4. No. Mouzas/Hamlets Intensified	3,642	4,729
5. No. of Agricultural Pumpset Energised	1,04,383	1,07,238

Re-organization of the power sector has been admitted in the line of recommendations of the Re-organization Committee set up in 1997. The power sector of the Durgapur Projects Ltd. is proposed to be merged with the West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd. Bandel and Santaldihi, these two power stations belonging to West Bengal State Electricity Board will also be transferred to WBPDC in the long run. The WBREDC has been created for exclusive works of the Rural Electrification and supply of power to rural areas. The West Bengal State Electricity Regulatory Commission, has been set up with a view to rationalising the tariff of the power utilities in the State. The Chairman of the Commission has since joined and steps for appointment of other Commissioners are being taken.

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## 5.2 NON-CONVENTIONAL SOURCES OF ENERGY

### 5.2.1 Programme of the Science, Technology and Non-Conventional Energy

It is now increasingly realised that the exploitation of renewable energy sources not only supplement the generation of power through conventional energy sources but also would provide a viable option for wide application.

With the help of the allotted amount of Rs. 2,70,00,000 under the head—2810 the following salient programme among other will be implemented.

#### **Bio-Gas Programme**

During the financial year 1999-2000 the target of family size Bio-gas plants has been set at 12,000 nos. And it is proposed to set up 10 nos. of Institutional and Nightsoil based Bio-Gas Plants in the State.

#### **Improved Chullah**

This year WBREDA has a proposal to set up 50,000 improved Chullah in the State.

As on Feb '99 25,624 nos. of Chullahs has been installed by WBREDA.

#### **Bio-mass Garifier Plant**

During this year a 30-KVA Garifier Power Plant is likely to be commissioned at Lolegaon in Darjeeling District.

WBREDA is also formulating a scheme to install a grid connected Bio mass-based Power Plant at Malbazar, Jalpaiguri.

#### **Wind**

The first Wind Farm of the State of capacity of 2 MW is coming up at Frazergunj area of 24 Parganas (South) district, is scheduled to be commissioned in 1999-2000.

#### **Energy Education Park**

The target of commissioning of Energy Education Park which is being set up opposite to the Science City by WBREDA in association with National Council of Science Museum, Calcutta Municipal Corporation and West Bengal Pollution Control Board and CMDA and others has been fixed in June '99.

#### **Solar Energy**

During this financial year a target for installation of 30,000 litres of solar Water Heating System has been proposed. And a target of 1000 Solar House Lighting System has been set. In additions three more Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants of capacity 25 KW each will be installed at Sagar Island for village electrification system.

WBREDA in association with the Health Department is also setting up a 20 KW Capacity SPV Captive Power Plant at the Rudranagar Hospital of Sagar Island. The work is in progress and the Plant is likely to be commissioned during this financial year.

#### **Administrative Building of WBREDA**

The Building at WBREDA designed with Solar Passive Architectural Concept is expected to be completed during the year 1999-2000.

### 5.3 INTEGRATED RURAL ENERGY PROGRAMME (IREP)

#### 5.3.1 Programme of the Development & Planning Department

During the Sixth Plan, the Integrated Rural Energy Planning (IREP) Programme was designed and developed by the Planning Commission with a view to tackling the Energy Problems in a systematic manner in the country. The programme was initiated in West Bengal during the 7th Plan period in seven selected blocks.

1. Developing institutional mechanism
2. Training, demonstration and extension
3. Efficient utilisation of fuel wood
4. Improved use of cowdung
5. Promotion of alternative Energy Technologies
6. Promotion and efficient development of commercial Energy Sources in Rural Areas.

Stress is being laid for devising a suitable mechanism at the State, District and Block Levels to ensure people's participation for implementing the IREP Programme and to improve the quality of life style of the rural masses. Devices based on commercial and conventional sources of energy were promoted in addition to non-conventional inputs like Bio gas, solar photovoltaic system, solar thermal energy systems etc. in order to achieve an integrated energy, rich pattern in the selected blocks and the same would be extended to other blocks gradually.

At present there are 40 IREP Blocks in the State of which IREP programmes have been taken up with reasonable success in 12 Blocks. Solar Water heating Systems have been commissioned in rural hospitals and Primary Health Centres in 26 Blocks by Saxby Farmer Limited (a Govt. of W. B. Company). The National Pilot Project at Lavput had started functioning. It is a model institution for imparting training and taking up related extension activities for IREP for the whole State. It is a unit unique of its type in the Eastern Zone. The Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur which is the technical back-up unit has also been imparting training to different field level functionaries in the arena of installation and maintenance of devices.

Out of the approved Budget provision for Rs. 100.00 lakhs in 1998-99, Rs. 99.99 lakhs were spent and in the current year's budget (1999-2000), a provision of Rs. 140.00 lakhs has been provided.

## CHAPTER VI

### Industry and Minerals

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## VI. INDUSTRY AND MINERALS

### 6.1 VILLAGE AND SMALL INDUSTRIES

#### 6.1.1 Programme of the Cottage and Small Scale Industries Department

1. Considering the acute unemployment problem of this State, this Department has been implementing various employment oriented schemes. It can not be denied that setting up of Small Scale Units in large number will generate more employment than units in the large and medium sectors. It may be stated that SSI Sector engages over 29 lakhs people (15 lakhs in Cottage & Small Scale Industries Sector, 4.10 lakhs in Sericulture & Silk, 7.10 lakhs in Handloom & Powerloom and 3 lakhs in Khadi & Village Industries) and this sector offers the largest employment opportunities in this State next to Agriculture.

2. The important activities of this Department are highlighted in the subsequent paragraphs.

3. For helping the educated unemployed youths the scheme Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is being implemented by this Department. During the period from April '96 to January '97, 24002 cases have been sponsored to Banks against the target of 22,900. Banks have so far sanctioned 4783 cases only and departmental officers are pursuing the cases pending for sanction and disbursement with the banks.

4. In regard to setting up of new SSI units during 1995-96, as many as 5434 units were set up and, as a result, employment opportunities of 15524 persons were created. It is expected that in 1996-97, 8000 units will be set up creating employment opportunities of 24,000 persons. During 1995-96, 16,522 units were registered.

5. During 1995-96, 6620 nos. of biogas plants were set up as against the target of 7000. During 1996-97, the target of setting up of 8000 biogas plants is likely to be achieved.

6. Three premises of M/s. Bengal Potteries Ltd. (in liquidation) located at Tangra Road, Pagladanga Road and Taratolla Road comprising a total area of 1073 Cattahs have been taken over by this Department at a total cost of Rs. 12.10 crores for setting up Industrial Estates in order to accommodate about 1500 SSI non-polluting units.

7. In order to augment production and improving the overall activities including technological upgradation, process control, value addition and diversification in some selected areas by using improved technology, it has been decided by this Department to set up Ready-made Garments Complex, Hosiery Complex, Gems and jewellery Complex and Powerloom Complex. Steps are being initiated after locating suitable premises and entrepreneurs.

8. Emphasis has been given on the production and development of leather and leather-based industries, since this is one of the export oriented industries of this State. During 1995-96 leather and leather-based goods amounting to Rs. 617.12 crores were exported as against all India export earnings of Rs. 3228.47 crores and the State secured top position. About 18,000 SSI Units are engaged in manufacturing of leather and leather products. For further improvement of these industries particularly to help them compete in the global market, a design studio for leather goods with computer aided design facility, sample room, resource centre and library is going to be commissioned at Calcutta very shortly.

9. About Rs. 111 crores (Rs. 46 crores during 1995-96 and Rs. 55 crores during 1996-97) under Consortium Bank Credit Scheme from the Khadi & Village Industries Commission for Khadi &

Village Industries Board, West Bengal is being sanctioned to rural artisans for setting up various rural based industries and, as a result, about 20,000 employment opportunities will be created.

10. In order to attract greater number of entrepreneurs for setting up SSI units, State Incentive Scheme is in operation. The Scheme is being further amended to offer all types of incentives as are now given to the medium and large industries. A consultancy cell has been opened in W.B.S.I.C. for inter alia vetting of new projects at a very nominal fee. Besides, margin money loan @ 10% of the project cost approved by the financing agencies are given to SSI units. Realisation of loans is also improving. During 1995-96 a sum of Rs. 6,51,732/- was recovered from earlier loanees.

11. This Department conducts EDPs in collaboration with different technical and financial institutions and NGOs in order to increase the managerial ability of the new entrepreneurs.

12. This Department has been trying to persuade large industries and especially public sector units to adopt SSI units as ancillaries. Out of 85 PSU's in this State, 13 have constituted Plant Level Committees for ancillarisation. 180 units have been granted ancillary status.

13. S.I.D.A. has been providing single window facilities to SSI units. During the period from 1.4.1996 to 31.1.1997, 12 projects involving project cost of Rs. 416.90 lakhs with a provision for employment opportunities of 157 persons have been sponsored to Bank and WBFC and Banks have so far released Rs. 190. 58 lakhs against 2 projects. During 1996-97, 5 units which were sponsored in 1995-96 have started their production.

14. Upto November, 1996, 4639.317 M.T. of raw materials valued at Rs. 8.54 crores could be delivered to SSI entrepreneurs. 6834.95 M.T. of china clay worth Rs. 82.43 lakhs were sold upto November, 1996. WEBSI detergent powder amounting to Rs. 1.15 crores could be sold upto November, 1996.

15. There are at present 24 Industrial Estates and 8 commercial Estates covering all the districts excepting Hooghly and Dakshin Dinajpur. Upto November, 1996, an amount of Rs. 65.32 lakhs could be realised from the entrepreneurs against short term lease and an amount of Rs. 53.93 lakhs against long term lease. We have already provided land or sheds to 1777 entrepreneurs for setting up of their small scale units in these estates. More Industrial Estates will be set up and with that end in view efforts are being made to acquire land at certain locations nearabout the Calcutta Metropolitan Area.

16. During 1996-97, the State Export Promotion Board has identified a good number of export-worthy units district-wise and is helping them to market their products. The Board has conducted a Training Programme on export marketing with 34 participants. It arranged participation of seven small scale units in the recent India-expo '96 Fair at Dubai. All the Units have been able to book export orders of sizeable quantities. Computerised information on export matters is also available at the Board.

17. Two training centres for skill development in Coir manufacturing at Uluberia in Howrah and Phancheberia in South 24 Parganas are in operation. 40 persons are trained per year in Coir Spinning, Doormat making etc. Uluberia Centre is also providing service facilities to the Tiny Coir Units for extraction of Coir Fibre and supply of Coir Yarn.

18. The main thrust has been given to eliminate middlemen from the Lac Industries by forming Cooperatives of lac Artisans. The said Cooperatives would purchase lac directly from the growers and sell the processed lac directly in the market. Lac industries are concentrated in the districts of Purulia, Bankura, Malda, Midnapore and Murshidabad and provide livelihood to about 80,000 families mostly belonging to ST Communities.



19. handicraft artisans are being assisted in various ways towards supply of inputs, finance, training in advanced method of Crafts and marketing assistance through Manjusha and Bangashree. A scheme for providing pension to old age handicraft artisans @ Rs. 100/- p.m. has been continuing for the last few years. Manjusha has conducted advanced training courses for the handicraft artisans in 7 trades during 1996-97. 2 training programmes are also to be held on Carpet weaving and Wood and metal Crafts at Darjeeling. One Design workshop on Babui grass based crafts has been conducted. To give direct marketing support to handicraft artisans and units, Manjusha has been organising various exhibitions and fairs. Manjusha has made indirect export amounting to Rs. 1.90 lakh of handicraft items during 1996-97.

20. One Sanitary ware project involving Rs. 57.30 lakhs has been commissioned in the factory premises at Belgharia. Production of sanitary items has already started and is being marketed. One Showroom at Manicktola Civic Centre has already been opened for marketing Ceramic goods. Another such project is going to be commissioned during 1997-98 at CCRD, panchmura, Bankura with the help of CGCRI, Calcutta.

### **Handicrafts**

The State Govt. has given special emphasis on the financial aspects of the Handicraft sectors. All the district Industries Centres have been directed to arrange for sponsoring more number of cases of handicraft artisans to banks and other financial institutions for financing under different existing schemes.

The State Govt. has been organising different training programmes through the DICs for imparting training to the Handicraft artisans for upgradation of skill and diversification of products and also for design development. During the year 1997-98 fund was sanctioned for imparting training to 135 handicrafts artisans on 12 different trades. During 1998-99 it has been planned to provide advance training to 35 artisans at our Baruiipur Experimental Workshop-cum-Research Institute through West Bengal Handicrafts Development Corporation. During 1999-2000. It has been planned to cover more number of artisans under different training programmes for their skill upgradation, quality improvement, design development etc. Arrangements will also be made for bringing mastercrafts persons on different trades from other States. In order to encourage the handicraft artisans of the State for creation of innovative handicraft products, the district level as well as State level handicrafts Competition are organised every year. During 1997-98, 222 artisans were selected and were awarded with District Level Awards and 47 artisans were awarded with State Level Awards for their notable creations. During 1998-99 also 222 artisans have been awarded with district awards and 75 artisans were given State Awards. This scheme will continue to be implemented during the next Financial Year.

C & SSI Directorate in collaboration with West Bengal Handicrafts Development Corporation. Ltd organises Handicrafts Expo at Calcutta Maidan every year. During 1997-98 the said Expo was held at Calcutta maidan from 24.12.1997 to 13.01.1998 where 567 artisans and Artisan's Organisation participated. The artisans were able to sell Handicrafts products valued about Rs. 162.58 lakhs during the said Expo. The Handicrafts Expo 1998-99 was held at Calcutta maidan from 30.12.1998 to 19.01.1999 where about 700 Handicrafts artisan's Organisation participated from the different districts. The total sale in the above expo was about Rs. 290 lakhs. For assisting the rural handicrafts artisans in respect of marketing of their respective products, the State Govt. intends to organise the Handicrafts Expo during the financial year 1999-2000 also.

The State Govt. sanctioned and disbursed Rs. 81,53,627/- as 20% rebate on sale of Handicrafts products by the handicrafts artisans and other handicrafts organisation during the year 1997-98.

Requirements of fund for the year 1998-99 will be about Rs. 1,00,000 (Rupees one crore). Granting of such rebate will encourage also of Handicrafts products as a result of which the handicrafts artisans will be benefitted. The State Govt. intends to implement the scheme during the financial year 1999-2000 also.

The State Govt. has also been granting financial assistance for different purposes to the West Bengal Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd. (Manjusha), West Bengal Handicrafts Co-operative Society Ltd. (Bangashree) and Paschim Banga Mahila Samabaya mahasanga Ltd. so that they can assist the handicraft artisans/handicrafts co-operatives for implementation of different programmes.

Under the scheme of granting artisans' pension, 894 artisans were given pension @ Rs. 100/- per month during 1997-98. An amount Rs. 11.22 lakhs has been sanctioned during 1998-99 for payment of such pension to 970 artisans.

Because of the importance given on the Handicrafts Sector by the State Govt., the sanction of fund in those sectors exceeded its allocation during the year 1997-98. The Govt. has decided to enhance Budget provision of the sector for the year 1999-2000.

### **Coir Industries Development Programmes**

For development of Coir Industries in the State, the State Govt. has been insisting on development of such industries on Co-operative basis. State Govt. sanctioned Rs. 1,44,300 only during 1997-98 for providing training 20 women on manufacture of coir yarn by motorised ratts. In Murshidabad districts ten women were trained and have taken all steps for formation of Co-operative society among themselves. In South 24 Parganas district, ten women trainees are undergoing training on Coir yarn. State Govt. has submitted specific proposals to the Coir Board for providing financial assistances to the existing Coir Cooperative and also for arrangement of organising training for operation of motorised ratts so that a large number of women can get self employment by setting up of tiny yarn making Units.

### **Leather Development Programme**

The State Government has been encouraging Small Leather Manufacturing Units under its different existing programmes. One training programme for women candidate for manufacture of fancy leather goods has been continuing and 20 women trainees will complete the two-year Training Programme during the month of March this year. Besides, the Model Footware Service Centre is also assisting small leather units for getting service benefit. Last year about 25 artisans Units were accommodated in the C & SSI Directorate Pavilion in the Lexpo-XXII where such Units were able to sell their own products at free of cost. C & SSI Directorate has been keeping close contact with CLRI for implementation of different NLDP programmes in the State.

### **Directorate of Handloom & Textiles**

The Directorate of handloom and Textiles, West Bengal is responsible for development of handloom, powerloom, hosiery and readymade garments industries in West Bengal. The major thrust is however, on handloom industry.

The handloom industry is the single largest sector second only to agriculture in the rural economy in employment potentiality. There are about 3,50,994 looms in the State giving full time and part-time employment to 6,66,514 handloom weavers and also to persons in preparatory works. (The figures as shown above are provisional ones based on "handloom and powerloom Census" conducted in 1995-96 by the Government of India).

The policy of the Government is to organise handloom weavers under cooperative and provide them with financial, technical and marketing assistance. since 1993-94, in addition to existing developmental and welfare schemes, a new venture for setting up Handloom Development Centres (HDC) and Quality Dyeing Units (QDU) has been taken up and till December, 1998, 197 HDCs and 40 QDUs have been sanctioned fund.

Upto 1997-98, 1,82,165 looms were brought under cooperative fold. During the Current financial year 1998-99, 101 additional looms have been covered by registering one new cooperative upto the end of December, 1998. As on 31.12.1998 there were 2172 primary handloom weavers cooperative societies including 80 societies formed with loomless weavers. In 1999-2000 a few more primary societies are expected to be registered and thus another 1000 looms are likely to be covered during 1999-2000.

After registration of primary weavers' cooperative societies assistance as per approved scale in the shape of state participation in the share capital, share capital loan and working capital loan are being provided.

Under the scheme "modernisation of looms", financial assistance is provided for supply of improved looms and accessories to the primary weavers cooperative societies for qualitative improvement of handloom products. "Construction of common workshop-cum-warehouse for loomless weavers" is another scheme being implemented in this state. Assistance is also provided to the primary weavers cooperative societies and 4 State-level organisations in the shape of market development assistance. This is a centrally sponsored scheme and only recently, the Govt. of India, has decided to allow its continuation upto the year 1999-2000, with certain modified stipulations in the eligibility criteria. The State Govt. had released its share to the tune of Rs. 630.41 lakhs during 1997-98 and we are yet to receive full matching share from the Govt. of India on this account. In addition, we are also preferring claims for the current year and it is likely that MDA for the PWCS and 4-State level organisation would be to the tune of rs. 800.00 lakhs in the year 1998-99 having shares of State Govt. and Central Govt. at the ratio of 1 : 1 Estimated assistance under this scheme for 1999-2000 may be to the tune of rs. 850.00 lakhs.

In order to help the primary weavers' cooperative societies to avail themselves of the facilities under NABARD Scheme of handloom finance at concessional rate of interest, the State Government is assisting those cooperative societies by providing assistance in the shape of relief on interest charges on working capital loan. The State Govt. has already released Rs. 3.00 crore during 1998-99 for reimbursement of subsidy and it is likely that another Rs. 2.50 crores will be received further in the current year to clear all receivables of Banks/PWCS/S.L.Os upto 31.03.98. To encourage and motivate the handloom weavers in upgrading their skill and standardisation of products, handloom competitions are held at State Level as well as district level. During 1998-99, a sum of Rs. 80,500 has been sanctioned as prize money for the weavers from the State Plan Budget.

For the welfare of the handloom weavers of this state two welfare schemes namely provident fund/thrift fund scheme and Group savings linked insurance scheme, are being implemented from state Plan Budget alongwith 50 : 50 matching contribution from Government of India. Another important Central Sector Welfare Schemes viz. "Workshed Scheme for Handloom Weavers" is being implemented from the assistance of Government of India.

These apart, a State Sector Scheme "Old age pension for Handloom Weavers" is also being implemented from State Plan Budget. Upto March, 1998 17,405 number of weavers (cumulative) have been brought under coverage of the scheme under "Thrift Fund Scheme". Under the "Old Age

pension Scheme” 1590 number of weavers have been extended benefits in this year. At present all the aforesaid welfare Schemes are being implemented through cooperative societies. Relevantly this is to state that G.S.L.I. Scheme has been recently declared to be discontinued from 1990-2000 by the Govt. of India which has been substituted by a new Insurance Scheme for Handloom Handloom Weavers.

Government of India, in view of phasing out of Janata Cloth Scheme came forward with the scheme for setting up of Handloom development centre and Quality Dyeing Units. This scheme promises to take care of some of the basic problems of handloom industry in areas namely, supply of inputs including working capital, supply of raw materials, design development, improved dyeing practices and marketing of products etc. Upto December, 1998, since inception of the scheme, 197 handloom Development Centres have been sanctioned and location of 54 Quality Dyeing Units have been approved by Government of India. However, fund has been released by G.O.I. in favour of 197 H.D.Cs & 40 Q.D.Us for an amount of Rs. 775.265 lakhs (upto December '98) out of which a sum of Rs. 768.605 lakhs has been released by the State Government in favour of the Implementing Agencies. A proposals of HDC are at present awaiting sanction of fund at the end of Government of India.

During previous years assistances from the Government of India have also been received under the centrally sponsored Project Package Scheme and the central sector scheme like Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme and the scheme for Margin Money for Destitute Weavers.

The last two schemes have been discontinued from 1997-98 by Government of India and ambit of the centrally sponsored Project Package Scheme has been widened so that benefits under the discontinued schemes may be availed of from the Project Package Scheme. So far 26 projects involving an approved total project cost of Rs. 546.25 lakhs have been sanctioned by Government of India in the State for a targetted beneficiaries of 2675 weavers and 18 out of them having received a portion of both Central & State Government's share of assistance to the tune of Rs. 215.695 lakhs upto December '98 are under different stages of implementation.

3 projects previously sanctioned under the erstwhile Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme are under implementation in the districts of Midnapore, Burdwan and Hooghly for a targetted beneficiaries of 300 weavers. A sum of Rs. 28.75 lakhs released by Government of India under the scheme so far, is being utilised.

Under the erstwhile scheme for Margin Money for Destitute Handloom Weavers Government of India's sanctioned assistance of Rs. 17.00 lakhs had been fully utilised benefiting 1350 weavers. Proposal for release of the balance Central share of assistance of rs. 9.00 lakhs has been preferred to Govt. of Inda.

A new scheme for Development of Exportable products and their marketing introuced by Govt. of India is also being implemented for production of exportable production handloom. 5 such projects have been sanctioned so far which are under implementation.

There are 3 coop. spinning mills and 3 state sector spinning mills in West Bengal. Out of these Kangsabati Coop. Spg. Mills Ltd. is engaged in production of Acrylic yarn. Other mills are engaged in production of cotton hank yarn and cone yarn for handloom, powerloom and Hosiery industries. In order to ensure smooth supply of raw cotton of standard quality to the aforesaid spinning mills at reasonable price also to ensure sale of yarn produced by the Mills at ruling Market price, a Cotton and Yarn Monitoring Committee has been constituted by the Govt. Yarn produced by the above spinning mills is marketed mostly through Tantuja and Tantusree under the supervision of the

Committee. Tantuja and Tantusree have together sold yarn worth rs. 41.93 crores approximately upto December '98 (1998-99). Besides Mills are allowed to sell a production of cone yarn directly in the market. It has also been decided that entire requirement of cotton for the 5 spinning mills producing cotton yarn for the current season will be purchased from Cotton Corporation of India under supervision of the above committee. This is expected to increase efficiency of production and also ensure quality and uninterrupted production of yarn by the spinning mills throughout the year. The State Government has been providing funds to these mills for modernisation and expansion programmes. A Board for restructuring supervision and monitoring of the spinning mills has also been set up with a view to overseeing the functioning of the spinning mills as well as to suggest steps for their better functioning.

At present there are about 5440 powerlooms in West Bengal. Total number of powerloom cooperatives in this State is 91 covering 1,484 looms. It has been decided to encourage the powerloom sector without hampering interest of handloom weavers of this State by setting up of new units and modernisation of existing units with a view to capturing the vast market of powerloom products of this State. Setting up of one Integrated Powerloom Complex is also being considered for development of this sector. Financial assistance for construction of common workshed and acquisition of modern looms and accessories is sanctioned in favour of powerloom cooperative organised with powerloom workers.

3 Powerloom cooperative societies have been registered for installation of modern powerlooms. Fund for construction of workshed and acquisition of looms and accessories etc. has been sanctioned by NCDC in favour of these 3 new powerloom cooperative societies.

To develop and modernise the Readymade Garments industry of this State one integrated Readymade Garment complex is being set up at Santoshpur-Kalinagar in South 24 Parganas. [by the West Bengal Small Industries Corporation Limited]. It is expected that the complex will cater to the needs of the entrepreneurs to set up their modern new units. The complex is being developed by the West Bengal Small Industries Corporation. There are 61 Readymade Garments Cooperative Societies in the State.

The Hosiery Industry of the State is mainly localised in Calcutta and Howrah. There are about 2291 units comprising of knitting, processing, cutting and stitching units. There are about 10 units which are composite units engaged in knitting and processing.

6 hosiery cooperatives set up in Howrah are running. According to the latest figures, the production of hosiery products of the State is about 30 million kg. in the year 1998-99.

One Computer Aided Test and Development Centre for the Handloom and Readymade Garment Design Centre has been set up in Calcutta.

A Centre of the Textile Institute has been set up in Calcutta. Construction of a new building for the Centre is under progress.

In order to promote the Readymade Garments Export, a Readymade Garment Export

was organised by the State Export Promotion Board in collaboration with the Directorate of Handloom & Textile, West Bengal. Spinning Mills under the administrative control of the State Government, Handloom Organisations, Hosiery and Readymade garments units etc. of the State participated in the Fair.

### Directorate of Sericulture

West Bengal is one of the very few States where all the four kinds of Silk is cultivated. All the activities under this industry are highly labour intensive operation. Considering its tremendous economic prospect and employment potentiality for the rural people, the State Government has been laying greater and greater emphasis on the development of Sericulture since the Fifth Five Year Plan what makes Sericulture more worthwhile. It can be practised in the land which is, otherwise, not suitable for agriculture or can be practised in existing forest areas with selective plantation. That is why most of the Sericulturists are marginal and small farmers and many of them belong to SC/ST communities or from other backward classes.

Previously Sericulture activities in the state were mostly confined to four or five districts, but during past two decades most of the districts have been brought under sericulture coverage. Mulberry Sericulture has been steadily developing not only in traditional districts but almost all the districts of State excepting Calcutta and Howrah. Tasar is mostly reared in western parts of the State whereas Muga and Eri are restricted to Coochbehar and Jalpaiguri.

Overall development of sericulture activities in the state includes both horizontal and vertical growth of Sericulture and dovers for expansion of mulberry acreage with H.Y.V. plantation and developing proper infrastructure for adoption of improved rearing technology, ensuring supply of DFLs, marketing support, developing reeling, twisting and other post cocoon activities etc., imparting training to farmers in rearing and reeling for transfer of latest technical know how to sericulturists and also for development of non-mulberry sericulture is given emphasis.

Activities : With these objects in view, the Directorate of Sericulture has been implementing different development projects.

On-Going Schemes	Financial Provision (Rs. in lakh)	
	During 1999-2000	During 9th Plan
1. Project for development of sericulture in different districts	15.00	137.45
		for sericulturists at 50% cost in cases of increase in mulberry acreage in different districts
	10.00	13.50
		for small farmers for development of sericulture with matching subsidy.
		156.00

the field as well as the farmers are benefited by government subsidy of 0.33 and 0.50

4. Project for development of marketing of cocoons and silk yarn.	4.00	53.00
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**Objective :** To provide marketing support to new sericulturists in the non-traditional areas in initial stages and to prevent distress sale of the produce. Besides more facilities will be provided in the cocoon market which are being set up as all transactions of the cocoons has to be compulsorily done in the cocoon market under sericulture Act 1998.

5. Other development scheme for sericulture Industries.	63.00	786.75
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**Objective :** (i) Development of Seed organisation.  
(ii) Development of quality raw silk product.  
(iii) Development of Sericulture Cooperatives.  
(iv) Publicity and Publication.  
(v) Welfare of Sericulturists.  
(vi) Development of Bivoltine cocoon production.  
(vii) Re-organisation and modernisation of sericulture Govt. units.

6. Project for Block Adoption for economic development of people belonging to S.C.	—	16.60
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7. Project for development of non-mulberry sericulture	9.40	153.75
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8. Project for Area Development for Tribal self employment	—	85.75
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9. National sericulture project (Non-reimbursable).	122.00	2085.00
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**Objective :** To sustain the growth already achieved under externally aided NSP, this has been retained to continue training programme, maintenance of civil works already created, to undertake minor works as necessary etc.

#### **New Schemes**

1. Seri-2000 (by re-appropriation from other plan sub-head)	50.00	400.00
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**Objective :** It is a collaborative Sericulture developmental programme between the government of India and government of Switzerland through SDC involving State Govt. NGO and Private organisation. The project will spread over a period of five years i.e. April 97 to March 2002 and the entire aid will be in the form of a grant.

2. Catalytic Development Scheme (by re-appropriation from other plan sub-head)	27.00	77.45
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**Objective :** Central Silk Board has formulated certain catalytic development schemes to assist the states with the approval of Ministry of Textile. Directorate of Sericulture, W. B. has identified 10 schemes, out of them and chalked out both yearwise and districtwise action plan on the schemes. Implementation of the schemes will start from 1998-99.

## **6.2 INDUSTRY (Other than Village and Small Industries)**

### **6.2.1 Programme of the Commerce and Industries Department**

#### **Performance and Activities of the Commerce & Industries Department**

The main activity of the Department is focussed on rapid Industrial Development of the State. Keeping in view the Industrial Policy Statement made in 1994 the Department is endeavouring to

attract new investments from foreign and domestic investors and Industrialist. The efforts of the Department were directed towards strengthening the base of traditional industries viz. Jute, Engineering, Tea, Mining and Textiles. Simultaneously, positive steps were taken to catalyse investments in modern and 'High Tech' sectors. The Policy of the Department is having twin objectives of ensuring progress in the 'High Tech' areas on the one hand and catalysing investment in the labour intensive industries with greater emphasis on infrastructure for industrial growth.

Based upon the industrial potential of the State the following sectors have been identified for accelerated growth : Petrochemical, Chemical and downstream industries, Electronics and Information Technology, Leather and leather products, Textiles, Iron & Steel, Metallurgical and Engineering, Food Processing, Agro based industries, Mineral & mining based industries, Gems and Jewellery and Tourism.

From 1991-98, 1843 investment proposals for a total estimated investment of Rs. 48,626 crore have been received of which 302 projects with a total investment by Rs. 7,799 crore have already commenced commercial production. Currently 80 projects having an investment of Rs. 10,030 crores are under implementation in various parts of the State.

The State has fared reasonably well with regard to investment by NRIs and Foreign investors. Out of total 1843 industrial approvals received by the State during 1991-98, 268 proposals have come from NRIs/Foreign investors accounting for an investment of Rs. 21,452.86 crores.

With a view to improving industrial infrastructure, the Department has taken some action plans which have started yielding results. The Asian Development Bank has sanctioned assistance for preparation of feasibility report for the proposed Calcutta-siliguri, Calcutta-Haldia Expressway of international standard. Mes Dusseldorf of Germany is preparing a master-plan for construction of permanent Exhibition Complex with the Financial assistance from Indo-German Investment Promotion Service. Simultaneously, the Department has entered into an agreement with India Trade Promotion Organisation for construction of the said permanent Exhibition Complex by the side of Eastern Metropolitan Bypass, through a joint venture with WBIDC. The Calcutta Leather Complex project is being implemented on about 1100 acres of land near south-eastern fringe of Calcutta with the object of not only relocating the existing tanneries of East Calcutta but also attracting more leather and leather related units so that it can be a composite leather complex unique in the part of the world. A Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology has started functioning with participation of Govt. of India to impart technical training to the personnel for plastic sector.

Actions are being taken to implement a project of residential and commercial complex at the Eastern fringe of Calcutta by M/s. Bengal NRI Ltd. which is a joint sector company. A private company is setting up a satellite township near Siliguri. An Export Processing Industrial Park is almost complete at Durgapur for setting up of Export Processing units. 12 Growth Centres have been set up over an area of about 2000 acres of land in various parts of State to facilitate setting up of Industrial units there.

By the constant efforts and monitoring several giant industrial units are coming up in the State. Haldia petrochemicals will be commissioned by the end of this year. The State Govt. has initiated necessary steps for acquiring land and arranging other infrastructural support to facilitate setting up by downstream projects of plastic processing Industries and Chemical industries. Another Giant project with participation by WBIDC, Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation's PTA plant at Haldia will commence commercial production during the next financial year. A cold rolling Mill with an outlay of Rs. 300 crores is under execution in Hooghly district by Bhusan Industries Ltd.



The Department has given utmost priority to the application of Information Technology to improve the interface between the Govt. offices and the people. A high level Task force has been constituted to advise the Govt. on this issue. In the Electronics and Software sector quite a few global and national level players such as Computer Associates, TCG Software, SEMA, Siemens, ACC and Price Water House Coopers have moved into the State.

Considerable attention have been given on promotion of Export and setting up of Export Oriented units in the State. The number of operational units and units implementation at Falta Export Processing Zone is at present 86. During last financial year total export from the zone was more than Rs. 56 crores. Several infrastructural schemes for improvement of trade to Bangladesh through Petrapole has been taken up with the assistance of Govt. of India.

### **6.2.2 Programme of the Public Enterprise Department**

Keeping in view the plan performance during the 8th plan period and guide lines of the Planning Commission for the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002) the Annual Plan (1999-2000) has been formulated with special stress on the programme of rehabilitation/modernisation/expansion of the existing plants and machineries of the units under this Department, so as to ensure improvement in their working. The Department of Public Enterprises now exercises administrative control over 23 enterprises and one departmental undertaking.

### **Industry and Minerals**

1. **Durgapur Chemicals Ltd. :** The Company has only one project renovation/modernisation/diversification of the existing plants and machineries and diversification of its products range included in the 9th Plan. The Stable Bleaching Powder project and hydrogen bottling plant project of the company has been completed. Chlorinated Paraffin Wax Project is being scheduled for implementation during the current year for utilisation of the excess Chlorine out of the production of Caustic Soda lye. An outlay of 200.00 lakhs is provided for the year 1999-2000.

2. **West Bengal Chemical Industries Ltd. :** The Company has only one programme viz. rehabilitation/modernisation scheme. On the completion of the on-going mineral water project, the company is now all set for entry into the consumer market with ISI certified bottled mineral water. A sum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs is provided for the year 1999-2000.

3. **Gluconate Health Ltd. :** The Company is implementing a scheme of renovation/modernisation/upgradation of the existing plants and machineries of the 8th Plan Period and has been included in the 9th Five Year Plan. An outlay of Rs. 100.00 lakhs is provided in the year 1999-2000.

4. **Electro-Medical & Allied Industries :** The company has a programme of manufacturing PVC Blood Bags including in the 9th Five Year Plan under their modernisation/rehabilitation scheme. The project is being implemented on schedule and slated to begin commercial production by end December this year and will be the first of its kind in Eastern India for manufacturing this sensitive product. An outlay of Rs. 150.00 lakhs is provided for 1999-2000.

5. **Eastern Distilleries & Chemicals Ltd. :** The Company has only one scheme renovation/modernisation/upgradation of its plants and machineries included in the 9th Five Year Plan. An outlay of Rs. 50.00 lakhs is provided for the year 1999-2000.

6. **Shalimar Works (1980) Ltd. :** The Company has one scheme of renovation/modernisation/upgradation of its existing plants and machineries. An outlay of Rs. 300.00 lakhs is provided for the company for the year 1999-2000.

7. **Westinghouse Saxby Farmer Ltd. :** The Company has only one scheme viz., rehabilitation-cum-modernisation programme included in the 9th Five Year Plan. The company is installing computerised pneumatic control (CNC) machineries centres to modernise their engineering operations. The company has successfully negotiated a technology transfer agreement with a German Market Leader to support important diversification project that targets to modernise Indian Railway Market. An outlay of Rs. 200.00 lakhs is provided in the year 1999-2000.
8. **Saraswati Press Ltd. :** The company has a programme for Security Printing Project under rehabilitation-cum-modernisation scheme. The Phase-I of the project was completed. The Phase-II of the project is being implemented by the company.
9. **National Iron & Steel Company Ltd. :** The company has only one scheme viz. rehabilitation-cum-modernisation-cum diversification programme. The company has concluded an agreement with SAIL consultancy organisation for the latter's turn key installation of modern rolling mill of NISCO. An outlay of Rs. 150.00 lakhs is provided for the year 1999-2000.
10. **Krishna Silicate & Glass Works Ltd. :** The reopening of the company has been targeted initially with a project for Glass container manufacture around October this year. An outlay of Rs. 450.00 lakhs is provided for the company in 1999-2000.
11. **Britannia Engineering Ltd. :** The work of installing an induction furnace in Britannia Engineering Ltd. is proceeding in schedule. This will allow the enterprise to enter into a large market for quality castings. An outlay of Rs. 100.00 lakhs is provided for the company in 1999-2000.
12. **Apollo Zipper Company Ltd. :** An outlay of Rs. 20.00 lakhs is provided for 1999-2000 for the company in their modernisation/rehabilitation scheme.
13. **Bharat Jute Mills :** An outlay of Rs. 35.00 lakhs is provided for year 1999-2000 for the company in the Modernisation/Rehabilitation scheme.
14. **Carter pooler Engineering Company Ltd. :** An outlay of Rs. 30.00 lakhs is provided for the company in the year 1999-2000 in their Modernisation/Renovation scheme.
15. **Engel India machine & Tools Ltd. :** An outlay of Rs. 30.00 lakhs is provided for the company for the year 1999-2000.
16. **India Belting and Cotton Mills Ltd. :** An outlay of Rs. 15.00 lakhs is provided for the company in the year 1999-2000.
17. **Lily Biscuit Company Pvt. Ltd. :** An outlay of Rs. 100.00 lakhs is provided for the company for the year 1999-2000 in their rehabilitation-cum-modernisation scheme.
18. **Neo Pipes & Tubes Company Ltd. :** An outlay of Rs. 35.00 lakhs is provided for the company for the year 1999-2000.
19. **West Bengal Plywood & Allied Products Ltd. :** An outlay of Rs. 30.00 lakhs is provided for the company for the year 1999-2000.
20. **India Paper Pulp Ltd. :** An outlay of Rs. 50.00 lakhs is provided for the company for the year 1999-2000.
21. **Darjeeling Ropeway :** An outlay of Rs. 5.00 lakhs is provided for the Departmental Enterprises for the year 1999-2000.

22. An amount of Rs. 100.00 lakhs is provided for payment of compensation owing to land Acquisition for Howrah-Champadanga Board Gauge Line and Howrah-Amta Broad Gauge Line for the year 1999-2000.

### **6.2.3 Programme of the Industrial Reconstruction Department**

The Department of Industrial Reconstruction has been entrusted with the responsibility of reviving closed & sick industrial units, both in public & private sectors, in this State. Apart from large & medium industrial units, this Deptt. has also picked up the challenge of reviving selected sick Cottage & Small-Scale industrial units in consultation with the Deptt. of Cottage & Small Scale Industries, Govt. of West Bengal. The basic thrust of our policy in this regard is to revive & rehabilitate closed & sick industrial units by way of co-ordinating the implementation of a policy package which includes certain relief measures & concessions, rejuvenating management structures & improving labour-management relations in order to ensure the continued productive use of industrial assets.

Activities and achievements of this Deptt. during 1998-99 are summarised below :

1. Extension of relief and concession to Private Sector industrial units as per BIFR sanctioned revival packages, which inter-alia includes Sales Tax loans and benefits under West Bengal Incentive Scheme, 1993 and active participation in the formulation of revival schemes with due regard to the provisions of SICA, 1985 as ammended to cover all public sector industrial undertakings. Since inception of BIFR in August, 1987, 35 out of 180 cases registered till December '98 in the private sector in West Bengal secured sanction of their revival packages of which 7 units have revived and ceased to be sick.

2. Active participation in the revival of Sick Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and extension of reliefs/concessions forming part of BIFR revival packages and for this, entering continuously into dialogue with Central Govt./Financial Institutions/Concerned Banks. (Worthy of mention are the Cases of M/s. Jessop & Co. and M/s. Reyrolle Burn Ltd.).

3. Sanction of Sales Tax loans to ailing industrial units for liquidation of their arrear sales tax dues, since inception, State Govt. has sanctioned Sales Tax loan of Rs. 84 Crore to 34 units upto December, '98. An amount of Rs. 30.66 crores was sanctioned to M/s. Jessop Co. Ltd. in Feb., '99 as Sales Tax Loan.

4. Grant of Relief Undertaking Status to ailing industrial units, both in Public and Private Sectors under the provisions of West Bengal Relief Undertakings (Special Provisions) Act, 1972 in order to prevent their winding up in liquidations proceedings that have been initiated by unsecured creditors and preventing resultant unemployment as well as to supplement the efforts of these units for their recovery and rehabilitation. During 1998-99, 25 industrial units attempting revival efforts employing 27,000 persons have been extended this benefit.

5. Purchase of Sick/Closed industrial units by the Govt. with a view to subsequently transferring them to capable entrepreneurs for running them as productive units. In some cases, employees have been encouraged to form Workers' Co-operative and run the units. (The cases of erstwhile Bharat Electrical Industries now renamed as Indo-Korean Light Ltd. and National Tannery Co. Ltd. may be mentioned.)

6. Performing the nodal role in respect of sale of land of sick units with a view to raising funds for their revival, to facilitate implementation of approved revival packages. The notification of Urban Development Deptt. (dt. 6th January, 1998), lays down details in respect the nodal role to be played by I. R. Deptt. in recommending sale of industrial lands and overseeing the process of utilisation of sale proceeds thereof for revival. (The case of Jay Engineering Works Ltd. may be noted).

7. Performing a mediatory role with the Sales Tax Authority, CESC/WBSEB, other power supply agencies, banks and financial institutions in respect of restructuring of past liabilities and one-time settlement of loans to sick units in order to implement revival schemes and thus affording opportunities to ailing industries to regain their health, survive and grow in the long-run.

### **Programmes to be undertaken during 1999-2000**

The problem of new industries being different from those of sick/closed industries. It has become necessary for the Department to formulate its own package of reliefs concessions for encouraging the revival of ailing Industries rather than being solely guided by the provisions of West Bengal Incentive Scheme, '93 being administered by Commerce & Industries Deptt. A position paper entitled "GOWB measures for Industrial Revival" has been prepared and will be finalised in consultation with various agencies. This policy initiative is likely to take effect from 1999-2000.

This Deptt. is also pursuing the establishment of an Industrial Reconstruction Corporation (IRC). IRC will study industrial sickness, in this State and formulate an appropriate health-care monitoring system for industries to facilitate timely interventions for giving necessary support to ailing industries and advise Govt. in respect of policy initiatives concerning industrial revival.

Though an amount of Rs. 1 crore has been earmarked for IRC under the Head "4885-Capital Outlay on other Industries (Closed & Sick Industries)—Industrial Reconstruction Corporation (Plan)" this amount would not be sufficient for enabling IRC to stand on its own feet. A minimum amount of Rs. 50 crore as seed Capital would have to be provided through budgetary support for fulfilling the objectives of IRC, the details of which are being finalised.

### **Interventions**

Over the last two years, efforts in both the Public Enterprises and to Industrial Reconstruction Departments have entered around formulation of a more *pro-active role* with a view to complement the efforts for industrial development in the State. The rationale for this lies in the fact that the successful turn-around of ailing enterprises will, apart from benefiting the economy of the State, also strongly signal Government's commitment to the continued productive use of industrial assets.

The steps that have been taken in this context, are :

1. The management of the enterprises has been strengthened by induction of professionals with proven track records, to their Boards of Management and in a few cases, to appointments of their Chief Executives.
2. Clear goals have been laid down for *increasing resource generation through higher output and lower wastage and a phased decrease in operating losses and consequent dependence on budgetary support to subsidise operating deficits* in current operations.
3. A system of business forecasting with the stipulated objectives in view, specifying monthly targets for production and sales, variable and fixed costs and operating profits/losses, has been enforced with regular monthly performance reporting and review at the level of Secretary, quarterly at the level of the Strategic Business Group and Minister.
4. Enforcing half-yearly/annual performance reviews in presentations by enterprises Chairmen and Chief Executives, to Minister assisted by an Expert panel. In view of the strong peer pressure generated thereby, this review effort has been cast as an *exercise in team building*.
5. The two departments have been re-structured through transfer of control over all enterprises to PUD, since renamed the *Public Enterprises Department (PED)* to eliminate dual-departmental

control inefficiencies. IRD has taken up the development of a more pro-active role *vis-a-vis* complex phenomenon of industrial sickness in the State both within the frame-work of SICA '85 and to advise Government in respect of policy interventions, outside it.

6. A small *Strategic Business Group* of experts has been established to facilitate a continuous monitoring of performance of the enterprises and to advise PED on crucial aspects of their synergy, quality, diversification, modernization and Human Resource Management needs.

7. Automation aids have been inducted to facilitate storage, processing and retrieval of information.

## Results

These interventions are showing results. We are presently preparing for the PED Annual Review exercise for 1998-99, to be carried out later this month. The salient features that have emerged in respect of the provisional performance of PE Departmental enterprises during the year compared to that in the preceding year, are summarized below :

1. Following the goal for "*Increasing resource generation through higher output and lower wastage*", the total production of the twenty functional enterprises, *increased by 6.4%* in 1998-99 over the previous year, to Rs. 139 Crore. The total sales also *increased by 8.7%* to Rs. 184 crore.

2. Five enterprises [Saraswati press, State Warehousing Corporation, Mackintosh Burn, Eastern Distilleries and Electro Medical & Allied Industries] made operating profits aggregating to Rs. 731 lakh during the year.

3. Cumulatively, the total operating losses recorded by the enterprises under control of PE Department in 1998-99, maintained a downward trend over their performance in 1997-98. The target of a phased annual decrease of 10% in the overall operating losses of the enterprises over the Ninth Plan period was achieved as the total loss of all twenty functional enterprises, stood at Rs. 2417 lakh—a reduction of Rs. 334 lakh or 12.14% over that recorded in 1997-98.

4. Ten enterprises [Shalimar Works, Durgapur Chemicals, Gluconate Health, Britannia Engineering and others] cumulatively reduced their operating losses by Rs. 671 lakh over that recorded in 1997-98. The performance of five enterprises [WB Plywood, Lily Biscuits, Engel India, India Belting and Neo Pipes & Tubes] are of concern as these enterprises increased their operating losses cumulatively, by Rs. 185 lakh over 1997-98. The net reduction in loss of these fifteen enterprises was therefore, Rs. 486 lakh during 1998-99 over the previous year.

## Investments

Modest investments in the under-mentioned modernization/diversification projects made/completed during the year, were taken up strictly with a view to improve the viability of the enterprises that have demonstrated potential for turning around their current operations in the two previous years. These investments will begin yielding returns in the current year.

1. Installation of computerised numeric control (CNC) machining centers in Shalimar Works and Westinghouse Saxby Farmer.

2. Installation of Induction Furnace in Britannia Engineering Ltd.

3. Mineral water project in WB Chemical Industries Ltd.

4. Stable Bleaching Powder and Hydrogen bottling plants in Durgapur Chemicals, the latter with funds from WBIDFC.

5. Reopening Krishna Silicate & Glass Works after 7 years of closure with a glass container project. A glazed ceramic wall tile project will also be taken up this year.

6. Turn-key installation of a rolling mill in NISCO by SAIL Consultancy following a long-term strategic alliance with Durgapur Steel Plant for rolling their billets and sale of finished steel products.

7. PVC Blood Bag project by EMAIL for which IDBI has cleared preliminarily, a loan component of Rs. 600 lakh.

8. Process technology improvements for efficient manufacture and packaging in Gluconate Health Ltd. and Lily Biscuits.

#### **6.2.4 Programme of the Power Department**

*The Durgapur Projects Ltd. (DPL)* : The Durgapur Projects Ltd. (DPL) has a coke oven plant with some other by-products plants and the water works which were set up in early 1960s for supplying coke and other industrial by-products and industrial water to the neighbouring industries. Due to insufficient demand of coke and its by-products, the coke oven plant of the company could not function to its potential. In fact, it has generally remained underutilised during the last few years. The performance of coke oven plant, however, improved substantially from 1995-96 with an agreement with Bokaro Steel Plant of conversion of coke on their behalf. But the fate of the project came back to its earlier position with the stoppage of commission arrangement by the Bokaro Steel Plant. The water works plant however, has been performing successfully and supplying water to the local industries as well as for non-industrial purposes. This particular unit of the company earns regular profit also.

This plant being very old, it is always necessary to renovate and modernise so as to maintain the productivity. The Battery Nos. I & II of the coke oven plant which were badly damaged by flash-flood in 1978 have since been made operational. Battery No. II is now functioning and Battery No. I is now lying ready.

The coal and coke handling plant of the coke oven which too were built in early 1960s have been renovated during Eighth Five-Year Plan and some further work has been taken up during Ninth Five Year Plan.

The present coke oven effluent treatment plant is over-loaded and cannot meet the requirement of increased production of the coke oven plant. Since pollution control activities are being given more stress, it is necessary to have this plant properly functioning. With this objective in view, a study has been made for installation of a Bio-Oxidation Plant and also Amonia Recovery System to make the Effluent Treatment System more effective. Actions have been taken for finalising the scheme and obtaining financial assistance for doing the job.

Besides this, the renovation of coal washery, setting up of fly ash brick making plant, development of railway exchange yard etc. are being planned to be taken in future Installation of mechanical coke cutter for proper sizing of the coke produced by the coke oven plants has been taken up, the work for which is in progress.

#### **6.2.5 Programme of the Food Processing Industries & Horticulture Deptt**

The Department of Food Processing Industries & Horticulture are engaged in two major activities on development of Horticulture & Food Processing Industries Sectors.

Horticulture activities have made remarkable progress in the State during last few years. The local requirement in the State has experienced a phenomenal rate of growth of fresh horticultural produce like vegetables and fruits while the processed food products; the demand is gradually building up particularly in the urban households sectors.

The State Plan size for this Department has increased from Rs. 660 lakhs to Rs. 770 lakhs in the current financial year. Besides the Budgetary Provisions Loan Fund under I. D. F. C. has been stepped up from Rs. 550 lakhs to Rs. 600 lakhs during from 1998-99 to 1999-2000. A number of activities have been planned for utilisation of this loan fund in Food Processing Industries sector to establish backward and forward linkages.

The major achievements of this Department during 1998-99 with transferred minimum manpower from Agriculture Department and low infrastructure are indicated below :

1. Distribution of 18,000 nos. of late Winter Vegetable & Fertiliser minikit in 10 districts. (Composition of four types of vegetable seeds and fertilisers in each minikit).

2. Scheme for assistance to flower growers @ Rs. 500/- per farmer for 3600 nos. of flower grower in 6 flower growing districts.

3. Planting of 45,000 nuts of Coconut Seeds in the Government farms for raising seedlings for distribution as minikit to small and marginal farmers.

4. Distribution of 11,503 nos. Fruit plants minikit (four plants in each kit) in the districts of Murshidabad, Malda, Nadia, Jalpaiguri & Bankura.

5. Distribution of 14,000 numbers Vegetable Seeds minikits (composition of four different types of Vegetables) for early summer in all 18 districts as a part of replacement of low yielding seeds by high quality seed.

6. Distribution of 18,360 Nos. of Coconut Seedlings & D. A. P. fertiliser in the districts of Hooghly, Midnapore, Coochbehar, 24-Pgs. (South).

7. Distribution of 1000 nos. of Fruit Plant minikit and 15,200 Nos. minikit for Hybrid Vegetables Seeds fungicides like Dia-M-45 in the flood affected districts of Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda & Murshidabad.

8. Incentive Scheme on Horticulturer for 127 recommended farmers in 9 districts to establish orchards.

9. Training on mushroom cultivation in 1997-98 & 1998-99 for 2919 trainees was taken up through Ramkrishna Mission Nimpith, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, WBCADC, and Vishwa Bharati.

10. To commercialise horticultural activities amongst the small and marginal farmers, this Department has been rendering training to farmers & entrepreneurs in cultivation, harvesting, post harvest technology and marketing.

11. Distribution of 60,628 Nos. Vegetable Seeds (Early Rainy Season) minikit in all 18 districts. (Composition of four types of quality certified seed sand growth promoter in each minikit).

12. Plantation of Breeder Seed of Tomato, Palak, Pumpkin, Onion and Chilli allotted by Government of India in Government farms and in the farms of private growers in line with National Seed Corporation.

13. Modernisations of Government Farms are being taken up from 1998-99 after the transfer of the subject of Horticulture from Agriculture Department to this Department.

14. Establishment of Demonstration Centers on Gladiolus and other Flowers, Fruits and Vegetables etc.

15. Distribution of 36,819 Nos. Fruit Plants minikit in Mango, Musumbi, Guava, Banana and Litchi have been taken up in identified Districts.

16. Incentives & Margin Money assistance Programme (Rs. 90 lakhs and Rs. 10 lakhs respectively) have been taken up with the assistance of Directorate of Cottage & Small Scale Industries for rendering subsidy and margin money through District Industries Centres.

### **6.2.6 Programme of the Finance (IF) Department**

#### **(i) West Bengal Financial Corporation (WBFC)**

WBFC, Set up in 1954 under the State Finance Corporations Act, has been providing financial assistance to small and medium scale industries in the State. WBFC has 14 branches in various districts of the State, apart from a Regional Office at Siliguri. During 1998-99, WBFC sanctioned assistance of Rs. 73.20 crore and disbursed Rs. 60.58 crore, with this the Cumulative (end-March, 1999) portion of assistance sanctioned and disbursed by WBFC Rs. 766.69 Cr. and Rs. 644.26 Cr. respectively. The paid up share capital of WBFC stood at Rs. 58.45 crore as on March 31, 1999, the State Government and IDBI having contributed Rs. 46.96 crore and Rs. 11.01 crore respectively.

During 1998-99, the State Government contributed Rs. 4.00 crore towards share capital of WBFC. A further contribution of Rs. 2.38 crore was made by the State Government to WBFC by way of subvention to enable it to meet its guaranteed dividend commitment.

During 1998-99, the State Government guaranteed towards repayment of principal and payment of interest thereon in respect of SLR Bonds amounting to Rs. 10 crore floated by WBFC. An adhoc borrowing limit from the Reserve Bank upto Rs. 7.30 crore was also availed of by WBFC under the State Government guarantee.

The outlay for the year 1999-2000 in respect of share capital contribution to WBFC has been proposed to be Rs. 4.00 crore. Further outlays towards subvention to WBFC as also grant to the Entrepreneurs' Assistant Cell (EAC) set up thereunder have been proposed to be Rs. 2.50 crore and Rs. 0.03 crore respectively during the year.

#### **(ii) West Bengal Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (WBIDFC)**

WBIDFC was established in May, 1997 as a Government Company, wholly owned by the Government of West Bengal. It is also registered as a Non-Banking Financial Company with the Reserve Bank of India. The main objective of WBIDFC is to provide financial assistance for the development of various infrastructural facilities in the State. The authorised share capital of WBIDFC is Rs. 100 crore of which Rs. 15.30 crore was paid up upto end-March, 1999.

WBIDFC has mobilised funds for the purpose of financing infrastructural projects mainly by way of private placement of debt bonds. Bonds have so far being floated in three tranches by WBIDFC, all of which have largely been over Subscribed. The subscriptions received by WBIDFC under the three Bonds issues amounted to Rs. 99.44 crore (1997-98), Rs. 153.69 crore (1998-99) and Rs. 460 crore (estimated) (1999-2000). Besides, Fixed Deposits of Rs. 23.80 crore were also accepted by WBIDFC during 1997-98. The repayment of principal and payment of interest thereon according to schedule in respect of all the subscriptions and deposits raised by WBIDFC so far have been guaranteed by the Government of West Bengal.

The State Government has also made contribution of 10.16 crore to WBIDFC during 1998-99 to make good the operating loss suffered by it due to mis-match between raising and deployment of funds during the initial months.

WBIDFC has so far sanctioned a good number of projects taken up by various state-owned Corporations/Boards/Authorities and Zilla Parishads which are under various stages of



implementations. The major projects financed so far belong to the Power, Road & Bridge, Forest, Minor Irrigation, Animal Resources, Housing and Marketyard, Fisheries, Water Supply, etc. sectors. As against the total loan of Rs. 649.00 crore sanctioned by WBIDFC under various projects, a total disbursement of Rs. 252.00 crore has been made so far.

Infrastructural projects worth about Rs. 700 crore are proposed to be financed during 1999-2000 by WBIDFC under various sectors according to the provisions made to that effect under the State Budget. WBIDFC has thus started playing a major role in expanding and improving infrastructural facilities in the State in keeping with the priorities of the Ninth Plan.

## **6.3 MINING**

### **6.3.1 Programme of the Commerce and Industries Department**

*Mining, Non-ferrous Mining and metallurgical Industries*

#### **West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Ltd.**

The West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Ltd. is engaged in mining and processing of Rock Phosphate in Purulia district ; quarring crushing and marketing of Stone Materials in Birbhum district. Mining of Rough cut Granite Blocks at Purulia and Bankura districts and marketing of the same for popularisation of the West Bengal Granites in the Export Market and processing of Granite to produce polished Granite tiles/slabs and marketing of the same in the domestic market. The Corporation also is continuing its activities in mining and marketing of High Alumina Fireclay in Purulia district, exploratory mining for Sillimanite and Coriandrum in Purulia district and miscellaneous prospecting and R & D activities.

The Corporation received substantial order for supply of Purulia Phos to M/s. Tata Tea Ltd. and others which were executed. The Corporation also executed an export deal to Supply of Purulia Phos to M/s. Tata Tea Ltd. and others which are being executed. The Corporation also executed an export deal to Supply stone boulders to Bangladesh through MMTC and also exported directly three rake-loads to Bangladesh resulting earning of valuable Foreign Exchange. Significant quantity of stone materials produced from some mines of the Corporation in Birbhum district are being supplied to consumers like Calcutta Municipal Corporation, Public Works Department, Central Public Works Department, Bakreswar and Mejia Thermal Power Stations, Irrigation Department etc.

#### **Directorate of Mines & Minerals**

The Directorate of Mines & Minerals West Bengal, carries out prospecting work in different areas of the State in accordance with the programme approved by the State Geological Programming Board. The Directorate has undertaken prospecting of Apatite (Rock Phosphate) in different areas of Purulia, Bankura and Midnapore districts, Black Stone in Birbhum district, Clay in Purulia and Bankura districts, Gold in Purulia district, Graphite in Purulia district, Limestone in Purulia and Burdwan districts, Moulding sand in Purulia district and Titanium (Rutile) in Purulia district. Prospecting for Clay, Sulphide, Gold, Barite, Graphite etc. and Base metal is being carried out in different areas of Purulia district. Prospecting of Tungsten at Chandapathar in Bankura district and the Cina clay in Bankura district is also being carried out. The Directorate is rendering all assistance to the West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Ltd. in rendering all assistance to the West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Ltd. in Graphite exploitation in the district of Bankura and Purulia and in assessment of Sillimanite deposit reserve in Paharpur area of Purulia district.



## CHAPTER VII

### Transport

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## VII. TRANSPORT

### 7.1 CIVIL AVIATION

#### 7.1.1 Programme of the Transport Department

Due to opening up of Civil Aviation to private sector there has been a sudden rise in the demand for Pilots & Aero-engineers. As a result in spite of best effort it was not possible to engage any CFI or Pilot Instructor for FTI, Behala after the departure of the then CFI in 1994. Consequently flying Training in FTI, Behala has remained suspended since 1994. However, efforts are on to procure a CFI/Flying Instructor and to start flying training as early as possible. Government also proposes to operate Air Services in the State under joint venture with private operators.

### 7.2 ROADS AND BRIDGES

#### 7.2.1 Programme of Public Works (Roads) Department

During the Annual Plan, 1998-99 the State Planning Board fixed the outlay of Rs. 23380.00 lakhs provisionally for the Public Works (Roads) Department with the tied funds on different programme as indicated below.

EAP-9130.00 lakhs  
RIDF-4000.00 lakhs  
IDFC-4000.00 lakhs

The allocated funds were accordingly provided in different demand sectors like BMS, SCP, TASP, Rural Roads, District Roads etc. over and above the earmarked tied funds as indicated above. During that financial year about 45 kilometres of new roads were constructed providing connectivity to about 250 new villages of different population categories, 8 major bridges were completed with a good number of bridges in progress. Performance Reports on some major scheme are also highlighted separately.

During the current financial year (1999-2000) the plan outlay of Rs. 41800.00 lakhs has been fixed as indicated below.

EAP-9000.00 lakhs  
RIDF-13700.00 lakhs  
BMS-1000.00 lakhs  
IDFC-10000.00 lakhs

Necessary provision have been made on different programmes, 17 No. of bridges and 5 No. of roads projects as new schemes and continuing schemes will be taken up for execution during the current financial year.

RIDF schemes involving about Rs. 137.00 crores will be taken up during the current financial year.

#### Village Connectivity

For all round socio-economic development of the State having about 85% rural area and 75% population living in villages, the road communication should be an efficient one to meet increasing demand of varying modes of transport. A crash programme has been undertaken to link all villages with population 1500 and above and 50% of the villages with population of 1000 to 1500 in plain

areas and hilly terrain during Twenty year Road Development Plan (1981-2001). As per census of 1981, there are 38,074 nos. of villages in West Bengal, out of which 13,399 were connected with all weather road and 5408 were connected with fair weather road, leaving 19267 nos. of villages unconnected with any kind of road till 1981. Total kilometreage was estimated to 21496 km. on the basis of villages remained to be connected as on 01.04.1981. Out of which 15,877 km. would be required to connect all villages with population size 1500 and above and another 5818 km. would be required to all villages of population 1000 and 1500. In this process, about 929 villages of population group 500 to 1000 and 1910 villages of population group 500 would also get connected.

P.W. (Roads) Department is constructing surfaced roads under Minimum need Programme (MNP), Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) Scheduled Caste Component Plan and rural roads, under the aegis of Rural Development Department. Panchayat bodies have already constructed a good length of roads through NREP, RLEGP and District Plan Fund Schemes. About 5000 km. of roads were constructed between the period 1981 and 1987 and further 5000 km. were added till 1993. The construction of rural road is basically labour intensive operation. The plan, programme and implementation of rural roads are exclusively dealt with by Panchayat bodies to facilitate process at grass-root level and also to provide enlarged opportunity of employment to local population.

There are 4928 nos. of villages with population of 1500 and above, 5500 nos. with population of 1000-1500 and 27646 villages with population under 1000 in the state. Achievements for connection of villages by road networks upto the end of 8th plan period have been shown in the table enclosed.

In the 9th plan period target for road connectivity has been reduced for much stress has been given for strengthening existing roads and for constructing bridges at unbridged gaps.

Particulars in regard to present status of village connectivity in West Bengal are furnished below :—

1. Total no. of villages = 38,000
2. Villages yet to be connected by roads
  - (a) In terms of percentage of total villages (as per preliminary information) = 20
  - (b) In number = 7600

For evaluation of financial need to provide connectivity to 100 percent villages in the State the following assumption is made

- (i) Average length of road required per village to provide connectivity 2 Km.
- (ii) 2/3rd of total no. of connected villages are connected with narrow earthen road. 1/3rd villages have no road.
- (iii) Specifications are to be adopted broadly as per guide line of I.R.C. Pavement width would be 3 m.
- (iv) 50% of road would be built upto stage A i.e black topped and balance 50% would be built upto stage B.

Preliminary cost assessments are as follows :—

For work upto Stage 'A' Rs. 20.50 lakhs per km. (excluding L.A. Cost)

For construction upto Stage B Rs. 18.00 lakhs per km. excluding L.A. Cost

Length of road to be constructed : 7600 Km/village 15200 Km.

Total cost has been assessed to Rs. 3200 crores.

## RURAL ROADS

Total No. of Villages (1981 Census) 38074	1500 & above 4928	1000-1500 5500	Below 1000 27646
Villages connected upto 1993-94	3062	3589	11180
Villages connected during 1994-95	45	55	150
Villages connected during 1995-96	40	50	160
Villages connected during 1996-97	32	45	123
Target for 9th Plan 1997-2002 (No. of villages)	100	200	550
1997-98	20	40	90
1998-99	20	40	90

## Outlay / Expenditure on B. M. S. (Rural Roads)

Rs. ....Crores

8th Plan Outlay		
1993-94		9.21
1994-95		13.05
1995-96		22.19
1996-97		14.20
9th Plan Outlay		
1997-2002		119.28
1997-98		14.88
1998-99		18.00, Actual 21.00
1999-2000		10.00

## Outlay / Expenditure on Tribal Area Sub-Plan

Rs. ....Crores

9th Plan Outlay		38.43
1997-98		2.50
1998-99		6.35
1999-2000		10.86

## National Highways in West Bengal

## Maintenance &amp; Repair to National Highways

N. H. length under P.W.D., West Bengal = 1849 km.

Length to be taken over by N.H.A.I. = 410 km.

Length under maintenance ... 1439 km. from 1999-2000

## Transport

Maintenance and repair grants for National Highways in the State of West Bengal are falling far short of requirement over the years. The demands, availability and utilisation of maintenance fund are given below :

Year	Mtc. requirement demanded as per norms & F.D.R.	Actual Allotment Rs. crore M & R & F.D.R.	Expenditure Rs. crore M & R & F.D.R.
1995-96	32.66 crores.	17.31	21.64
1996-97	26.99	20.81	23.93
1997-98	47.64	32.65	37.66
1998-99	68.55	27.58	36.23
1999-2000	37.30 from MOST 12.53 from NHAI	Not allotted	—

### Plan Allocation

The plan allocations for N.H. (Original) Works have improved during the past few years, but it is apprehended that the allocation will suddenly fall this year and major projects like Second Vivekananda Bridge (pre-construction activities), Belghoria Expressway are likely to suffer for want of fund. The demand and allocations of past years are given below :

Year	Budget Demand Rs. crore	Allocation Rs. crore	Expenditure Rs. crores
1996-97	67.79	35.73	35.86
1997-98	102.60	53.75	54.81
1998-99	79.72	71.51	54.93*
1999-2000	133.18	66.00	—

\* Expenditure was less due to non-payment of L.A. compensation for Second Vivekananda Bridge Project.

#### 1. Externally Aided Projects

- (a) Improvement of Panagarh-Moregram Road.
- (b) West Bengal State Highways Project.

#### 2. RIDF Projects.

#### 3. Major Projects

- (i) Bridge over river Torsa in Coochbehar District.
- (ii) Bridge over Gilandi in Jalpaiguri District.
- (iii) Bridge over river Hogla in 24-Parganas District.
- (iv) Link connecting NH 2 and Western approach of Iswar Gupta Setu with bridge over river Saraswati.
- (v) Bridge over river Ichamati in North 24 Parganas District.



- (vi) Bridge over river Tamal in Midnapur District.
  - (vii) Bridge over river Silabati in Bankura District.
  - (viii) Bridge over river Usthi in South 24 Parganas District.
  - (ix) Construction of bridge over Damodar at Disergarh.
  - (x) Bridge over river Ajoy at Natunhat in Burdwan District.
  - (xi) Bridge over river Ajoy at Vedia in Birbhum District.
  - (xii) Bridge over river Saraswati at Tribeni Hooghly District.
  - (xiii) Construction of Bolpur-Rajgram Road in Birbhum District.
  - (xiv) Bridge over river Tangon on Gazole-Bamungola road in Malda District.
  - (xv) Bridge over river Mara Mahananda in Malda District.
  - (xvi) Construction of approach to Mejia Bridge over Damodar Bankura District.
  - (xvii) Bridge over river Ghargharia from NH 31 to Kaljami Health Center Coochbehar District.
  - (xix) Bridge over river Mora Raidhak in Coochbehar District
  - (ix) Bridge over river Mora Tarsa in Coochbehar District.
  - (xxi) Bridge over river Khutimari in Coochbehar District.
4. Indus Saspur Akai Road with link to Dighalgram.
  5. Nabanda Jaikrishnapur Road.

### 7.2.2 Programme of Public Works Department

The Public Works Department undertake widening and strengthening of Roads and construction of Bridges, residential and non-residential buildings. Normally, construction of new roads and bridges are done by public works (Roads) Department.

During last five years (1994-95 to 1998-99) this Department have constructed 3200 Sq. M. of residential buildings and 6000 sq. m. of non-residential buildings with the fund available for the purpose. During that period this Department has constructed one major bridge over the river 'Banks of Jamuna at Gobardanga in the District of 24-Parganas (N) and 80 (eighty) km. of State Roads have been widened and strengthened.

#### Operational Objectives

The non-residential buildings are constructed in order to accommodate officers and residential buildings for accomodation of staff and officers of this Department.

Roads are widened and strengthened with a view to cope with the requirement as the present traffic intensity and load demands. Similarly, the bridges are constructed for negotiating to the ends of unbridged gaps and also to replace weak and narrow bridges.

#### Quantification of the objectives for target setting (linkages with employment generation to be indicated)

The target for widening and strengthening of roads for 1998-99 is about 45 (forty five) kms. and construction of residential buildings is about 2000 sq. M. and non-residential buildings is about 6000 sq. m.

**Implication of targets in terms of financial requirement etc. (1999-2000)**

		(Rs. in thousand)
(i) Roads & Bridges	...	Rs. 337200.00
(ii) Housing	...	Rs. 77700.00
(iii) Office buildings	...	Rs. 584550.00
(iv) Others (Training)	...	Rs. 550.00
(v) Roads & Bridges (RIDF Scheme)	...	Rs. 850000.00
Total :		Rs. 1760000.00

Construction office building at 4, Camac Street, Calcutta with an estimated cost of Rs. 649 lakhs has been taken up. Actual cost may go up much more than the present estimate. The work is funded out of the meagre departmental plan allocation which is to be augmented as per requirement. So, the demand of Rs. 58,45.50 lakhs in the office building Sector has been proposed.

### 7.3 ROAD TRANSPORT

#### 7.3.1 Programme of the Transport Department

##### **During Eighth Five Year Plan Period (1992-93 to 1996-97)**

A Short comparison between estimate and actual performance on financial and productivity norms are furnished below :

		(Rs. in crores)	
Estimate			Actual
Operating Revenue	533.10 =		544.30
Contribution to the plan (Operating surplus/ commercial profit)	(—) 280.34 =		(—) 362.33
Physical	Estimated		Actual
Staff Productivity	15.80 / Km =		16.67 / Km
Fuel efficiency	3.44 / Km =		3.92 / Km
Fleet staff ratio	12.61 =		11.25
Fleet Utilisation (percentage)	86 =		80
Vehicle Productivity (on fleet holding)	148 Km/day =		178 Km/day.

The physical performance indicators represent improvement figure in comparison with the estimated figure. The fuel efficiency has also increased from 3.44 to 3.92.

The low utilisation of the vehicle is due to use of overaged vehicle as the replacement of the vehicle could not be made due to paucity of funds.

### Capital Contribution to State Transport Corporations by the Government of India :

As per R.T.C. Act, Government of India has to make Capital Contribution to the State Transport Corporations in the country. Accordingly, all the STCs in West Bengal are to receive Capital Contribution from the Government of India. The ratio of State and Central share of contribution for this purpose is 2 : 1. Till date no Capital Contribution has been made by the Government of India in SBSTC since its inception in 1963. The other STUs in West Bengal e.g. NBSTC and CSTC also did not receive any Capital Contribution during the 8th Plan period. During 8th Plan period plan money released from State Government to SBSTC, NBSTC and CSTC are respectively Rs. 3096 lakhs, Rs. 3781.25 lakhs and Rs. 3906.74 lakhs. Taking these amounts as contribution by State Government, the matching Capital Contribution of Government of India in the above three STCs could be Rs. 5382.48 lakhs. But no capital was contributed by Government of India. In this connection, it may be mentioned that as CTC is operating buses since 1992 and WBSTC since 1991, they should also be brought under the Capital Contribution network. Rail network in West Bengal being inadequate as would be evident from Railway services appended below, it is necessary to operate road transport services adequately. With this end in view, Government of West Bengal desires that the participation of STCs in the total road transport services should be to the extent of 33%. STCs at present share only 14.6% of the total road transport service. In order to increase it to 33% fleet strength of the STCs has to be augmented. Also to make the overaged buses eco-friendly they have to be converted to CNG. It is estimated that total fund requirement for this purpose during the 9th Plan period will be Rs. 128.59 crore per annum.

From the above facts it is clear that the contribution to the STCs both by State Government and Central Government is necessary. State Government will provide Rs. 19690.00 lakh as plan assistance to STCs during 9th Plan period. It is necessary that Government of India also make Capital Contribution to STCs during the 9th Plan period.

### Augmentation of State Transport Services

Buses belonging to the State Transport Corporations constitute 14.6% of the total passenger transport vehicle. It has been decided to raise the share of STCs in public transport to 33%. This will require an addition of 4953 buses. Existing fleet strength of STCs is 3602 of which 695 buses are more than 8 years old. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued direction on the National Territory of Delhi to allow plying of such overaged buses only if they are converted to CNG. It is apprehended that similar direction may be laid down in respect of other States also in near future, as a result of which conversion of such vehicles to CNG or their replacement will become unavoidable. Since it is less costly to convert an existing vehicle to CNG than to replace it, it is preferable to go in for conversion to CNG in respect of the existing overaged vehicles.

The cost implications of measures and investment indicated above are given below :

(a) Normal Annual Plan expenditure by STCs to maintain existing strength by way of replacement, normal maintenance etc.	Rs.	39.40 crore per annum
(b) Fund requirement for purchase of 4953 buses @ 991 bus per year (@ Rs. 9 lakhs per bus)	Rs.	89.19 crore per annum
(c) Cost of conversion to CNG (excluding installation costs bus including the cost of engine and CNG Units)	Rs.	7.00 crore per annum
Total :	Rs.	<u>135.59 crore per annum</u>

Thus total additional requirement for increase in vehicle population of STCs is Rs. 96.19 crores per annum. (b + c)

### Subsidy

Fare structure for state transport buses are the same as that for private buses. But man-bus ratio in case of state transport buses is much higher in comparison to private buses as the employees have fixed working hours, rational pay scale etc. and State Government cannot take any exploiting measures. Naturally the operating cost for state transport buses is more but the traffic earning remains at par with private buses. this results in loss in STUs. More over in this State free travel facilities are provided to freedom fighters etc. in state transport buses. This also results in loss in income. Also to render service to the public as a social obligation, state transport buses have to be operated in unremunerative routes. This is also a factor leading to loss in STUs. To make good the losses incurred for abovementioned reasons, Government has to pay subsidy to different STUs. There is however no fixed basis/rate for granting subsidy to STCs and CTC. It varies with the enhancement of DA as it is granted to the abovementioned organisations.

As has been stated above, the State Government is contemplating to increase the share of STCs in public transport. This means additional staff will be added to the existing staff strength of the STUs. As a result, additional subsidy will be required to meet the gap between the income and the added expenditure due to the additional staff.

Further, State Government is actively considering the introduction of Pension Scheme in STUs. Part of the liability for this purpose will be met by Employers' Share of P.F. Contribution. The balance has to be paid by Government as subsidy.

The amount of subsidy required to be paid at the present rate of salary etc. is as follows :

(a) Existing subsidy	Rs. 126.00 crore per annum
(b) Additional subsidy for Pension Scheme	Rs. 15.06 crore per annum
(c) Subsidy for additional staff	Rs. 4.57 crore per annum
	<u>Rs. 145.63 crore per annum</u>

Government has set up Pay Commission to suggest revision of pay and allowances for the staff of STUs. On the basis of contemplated pay revision the requirement for subsidy will be as follows :

(a) Subsidy	Rs. 189.00 crore per annum
(b) Additional subsidy for Pension Scheme	Rs. 15.06 crore per annum
(c) Subsidy for additional staff	Rs. 6.85 crore per annum
	<u>Rs. 210.91 crore per annum</u>

It has further been decided that from this financial year 10,000 private bus workers will be brought under Insurance Scheme with LiC for which governmental involvement will be to the tune of Rs. 37.00 lakhs per annum.

The existing level of subsidy as computed from revenue-expenditure gap may be summarised as follows (during 8th Plan period) :

		(Rupees in crore)
<b>Revenue</b>		
CSTC	: 205.74	
NBSTC	: 194.60	
SBSTC	: 60.45	
CTC	: <u>83.51</u>	544.30

**Less : Variable expenses (material cost, fuel & staff cost)**

CSTC	:	489.18	
NBSTC	:	298.37	
SBSTC	:	134.75	
CTC	:	252.70	1175.00
DEFICIT FOR 8TH PLAN PERIOD :			630.70

This was financed by providing subsidy.

It would further appear that Rs. 544.30 crore was the revenue during the 8th Plan period, i.e. for 5 years for 2376 buses. Thus, revenue per bus per annum would come to Rs. 4.60 lakhs.

Again, the expenditure for the aforesaid period was Rs. 1175 crore. Thus, the expenditure per bus per annum was Rs. 9.90 lakhs. Thus, the gap between revenue and operating cost per bus per annum was Rs. 5.30 lakhs.

**Ninth Plan Projection (1997-2002)**

(Rupees in crore)

**Revenue (at 1996-97 fare)**

CSTC	:	249.25	
SBSTC	:	220.60	
NBSTC	:	126.71	
CTC	:	171.50	768.06

**Less : Variable expenses (staff cost, material, fuel)**

CSTC	:	588.32	
SBSTC	:	175.83	
NBSTC	:	455.06	
CTC	:	475.85	1695.00
Deficit required to be financed by			927.00
Subsidy @ 189 × 5 =			945.00

The revised subsidy level is as follows :

Subsidy at 8th Plan level	=	126.00 p.a.
Subsidy at 9th Plan for implementing pay revision	=	189.00 p.a.
Additional subsidy per annum	=	63.00 p.a.
This will be revised from the yield for fare revision	=	37.80 p.a.
Balance amount	=	25.20 p.a.

The revised subsidy per annum will be Rs. 151.20 crores.

It would further appear that Rs. 768.06 crore will be the revenue during the 9th Plan period and the operating cost will be Rs. 1695.06 crores.

## Transport

Thus, the revenue per bus per annum will be Rs. 6.40 lakhs and operating cost will be Rs. 14.20 lakhs per bus per annum for the aforesaid 2376 buses. The gap between revenue and operating cost will be Rs. 7.80 lakhs per bus per annum. The aforesaid gap takes into account the additional staff cost on account of pay revision.

### Projection for Additional Buses/Year

(Rupees in crore)

#### Revenue (at 1997-98 fare)

(Based on 85% operation out of 997 buses

i.e. 842 buses x 200 km/day)

= KM—1, 68, 400/day x 365

= 6,14,66,000 Kms x Rs. 8.75)

: 53.78

#### Expenditure : (Marginal-variable costs)

Material + fuel + additional staff 4 persons/bus)

Rs. 9.75 Km x 1,68,400 = 16.42 x 365)

: 59.93

Deficit for 991 buses per annum

: 6.1

Thus the deficit per bus per annum will be Rs. 6.15 crore divided by 991 = Rs. 0.62 lakhs.

#### Fare Revision

During 8th Plan period fare was revised thrice, viz in the year 1992-93, 93-94 and 96-97 and an additional revenue generated for all the STCs during the entire 8th Plan period is Rs. 131.68 crores.

During the discussion of Additional Resources Mobilization meeting with Planning Commission, New Delhi, before the start of 9th Plan period, the issue relating to revision of fare was very exhaustively discussed and the finding was that the additional revenue on account of fare increase should be taken as Rs. 189 crores during the entire 9th Plan period (vide Minutes of the Meeting with Planning Commission dated 11th and 12th December, 1996).

This means that additional revenue generation on account of fare revision per annum is Rs. 37.80 crores. This amount may be treated as ARM for minimization of subsidy. The said figure has been arrived at by taking into account 10% increase on existing fare till 1999-2000 and thereafter 15% increase from 2000-2001 to 2001-2002.

Productivity performance of Transport Undertakings on ALL INDIA BASIS and comparison with STUs West Bengal.

	for the year 1996-97	
	All India average	W.B. STUs average
1. Fleet Utilisation (% of Buses on road to buses held)	88.0	72.1
2. Vehicle productivity (Kms per bus/day)	270	189
3. Staff productivity (Kms per worker/day)	37.6	19
4. Fuel consumption (Kms per litre)	4.44	3.62

## **7.4 INLAND WATER TRANSPORT**

### **7.4.1 Programme of the Transport Department**

West Bengal Surface Transport Corporation was set-up in 1989 to ensure speedy development of transport facilities in riverine areas of the State. Besides commercial operation of ferry service, the Corporation started operation of bus services as a link service to the ferry passengers. Passenger vessels, LCTs and buses are being acquired to facilitate well co-ordinated water transport services as well as road transport services. Network in these sectors are being increased stage by stage. Construction/repair of gangway/pontoon/jetties have been undertaken at selected sites in the downstream of the river Hooghly and at Sagar Islands under plan/centrally sponsored schemes. Bus depots/terminus are also being set-up. Appropriate outlay has been kept for the Annual Plan 1999-2000.





## CHAPTER VIII

### Communication

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**VIII. COMMUNICATION**

The Government of West Bengal has no proposal in this Sector for the Annual Plan, 1999-2000.



## CHAPTER IX

### Science, Technology and Environment

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## IX. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

### 9.1 SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (INCLUDING S &T)

The Department of Science & Technology & NES is the Nodal Govt. Department for the implementation of Policy & Programmes relating to Science & Technology in the State.

During the year 1999-2000 the budget provision under major head—3451 in Rs. 2,70,00,000/- for activities relating to Science & Technology.

#### Science Promotion

This Department has supported a No. of result oriented research and Development Projects taken up by Universities, research Laboratories and Colleges.

#### Science Popularisation :

This Department has supported 43 No. of Science Popularisation and awareness programmes mostly in villages, 82 No. of School level Science Survey & Research Projects. These Programmes will be continued in the next financial year also.

#### Setting up of Technology Resource Centre :

In order to propagate appropriate technologies to the users, this Deptt. has already started preliminary work of setting up some Centres where different technologies developed by different organisation of our country are to be demonstrated to the users. Three such Centres are proposed to be set up in the financial year 1999-2000.

#### Transfer of Technology :

Significant attempts have been made in the transfer of technology

- (a) A joint venture project on the cultivation & processing of aromatic plants has been initiated with Calcutta University and 24 Pgs. (South) Zilla Parishad. This is a society oriented pilot project. It is a continuing process and will be continued in the year 1999-2000.
- (b) A pilot plant for leather bathing enzyme has been assigned to West Bengal Chemical Industries Ltd. and Central leather Research Institutes; Eastern Region.
- (c) The project entitled "Chemical examination of hydro alcohol extract of human placenta, a hospital waste for its potential use as a therapy for Vitiligo" has been assigned to the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology. The Project has been started for the trial at Calcutta Medical College after clearance from the Drug Controller of India. Necessary patent has been applied on both the products.
- (d) Small size zero Energy Cool chamber has been experimented for trial at different districts namely, Birbhum, Bankura, South 24 Parganas, Nadia etc. The result obtained so far is satisfactory. The Department is taken initiative to propagate this technology among the farmers, traders etc.
- (e) Purification of surface water from ponds, tanks etc. has been attempted by installation of Horizontal Roughing Filter system. The first trial has been successfully conducted in the district of South 24 Parganas at an estimated cost of Rs. 80,000/- only for 300 people in a village called Phulmalancha. This has been highly accepted by the people and the South 24 parganas District authority is keen to install some more such unit.

- (f) Vermicompositing is another technique when vegetable wastes can be transformed to manure by using earth worms and this technique has been tried as an experimental basis at Suri, Visva-Bharati (Agricultural farm) and the technology has been standardised and the Department has already taken steps to propagate this technology by giving financial assistance as well as technology to different districts like Malda, Birbhum, South 24 parganas etc.

#### **Activities of West Bengal State Council of Science & Technology :**

This autonomous body has been implementing projects under Lab to land programmes.

Some salient features of the activities are given below :

- (i) Zero Energy Cool Chamber—This is a technology for storage and preservations of agricultural products at low cost involving meagre amount of energy. This technology which is being implemented in West Bengal has been developed by Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.
- (ii) State Science Congress—This Council successfully organised six no of Science Congresses, the last being held at Bengal Engineering College Howrah from 26th to 28th February '99.
- (iii) Tissue handening facility—The Council is implementing a project which is jointly sanctioned by Govt. of India and State Govt. for setting up a Tissue Handening Centre at Calcutta, the first of its kind in Eastern India.

The project work is in progress and it is expected that some tissue culture plants will be tested for field trials during the year 1999-2000.

#### **Remote Sensing Activities :**

Remote Sensing Centre is undertaking a no. of projects of Natural Resources management viz. (i) Integrated Mission for sustainable Development, Phase-II (Jt. venture between DOS, Govt. of India & Govt. of W. B.) (ii) Updating of river sources of West Bengal including a strip geomorphological mapping (sponsored by I & W Department Govt. of West Bengal) (iii) Wasteland mapping in three districts namely Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch-Bihar (Sponsored by DOS, Govt. of India).

Besides the programmes likely to be executed during the year 1999-2000 are : (1) Natural Resource Information System (ii) Spatial Planning & Management of land and Water Resources of Kunur Basin, West Bengal (Spond. by GOI), (ii) Natural Hazard Zoning Atlas (Spond. by DST, GOWB).

## **9.2 ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **9.2.1 Programme of the Environment Department**

Department of Environment has started with the responsibility of developing consciousness among people at large and particularly about their obligations towards fulfilment of environmental issues since last few years. During the financial year 1998-99 works of environment with people's participation took a good start in both South & North Bengal. The **PARTICIPATORY environment management** envisaged formation of local environmental protection committees which have been vested with interest of overseeing environment problems arising out of drinking water, use of pesticides and inorganic fertilisers, unhealthy sanitation etc. During last financial year such Environment Protection Committees (EPCs) formed at Kamakhyaguri in Alipurduar sub division, at Sarisha in South 24 Pgs, at Makrampur under Kalikapur P. S. of South 24 Pgs., at North Dumdum within CM Area, Comunda village of Midnapur District & Sandeshkhali P. S. of North 24 Pgs.



This activity will be proliferated during current financial year (1999-2000) for which the budget provision has been substantially increased.

Several NGOs will be funded for conducting environmental awareness programme. Several school children in all the districts of West Bengal will be tutored on environmental issues and awareness through theoretical and field level programmes coupled with the effort of setting up of echo clubs through accredited NGOs/institutions. Awareness about bio medical wastes and the use of plastics particularly carry bags will be streamlined in order to make it environment friendly.

Management Information System is being organised in the department for the first time in order to facilitate data collection and retrieval in a systematic and easy manner.

During last financial year a number of research projects were funded by this department which envisaged problems like accumulation of metallic pollutants within mammalian level, genetic transmission of the metallic pollutants, carrying capacity studies of tourism in Sunderbans, Bio monitoring of pesticides within human bodies. palinological aspects of development of allergy in human beings particularly in Howrah districts, development of environment education programme for school students, vermicomposting for more echo friendly use of fertiliser. A project of biodiversity studies institution as well as in Panchayet hill and Sunderbans have been funded by this department. Provision has been made with augmented funding for preparation of state level conservation of biodiversity report.

Noise pollution studies will continue through State Pollution Control Board particularly in festivals both in districts as well as in Calcutta.

Ganga Water Pollution is regularly monitored since last few years. During last financial year the monitoring of rivers like Torsa in North Bengal and Ajay, Mayurakshi, Jalangi in South Bengal has started and will continue during current year.

Bio monitoring of air pollutants both indoor and outdoor will be taken to assess effects on human beings. Upgradation of Laboratory facilities of WBPCB with the help of OECF, Japan project will continue.

Biomedical Waste management has started last year through Calcutta Corporation and State Pollution Control Board. Department took appropriate initiative in controlling Dasnagar fire incident as well as identifying the hazardous waste disposal sites in priority districts.



## CHAPTER X

### General Economic Services

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## X. GENERAL ECONOMIC SERVICES

### 10.1 SECRETARIAT ECONOMIC SERVICES

#### 10.1.1 Programme of the Development & Planning Department

##### (a) State Planning Board (SPB)

The State Planning Board has been interacting regularly with the District Planning Committee as well as different departments for preparation of district plans and the Annual Plans.

In 1998, one state level seminar and one international seminar on the process of decentralisation was organised by the Board, which has attended by a large number of academicians from different parts of the world as well as the country.

The process of modernisation of Office has been taken up by the Board and during 1998-99, a sum of Rs. 70 lakhs was expended for that work. Plan provision for 1999-2000 for the Board is Rs. 50 lakhs.

Since decentralisation process has started and government has decided to entrust works prescribed in Schedules 11 & 12 of the Constitution to the District Planning Committees, the activities of the Board would increase manifold. The process of re-organizing the Board is also under contemplation. There is also a proposal for construction of an Office Complex of the Board at Bidhannagar.

##### (b) National Informatics Centre Network (NICNET)

The National Information Centre under the Planning Commission, Government of India has been undertaking various activities in the State, after the signing of a Memorandum of understanding between the Government of India and the State Government in the Development & Planning Department. The last few years have been an expansion in variety and scope of services being provided by the NIC network in the state. An apex, viz the NIC State Co-ordination Committee, has been set up to oversee the general range of NIC activities at Calcutta and at the district level. District Computer Centres have been set up in all the districts of the State except for the newly created district of Uttar Dinajpur. For Uttar Dinajpur such a centre is proposed during Ninth Five year Plan with headquarters at Raiganj. The District Computer Centre have been requested by different departments and agencies for extending to them the services and facilities provided by the NIC.

A notable feature of NIC is the establishment of a node at Writers' Buildings which is equipped with a Micro-earth Station (MES).

NIC District units computing facilities have been enhanced with the induction of new terminals and on an average four terminals have been added with existing strength of four terminals. Terminals have been installed at Sabhadhipatis Chamber, D. M.'s Chamber and DRDA offices at a number of districts. In some districts the location of Zilla Parishad office and DRDA office are at different buildings away from the location of the NIC district centre where terminals are being provided through telephone lines.

Approval for two new district Computer Centre has been received, one at Raiganj for the newly created Uttar Dinajpur District and other at Siliguri. For site preparation work for Raiganj fund has been released by NIC. For Siliguri Centre site has been identified and the district authorities have been requested to handover the site and to give the estimated expenses for the site preparation works. These two centres will be connected with computer facilities within the Ninth Five Year Plan period.

Stress will be given to a greater extent than the Ninth Five Year Plan period for meeting the needs of Government functionaries for terminal connections at their end. Beside this action is being taken for providing high priority nodes to be connected in the first phase of installation of a Local Area Network (LAN) in different Ministries/Department at Writers' Buildings and other important offices with E-MAIL facilities.

It has also been proposed to Provide the officers up to the level of Joint Secretary in all the Government Department with the facilities of Computer Network of NIC-NET.

Accordingly an appropriate provision would be made for the Ninth Five Year Plan. Rs. 18.00 lakhs are proposed for the Annual Plan, 1997-98 for meeting the expenditure of rental charges for accommodation, charges for electricity, water supply, security for NIC computer centres, computer consumable expenses for 17 district computer centres including Writers' Buildings and E-MAIL facilities to important Govt. offices etc. The proposed outlay is Rs. 25 lakhs for this year 1999-2000.

**(c) Natural Resources Data Management System (NRDMS)**

NRDMS is a computer based decision support system capable of storing and analysing special data on Natural Resources in conjunction with other relevant collateral data for Planning and Management of natural resources at the micro level. The methodology has been developed by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The Project is being financed by the National Technology Mission for Drinking Water, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. For smooth running of the data based centres, policy was formulated by the Government of India in the Science and Technology Department to provide two scientists and computer operators for three years to the respective centres. Thereafter, the project would be taken over by the State Government. Till such time the State Government would bear 25 per cent of total expenditure.

The NRDMS Project had been made steady progress since the installation of computer system in September, 1990. The NRDMS at present, is in operation in three districts namely, Bankura, Purulia and Midnapore (West). During 8th-Five Year Plan outlay for NRDMS has been earmarked at Rs. 19.64 lakhs including Rs. 10.00 lakhs for Regional Data-base Centre at Bankura covering the three districts. The estimated cost of the Regional centre is Rs. 40.00 lakhs, 75% of which is borne by the Central Government and the balance 25% of the cost i.e. Rs. 10.00 lakhs being borne by State Government. The project is being implemented by CASAD, an agency approved by Government of India. The CASAD will leave the project on 31.3.1997. Thereafter it will be taken over by the State Government.

In the Ninth Five Year Plan it is proposed that the NRDMS will be implemented in all the districts of West Bengal. Proposal has already been furnished for extension of NRDMS to Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar, Siliguri, Darjeeling,, North 24-Parganas, South 24-Parganas and Howrah. The proposed outlay is Rs. 10 lakhs for this year 1999-2000.

**(D) Evaluation Monitoring and Manpower (EM & M)**

The Directorate of Evaluation, Monitoring and Manpower is the apex organisation for monitoring of planactivities in the State of West Bengal under Development and Planning Department. Since the District Planning Committees have been made more functional and works prescribed in Schedules 11 & 12 of the Constitution have been transferred to the districts, the job-burden of the Directorate will be increased manifold. It has been broadly decided that the works of the Directorate will be directly supervised by the State Planning Board and one of the members will look after the works of the Directorate.

In the Ninth Five Year Plan the Directorate of EM & M will go in for computerisation i.e. a computer section equipped with state of the art computers, laser printers etc. with officers of the rank of Deputy Director and above having access to personal computers duly linked with NICNET and the Mainframe Computer in the office Computer Section. Further, it is proposed that the three regional Offices of this Directorate should also be computerised with access to NICNET so that flow of information from the Districts to the Headquarters and vice-versa is easy and smooth.

Computerisation is vital for the upgradation of this office since processing of schedules is a vital task in every field work programme and if done manually tends to be a time consuming task which is also prone to errors in lengthy calculation.

Secondly, it is proposed that staff of this office be trained in handling computer machines either through the CMC/NIC or other private organisations so that they can handle computers with ease-can do both programming and data entry.

Thirdly, it is proposed to link this office with the Regional Offices through Fax which is a vital adjunct today being cheaper than courier, special messenger apart from being time effective.

Facilities Xerox machines, electronic typewriters, work processors will be equipped so that the field reports will be translated into reports after processing in a time and cost effective manner.

The Directorate will undertake following activities—

- (i) Upgradation of Office Machinery & Computerisation at Headquarters.
- (ii) Training of Officers and Staff.
- (iii) Development of Infrastructure of branch Offices.
- (iv) Replacement of Defunct Vehicles & Furniture.

In the year 1999-2000 the plan outlay has been proposed to be Rs. 2.00 lakhs.

## **10.2 TOURISM**

### **10.2.1 Programme of the Tourism Department**

With a view to promoting tourism developed activities throughout the State Tourism Department has undertaken a number of projects over the years with financial support from the Central Government as well as from the State Government.

Tourism Department has before it the following programmes for 1999-2000.

- (a) Re-organising Tourism Department, Directorate and W.B.T.D.C.

To make the Tourism Department as a whole together with the Directorate and the undertaking i.e. the West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation more effective instrument of tourism Development, restructuring and revamping of the set up along with creation of some new posts and introduction of information technology are being seriously considered.

- (b) Renovation of existing tourist lodges

Initially 10 existing tourist lodges have been selected for renovation works with funds from Central Government Berhampur Old Tourist Lodge have been taken up on priority basis.

- (c) Construction of new tourist lodges

New tourists lodges or facilities at Burdwan, Asansol, Shankarpur Dhamakhali, Mangaldweep, NJP Railway Station and Coochbehar are either in progress or are likely to be started.

Expansion projects of Morgan House Tourist Lodge and Raigunge Tourist Lodge will be taken up shortly while such expansion projects for Malda Tourist Lodge, Diamond Harbour Tourist Lodge and Digha Tourist Lodge have recently got the clearance and initial financial assistance from the Govt. of India and these will be executed in 1999-2000.

Tourism Department as part of its long-term perspective planning will also endeavour—

- (a) To construct at least one Tourist Lodge/Wayside Facilities at each of the district headquarters.
- (b) To promote eco-friendly community-friendly sustainable tourism in the Sunderbans, the Dooars and the Western forest tracts of the State.
- (c) To facilitate setting up of 40/50 tourist resorts, day centres and picnic spots within the 100 km. radius of Calcutta.
- (d) To develop composite wayside facilities at intervals of 30/40 km. of all National and State Highways within the State.
- (e) To develop comprehensive beach tourism in the important sea beaches at Shankarpur, Bakkhali, Frasergunj and Sagar Island.
- (f) To set up Hotel Management and Travel Management Institutes, Food Craft Institutes and Water Sports Institutes at important tourist locations of the State.

### **10.3 SURVEY & STATISTICS**

#### **10.3.1 Programme of the Development & Planning Department**

##### **Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics (B.A.E. & S.)**

The B.A.E. & S is the apex organisation of the State to collect and analyse data of various activities in the state. The major works of B.A.E. & S. are now—

- Compilation of staff statistics,
- Compilation of industrial statistics,
- compilation of Municipal statistics.

The B.A.E. & S. is now engaged with the work of Fourth Economic Census taken up by Govt. of India. In addition, there is an Socio-Economic Survey Wing of the B.A.E. & S. Directorate which conducts surveys in various fields. Over and above, the B.A.E. & S. publishes regularly Statistical Data namely Economic Review of the State yearly, District Statistical Hand Books yearly and Statistical Abstract.

The Offices of B.A.E. & S. in the districts need to be strengthened and hence in 1999-2000, provision for a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs has been made for upgradation of offices, equipments, computerisation and arranging accommodation of district Offices.

### **10.4 CIVIL SUPPLIES**

#### **10.4.1 Programme of the Food and Supplies Department**

##### **Modernisation of Inspection and Quality Control Laboratory**

The Department of Food and Supplies has a Quality Control Laboratory under the Directorate of Inspection and Quality Control at Headquarters. This was set up for analysis of rice, wheat, edible oil, oilseeds etc. Besides it was decided that two such laboratories, one in Burdwan in South



Bengal and the other at Siliguri in North Bengal would be set up. The proposed laboratory at Siliguri has already been set up. The proposed work at Burdwan is in progress. It is expected that this work will be completed within this year or next. The matter was briefly discussed in the meeting of the Subject Committee for Agriculture and Food & Supplies. According to the views of the Chairman it is necessary to set up such a Laboratory in each District.

### **Public Distribution System**

Pursuant to the guidelines issued by the Government of India for introduction of the scheme under TPDS, the State Government had already launched the scheme in the State with effect from 15.2.97. Under the programme specially subsidised food-grains (rice & wheat) to the extent of maximum 10 kgs. per family of 5 adult members per month will be distributed to the families living below poverty line (i.e. the family with an annual income of Rs. 15,000/- and below ) About 2.4 crores of people i.e. a little over 32% of the population of the State has been identified as BPL and have been covered by the TPDS fully.

A Monitoring Committee both at the district level and the sub-divisional level has been constituted with different functionaries for smooth running of the programme.

## **10.5 OTHER GENERAL ECONOMIC SERVICES**

### **10.5.1 Programme of the Development & Planning Department**

#### **District Planning**

A transparent blending of political democracy with participatory economic democracy at the grass root level can alone make any programme functional in realising its programme objectives. This core message of decentralised planning found its shape in West Bengal since the first year of (1985-86) of the Seventh Five Year Plan when the concept of decentralised planning became a part of the functioning system.

Following the Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Act, 1992, the West Bengal District Planning Committee Act., 1994 and the West Bengal District Planning Committee Rule 1994 were published. Separate Notifications constituting seventeen District Planning Committees were issued and the District Planning Committees have since started functioning.

Apart from the flow of disaggregated budgeted outlay of various departments, untied funds are also placed under the District Plan Scheme Funds to the various districts to meet the critical gap between the requirement of funds according to the felt need of the Local Level Planning Bodies and the total availability of funds from various sources, both departmental budget and Institutional Sources. Moreover, on the basis of recommendations of the State Finance Commission a new decision has been taken on the provisioning of plan funds. After interaction with the department, the plan funds for the district level schemes would be given straight to districts through the District Planning Committee.

### **10.5.2 Programme of the Commerce & Industries Department**

#### **Weights and Measures**

Legal Metrology Organisation of this Department is entrusted with the task of Consumer Protection. The Organisation has stepped up its efforts in the matter of protection of consumer's interest by enforcement of the various Acts and Rules relating to Weights and Measures.



## CHAPTER XI

### Social Services

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## XI SOCIAL SERVICE

### 11.1 GENERAL EDUCATION

#### 11.1.1 Programme of the School Education Department

##### Elementary Education

Due to continued litigations in Court for the last several years, it was not possible to set up any new Primary School. The cases have since been settled by the Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court and it would now be possible to proceed with the setting up of new Primary Schools and appointment of new Primary teachers. This is all the more necessary in view of the public interest litigation petition pending before the Supreme Court of India which desires that the State government should provide Free and Compulsory Elementary Education to all eligible children of the age group 5-14

The State Government has reiterated the objective of achieving universalisation of primary education by the end of 9th plan. To this end, along with the setting up of regular schools, an innovative approach has been taken to set up child education centres under the supervision of Panchayats and direct management of village education committees with 75 per cent representation of guardians. Till January, 1999, 762 such centres have already been set up. Lady teachers above the age of 40 years with required qualifications have been appointed on renewable contract with accountability to the local community.

Child education centre will partially take care of the problem of drop outs also.

##### Deep : Towards Universalising Primary Education

Deep aims at universalising primary education through ensuring :

1. Universal access and enrolment
2. Universal retention
3. Substantial improvement in quality of education

This programme is different from all other Programmes taken up earlier in the primary education sector in so much so that :

1. It involves a planning for primary education and not merely for primary schooling bringing into crucial input of alternative schools, non-formal systems as also linkages with total literacy campaign and continuing education.

2. It encompasses all qualitative aspects of primary education including school effectiveness, text book and curriculum, teachers training and capacity building of support organisations, improvement in learning skills against quantified baseline learners' achievement levels.

3. It emphasizes on community mobilisation to community leadership of primary education by setting up functional and empowered Village Education Committees. The Village Education committees under DPEP are the custodian of funds passing to primary schools like school contingency, TLM and also funds for school building construction activities. In fact all sorts of construction activities for school building under DPEP are taken up by the VEC directly.

4. It provides the platform for synergetic development through convergence of various Govt. and non-Govt. schemes and services.

5. It encourages innovation at all levels of project implementation ranging from pedagogical interventions to community mobilisation.

6. It has an important component of focusing on Girl's Education by way of providing for improved access, retention and achievement Gender sensitisation is brought to be permeated through all aspects of DPEP planning and implementation.

7. Evaluation, monitoring, research issues are also addressed to under DPEP so that they become innovative and supportive exercises for quality improvement.

It reveals from the N. S. S. in the year 1997, literacy rate in West Bengal has remarkably increased which is reproduced below :

	<b>Cencus (1991)</b>	<b>NSS (53rd round) (1997)</b>
Male :	67.81	81
Total :	57.50	72

Efforts are being made to increase the female literacy by extending educational facilities for the girls in the remotest corner of the State. To achieve Universalisation of primary Education steps have been taken to set up primary school even in remotest corner of the State. To achieve universalisation of primary education by the turn of the century we have to set up 7240 primary schools all over the state. Already we have taken steps for setting up additional 2500 schools during the last three years. Simultaneously, Panchayet & Rural Development Departments are setting up alternative schooling facilities i.e. Child Education Centre (Sishu Shiksha Kendra) to cover all habitated and isolated areas. Centrally Sponsored DFID-assisted District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) is being implemented in the low female literacy districts of Cooch Behar, Murshidabad, Birbhum, Bankura and South 24-Parganas. DPEP is working in the holistic manner to cover all out of school children in the primary education sector by reducing drop-out rates, increasing enrolment, qualitative improvement of teaching and convergence of activities in the districts for achieving universalisation of primary education. This involves motivation of teachers through reorientation training guardians of the students. Another 5 low female literacy districts namely, Jalpaiguri, Malda, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur & Purulia are being considered by Govt. of India for inclusion in DPEP for which preliminary work for preparation of Plan and other activities have already been initiated. It is expected that those 5 districts may be included during 1999-2000. In remaining 8 districts efforts are being made to improve the primaru education through introduction of Anandapath Programme under the auspices of UNICEF. For improvement of primary teachers' education, 13 District Institutes of Education and Training (DIET) are being set up in 13 districts. For non-DPEP districts, provisions for the Plan budget have been made for re-orientation training of teachers.

From B. M. S. fund we have taken up construction of rooms in primary schools to accommodate increased enrolment. Under Area Intensive Programme of the Govt. of India primary school buildings, school rooms have been taken up for construction. Besides, in DPEP districts, additional funds have been provided for construction of primary schools. We are trying to achieve univ ersalisa-tion of primary education by 2001-2002. It may not be out of place to mention for improving minimum learning level of the student West Bengal Board of Primary Education has introduced the evaluation through test after class-II. We have also introduced minimum learning level strategy in all the districts. Regular teachers' training have already been introduced in all the districts.

During 1999-2000, we have a target to establish 1,000 primary schools. At the time of selection of places for the establishment of schools, the weightage is being given to the area of scheduled

castes and scheduled tribes habitation and also low female literacy areas to make easy available of educational facilities to the weaker section of the society. There is a problem of retention and drop-out of the students in primary schools. We have undertaken incentive schemes like supply of *school dress* to girl students of all communities and *Mid-day Meal programme* to arrest the problem of drop-out and retention. The children in primary school in classes I to V receive *textbooks* free of cost and for this purpose the State Government has decided to set up a Text Book Corporation for printing and distribution of text books.

Due stress has been given to construct new primary school buildings for the newly established primary schools and also to increase number of rooms in the existing primary schools to accommodate additional enrolment and also as a part of qualitative environmental development of the teaching-learning atmosphere in the schools.

To make easy available of *drinking water* to children of primary schools, drinking water arrangement is also being made by making of tube well or erection of well within the school compound. *Toilet facility* is also being made available in the primary schools.

Apart from the above scheme for achieving qualitative development, we have also adopted schemes of qualitative improvement of education by the way of conducting *orientation of training* of teachers and member of local bodies.

We are at the fag end of completion of the 20th century and it is our Constitutional commitment to the people to achieve *universalisation of elementary education* (upto Class VIII). The efforts of promotion of upper primary education have also been initiated simultaneously. To cater additional enrolment in upper primary classes , we require to establish 4,000 new Jr. High Schools during the 9th Plan period. We have so far set up 880 new Jr. High Schools and we have a target of 500 Jr. High Schools during 1999-2000. The improvement of buildings of the existing Jr. High Schools and construction of the buildings of the new schools has been taken up as a part of improvement of environment of educational facilities.

As a policy matter and also as a commitment to the people, we have a continuous effort to keep open the venues Higher Education the ambitious children of all groups who have completed or will complete the elementary stage of education. The scope of Madhyamik stage or Higher Secondary stage is also extended for them by upgrading viable Jr. High to High Schools and viable High Schools to Higher Secondary Schools.

To extend the scope of completion of school education to the drop-out students, the State Government has established a *State Open School* where they are able to study at their own place.

Efforts are being taken up to make scope of education to the disabled children and build up their carrier as a valuable citizen of the country by making arrangement of the integrated education in normal schools.

We like to achieve our above schemes during 1999-2000 by effective utilisation of available resources.

### **11.1.2 Programme of the Higher Education Department**

#### **University Education**

In order to meet the increasing demands for Higher Education at the University level action for augmenting existing facilities of the Universities has been taken. Side by side the process of consolidation of the existing facilities and diversification of the fields of study has been strengthened.

These action plans include (i) shifting of different branches of Rabindra Bharati University in phases from Jorasanko campus to B. T. Road campus ; (ii) to continue construction works of third phase of Vidyasagar University more expeditiously ; (iii) construction of new administrative building of Burdwan University ; (iv) repair and renovation of Dwarbhanga Building of Calcutta University ; (v) to set-up an open University to be made named as "Netaji Subhas Open University" for which suitable provision has been made in 1997-98. Plans have been drawn to start this programme in 1997-98 academic session in the premises of Netaji Institution for Asian Studies, Calcutta.

1. In the last financial year the U. G. C. agreed to the proposal of the Universities and the State Government for introduction of various courses in emerging areas of Science, Technology and Management. The State Government also agreed to give matching support to such introduction to the said courses in the coming year to the possible extent.

2. In the Netaji Subhas Open University enrolment of students through Distance Education System has already been started in 9 subjects in B.A. and B.Com. Courses.

3. Revised Pay Scales as per recommendation of the U. G. C. have been introduced for the teachers of Universities and Colleges of the State.

4. Financial assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs has been provided towards repair and renovation of the old historical buildings of Calcutta University, which is approaching its existence of 150 years. Further Rs. 47.50 lakhs has also been sanctioned for repair of Ballygunge Science College, Calcutta University. An amount of Rs. 12 lakhs has also been provided to Burdwan University for repair work and electrical installation. Rs. 12.00 lakhs has been sanctioned to N. B. University for installation of a transformer at Salforest, Western Section. Kalyani University has also been granted an amount of Rs. 24.12 lakhs for renovation, restoration and construction of different buildings. A total amount of Rs. 112.50 lakhs has been sanctioned to Vidyasagar University, Midnapore towards completion of 3rd phase of its construction project.

### **College Education**

(a) 7 (seven) non-Govt. Colleges have been set up during 1998-99 in rural and backward areas of the State including a new degree college for women at Kalimpong.

(b) Two girls' hostels have been taken up for construction at Mahishadal and Memary.

(c) A Day Students' Home at Bankura has been established to extend educational facilities to the students of the Mufassal areas.

(d) A vocational course in "Tourism and Travel Management" has been introduced in Haldia Government College in 1998-99 session.

(e) Approval for introduction of "Forestry and Wildlife Management" course in Darjeeling Government College has been given in 1998-99.

(f) Master in Visual Arts has been introduced in the Government College of Arts and Craft, Calcutta.

(g) Honours course in Physiology and Physical Education as an elective subject have been introduced in Bethune College and Jhargram Raj College respectively.

### **Technical Education**

(a) Intake capacity in degree courses in existing Engineering Colleges have been raised by 155 in 1998-99.



(b) Fund was provided for construction of buildings, improvement and modernisation of laboratories, workshops and libraries in Kalyani and Jalpaiguri Engineering Colleges and at 4 Govt. Technological Colleges of the State.

(c) Five more new non-Govt. Engineering Colleges have been set up in this State during last year with intake capacity of 720 at Barhampore, Bantala, Assansol, Kolaghat and Bankura.

(d) In the coming year the establishment of more private engineering and management colleges will be encouraged.

(e) A committee has been constituted to explore possibility for setting up of a Technological University in this State.

### **Social Education**

A large number of premier autonomous organisation and societies engaged in research and promotion of science, arts and culture are being financially supported and maintained by the State Government. Indian Association for the cultivation of Science, Jadavpur, Jagadish Bose National Talent Search, Centre for Studies in Social Science, Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management, Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, West Bengal State Book Board are the few names among many.

Besides, different heritage buildings have been acquired or are being acquired and/or renovated for commemoration of legendary figures like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Raja Rammohan Roy. The house associated with the memory of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Kurseong, Darjeeling have been acquired by the State Government. The residence of Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar at Calcutta has also been acquired. Fund has been provided to establish a Museum Personalia and Vocational Training Centre for Women therein. The acquisition of the residence of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad at Calcutta is in progress.

### **Physical Education**

Financial assistance has been provided during 1998-99 to extend facilities for physical Education in the form of supplying sports goods/equipment to Government and Non-Government Colleges. Grant for setting up of a gymnasium has been sanctioned to Panskura Banamali College.

A building on Southern Avenue, Calcutta has been acquired for housing different H. C. C. units of the States.

### **Direction and Administration**

In order to modernise office administration and allied matters a computer system has been installed in Higher Education Department in 1998-99. Administrative approval for establishment of an electrical sub-station for Bikash Bhavan has been accorded during 1998-99.

The total proposed Annual Plan outlay for the year 1998-99 is Rs. 2285.00 lakhs.

#### **11.1.3 Programme of the Mass Education Extension Department**

The Mass Education Extension Deptt. has 2 Directorates. They are (1) the Directorate of Mass Education Extension and (2) the Directorate of Library Services. The works done by the 2 Directorates are given below.

##### **1. The Directorate of Mass Education Extension**

###### **(i) Literacy Programme :**

The Mass Literacy Campaign which was launched in West Bengal in September, 1990, now cover all the 18 districts of the State which are in different stages of progress. The T. L. C. i.e. the

programme for imparting basic literacy is continuing in 5 districts viz. Dakshin dinajpur, Uttar Dinajpur, Malda, Darjeeling and in Calcutta where a State project on literacy is being implemented. After the total literacy phase, 7 districts viz. Howrah, Murshidabad, Nadia, Purulia, Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri and Hooghly started the post literacy programmes, which are continuing. The Continuing Education Programme has been undertaken in the remaining 6 districts viz. Burdwan, Birbhum, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Midnapore and Bankura. Till date, through the Mass literacy Campaign, out of the targetted 141.05 lakh non-literates in the State 79.28 lakh persons have achieved literacy norms as fixed by the N. L. M.

During the last financial year Continuing Education Programme of 3 districts viz. Midnapore, South 24 Parganas and Bankura have been approved by the N. L. M. The project proposal of Continuing Education Programme of Hooghly district which has already completed the Post Literacy Campaign stage is awaiting approval. It has been planned that Hooghly and some of the districts which are at present the P. L. C. stage would be brought under the purview of Continuing Education Programme during the financial year 1999-2000.

The main objective of the Continuing Education Programme is to create opportunities of life-long education for those who have attained some basic education. This programme also intends to undertake different income generation and quality of life improvement schemes for social and economic betterment of the neo-literates and the learners having limited literacy. Libraries play an important role in developing the habit of learning of the neo-literates as well as for channelising their learning skills in different productive activities. So, the Deptt. of M. E. E. has adopted a scheme to set up a 'Literacy Corner' for the neo-literates' in 341 rural libraries 1 in each development Block in the State during the financial year 1998-99. Accordingly an amount of Rs. 25,000/- has been allotted in respect such rural library for purchasing furniture and reading materials for the neo-literates.

As a result of the Mass Literacy Programme considerable number of non-literates have now attained the status of neo-literate's in West Bengal. Thus it is necessary to institutionalise the Post Literacy Programme for consolidation and upgradation of the newly acquired skills of the neo-literates. Keeping this need in view, a scheme has been taken up for establishment of 18 'Jana Siksha Prosar Bhawans' one in each district on an experimental basis. They will offer basic literacy to the non-literates and upgrade the literacy skills of the neo-literates, and will also offer course of Vocational training and for development of professional skills. These centres will also provide opportunities to the beneficiaries so that they can effectively participate in the development process.

One of the significant development of the literacy programmes during last year is the registration and constitution of the West Bengal State Literacy Mission Authority with the main objective of accelerating and further consolidating the literacy movement in the State. The main functions of the W. B. S. L. M. A. include taking policy decisions, planning, training, execution, monitoring and evaluation of all ongoing literacy programmes in the State. The W. B. S. L. M. A. had drawn an Action Plan specifying the targets for the period from December, 1998 to March, 1999. In order to give a boost to the ongoing literacy programmes in the State and to link up various development Departments and the non-Govt. organisations with the ongoing literacy programmes a State Workshop-cum-Orientation training programme on literacy was organised by the Deptt. of M. E. E. jointly with the Bangiya Saksharata Prosar Samity and State Resource Centre. The programme was held at Vidyasagar Mela, Calcutta from December 8 to December 19, 1998. The participants in the Workshop included representatives from teacher and students' organisations, Youth Organisations, Mahila Samities, Farmers' and Labour organisations. The State Workshop-cum-Orientation training was held in 3 phases of 3 days duration each in which 531 master-trainers from all the districts of the State took part.

As a part of multi pronged attack on illiteracy, the Govt. has attached much importance to opening of Adult High Schools in the State. Through these schools, it is felt, that the adult learners will get the opportunities for acquiring education qualification up to the Madhyamik standard. Some steps have already been taken to revitalise the existing Adult High Schools especially in the districts where Continuing Education Programme has been undertaken. Under this scheme, at present 33 Adult High Schools are running with an enrolled strength of about 2,500 students. In addition, the State Govt. has also accepted the Central Govt. schemes of Non-formal Education for the children of age group of 9-14 years' who are either school drop-outs or have never gone to the schools. The scheme is implemented through the different non-Govt. organisations. At present 13 NGOs have been implementing the scheme running about 1250 centres in different districts of the State. During last financial year, the MEE Deptt. has processed further 43 such proposals of N. F. E. scheme submitted by different NGOs and have forwarded to the Govt. of India for their approval.

The MEE Deptt. has taken steps to cover the balance 60 lakhs non literates by 2001 when the census operations is due to raise the rate of Literacy in this State.

#### **(ii) Audio Visual Education**

The Deptt. of Mass Education Extension has its own audio-visual wing in Calcutta which is engaged in creating a supportive environment for the spread of literacy and awareness throughout the State. The wing has its own film and video Cassette Library through which it has been discharging its responsibility in the preparation and distribution of educational video cassette, posters etc. Besides arranging film/video shows, it has also been organising exhibition on Literacy and awareness in Calcutta and adjoining districts. Last year the wing organised an exhibition on "Women Education in Bengal" at Calcutta Information Centre during the International Literacy Day Celebration. During the financial year (98-99) an auditorium has been constructed for this Audio-Visual Wing at Bhawani Bhawan, Calcutta having arrangements for film projection. The Deptt. of MEE also offers financial assistance to different voluntary organisations for the running of 11 other audiovisual units in different districts of West Bengal in order to promote and popularise mass education all over the State. During the last financial year, the State Govt. allotted Rs. 20 lakhs for the development and modernisation of all the units.

#### **(iii) Sharamik Vidyapeeth**

The Sharamik Vidyapeeth, Calcutta under the Department of MEE is a training centre which offers short duration vocational courses for the wards of the Industrial Workers and the people belonging to lower income groups desirous of undertaking self employment scheme. During the last financial year altogether 37 courses were conducted by the SVP benefitting 1,383 Unemployed Youth of whom 1,227 are female and 156 are male.

#### **(iv) Social Welfare Homes**

There are 10 States Welfare Homes under the administrative control of the Department of Mass Education Extension and 40 aided Welfare Homes for children belonging to economically deprived families for imparting school education and vocational training to the inmates both boys and girls. The Department of MEE also provide aid to 8 Destitute Homes for women run by different non-Govt. organisations. At present around 3900 inmates are studying from these Welfare Homes.

#### **(v) Educational for the Handicapped**

Under the State Govt. Supervision there are 52 special schools for the physically and mentally handicapped students. Out of these 24 are sponsored, 14 are aided and 14 are recognised. During 1998-99 the State Govt. has sponsored 5 such educational Institutions for the handicapped.

The Government has also recognised 3 new institutions for the handicapped during 1998-99. These institutions are Howrah Bhasha Bikash Kendra, Nimbark Math Sava Samity Trust, Midnapore and Basirhat Relife Institute for the Handicapped (Blind, Deaf & Mentally Handicapped), North 24 Pgs.

During the year 1998-99, Govt. sanctioned fund for construction of school and hostel building for 6 Institutions for the handicapped.

Further State Government has sanctioned special furniture and equipment grants and extended financial support to some of the Institutions for their maintenance.

The State Government also organised a State level workshop on job oriented vocational training for the handicapped person during June 1998. It has also felicitated meritorious students of its sponsored, aided and recognised schools who passed in the first division in Madhyamik and Higher Secondary examinations.

“The Scheme of Scholarship for the handicapped students” of the State studying in regular school (IX onwards), College and Universities has been implemented during 1998-99. The scholarships are being distributed through the Dist. Social Education Officers this academic session.

The MEE Directorate has spent about Rs. 152 lakhs on various literacy campaign 111.00 lakhs on education and training of the physically handicapped children including providing fund construction of school and Hostel Buildings, 200 lakhs for the State and Aided Welfare Home for the benefits of the inmates and construction and repairing of these Homes.

#### **Directorate of Library Services**

The Directorate of Library Services functioning under the Department of Mass Education Extension administers W. B. Public Libraries Act 1797 as amended from time to time. It has under its jurisdiction 11 Govt. Libraries with the state centre Library at the top, 2443 Govt. Sponsored Libraries out of which 18 are District Libraries, 236 are Town Libraries and Rural Libraries, and 7 aided Libraries run by voluntary organisations spread over the State.

The Govt. has taken schemes for consolidating and strengthening the public Library system in the State with the State Central Library at the apex.

Important activities and achievements of the Directorate during 1998-99 are furnished below.

#### **Administrative measures**

During the on-going process of consolidation and strengthening the public library system on the target phase additional posts are being created at the Directorate and State Central Library.

In the second phase, creation of additional two posts for each of the 74 remaining upgraded Town Libraries has been taken up.

About 450 vacant posts in Govt. Libraries and offices of the District Library Officers & Sponsored Libraries are in the process of being filled.

Schemes for computerisation work at the State Central Library and in the Directorate and fire-protection work at the State Central Library have been taken up.

A spacious two-storied annex building acquisitioned for Uttarpara Jaikrishna Public Library has been commissioned for extended and upgraded Library Services.

For creation of a separate Local Library Authority in the D. G. H. C. areas of Darjeeling District, West Bengal Public Libraries Act, 1979 has been amended by enacting West Bengal Public Libraries (Amendment) Act, 1998. Amendment of releavant Provisions of Rules made under the Act is under process.

In State Central Library and other District Libraries of the State, 'Career Guidance Centre' (Book Support) have opened to provide services to the candidates for different competitive examinations for recruitment. Such Centres are being opened in 23 Libraries out of 16 centres have been opened in 16 libraries. Others will be opened very shortly.

A scheme on community Library Information Service has been formulated. In this scheme the Gram Panchayets of the State having no Public Library, one Community Library and Information Centres (CLIC) will be set up with involvement of Panchayet bodies managed by the local committees. Community Library Organisers will be a part time worker engaged on annual contractual basis.

Re-organisation of Librarianship Training Centre at Baruiapur and Kalimpong as centres for organising Refreshers' and Orientation Courses for Library and Mass Education Extension Personnel is under active consideration of this Department.

The important programmes to be undertaken during 1999-2000 are also furnished below :

1. Strengthening of the Directorate of the Library Services, Offices of the District Library Officers, State Central Library and other Govt. Libraries with more manpower for upgraded facilities.
2. Strengthening of community Information Services for the benefit of people, particularly of the rural areas through community Library Information Centres and linked Public Libraries.
3. Extension of the Scheme of career guidance centre to the Sub-Divisional/Town Libraries.
4. Financial Assistance will be provided to non-sponsored libraries for the purpose of purchase of books, periodicals, journals etc. This will augment the Library Services in the State.

In the financial year 1999-2000, the budget provision in the Plan (Revenue) and Plan (Capital) Heads are Rs. 5,14,00,000 and Rs. 1,00,00,000 respectively.

## **11.2 TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

### **11.2.1 Programme of the Department of Technical Education and Training**

The State Government in the Department of Technical Education and Training has taken up a Project assisted by the World Bank for modernisation and upgradation of the Polytechnic Education system in the State.

#### **Important Activities for the year 1998-99 and the Future programmes for 1999-2000 (Polytechnics)**

Construction work for Rupnarayanpur Polytechnic (Phase-I) and Siliguri Women's Polytechnic (Phase-I) has been completed. Construction work of phase-II for Women's Polytechnic at Siliguri and Dr. Meghnad Saha Instt. of Technology at Haldia has been started. Construction of different works at all the 26 existing Polytechnics have been completed. An agreement has been signed with EDCIL. (Govt. of India undertaking) under the Ministry of Human Resource Development for undertaking small civil construction or maintenance works for all the existing Polytechnics according to their requirement.

Post Diploma Course in Foundry Technology and Mining Electronics in the existing Polytechnics have already started. Post Diploma Course in Office Management, Medical Electronics and Petro-Chemical Engineering will be introduced from the Academic Session, 1999-2000. Major parts of the procurement of equipment have been made through D. G. S. & D. under the Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India and COFMOW under the Ministry of Railways at Central Level. Procurement of Books and furniture has been made under the state level.

30% seats in the Polytechnics has been reserved for admission into the Polytechnics on the basis of marks obtained in the Madhyamik Examination. Out of this reserved seats, 50% seats are reserved for the girl students.

At present, 26 Polytechnics of the State are conducting the Scheme of Community Polytechnic through their main Polytechnic centres along with around 90 Extension Centres for increasing employment facilities in rural areas.

The Community Polytechnic plays a supportive role to the on going programmes of other Deptt.s e.g. conducting TRYSEM training, PMRY Scheme, Zilla Parishad Level programmes, like Rural Sanitation and programmes of Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Govt. of India. This Deptt. has also taken up a Scheme for organising of short-term Vocational Training Programme for different target groups to enhance individuals' employability. Polytechnics, Junior Technical Schools, I.T.I.s. are being utilised for running the Vocational Trade Courses.

The following identified courses will be introduced initially in these institutions :

- (i) Surveying & Construction Supervising ;
- (ii) Modern Office Management ;
- (iii) Agro based courses ;
- (iv) Fast Food Making ;
- (v) Photography & Videography ;
- (vi) Desktop Publishing ;
- (vii) Interior Decoration & Beautification ;
- (viii) Sports Goods Making ;
- (ix) Physiotherapy Asstt.
- (x) Footwear and Leather goods making ;
- (xi) P. C. Maintenance ;
- (xii) Media Development & Animation ;
- (xiii) Silk Screen Printing ;
- (xiv) Lab. Technician ;
- (xv) Computer Courses

These Vocational Courses (6 months duration) have already been introduced in North Calcutta Polytechnic, Women's Polytechnic, Calcutta and Hooghly Instt. of Technology, Hooghly.

### **Junior Technical School**

National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) recognised Trade Courses are being conducted in 20 sponsored Jr. Technical Schools of our State. Trade Courses in Electronic and Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning is going to be started in a few Jr. Tech. Schools in the forth coming academic session.

The administrative control of the Central Foot wear Training centre at Budge Budge, South 24-Parganas and the West Bengal Survey Instt. at Bandel, Hooghly has been taken over by this Deptt. from the Cottage & Small Scale Industries Deptt. and the Land and Land Reforms Deptt. respectively for development of these two Institutions.

Other than World Bank Assisted project, a provision of Rs. 4,99,54,000 has been proposed to be made for development of Polytechnic & Jr. Technical Schools in the State Plan for 1999-2000.

## State Council

The West Bengal State Council of Technical Education being a statutory Body is conducting various Diploma Examinations and the results of such examination are being published in time. The Council has formulated norms in regard to course fee, curriculum and syllabus of different courses. in computer, Management, safety and Hotel Management etc. conducted by different Private Organisation in this State. The Council has already accorded affiliation to some of such courses conducted by them.

### **Achievements during the year, 1998-99 and future programmes for I.T.I.s. (Industrial Training Institutes).**

New Trade Courses in Plastic-Processing Operator has been introduced at I. T. I. s at Suri, Tollygunj, Siliguri, Dargapur, Hooghly and Haldia. One year Trade Course in hair & Skin Care has been started at Women's I. T. I., Calcutta from the current academic session and the same Trade will be introduced at Women's I.T.I., Siliguri from the next session. During 1998-99, 4664 Nos. of apprentices have been engaged in different establishments under Apprentices Act, 1961 till November, '98.

Construction work of the proposed I. T. I. at Amtala, 24-Parganas (S) is about to complete. It is expected that the teaching programme at the said new I. T. I. will be started in the next session. The new I. T. I. at Belurghat, Dist. Dakshin Dinajpur and ITI, Alipurduar, Dist. Jalpaiguri have started functioning with the Trade Courses, e. g. (i) Radio & T. V. Servicing and (ii) Maintenance and Repairing of Electronic Power Appliances. It has been decided that a new I. T. I. at Toofanganj in the district of Cooch Behar will be established with the following trades short by :

1. Mechanic Agricultural Machinery ;
2. Ref. & Air Condition Mechanic ;
3. Welder

## **11.3 SPORTS AND YOUTH SERVICES**

### **11.3.1 Programme of the Sports & Youth Services (Sports) Department**

#### **Improvement of Sports & Games**

An amount of Rs. 95,00,000/- allotted in this year's budget will be spent for the development, improvement and diversification of Sports, and games in the state. West Bengal State Council of Sports, an Executive Wing as well as Advisory Body of the Sports Department is allotted funds from this head. The functions of the Sports Council are varied and divergent. The Sports Council conducts a permanent coaching camp at Kshudiram Anusilan Kendra (adjacent to Netaji Indoor Stadium) and also runs a number of coaching camps in the disciplines like football, volleyball, basketball, Kho Kho, Kabadi etc. in the districts. Sports equipments are supplied to these coaching camps. The council grants financial assistance to various state level associations of different games for their state level meets, pre-national coaching camps, and also for participation in national level championships. The council also runs a coaching scheme styled as "Long Term Non-Residential Coaching Scheme" of the age group between 10 and 14 years in the disciplines like football, volleyball and swimming. The training in football is imparted in 33 schools, volleyball in 25 schools and swimming in 4 schools throughout the State. The annual expenditure for running this scheme is met from this Head.

#### **Development and Maintenance of Kshudiram Anushilan Kendra**

An amount of Rs. 7,00,000/- will be spent through the Public Works Department for the repair and maintenance of Kshudiram Anusilan Kendra, and air-conditioned permanent coaching camp which caters to the disciplines of table tennis, Gymnastic, Badminton and Basketball.

### **Campus Works, Stadium, Playgrounds etc.—31-Grants-in-Aid/Contributions**

The most essential and important parameter for improving sports and games is the creation of infrastructural sports facilities. Funds on this head are utilised for creation improvement etc. of on-going stadium, development of play-fields, arrangement of multi-gyms in the clubs and institutions of the State, and for the repair and maintenance of the wooden galleries of the enclosed grounds of Calcutta Maidan, of Md. Sporting, East Bengal and Mohun Bagan football grounds through Public Works Department.

### **Expansion of Sports & Games for Women**

A Women's team from the West Bengal State Council of Sports regularly participates in the national level women's sports festival every year and the expenditure are met from this head.

### **Development & Maintenance of Netaji Indoor Stadium**

The proposed outlay is utilised for the repair and maintenance of the Netaji Indoor Stadium through Public Works Department. Electric charges of this stadium is also met from this Head.

### **Stadium Complex at Bidhannagar**

A major portion of which is utilised for defraying expenditures, on account of the electricity charges. A small residue from this head is utilised for the civil and electrical repair and maintenance of the stadium.

### **Swimming Pool at Subhas Sarobar and Rabindra Sarobar Stadium**

Both these areas were leased out by the Calcutta Improvement Trust in favour of Sports Department for utilisation in sports and games. Majority of this amount has to be paid to the Calcutta Improvement Trust as 'Sinking fund' as per the terms and conditions of the lease agreement.

### **District Sports Councils**

The outlay is intended to be disbursed among the District Sports councils of the State for developing sports activities in the districts.

## **11.4 ART & CULTURE**

### **11.4.1 Programme of the Information and Cultural Affairs Department**

#### **A. Archaeology**

##### **(a) Exploration and Excavation**

During 1999-2000 the Archaeology Directorate will carry out detailed exploration and excavation programme in the districts of North and South 24-Parganas, Midnapore, Bankura, Purulia, Malda, North & South Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri for which a provision of Rs. 5.00 lakhs may be made. There will be special emphasis on the on-going excavation project at Jagjivanpur, Dist. Malda.

It has already taken up three time bound schemes for which provisions have to be made. These are :

- (i) Listing of Historical Building and Monuments of West Bengal
- (ii) Annotated Archaeological Atlas of West Bengal
- (iii) Excavation at Jagjivanpur & Natsal

##### **(b) Printing & Publications**

During 1997-98 the publication of District Level archaeology volume, two specialised journals in English and Bengali and a volume on Bengal Archaeology, Catalogue of museums



objects and picture post-cards will be undertaken. For all these works a sum of Rs. 3.00 lakhs may be provided during the Annual Plan 1999-2000.

**(c) Grants-in-aid to Archaeological Museums**

There are a large number of Rural Museums with very important collection of historical and archaeological materials. These museums require Government support to ensure proper documentation, safe keeping and display of objects.

**(d) Preservation of Historical Monuments & Setting up of Conservation Wing**

The Directorate is collaborating with Panchayet Department in preservation of historical monuments. It has already extended financial assistance to 25 gram Panchayets to look after the security of the monuments. Besides it is in the process of creating a full fledged conservation wing. It has already identified a large number of monuments which need immediate repair and conservation. To meet the cost of a sum of Rs. 13.00 lakhs may be provided during 1999-2000.

**(e) Setting up of a Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training :**

“The Centre for Archaeological studies & Training in Eastern India” has taken up (i) Research Project, (ii) Organising Seminar, Training and Workshop, (iii) Documentation of Archaeological objects and Monuments (iv) Publications (v) Purchase of furniture, stationery and contingency materials etc. during 1999-2000.

**B. Archives and Museums**

**(a) Setting up of Regional Museums in West Bengal**

The State Government has decided to set up at least five district museums and two site museums in West Bengal in order to preserve the regional cultural treasures, spread over different districts in West Bengal. Of the five proposed museums two have already started functioning in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad and the rest will start functioning in the districts of North 24-Parganas and North and South Dinajpur.

**(b) State Archaeological Museum (New Buildings)**

State Archaeological Museum, West Bengal has a rich collection of antiquities and archaeological objects. In order to transform the museum into a viable and dynamic institution, capable of dissemination, education and culture among the mass, a new building is proposed to be constructed in the vacant place adjacent to the present museum.

**(c) Setting up of Memorials at Historical Sites**

A sum of Rs. 8.00 lakhs is required for this purpose during 1999-2000.

**CULTURE**

**1. Construction & Renovation of Public Hall**

The scheme envisages grant of financial assistance to public halls of cultural importance in different parts of the State for promotion, and sustenance of cultural activities.

**2. Financial assistance to distressed persons in the field of culture**

This scheme envisages one time financial grant to distressed persons in the field of music, drama, fine arts and folk culture.

**3. Financial assistance to Cultural institutions for promotion of drama, music and other cultural activities**

#### **4. Awards**

This is an annual feature for giving awards for excellence in the field of drama, music, folk culture and fine arts. An amount of rupees 1.50 lakhs has been provided for this purpose during 1999-2000.

#### **5. Setting up of an Institute of Folk and Tribal Cultural Centre**

An autonomous body viz. Folk & Tribal Cultural Centre has been set up to give shape of the Government's scheme in this field. The Centre is engaged to fulfill the long need for an Institute of Folk Culture and shall be engaged to develop & disseminate the Folk & Tribal Art Forms. Govt. provides financial support from time to time.

#### **6. Setting up of an Art Gallery and Exhibition Hall**

A permanent Art Gallery under the name and style of Gaganendra Pradarshan Shala has been set up at Calcutta Information Centre Complex for the public. Necessary fund is required to be provided for augmenting of infrastructural facilities of the art gallery as also for acquisition of new exhibits.

#### **7. Construction & Development of Rabindra Cultural Institutions :**

There is a wide network of Rabindra Bhabans in the districts and sub-divisions throughout the State under control either of the State Govt. or of the non-Govt. sector. It is the responsibility of the State Government to ensure proper maintenance and renovation of these halls with the existing means of this State Government. An amount of Rs. 20.00 lakhs has been provided for this purpose.

#### **8. State Academy of Music**

An Academy set up in the year 1982 has been carrying on various activities relating to research, training, workshops, competition, seminars, publication etc. for promotion of music in the State. Apart from this a music archive and library are maintained by this Academy. There is also a proposal for construction of the Sangeet Academy Bhawan for which some provisions have been made in this year's budget.

#### **9. Popular Theatre**

The Department runs the Girish Mancha and Madhusudan Mancha. The Department also runs the administration of University Institute Hall. An amount of rupees 40.75 lakhs has been provided for payment of salaries and meeting other expenses incidental to running of the halls in the Annual Plan for 1999-2000.

#### **10. Setting up of a Bangla Academy**

Bangla Academy has come up as an autonomous body since November, 1994. The Government provides necessary financial support for running of this academy.

#### **11. Natya Academy**

Natya Academy is entrusted with activities relating to development and promotion of drama in the State through holding of workshops, drama festivals, publications, documentation etc. At present Natya Academy is housed at Calcutta Information Centre.

The Other Schemes are :

##### **(i) Promotion of Folk Cultural activities at Panchayat Samity level**

This activity is being done through the Folk & Tribal Cultural Centre, set up as an autonomous body by the Govt.

(ii) **Dissemination and widening of performing Folk Art Forum**

These activities are being done by the Folk & Tribal Cultural Centre under the head promotion of Folk Cultural Activities at Panchayet Samity Level.

(iii) **Promotion of Culture other than Folk Culture at Panchayet Samity level**

These activities are being done by the West Bengal State Music Academy. An amount of Rs. 5000 lakhs has been made during 1999-2000.

(iv) **Construction of Yatra Mancha :**

An amount of Rs. 5.00 lakhs has been made during 1999-2000.

**12. Banga Sanskriti Bhaban, New Delhi**

The construction of this Bhaban is in progress by a Trusty Board formed by the I. & C. A. Deptt. and Bengali Association, New-Delhi.

**13. Setting up of Theatre Institute on the occasion of Bi-Centenary of Bengal Theatre**

Paschimbanga Natya Academy, a wing of the I. & C. A. Deptt. has no house of their own. Presently this Academy is functioning from Calcutta Information Centre where the space is too inadequate for this organisation. As such, the construction of Banga Natya Bhaban has been started at 85, A. J. C. Bose Road, Calcutta. The provision of Rs. 116.00 lakhs under Annual Plan for 1999-2000 may be provided.

**14. Popular Theatre major works**

A public hall (Madhusudan Mancha) is under construction at South Calcutta. The project was taken up about 8 years back but could not be completed due to lack of regular flow of funds. Meanwhile, there has been much escalation in the cost—it is high time that the balance work should be completed as early as possible for which a provision of Rs. 20.00 lakhs has been made in the budget Annual Plan for 1999-2000.

## **11.5 MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **11.5.1 Programme of the Health and Family Welfare Department**

Health promotion through participation of the Community, Decentralisation of Health Administration, Awareness building on Public Health and Family Welfare, application of relevant technology, rational utilisation of Health Man Power and infrastructure are the objectives with which the Department of Health & Family Welfare carries out its activities.

Considering the massive infrastructure built up in the State so far consisting of Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres, Rural Hospitals and other Hospitals mainly to meet the requirement of rural population, it is the intention of the Government to improve the standard of existing infrastructure by upgradation/strengthening of existing units. Considering necessity for involvement of community and insectoral co-ordination, decentralisation concept has been adopted by establishing District Health Committees for implementation of programmes taken up by State Health System Development Project-II, implementation of the Basic Minimum Service Programmes through District Planning Committees and implementation of proposal for handing over selective units to the Local Bodies in consultation with District Health Committees. In rural areas an important change in the registration of births and deaths has been made by appointing Pradhans of all Gram Panchayats as Sub-Registrars.

Steps have been taken for upgradation of 15 bedded P. H. C. at Kotshila, Purulia into a 30 bedded Rural Hospital, Gangarampur Rural Hospital in South Dinajpur District and Khatra B. P. H. C., Bankura to the Status of Sub-Divisional Hospital with extra facilities. Four other cases for upgradation to Sub-Divisional Hospital are under process. Proposals for handing over few hospitals/Health Centre to Zilla Parishad/Development Authority/Panchayet are under consideration. In order to improve services in the Hospital down to the level of State General Hospital, standing Committees for the District, Sub-Divisional, State General and Spl. Hospitals have been reorganised with greater non-official representation and specific terms of reference. In view of the escalation of prices of the dietary articles, diet rates have been revised. Similarly Hospital charges have been revised which are effective only in teaching Hospitals in Calcutta and P. G. Polyclinic in Calcutta. In the year 1998-99 the entire budgetary allocation was sanctioned & allotted to the District Planning Committees for providing Basic Minimum services in Health and Family Welfare Sector. In order to fill up the vacant posts of Medical Officers in different Health Institutions of the State, appointment orders of 560 Medical Officers selected through PSC have been issued in 1998-99. Steps have also been taken to fill up the vacant posts of Medical Officers on Contract basis and 428 Medical officers have been appointed on contract basis.

Adequate attention has been paid to the Under-Graduate Medical Education with Dental Medical Education and Postgraduate and Medical Research. At present most of the vacant posts of senior teachers/(excepting Lecturers) have been filled up and steps are being taken to post Basic Teachers on contractual basis as per requirements, particularly in dearth subjects. Three courses of Orientation-Cum-Training of Medical Teachers have been completed. Steps have been taken to provide sophisticated medical appliances and modern diagnostic facilities to the Hospitals attached to teaching institutions. Setting up of a Dialysis unit is completed at North Bengal Medical College Hospital which is functioning satisfactorily and another at Bankura Sanmilani Medical College Hospital is under contemplation. Tele Cobalt Machine for treatment of Cancer patients has been commissioned at Bankura Sanmilani medical College and Hospital and the same will start functioning at Burdwan Medical College within a short time.

Collaborative research/project and setting up of a modern diagnostic laboratory has been initiated for diarrhoeal diseases at I. D. Hospital with N. I. C. E. D. (IGMR Unit, at Calcutta) and other collaborative Project in connection with Thalassaemia may be initiated at N. R. S. Medical College and Hospital in the Haematology unit within a short time. Study of Lead Free Project with George Foundation for Child, pregnant mother, Traffic Police etc. has been done by creating a nodal centre at R. G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in the Department of Community Medicine.

In respect of State Health System Development Project-II, a World Bank Aided Project which covers 170 secondary level Hospitals and 36 PHCS in Sundarban areas, Civil Works in 8 Project Hospitals have been completed and grounding of civil works in respect of another 82 Hospitals has started in this year. In 1999-2000, Civil works in 68 Project Hospitals are expected to be completed and grounding of civil works in respect of another 110 project Hospitals is expected to be started. Supply and installation of mobile X-Ray machine, Refrigerators, rubberised coir mattresses & rubberised foam pillows in the project hospitals is in progress. Fund has been allotted to all the Districts for procurement of equipments through National Shopping. Necessary funds have been provided to eight districts for purchase of medicine, Lab. Supplies etc. Necessary funds for hiring of ambulances and generators have also been provided. Short term action plans and medium term action plan regarding Health Care Waste Management are in the process of

implementations in some project hospitals. Adequate emphasis has been laid on developing clinical training modules.

The Family Welfare and M. C. H. Programme is now implemented in the State as a part of over all Reproductive and Child Health Programme. The sub-Project in Murshidabad and Asansol brings additional support in enhancement of local capacity through construction of civil works, improvement of innovative schemes etc. Necessary fund for minor Civil Works, engagement of staff on contract basis, purchase of some medicines and equipments and for operationalising two sub-projects have been provided to the districts. Meanwhile D. F. I. D. (Govt. of U. K.) assisted project to Promote re-productive health of mothers and extend all types of child survival measures is continuing in the Districts of Malda, North Dinajpur and South Dinajpur.

There is significant progress in respect of the Family Welfare Programme of this State. The birth rate of 22.4 per thousand population in the State in 1997 was well below 27.2 at the National Level. The National Demographic goal of birth rate of 21 is likely to be achieved by 2000 A. D. The death rate of 7.7 per thousand Population in this State is not only below the national average, but this is also below the death rate of targetted goal of 9 at the national level to be achieved by 2000 A. D. Likewise infant mortality rate of 55 per one thousand live birth in the State is already below 60, the goal for 2000 A. D. for the Country.

During the period from April to December, 1998 as many as 6.7 lakhs couples accepted family planning method in the State. During the same period 9.84 lakhs mothers and 10.75 lakhs infants were covered under universal Immunisation Programme. The State has taken up a massive programmes for eradication of Polio through (a) coverage of all infants by Oral Polio vaccine routinely and (b) conduction of special programme of Pulse Polio Immunisation. On 6th December, 1998 and 17th January, 1999 all the children below 5 years of age were covered by Pulse Polio Immunisation in the State. Under IPPVIII programmes 34.25 lakhs beneficiaries in C. M. D. A. area have so far been covered.

A number of Public Health Programme are being implemented by the State Govt. in collaboration with Govt. of India to prevent and control of diseases like Malaria, Kalazar, Japanese Encephalitis, Tuberculosis, Filaria, Leprosy, Blindness, Iodine Deficiency Disorder and Arsenic related problems. Though an increased trend of Malarial incidence has been observed in the State, the Govt. has taken steps to tackle the problem effectively by carrying out mass campaign through popular media to create awareness of the people and strengthening of antimalarial spraying operation in the endemic areas. In the field of Leprosy elimination programme, the State Govt. is heading towards reaching the goal through Multi-Drug Therapy Scheme. Against target of 40,000 during the year 1998-99, 43121 was detected upto September, 1998. A World Bank assisted Special Regular M. D. T. Programme is under implementation in all the districts of the State. National Blindness Control Programme is being implemented through Blindness Control Societies. In the year 1997-98, target for cataract operation was 1.68 lakhs and no. of operations performed was 1,33,113. In the field of National Tuberculosis Control Programme, 7 districts namely Bankura, Burdwan, Birbhum, Jalpaiguri, Midnapore, 24-Parganas (North) and 24-Parganas (South) will be brought under Revised strategy to control tuberculosis in this year, besides other five districts already covered in the previous year. In order to prevent goitre a mass awareness campaign has been taken up to popularise consumption of iodised salt among the people. In order to control Hepatitis 'B', besides providing diagnostic facilities in the Sadar hospital at Barasat, Midnapore, Krishnanagar, Steps have been taken to augment the facilities in other district hospitals.

In order to tackle problems arising out of Arsenic Contamination of drinking water sources, an Arsenic Clinic at S. S. K. M. Hospital with indoor and outdoor facilities is functioning in addition to existing centre at School of Tropical Medicine. Close watch is kept on Fluoride Contamination and related health hazards.

In order to bring about improvement in the teaching as well as treatment under Homoeopathy and Ayurvedic Systems of Medicine, steps have been taken to fill up the vacancies of teaching staff in State Colleges as well as vacancies of Medical Officers in different health institutions. proposals for establishment of additional State Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic dispensaries are under consideration of the Govt. Steps have also been taken to increase the nos. of dispensaries under Unani System of Medicines.

For improvement of Health Care System of mental patients in addition to 6 institutions exclusively for mental patients in the State, indoor beds for mental patients are being provided in all district hospitals and Medical College and Hospitals. There is contemplation for setting up a new Mental Hospital in Cooch Behar District. A proposal for opening three Drug-de-addiction centres with the help of UNDCP at Medical College and Hospitals at Bankura, Siliguri and Burdwan is under process.

### **11.5.2 Programme of the Labour Department**

#### **1. Improvement of ESI (MB) Scheme**

In order to provide required medical benefits to the persons who have been brought under the purview of ESI Scheme, the following targets have been earmarked under the continued scheme. These are

- (i) Extension of ESI Scheme
- (ii) Opening/renovation of service dispensaries
- (iii) Shifting of RBO
- (iv) Purchase of land for ESI Hospital
- (v) Strengthening of AMO's office & CMS by creation of some posts.
- (vi) Purchase of machinery & equipments etc.

For the said purposes, a sum of Rs. 30.00 lakh will be required during this financial year.

#### **2. Capital Cost for the insured workers & their families**

This includes the following :

- (i) Opening of mini blood bank
- (ii) Purchase of sophisticated machineries
- (iii) Opening of maternity ward at E. S. I. Hospital
- (iv) Installation of Pathological Laboratory/Thorasic surgery unit & female beds at E. S. I. hospital.

To implement the continued scheme, a sum of Rs. 50.00 lakh will be required during the current financial year.

#### **3. Strengthening of Fleet of Vehicles under E. S. I. (M. B.) Scheme**

In order to materialize the Scheme the following targets have been earmarked during the year 1999-2000.

Purchase of Ambulances, Office cars and purchase of vehicles in exchange of condemned ones. During the financial year 1999-2000 Rs. 10.00 lakh (State share) is proposed to be required for the above said purpose.

#### **4. Improvement of Nurses' Training Centre at Manicktala**

This includes the following targets during 1999-2000 to be achieved.

- (1) To increase the capacity of the number of Trainees
- (2) Purchase of furniture and equipments etc.

During the year 1999-2000, Rs. 7.00 lakh (State Share) is proposed to be required for materialization of the Scheme.

#### **5. Opening of Family Welfare Centres and Implementation of Immunisation Programmes**

It is proposed to open Family Welfare Centres with immunisation Programmes at E. S. I. Hospitals. Most of the equipments for the above purpose have been received from Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal. So good number of posts are to be created to carry out the programme and some machineries are to be purchased.

During the year a sum of Rs. 1.00 lakh (State Share) is proposed.

#### **6. Opening of Occupational Diseases Rehabilitation Centres**

This Staff oriented continued Scheme envisages to open centres for occupational Diseases at different E. S. I. Hospitals and for purchase of equipments to be required therefore. During the year a sum of Rs. 4.00 lakhs (State Share) is proposed for this purpose.

## **11.6 WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION**

### **11.6.1 Programme of the Public Health Engineering Department**

The basic objective followed in the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in our State has been to provide Safe Drinking Water to the rural and urban areas and affordable sanitation services as these are considered vital human needs for health and efficiency.

#### **Rural Water Supply**

In the Rural Water Supply Sector, an outlay of Rs. 144 crores was approved for the Eighth Plan under MNP. With identical matching grant under ARWSP it was expected that from 62% as at the beginning of the Eighth plan coverage of 1991 Rural population will be raised to 86% by end of Eighth plan period and piped water supply coverage to 24.46% from 11% as at the beginning of the Eighth plan. But the actual Rural Water Supply coverage by end of Eighth Plan is expected to be 79% and the piped water supply coverage is expected to be 16.30% by March 1997.

The reasons of such shortfall may be attributed to the following :

1. Stress on Coverage of NC habitations as per National guidelines. A target has been set to ensure at least one source of drinking water in each of 2993 NC habitations by March 97.
2. Providing funds to water Supply Schemes under Arsenic Sub-Mission and to provide alternative drinking water source as contingency measures. These schemes do not effect additional population coverage.

*Social Services*

Approved outlay for the Annual Plan 1998-99 was Rs. 112.20 crores. Anticipated expenditure for 1998-99 is Rs. 92.89 crores. For 1999-2000 an outlay of Rs. 123.00 crores has been fixed. Sectoral breakup of above outlays/anticipated expenditure is given below :

(Rs. in Lakh)

Item	1998-99		1999-2000
	Approved Outlay	Anticipated Expenditure	Approved Outlay
1. Direction & Admin etc.	10.00	103.68	10.00
2. Urban Water Supply	1708.00	1051.03	789.50
3. Rural Water Supply	9500.00	8134.44	11500.00
4. Urban Sanitation	1.00	—	—
5. Sewerage Services	1.00	—	0.50
<b>Total State Plan</b>	<b>11220.00</b>	<b>9289.15</b>	<b>12300.00</b>

**1. Direction of Administration etc.**

The outlay is intended to be spent for creation of infrastructure in the PHE Dept. for implementation of Arsenic Sub Mission Schemes and the Bolpur-Raghunathpur Water Supply, Sanitation & Health Education Project taken up with German Financial assistance. A part of the outlay will be utilised for carrying out survey & investigation related to preparation of Water Supply Schemes in rural and urban areas of the State.

**2. Urban Water Supply**

In Non CMD part of the State there are 81 Municipal towns. Piped Water Supply has been introduced in all of them. The proposed outlay will be utilised for completing the ongoing Water Supply Schemes.

Water supply problems of ten CMD-municipality and corporations are looked after by the local government themselves administered by the Urban Development and Municipal Services Departments.

The following table indicates Non CMD Municipal Water Supply Coverage :

Total in Non CMD Area		Cumulative coverage at the beginning of 9th Plan		Coverage during 1997-98		Target Coverage during 1998-99		Achievement during 1998-99	
Number of Towns	1991 Pop (000)	Number of Towns	1991 Pop (000)	Number of Towns	1991 Pop (000)	Number of Towns	1991 Pop (000)	Number of Towns	1991 Pop (000)
81	5496	77	4213 (76.64%)	New-3 + Part of 1 Aug-1	59 32	New-1 Aug-5	32 299	Aug-5	89



The shortfall in achievement during 1998-99 is due to fund constraint due to loan assistance not forth coming from LIC and HUDCO.

### 3. Rural Water Supply

In the Rural Water Supply Sector an outlay of Rs. 95.00 crores was provided during 1998-99 of which Rs. 65.00 crores was for rural drinking Water Supply under Basic Minimum Services Programme and Rs. 30.00 crores for the Externally Aided Project for Bolpur-Raghunathpur Area. Status of Water Supply coverage of habitations is indicated below :

**Status of Water Supply Coverage of Habitation  
(No. of Habitations)**

Category	As on 1-4-98	As on 1-4-99
1	2	3
NC		
PC-I	4045	433
PC-II	9709	9587
PC-III	9535	9313
PC-IV	8374	8768
<b>Total PC</b>	<b>31663</b>	<b>28101</b>
FC	47373	50935
<b>Total</b>	<b>79036</b>	<b>79036</b>

The total number of habitation is required to be reconciled. Out of 80,377 habitation there are 1341 non-inhabitated ones and as such number of habitations to be covered under water supply schemes is 79036.

During 1998-99 a total no. of 6916 habitation have been covered and the resultant status of the habitation has been shown under Column 3.

It may be seen that a total no. of 30,000 habitations (approx.) has to be covered during the period between April, 1999 and March, 2002 (3 years). Thus approximately 10,000 habitations have to be covered during remaining 3 years of the 9th Plan with 40 lpcd norms.

With the present level of Annual Provision of Rs. 65 Crores under BMS it is possible to cover around 3300 habitations per year under the State Plan. With matching provision under ARWSP, another 3300 habitations may be covered totalling by the coverage of 6600 habitations per year.

In order to achieve the target of coverage of 10,000 habitations per year it would be necessary to augment Rural Water Supply Plan Provision during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 by about fifty percent both under State Sector and Central Sector. The State Govt. accordingly trying to provide more funds to the Panchayats for drinking water facilities.

*Social Services*

Govt. of India has introduced a new concept of NSS habitation (No. safe source) which has got the Water Quality Problem. As per revised norms the status of the habitation has been indicated under Column 4 below :

Category	As on 1-4-98	As on 1-4-99	As per Revised Norms
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
NC	—	—	—
NSS	—	—	2192
PC-I	4045	433	—
PC-II	9709	9587	—
PC-III	9535	9313	—
PC-IV	8374	8768	—
<b>Total PC</b>	<b>31663</b>	<b>28101</b>	<b>28101</b>
FC	47373	50935	48743
<b>Total</b>	<b>79036</b>	<b>79036</b>	<b>79036</b>

It may be mentioned that the No. of NSS habitations (having the problem of Arsenic/Fluoride/Chloride/Iron) can not remain static and is bound to increase with more and more testing of water samples and, therefore, the fund requirement forecast as above is likely to change over the remaining years of the 9<sup>th</sup> Plan Period.

With the State plan fund as proposed to be provided during 1999-2000 supplemented by the Central Assistance under ARWSP, population coverage will be as under :

		Population (000)					
Total Rural 1991 Population	Coverage as 31.3.97	Actual Covd. 1997-98	Coverage Target 1998-99	Achievement 1998-99	Cumulative as on 31.3.99	Target 1999-2000	
Total	49370	35231 (71.36%)	1253	1934	2039	38523 (78.03%)	2375
Sc	13605	9487 (69.73%)	498	774	813	10798 (79.37%)	950
ST	3612	2638 (73.03%)	93	145	153	2884 (79.84%)	178
Piped Water Coverage		8518 (17.24%)	524	1049	654	9696 (19.64%)	21.66%

### 3. Externally Aided Project (EAP)

A provision of Rs. 30 crores (of which reimbursible Rs. 20 crores) was made during 1998-99 for the Bolpur-Raghunathpur Water Supply, Sanitation & Health Education project now under execution with German assistance. ACA adjustment of Rs. 11.13 crores has already been made out of the reimbursible amount. More adjustment is likely for 1998-99 upto end of June 1999. With ACA adjustment so far made, the DE figure is Rs. 21 crores (approx) for 1998-99.

### 4. Arsenic/Difficult Area Sub Mission

In view of reports of Arsenic contamination of ground water in the eastern part of the state the Arsenic Sub Mission has been introduced in the State. Four Schemes have so far been sanctioned

with 75 : 25 financial participation by Govt. of India and the State Govt. Out of these the first phase action plan (Estd. Cost Rs. 858.33 lakh) providing arsenic free water to more than 3 lakh person has been completed. Malda Surface Water Project (Estd. Cost Rs. 8848 lakh) covering a population of 8.17 lakh is likely to be partially commissioned by December 1999. South 24 Parganas Surface Water Project (Estd. Cost Rs. 23284 lakh covering a population of 16.66 lakh) has been taken up for execution. The second phase Action Plan (Estd. cost 1733 lakh) has been taken up for execution and will benefit a population of 2.78 lakh when completed. During 1998-99 a population of 0.91 lakh has been benefitted.

The State Govt. has also got its own action plan to tackle the water quality problem. The State Govt. has taken up a massive Water testing programme in collaboration with All H & PH and UNICEF involving the suffering mass. The programme of providing 521 spot tubewells and 40 ringwells during the current financial year to benefit about 1.50 lakh persons in the arsenic affected area of the State has almost been completed.

The State is faced with yet another problem of Water Quality in the Western part of the State in the form of excess Fluoride in ground water. The State Govt. has already taken remedial measures to provide safe water in a few of the habitations. More data are being collected for developing a suitable action plan for fluoride.

To combat Arsenic contamination of ground water location specific steps are being taken :

(a) Where surface water is available, schemes based on surface water as a long term measure, have been taken up for execution.

- (i) Malda Project (Estimated cost Rs. 88.48 Crores) with a target population of 8.17 lakh is expected to be partially commissioned during 1999.
- (ii) South 24 Parganas Project (Estimated cost Rs. 232.84 Crores) with a target population of 26.58 lakh has been taken up for execution.

(b) When ground water at greater depth has to be depended upon, Spot sources and Deep Tubewells are being constructed under phased programmes :

- (i) The 1st Phase Action Plan benefiting 3 lakh persons has been completed at a cost of Rs. 8.58 Crores.
- (ii) Through partial commissioning of works under the 2nd Phase Action Plan 0.85 lakh persons have already been benefitted out of the target population of 2.78 lakh. Total cost of works under 2nd Phase Action Plan is Rs. 17.77 Crores.
- (iii) Through State Funded Action Plan of total cost of Rs. 2.03 Crores 1.27 lakh persons have already been benefitted and another 0.10 lakh would be benefitted within March 1999.
- (iv) In earlier years 143 tubewells were replaced and 126 ringwells were constructed benefitting 0.67 lakh persons at a cost of Rs. 216 lakh.

(c) Pilot Plant for removal of Arsenic from water of Deep Tubewells under Sujapur Piped Water Supply Scheme in the district of Malda, designed and implemented by engineers under PHE Department is running successfully.

(d) Arsenic Removal Plants for handpump fitted tubewells and domestic filters for Arsenic Removal are still in experimental stage.

A small piped water supply scheme for Fluoride affected Bhabanandapur area of Nalhati-I Block in Birbhum district has been completed.

A Central Water Testing Laboratory at Salt lake and five water Testing Laboratories at Barasat, Nadia, Murshidabad, Kalyani and Burdwan have already been set up. The Laboratory for South 24 Parganas district is being set up.

#### **8. Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) and Special Component Plan (SCP)**

Due emphasis has been given for utilisation of the earmarked fund of 10% of outlays under Rural water supply both in the State and Central Sector for the benefits of population belonging to S/T. The Special Component Plan (SCP) for benefiting the population belonging to S/C extends to other Sector of the State Plan and 25% of outlays in the State and Central Sector has been earmarked for the purpose.

#### **9. Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC)**

DGHC is in charge of execution of water supply & sanitation Schemes in hill areas of Darjeeling district except Neorakhola Water Supply Scheme which is being executed by the PHE Department During 1998-99 a total sum of Rs. 115.5 lakh (Rs. 110 lakh for Rural water Supply and Rs. 5.5 lakh for Urban Water Supply) in the State Sector and an amount of Rs. 110 lakh for ARWSP were provided for DGHC area out of State Plan Budget. Similar amounts will be provided during 1999-2000.

### **11.7 HOUSING (INCLUDING POLICLE HOUSING)**

#### **11.7.1 Programme of the Housing Department**

With the growth of population, Housing problem has assumed an alarming dimension in urban & Semi-Urban Areas in particular and it is aggravating over the years due to comparatively rapid pace of urbanisation in the state as well as rising cost of construction and constraints in respect of availability of land. In spite of all difficulties it has been possible on the part of Housing Department as well as the West Bengal Housing Board to implement a number of Housing Schemes.

The pressing need to increase the housing stock in the urban areas of the country has tended the State Govt. to encourage Public-Private Partnership in Housing Sector by formation of Joint Sector Companies between Private Sector and West Bengal Housing Board.

To protect the interests of the prospective buyers in the private sector Govt. has enacted the West Bengal Building (Regulation of Promotion of Construction and Transfer by Promoters) Act, 1993, the basic objective of the Act being not to curb the private sector activities but to ensure that the buyers are not cheated and basic parameters for building construction are not compromised. Many entrepreneurs have been registering their names under this Act and in due course, permissions for construction are accorded. Thus the construction works in the private sector in the notified areas are being organised and co-ordinated and the genuine problems of the private sectors are also being attended to by the Govt.

The Housing Department administers different housing schemes of which (i) Rental Housing Scheme for State Govt. Employees (ii) Land Acquisition and Development Schemes (iii) Rental Housing Scheme for Working Women (iv) Housing Schemes for the Economically Weaker Section of the people (v) Housing Scheme for Low Income Group and Middle Income Group of the people (vi) Ownership Flat for State Govt. Employees are major Schemes.

A total plan allocation of Rs. 5000.00 lakhs including loan for Rs. 500.00 lakhs to West Bengal Housing Board during 1999-2000 has been received.

Rental Housing Scheme is meant for accommodating State Govt. Employees who are in service in Calcutta and in the Districts on payment of monthly rent.

Under the above scheme construction of 232 nos. of RHE flats have been completed.

Besides above construction of 246 nos. of flats have been practically completed except a few items.

The construction works of 16 nos. of flats at Andul Road, Dist. Howrah, 64 nos. of flats at Baruipur, Dist. 24-Parganas (S), 192 nos. of flats at Becharam Chatterjee Road, Behala, 42 nos. of flats at mahesmati, Dist. Malda, 152 nos. of flats at Gumarmath, Dist. 24-Parganas (S), 8 nos. of flats at kalimpong,, Dist. Darjeeling have already been taken up and are progressisng satisfactorily.

It is also expected that the construction of 192 nos. of flats at Kalyani (Phase-II), Nadia, 23 nos. of flats at Darjeeling, 96 nos. of flats at Khatra, Dist. Bankura, 18 nos. of flats at Mahesmati, Dist. Malda, 180 nos. of flats at Jalpaiguri, will be taken up in 1999-2000.

A sum of Rs. 1125.00 lakhs (Rupees one thousand and hundred twenty five lakhs) only is proposed to be spent for the Rental Housing Scheme as a whole for the year 1999-2000.

Setting up of housing complex is co-related with the question of availability of suitable land. Particularly in Calcutta and its surrounding areas availability of land at a reasonable price is a great problem.

Also land acquisition process is a time consuming matter. A no. of such proposals are involved in court cases. In spite of all these hurdles, Housing Department has been trying to procure land for the schemes which will be taken up by the Housing Department and West Bengal Housing Board. Acquisition of land on a large scale for New Town, Calcutta Project where we propose to construct housing projects of various categories viz. MIG/LIG, RHE is under way.

A sum of Rs. 1400.00 lakhs (Rupees one thousand four hundred lakhs) only has been proposed for this purpose in the budget of 1999-2000.

There is also an acute problem of safe accommodation for the working women in and around Calcutta and other towns of West Bengal.

In order to solve the problem to some extent three Working Girls' Hostels namely, Sahapur, Salt Lake and Gariahat were constructed. Construction work of the Working Women's Hostel building at Siliguri, Dist. Darjeeling consisting of 44 nos. of seats has been completed in 1998. The allotment is under process.

We are also expecting to resume construction of working Girls' Hostel at Salt Lake in Phase-II.

A sum of Rs. 100.00 (Rupees one hundred) lakhs only has been proposed in the budget for the purpose during 1999-2000.

Though the West Bengal Housing Board is primarily entrusted to construct dwelling units on ownership basis, to multiple production in this sector, the Housing Department is also taking up a few schemes. There is contemplation for construction of 64 dwelling units for L.I.G. People at Sampamirzanagar (Phase-III).

A sum of Rs. 100.00 (Rupees one hundred) lakhs only has been proposed in the budget for the purpose in 1999-2000.

Govt. also contemplates to build up MIG Units at New Town, Calcutta and other places after procurement of land. A sum of Rs. 5000.00 lakhs (Rupees fifty lakhs) only is being proposed for the scheme during 1999-2000.

In spite of provision in the budget it has not been possible to start Economically Weaker Section Scheme for want of suitable land. We are on the look out and as soon as the same is available we would embark upon the Project for which a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs (Rupees Twenty five lakhs) only has been proposed in the budget for 1999-2000.

However, it may be mentioned here that through District Housing Schemes implemented through West Bengal Housing Board, 10507 people belonging to Economically Weaker Section have been assisted to build their houses with financial assistance from HUDCO upto 1998-99.

Construction works of 140 units under the scheme of Ownership flat for State Govt. Employees at Dabgram, near Siliguri stand completed and the allotment process is under way. 12 units at Lake Gardens under this Scheme will also be completed shortly.

A sum of Rs. 150.00 lakhs (Rupees one hundred & fifty lakhs) only has been proposed in the budget of 1999-2000.

Govt. is aware of the problem of suitable accommodation of the old aged persons. The proposed scheme for construction of Old Age Home at Mandalganathi could not be started on account of litigation over land. This Project would be taken up as soon as clearance from High Court is obtained. Similar scheme is also contemplated for Burdwan where the Municipality is eager to provide land.

A sum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs (Rupees fifty lakhs) only has been proposed in the budget of 1999-2000 for this scheme.

In order to meet expenditure for works of construction of Office-cum-Residential Complexes a sum of Rs. 25.00 lakhs (Rupees twenty five lakhs) only has been proposed in the budget of 1999-2000.

The Housing Department has to maintain 32940 nos. of Rental flats. A considerable amount is required for repair, replacement and renovation of these flats every year. Works for repair and renovation are taken up in a phased manner.

A sum of Rs. 200.00 lakhs (Rupees two hundred lakhs) only has been proposed in the budget of 1999-2000.

Govt. contemplated to set up Building Centres to be run by Non-Govt. Organisations during 1998-99 to help people to build low cost houses with locally available materials. The scheme could not be implemented as suitable N.G.O. was not available. Efforts will be made to set up Building Centres in 1999-2000 and a sum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs (Rupees five lakhs) only has been proposed in the year.

Subsidised Housing Scheme for plantation workers was a centrally sponsored scheme under which the Govt. used to pay a matching subsidy for construction of dwelling units for plantation workers of tea gardens. The scheme has been discontinued by the Govt. of India since 1986. But the State Govt. has decided to liquidate the committed liabilities in a phased manner. A sum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs (Rupees five lakhs) only has been proposed in the budget for 1999-2000.

The proposed Night Shelter at Hasnabad Bus Stand under Taki Municipality has been started and is expected to be completed before March, 2000. Similar schemes are contemplated for Berhampore and Burdwan where there is possibility for obtaining suitable lands.

A sum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs (Rupees fifty lakhs) only has been proposed in the budget of 1999-2000.

Housing Department needs some machineries, tools and equipments for project work/planning etc. We have already started the installation of computers in the Office under Housing Department. The net-work would be spread in the coming months and a sum of Rs. 40.00 lakhs (Rupees forty lakhs) only has been proposed in the budget.

Brick Production Department under the administrative control of this Department has been promoting production of good quality bricks through manual and mechanised process in different Districts of West Bengal for the last 34 years with the objective to supply good quality bricks to the people at low cost.

A number of brick fields are being operated by this Department of which the activities of Palta Mechanised Brick Factory and Akra Manual Brick Field are worth mentioning.

In 1998-99 (Upto December, 98) 329 lakhs of bricks have been manufactured through this Directorate.

Total target for production during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is about 15 crores.

A sum of Rs. 100.00 lakhs (Rupees one hundred lakhs) only has been proposed for the purpose in the budget of 1999-2000.

The West Bengal Housing Board a major public sector organisation has upto 31.3.98 constructed a total 25342 dwelling units comprising of 1151 Economically Weaker Section Units, 3918 Low Income Group Units, 9423 Middle Income Group Units and 10850 High Income Group Units. The number of units in progress at the end of 1998-99 is estimated to be 1728 no. of units expected to be taken up by the West Bengal Housing Board during 1999-2000 is 1874 and completion target of dwelling units in 1999-2000 is of the order of 1072.

A loan amounting to Rs. 500 lakhs (Rupee five hundred lakhs) has been proposed in the budget to augment financial resources of West Bengal Housing Board during 1999-2000.

Govt. of West Bengal has decided to set up a New Township Project close to the city of Calcutta on sprawling area of about 2750 hectares with the objectives to meet the challenge of ever expanding population, to prevent the hills of unplanned growth, to check chaotic urban sprawl in the fringes and to check further intensification of congested Calcutta City.

It has been decided to implement first phase of the New Town on an area measuring 3250 acres.

Process of acquisition of land along with direct purchase from the land owners is in progress. Apart from land mobilisation the work of a 6 lane bridge connecting the Bidhannagar City and the Project Area has been taken up. Another existing road leading to Project Area is being developed. Work for main link road connecting V.I.P. Road with E.M. Bye Pass through the New Town has been taken up. Work for construction of a bridge over Bagjola Canal will be taken up shortly, while the construction of bridge over Kestopur is expected to be completed before this winter.

The first Housing Project to be taken up by the West Bengal Housing Board in this New Town Area has already been announced. Housing Department has also prepared schemes for construction of rental flats as New Town Area for LIG/MIG/HIG people.

### **11.7.2 Programme of the Home (Police) Department**

#### **1. Police Housing**

The importance of police Housing needs no special emphasis, According to the provisions of the Police Regulations, Police Officers and men are entitled to rent-free accommodation. But the number of the departmental quaters is far too short to meet the requirements. Housing facility for the lower Sub-ordinate Policle personnel is extremely inadequate in the State at present. The situation can be remedied only by large-scale construction of residential quarters for police officers and men. The Tenth Finance Commission has accordingly, awarded an amount of Rs. 4487.50 lakhs for construction of 2761 residential quarters for the lower sub-ordinates of the Police personnel. No amount could be sanctioned for the purpose during 1997-98 due to non-clearance of the schemes by the Govt. of India. During 1998-99, a total amount of Rs. 1562.13 lakhs was sanctioned for construction of 832 units—624 for West Bengal Police and 208 for Calcutta Police under the 10th. Finance Commission Programme. For this purpose, an amount of Rs. 2600.00 lakhs has been provided in the current year's Budget. Besides, an amont of Rs. 150.00 lakhs has also been provided in the current year's Budget for housing schemes outside 10th. Finance Commission Programme.

#### **2. Water-Supply Arrangement at Police Buildings**

One of the outstanding problems in the Police Buildings is inadequacy of Water-Supply. Every year, we have to spend some amount for maintaining and making arrangement, such as sinking of Deep Tube-wells, construction of Dug wells. installation of Pump lines and Pump sets, etc. so as to alleviate the problems of water supply to some extent.

An amount of Rs. 40.00 lakhs has been provided in the current year's Budget for such schemes.

During 1998-99, an amount of Rs. 27.20 lakhs was sanctioned for execution of 10 such schemes.

#### **3. Special Repairs, Renovation to Police Buildings**

The Police Estt. has a vest network of buildings spread over the state. Some of them are quite old and requires special/major repairs. Having regard to the urgency of the matter, the Ninth Plan outlay for the purpose has been fixed at Rs. 400.00 lakhs.

During 1998-99, an amount of 56.50 lakhs was sanctioned for execution of 17 such schemes.

An amount of Rs. 60.00 lakhs has been provided in the budget for 1999-2000 for the purpose.

### **11.7.3 Programme of the Judicial Department**

Plan proposals for Judicial Department consist of two major head viz. (i) Housing and (ii) Public Works. Residential Quarters for Judicial Officers including quarter for High Court's Judges are constructed under Housing and Constructions of Court Buildings including amenities to Courts are made under Public Works.

The Annual Plan allocation for 1998-99 for this Department was initially fixed at Rs. 1655.00 lakhs including Rs. 830.00 lakhs from HUDCO.

(i) Out of the said amount, a sum of Rs. 405.00 lakhs only could be provided for Housing.



(ii) Out of the amount a sum of Rs. 642.00 lakhs was provided for matching assistance of State's Share against the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Completion of some on-going schemes already undertaken and also for taking up some new schemes for construction of Court Buildings at Raghunathpur, Contai, Baruipore, Dinjata, Alipore (2nd Phase) and Judicial Officers quarters at some stations. The remaining amount was provided for construction of witness sheds in the Courts of the Districts/Sub-division computerisation project of High Court, Calcutta. Computerisation of district Courts and also for providing some amenities to the Courts viz. Construction of boundary walls, sinking of tubewells, repairs of Courts' Buildings etc.

A sum of Rs. 1000.00 lakhs has been provided for this Department for the financial year 1999-2000.

(i) Out of the said proposed outlay, a sum of Rs. 350.00 lakhs has been provided under Housing for Construction of Quarters for Judicial Officers and Rs. 650.00 lakhs under Public Works for construction of court buildings in Districts/Sub-Divisions.

(ii) The major portion of the above total approved outlay has been provided for meeting State's matching share for completion of the on-going centrally sponsored schemes and also for undertaking of some new schemes viz. construction of Court Buildings at Raiganj, Durgapur, Barrackpore, Kakdwip, Kharagpur, Arambagh, Coochbehar, Lalbagh, Purulia and in some other stations and Judicial Officers quarters at different stations with Suri, Krishnagar etc.

The balance amount has been provided for repairs and renovation of Court Buildings at different stations, construction of witness sheds and computerisation project at High Court, Calcutta and computerisation in the district courts and also for providing some amenities to the courts in districts/sub-divisions viz. Sinking of tubewells in Courts' compound, construction of Gangway and boundary walls etc.

#### **11.7.4 Programme of the Co-operation Department**

##### **Housing Co-operative**

There are about 2000 Primary Housing Co-operatives spread all over the State. The finance of those societies are mainly provided by the West Bengal State Co-operative Housing Federation Ltd. The Federation draws fund from Life Insurance Corporation of India against floating charge created in the favour of L.I.C.I. on the Houses and Building constructed out of the loan. In order to borrow sufficient fund from L.I.C.I. a substantial amount is given to the Federation out of the State Budget for strengthening its share base.

### **11.8 URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

#### **11.8.1 Programme of the Municipal Affairs Department**

Total urban population of West Bengal as per 1991 Census is around 1.87 crores. This is roughly 27.48% of the total population of West Bengal. The average percentage of urban population as against this in India is 25.71%. The projected urban population in West Bengal in 2021 is somewhere between 3.9 crores and 4.4 crores.

There are altogether 122 urban local bodies in West Bengal of which 6 are Municipal Corporations, 113 municipalities and 3 Notified Area Authorities. Of the total 122 urban local bodies, 41 fall within the CMD area and the remaining 18 outside the CMD area. Total population of the urban local bodies within the CMD area is around 106 lakh while the same is 59.7 lakhs in the non-DMC area. The balance are in non-municipal urban areas. The Municipal Affairs Department

primarily looks after the developmental activities of urban local bodies outside CMD area, except the centrally sponsored programmes, namely, Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rojgar Yojana, National Slum Development Programme, 10th Finance Commissions Award which are meant for both CMA and non-CMA ULB. In general, the developmental activities in the urban local bodies within the CMD area are looked after by the Urban Development Department.

The Municipal Affairs Department has been pursuing a well through-out urban policy since the last part of 70's. On the basis of the recommendations of the Urban Development Strategy Committee set up by the then Govt., a concerted effort was initiated to develop the urban local bodies outside the CMD area with enhanced provision in the plan budget of this department. This effort started yielding results soon and it has become possible to narrow down the level of development between the ULBs within the CMD area and the ULBs outside the CMD area substantially in the last two decades. It is interesting to note that the per capita investment in the CMD area during the late 70's was Rs. 19.88, while the same was only Rupee 0.87 in the urban local bodies outside CMD area. During 1998-99 the same figures stood at Rs. 161.32 and Rs. 192.27 respectively.

It is estimated that about 35% of the total urban population in West Bengal live below the poverty line. They are mainly the slum-dwellers. The main thrust of developmental activities in the urban areas outside CMD area, therefore, was rightly on the improvement of the environmental conditions of the urban slums and upgradation of quality of life of the urban poor, with special emphasis on women and children, without compromising with the necessity of overall development of the urban local bodies.

The Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme in the plan budget of this department occupies a prime position. These programmes are SJSRY, which has replaced the erstwhile NRY, Basic Minimum Services for the poor and the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programmes, Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums, National Slum Development Programme, Basic Minimum Service Programme, Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Programme and partially the 10th Finance Commissions Programme. The striking features of these programmes are that planning, implementation and monitoring are entrusted to the grassroot level community structures, namely, Neighbourhood Group, Neighbourhood Committees and Community Development Societies. Along with them the Ward Committees, formation of which is universal in this State alone, and the Urban Poverty Eradication Cells and finally the Boards of Councillors of the urban local bodies are there to oversee the implementation of these programmes. Another important feature of these programmes is that these are to be implemented with direct participation of the local people. This will result in withering away of the contract system in future and substantial savings in investments.

Self-employment is the most vital component of the Urban Poverty Eradication Programmes. This is being vigorously pursued to reduce the number of unemployed persons in the urban areas. Since the beginning, as many as 119828 applications were submitted to various branches of the nationalised banks for loans under this Programme. Banks, however, sanctioned only 52846 applications till date. The response by the banks, therefore, is not upto the mark and has been causing concern not only to the urban local bodies but also to the State Govt. This has already been brought to the notice of the superior authorities of concerned banks for remedial measures. Another weapon to combat the soaring unemployment problem is the vocational training which also constitutes an important component of the urban Poverty Eradication Programme. So far 18960 persons could be trained in different vocational training courses, most of whom have been able to eke out a living after having finished their training courses. The State Govt. is also zeroing in its effort on increasing the number of trainees under various vocational courses in the current financial year. Govt. of India has already been moved to increase allocation under this programme.

Wage Employment Programme is designed to provide employment to the urban poor during lean period as well as to create durable assets for the communities. Various types of assets worth Rs. 1304.32 lakhs could be completed under this programme so far.

Thrift and Credit Society is another important component of SJSRY. So far 867 primary groups have already been constituted under this programme. Development of Women and Children in the Urban Area (DWCVA) is another important component analogous to DOWCRA in the rural areas. This programme has been taken up recently and 9 groups so far could be formed, of which one has already been financed by banks.

The three important centrally-sponsored programmes, namely, NSDP, BMS and 10th Finance Commission's Award were introduced in the year 1996-97. The total amount released under these three programmes are Rs. 100.87 crores, Rs. 58.66 crores and Rs. 90.24 crores respectively, of which the amounts released during 1998-99 are Rs. 40.41 crores, Rs. 12 crores and Rs. 52.64 respectively. If these three amounts are kept aside, since the major portions of them was released during the fag and of the last financial year, the percentages of utilisation exceed 80% on an average.

EIUS programme is one of the components of 20-Point Programme and is being implemented in this State since 1981-82. A total amount of Rs. 27.84 crores could be utilised under this programme since then benefiting a total number of 609398 slum dwellers.

Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Programme was taken up in the year 1991. There are about 2.75 lakhs units to be covered under this programme to ensure total liberation scavengers in the urban areas. The total project cost for this was estimated at Rs. 112.31 crores. The programme was taken in right earnest, but owing to steep price hike the estimate approved for phase I and phase II under this programme was rendered unworkable and it took a long time to persuade the Govt. of India to enhance the unit rate to make them at par with those approved for the subsequent phases of the programme. The programme has of late taken off and it is expected that by the year 2001 the works will be completed in all respect. So far about one lakh units have been covered. The number of towns covered under this programme is 104 out of 122. The remaining towns were not included under this programme as because the numbers of service privies in these towns were insignificant. So far an amount of Rs. 28.53 crore could be utilised under this programme.

Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) is a very important programme being pursued by this Department. So far 71 towns were brought under this programme, out of which works in 28 have been completed and works in the remaining 43 are under progress. Under this programme, an amount of Rs. 23.03 crores was so far received from the Government of India, out of which 21.69 crores was released in favour of the urban local bodies. The State matching share released in favour of the urban local bodies under the programme stands at Rs. 19.24 crores. The total fund released therefore comes to Rs. 40.93 crores approximately, of which Rs. 38.06 crores have already been utilised creating various assets, namely :

Market complexes	...	...	80
Roads	...	...	66
Bridge	...	...	1
Bus track terminus	...	...	15
Tourist dormitories	...	...	27
Cattle shed	...	...	2
Culverts	...	...	20
Conversion of service privies	...	...	22000

The programme suffered to some extent during the last financial year owing to late release of fund by the Government of India and even non-release of fund by the Government of India in respect of a few towns.

Since attempts are being made by this department to attract external aids from foreign countries to speed up infrastructural development as well as to improve the health and sanitation situation in the urban areas outside CMD area. Seven such schemes were drawn up for consideration of countries like Germany, Italy and World Bank. The scheme namely, Reproductive and Child Health in Asansol Municipal Corporation at a cost of Rs. 8.89 crores has already been sanctioned by the World Bank. Work under this programme has been taken up. Reproductive Child health project (Extension of IPP VIII) in ten additional towns outside CHA with World Bank assistance of Rs. 45.05 crores has also been finalised. Preliminary works under this programme are already on. A project namely, Water Supply and Solid Waste Management in 14 towns at an estimated cost of Rs. 172.45 crores is now under consideration of Italy. Rapid appraisal in respect of 'Infrastructural Development in 10 Non-CMA Towns' with World Bank assistance has also been completed. But unfortunately owing to a recent decision taken by the World Bank to go slow in the matter has virtually brought this programme to a grinding halt. Project namely, 'Solid Waste Management in 20 non-CMA Towns,' and 'Liquid Waste Management in 80 non-CMA Towns' with German assistance are now under process. A scheme namely, 'Community Based Child and Mother Health Services in 44 selected municipal Towns' of the State in non-CMA area with German financial assistance is also under way. If these projects finally materialise, the infrastructure as well as health and sanitation of a good number of urban local bodies outside CMDA will considerably improve. It is worth mentioning here that the provision kept under the head 'Externally Aided Project' will become excess side owing to the go-slow policy adopted by the World Bank. It would have been better if a major portion out of this provision could be reappropriated to other heads, namely, 'Development of Municipal Areas', 'Development of Municipal Areas-Water Supply Facilities (Spot Sources)', 'Development of Municipal Corporation outside Calcutta Metropolitan Area' etc.

No fund is allocated by this department out of its plan provisions to the District Planning Committees. Funds however are released directly to the municipalities for implementation of the programmes.

### **11.8.2 Programme of the Urban Development Department**

The Department executes various development programme through its subordinate offices as well as through a number of statutory bodies under its control. among them the following may be noted as important :

#### **1. Externally Aided Project**

(a) Calcutta Slum Improvement Project (Phase-Ia & Ib) (U. K. Assisted) : The project with a £ 12.60 million assistance from ODA (since renamed as DFID) covered 15 wards of the CMC. The project had 1.77 lakhs beneficiaries and included components like improvement of infrastructural facilities, preventive health care with emphasis on mother & child health, family welfare activities, educational, cultural and employment assistance and fostering community feelings in slum areas. The infrastructure development programme have been completed.

(b) Slum Improvement Programme (Phase-Ic) (U. K. Assisted) : The project, with a DFID approved cost of Rs. 12.10 crore, will cover a slum population of 35,000 people in Titagarh and Barrackpur Municipal areas. The project has similar components as in Phase-Ia and Ib of the project. The project is being implemented through the concerned local bodies. Active participation

of the slum population has been ensured through a federated structure of local committees represented equally by both genders. Multi disciplinary teams with the members from CMDA and Municipalities have prepared 7 Micro Plans on which AA & FS worth Rs. 140.20 lakhs have been issued (Dec. '98). Works on these projects are in progress. provision for 1998-99 Rs. 200.00 lakhs. Fund released Rs. 200.00 lakhs.

(c) Slum Improvement Programme at Seven Municipalities (Phase-II) (U. K. Assisted).

## **2. Basic Minimum Services in CMDA area :**

CMDA has been entrusted as the nodal agency for implementation of Basic Minimum Services programme through the 41 local bodies within CMA. The programme envisages to cover 4 fields, viz. water supply, connectivity, shelter for shelterless and universalisation of primary education. The schemes, prepared by the respective local bodies are being executed by themselves. Works are in progress.

CMDA itself is also executing a number of schemes relating to water supply and connectivity (trans-municipal nature) viz. Nilgunge Road (Rs. 2.02 crores), Howrah Drainage Canal Road (Rs. 1.92 crores), Optimisation of water supply in South Dum Dum (Rs. 1.09 crores) under this programme. More such schemes shall be taken up by CMDA.

## **3. Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

(a) Ganga Action Plan : Under the 1st phase of the programme, 108 out of 110 approved schemes have already been completed. The remaining two will also be completed very soon overcoming land acquisition and litigation problems. Administrative approval was accorded for an expenditure of Rs. 348.05 crores for 27 towns. Detailed Project Reports for 22 towns on the river Ganga have been prepared. Chakdah town has been left out since it was found on survey and investigation that its pollution load was much below the level for taking up pollution abatement work. The G.O.I. has recently agreed to bear 100% of the project cost excepting land cost. The towns are being prioritised on the basis of BOD load. Hence, 8-9 towns have been, accordingly, preferred for the initial phase of funding. The State Govt. has already released funds for desilting to Tolly's Nullah. The work is likely to commence soon.

(b) Calcutta Megacity Programme : The programme envisages an expenditure of Rs. 1600.00 crores over a period of 8 years. The share of Central Govt. State Govt. and Financial institutions in the funding of the programme is 25 : 25 : 50. So far 65 projects involving Rs. 598.44 crores have been sanctioned by the Megacity Sanctioning Committee constituted as per Megacity Guidelines. Total expenditure upto December '98 for the programme is Rs. 262.21 crores. 27 out of the 65 sanctioned schemes have been completed. Other subject have made satisfactory progress. The State Govt. has so far released Rs. 19,177.00 lakhs for the programme whereas the Central Govt. has so far released Rs. 9,888.39 lakhs. Provision for the programmes for 1998-99 : Rs. 5000.00 lakhs. Fund released during 1998-99 (States share) Rs. 2000.00 lakhs central release during 1998-99 : Rs. 1623.39 lakhs.

### **11.8.3 Programme of the Urban Development Department Town and Country Planning Br.**

Town and Country Planning Branch of Urban Development Department is devoted to plan development of areas outside the Calcutta Metropolitan Area in the State. It works through six Development Authorities, namely, Siliguri-Jalpaiguri Development Authority, Asansol-Durgapur Development Authority, Haldia Development Authority, Sriniketan-Santiniketan Development Authority, Durgapur Development Authority and Jaigaon Development Authority. While on the one hand it is

working on preparation and finalisation of Land Use and Development Control Plan for the six Development Authorities, it is also executing development schemes in the planning areas of the six Development Authorities so as to provide basic infrastructure like housing, road network, sewerage and drainage facilities, water-supply, provisions of electricity distribution network, transport and terminal facilities, commercial complexes in close co-ordination with the local authorities and other Government departments functioning in the areas. In addition, eight Planning Authorities have been created and the process of preparing of LUDCP has either been taken up or is in the process being taken. The department does not execute any programme directly but it works through the Development Authorities who are provided with budgetary support and the Authorities are allowed to have their work programme according to local needs in consultation with the District Planning Committee. The entire budgetary allocations for the department during the year 1998-99 were totally utilised. During the current financial year (1999-2000) the department has a plan provision of Rs. 40.00 crores and the department expects to utilise the full amount. The BMS scheme was extended to the Development Authorities for the first time in 1998-99 with the budgetary support of Rs. 3.50 crores. The scheme will enable the department to make critical gaps in the urban fringe and rural areas of the respective Development Authorities particularly in the field of urban rural linkage and water supply in the urban fringe areas.

The major activities of the respective Development Authorities are provided herebelow :

**Performance of the Development Authorities and Planning Authorities During Plan Period (1998-99)**

**Siliguri–Jalpaiguri Development Authority** has completed during Annual Plan period (1997-98) construction of projects like Paribahannagar cum Office Complex, a section of Eastern By Pass and Bus Terminus at Netajipara in Jalpaiguri, The Bridge over river Karala. Amongst the ongoing projects the work of second phase of Phulbari Ghoshpara By Pass and work on Truck Terminal at Phulbari By Pass is in progress. The work of Auditorium-cum-Art Gallery and a Composite Complex at Jalpaiguri have reached final steps. Construction work of the 3rd Mahananda Bridge at Siliguri has already been started. Construction of the building of multi-storied market-cum-Commercial Complex at Sevoke Road, Siliguri is processing. A few new projects like a residential complex, a Bus-stand-cum-Shopping Complex, a Dormitory-cum-Shopping Complex have been taken in hand.

**Asansol Durgapur Development Authority** has completed some projects on Water Supply, sewerage and drainage, transport and communication and community development etc. at Asansol Durgapur areas. In Asansol, projects like Mongalpur Township and extension of Industrial Area, Improvement of Kalyanpur Township are now in progress. Development of many residential plots at Durgapur area is in progress. Strengthening and double-laning of the Stretch of G. T. Road passing through Asansol Town is under contemplation. The Export Promotion Industrial Park is fast coming up in Durgapur.

**Haldia Development Authority** has completed a new housing complex at Hatiberia. The housing scheme at Basudevpur is nearing completion. Work on development of Azad Hind Nagar and a substation at Khudiramnagar is well in progress. The work on Haldia drainage scheme involving the Manshatala Khal is likely to be started shortly. Haldia Development Authority has also taken up construction of a Central Bus Terminus at Haldia and a Pontoon Jetty at Kukrahati in collaboration with the Transport Department.

**Srirketan Santiniketan Development Authority** has completed few schemes on rural link road, drainage, Community Development Etc. Project like Rabindra Bhavan at Bolpur, Tourist Park at Lahabandh near Prantik Station are now in satisfactory progress.

**Digha Development Authority :** The Schemes, namely, permanent picnic spot at New Digha construction of surface drain,. Development of Planning Zones, Taxi Stand, Rickswa Stand, Development of Roadside Garden are now in execution by the Digha Development Authority. For promoting tourism Digha Development Authority has taken up a plan for Development of a new Hotel Sector over 17 acres of land.

**Jaigaon Development Authority** has completed a Bus stand. Amongst the scheme now under the execution Water Supply and street lighting new pumping station and Extension of Pipe lines, strengthening of road from Hasimara to Jaigaon. The Planning area of the Jaigaon Development Authority has been extended.

#### **L. U. D. C. P.**

L. U. D. C. P. for the Sriniketan-Santiniketan Development Authority & Digha Development Authority has been prepared and approved by the Govt. Preparation of L. U. D. C. P. for Jaigaon Development Authority has been taken up and is in progress.

The existing land use Maps and Registers for Midnapur & Kharagpur has been prepared and notified by the Midnapur-Kharagpur Planning Authority.

### **11.8.4 Programme of the Development and Planning Department**

#### **Digha Development Scheme**

Digha Development Scheme was started in 1956-57 as a plan scheme with twin objectives of Development of Digha as an attractive tourist resort and building up of a modern sea-coast township with economic growth in the hinterland.

1100 acres of land were acquired and subsequently developed and demarcated into various sectors such as Residential Sector, Hotel Sector, Holiday Home Sector, Shopping and Business Sector etc., supporting facilities like Water supply, Power supply, Road connection, Markets and Parks have been provided. Government tourist accommodations have also been created on a modest scale for all sections of tourists.

The development of Digha is now facing two formidable threats of erosion and pollution. An Expert Committee constituted in 1994 to investigate the causes of erosion recommended short term and long term measures for its prevention in its interim report. Some action have been taken for preventing erosion. Coastal Zone Management Plan have been drawn up and duly approved by Govt. of India as per provision of Environment Protection Act, 1986. The Department is continuing various measures to protect the embankment including appropriate afforestation.

Digha town is also facing problem of sewerage and waste disposal on account of rise in tourist influx along with rapid expansion of Hotel Sector and Residential Sector. The Government has taken step for implementing a comprehensive sewerage and Drainage Scheme to combat the menace of pollution effectively.

To cater the requirement of rising population and tourist influx at Digha the Government is also drawing up a scheme to augment the supply of drinking water and other infrastructural improvement schemes.

A sum of Rs. 350 lakh is proposed to be spent during 1999-2000 for Digha Development Scheme.

## 11.9 INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

### 11.9.1 Programme of the Information & Cultural Affairs Department

#### Information Wing

The main objective of the Information Wing is to disseminate information on the various activities, plans, programme and policies of the State Government at all levels and also to mobilise public opinion and to involve people in various efforts of the Government. The Wing endeavours to get timely and accurate feedback from the people and the media in order to keep the government posted.

#### 1. Construction of Information & Cultural Complex

The space available to this Department in Writers' Buildings and elsewhere in Calcutta being inadequate, building is proposed to be constructed at 85, Acharya J. C. Bose Road (the land owned by Government) to accommodate a few office units. Provision of Rs. 3.00 lakhs has been made for the year 1999-2000.

#### 2. Setting up a State-level Information Centre at Siliguri

(a) Construction of this Information Centre has been completed. To run the establishment a sum of Rs. 10.25 lakhs has been provided for in 1999-2000.

(b) *Setting up of Information Bureau in Different States* : The question of setting up of Information Centres at Bombay is under consideration of the Government. A token provision of Rs. 1.00 lakh has been made for the year 1999-2000.

(c) *Setting up of a State Information Centre at Durgapur* : In view of the importance of Durgapur it has been decided to construct a building in order to accommodate the Information office as well as the Information Centre. As such, a provision of Rs. 10.00 lakhs has been kept for 1999-2000.

(d) *Setting up of an Institute for Mass Media Research and Training* : The proposed expenditure includes training of journalists of small & medium newspapers in districts, holding of seminars etc. from time to time by the Mass Media Centre set up by the State Government. A token provision of Rs. 2.00 lakhs has been made for 1999-2000.

(e) *Panchayet Information Centre* : It is necessary to open Information Centres at Panchayet Samity level. 90 Field Workers have been appointed so far for this purpose. But now they are working at district/Sub-division level owing to infrastructural problems. More field workers will be appointed with the target of one for each Panchayet Samity. A token provision of Rs. 25,000/- has been made.

#### 3. Field Publicity

(a) *Appointment of Field Workers at Block Levels and Block Information Centres* : In this scheme field workers are to be appointed in all the Panchayet Samities of West Bengal for disseminating and collecting information specially relating to the policy matters of Government. These posts are necessary to obtain feed back of the activities of the Government at the Village level. 90 field workers have been appointed till now. A provision of Rs. 58.00 lakhs has been made for 1999-2000.

(b) *Strengthening of Exhibition Set up* : A few permanent sets of exhibition for display in Calcutta and Mufassall area have already been prepared. An exhibition set on the life and activities of Netaji Chandra Bose and Tebhaga Movement have been made. So, a provision of Rs. 4.00 lakhs has been made for 1999-2000.



(c) *Special Publicity for Sundarban Areas* : For various administrative reasons the scheme could not be implemented during the year 1998-99. Steps will be taken to purchase/hire Motor Driving Boat for organising film shows in remote Villages of Sunderbans in the year 1999-2000.

### **3. Photo Services**

(a) *Modernisation of Photo Section* : Photo Section needs modernisation including installation of a colour Photo Laboratory. So, a sum of Rs. 1.00 lakhs is proposed for 1999-2000.

### **4. Press Information Service**

(a) *Modernisation of News Bureau* : The News Bureau has to be modernised. Electro Type Writing Machine, News Scanner and a Computer may have to be installed in the Bureau in 1999-2000. An amount of Rs. 2.00 lakhs has been earmarked for the year 1999-2000.

## **Film Wing**

The State Government is concerned mainly to promote good films by way of making and exhibiting films. To create infrastructural facilities the State Government established Colour Film Laboratory, acquired studio and also established Art Film Theatre. In the coming year also development programmes are required in these sectors. The Plan proposal of the Film Wing for the year 1999-2000 are detailed below :

### **1. Modernisation of Film Studios and Laboratories**

Technicians' Studio (P) Ltd. acquired by the State Government in the year 1983 is not in a position to provide equipments and space up to the requirement of the film-makers. To make the Studio up-dated in the financial year 1999-2000 a sum of Rs. 40 lakhs has been proposed keeping in view the increase in salary and other price hike. Rs. 10 lakhs have been allotted to C.M.D.A. for the work.

### **2. Development of Film Production Unit in the Film Vault**

There is a Film Vault in this Department. Films made by the Government or purchased by the Government are stored and preserved there. This is now a part of the Film Production Unit. Space available in the Vault is not adequate and suitable for preservation of films for a long time.

### **3. Loans for West Bengal Film Development Corporation :**

Though more than 90% of the film-makers in West Bengal are doing their post-shooting at "Rupayan", the Colour Film Laboratory under West Bengal Film Development Corporation, the Laboratory still requires installation of modern instrument and mechineries to serve the purpose to the entire satisfaction of the film-makers. This Film Laboratory being the only one in the Eastern Region, "Rupayan" is getting orders from Manipur, Orissa and even from Nepal. Hence, a provision of Rs. 6 lakhs is being made for the year 1999-2000.

### **4. Film Festival**

The State Government has decided to hold an International Film Festival every year at Calcutta. Besides, film festivals of World-wide renowned directors and short film-makers are contemplated to be organised by the State Government.

### **5. Setting up of Film Archive**

West Bengal Film Centre is located at Nandan Complex. It is an amalgm of many sections related to cinema viz. Film Archive, Film Museum, Film Library and exhibition of films. Accordingly films of all categories viz. feature, short, animated films are acquired and preserved as documents for

academic and historical research and also for public education. Apart from the General Film Archive, a separate archive for Satyajit Roy has been established.

#### **6. Video Complex**

As a joint venture with the Government of Italy, a video complex for training-cum-production centre for educational audiovisual for information and development of rural population in east and north-east India has been taken up through the Government of India under the Indo-Italian Co-operation programme.

#### **7. Centenary Building**

The State Government has decided to set up a building to be called Centenary of Cinema Building at Radha Film Studio premises with the facilities of Film Vault, Film Archive, Exhibition Hall and a Projection Hall etc. to cater to the needs of the film-lovers of West Bengal.

#### **8. Construction of Cinema Houses**

The number of Cinema Halls showing Bengali Films is inadequate. Moreover, most of the Cinema Houses which are considered as Bengali Films release chain are in dilapidated condition. So, the State Government considered setting up of Cinema Houses throughout the State.

#### **9. Restoration/Preservation of Bengali Films :**

Owing to lack of proper preservation facilities a number of Bengali classic films and films of archival value are on the verge of destruction. The negatives of those films need proper restoration.

#### **10. Grants/Subsidy Towards Promotion Relating to Film Activities in Districts**

With a view to propagating film activities in districts through organisation of film festival, seminar, etc. a provision of Rs. 1 lakh is provided for the financial year 1999-2000.

### **11.10 WELFARE OF SCHEDULE CASTES, SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES**

#### **11.10.1 Programme of the Backward Classes Welfare Department**

The B.C.W. Department has been enforcing the provisions of reservation in employment and in admission to Educational Institutions very vigorously, resulting in appreciable rise in the representation of SC & ST in Government and Semi-Government services. It has also been enforcing the provision of reservation for the Backward Classes in direct recruitment in Government and Semi-Government services.

In keeping with the basic policy of promoting the educational development of the SC & ST students during the year 1998-99 the B.C.W. Department provided scholarship to 1,20,000 number of SC & ST students in the Postmatric stage, over 14 lakhs SC/ST students as Book Grant, over 1.60 lakh SC/ST students as maintenance grant, 40,000 ST students as other compulsory charges and 60,000 SC/ST students as Hostel charges under Pre-matric scholarship Scheme. 3692 SC & ST students provided scholarship under 3 "Merit Scholarship Schemes". 230 SC & ST students provided Pre-examination training and 6700 Ashramities provided Hostel charges during 1998-99. Construction of 14 Ashram Hostels and 32 Central Hostels were completed during the year 1998-99. 4 P.E.T.Cs are running 3 P.E.T.Cs are under consideration to impart training to SC/ST students so that they can appear at the W.B.C.S. (Examination) and other P.S.C. Examination. Total amount of expenditure during 1998-99 from the abovementioned educational schemes will be about Rs. 65 crores.

During 1997-98 economic assistance (Loan, Margin Money, Subsidy) amounting to rs. 55.74 lakhs was given to 60,375 SC/ST families below the poverty line and Rs. 149.00 lakhs to 285 SC/ST persons above poverty line. During 1997-98, Rs. 1112.00 lakhs was spent for various infrastructure and community development schemes for SCs and STs out of S.C.A.

During 1998-99, 20,033 SC/ST families were economically assisted with a total cost of Rs. 1079.64 lakhs below the poverty line and 350. SC/ST persons with a cost of Rs. 99.17 lakhs above the poverty line.

Besides the department undertook various kinds of Community Development Works for the benefit of SC & ST population at the total costs of Rs. 10.31 crores.

The benefits as given to SC/ST students/persons during 1998-99 under various educational and economic development schemes will also be extended during the year 1999-2000.

As per the recommendation of the West Bengal Commission for Backward Classes the State Government has so far notified 53 classes as Other Backward Classes and kept 7% of the vacancies in direct recruitment reserved in services and post under the Government of West Bengal, the local and statutory authorities, corporations etc. Government have also received recommendation from West Bengal Commission for backward Classes for inclusion of 7 more castes as other Backward Classes and are taking necessary action for issuing notification for the purpose.

To implement economic welfare schemes for the persons belonging to Other Backward Classes and living below double the poverty line, the West Bengal Backward Classes Development and Finance Corporation has been set up.

## **11.11 LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT**

### **11.11.1 Programme of the Labour Department**

The Labour Department is concerned with heads of Development :

1. Labour and Labour Welfare including Employment and
2. Employees' State Insurance (Medical Benefit) Scheme.

A total sum of Rs. 4338.07 lakhs has been earmarked for the entire Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997-2002). Out of this, a sum of Rs. 385.00 is for E.S.I. (M.B.) Scheme for the entire period (1997-2002)

During the year 1999-2000, an amount Rs. 1250.00 lakhs has been proposed including Rs. 102.00 lakhs for E.S.I. (M.B.) Scheme.

Schematic description with financial implication are recorded below :

#### **1. Strengthening of Enforcement Machinery**

With a view to strengthening the existing set up of the Labour Directorate, it has been decided that in addition to the requirement of the new posts of inspector, some equipments are to be purchased for upgradation of the existing set up during the year 1999-2000 for which a sum of Rs. 16,00,000 will be required.

#### **2. Strengthening of Training Institute-cum-Central Library**

A training course for serving prospective Labour Welfare Officers is conducted by the State Labour Institute through its HQ. at Calcutta and a branch at Siliguri. Computer and other equipments

would be purchased for strengthening the activities of the Institute and to cope up with the necessity of more space, the building of the Institute would be renovated for which a sum of Rs. 6.00 lakhs will be required during 1999-2000.

### **3. Grants to the I.I.S.W.B.M. for Conducting Diploma Course for Labour Welfare Officers and for Training of Safety Officers**

The Govt. of West Bengal has been releasing monetary grants to the Indian Institute of Social Welfare & Business management every year for conducting Diploma Course for Labour Welfare Officers. A sum of Rs. 5.50 lakhs will be required during 1999-2000 for the said purpose.

### **4. Improvement of Labour Statistics**

The Labour Directorate with a large volume of industrial statistics touching upon several aspects of industrial relations and labour welfare. These statistics and other related matters are brought out in publications namely, West Bengal Labour Gazette, Labour in West Bengal etc. every year for this purpose, a sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs will be required during this year.

### **5. Strengthening of Industrial Relations Machinery**

With a view to upgrading the machinery of the Labour Directorate for the purpose of establishing liaison in a better and more effective manner in connection with maintaining industrial relations amongst a large number of unorganised working people. Creation of some additional posts was proposed during the Ninth Plan period. This year Rs. 20.00 lakhs will be required for this purpose.

### **6. Beedi Workers Welfare Scheme**

To improve the working conditions as well as living standard of Beedi workers, employed as home worker, employed as home workers vocational training camps are organised. Some post of lady Inspectors to enforce the Beedi-ciger Act are also to be created. During this financial year a sum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs will be required for the said purpose.

### **7. Improvement of Working Conditions of Child & Women Labour**

Originally, it was a centrally sponsored scheme with a proposal for creation of posts of Inspectors & other Staff for improving working conditions of child & women labour. Since 1994 the scheme has been transferred to the state sectors Scheme. So far, vocational training camps have been organized to improve the working conditions. It has been suggested that during this financial year such camps will also be organised & posts will be created in consultation with Finance Department for which a sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs will be required.

### **8. A New Scheme for Welfare of Agricultural Labourers, Construction Labourers & Unorganized Labourers**

To provide financial assistance in the form of premium of group insurance scheme, medical expense in case of accident, education assistance etc. to the agricultural Labourers, construction Labourers & unorganized labourers new schemes have been prepared. Financial involvement for this financial year has been assessed at Rs. 340.00 lakhs.

### **9. Opening of Welders Training Centre under the Boilers Directorate**

The centre imports training to the Welders in high pressure welding on completion of the Course to cope up with the increased demand of training for Welders in the context of present industrialisation of the State, sophisticated machineries have been proposed to be purchased during this financial year. Some new posts have also been proposed to be created to strengthen the existing set up of the centre. For the said purpose a sum of Rs. 20.00 lakhs will be required.

#### **10. Setting up of a Testing Laboratory for Examination of Boilers**

In the testing laboratory under the Boiler Directorate the quality of the material of the boilers & its Welding & in-built technique are locked after & checked by physical, Chemical & non-destructive tests to ensure safety of the boilers. For this purpose new sophisticated machineries are required to be purchased & old-ones are to be replaced which is absolutely necessary with the development of latest boiler technology. Creation of some new posts are also required for expansion of existing set up. For the said purpose a sum of Rs. 20.00 lakhs will be required.

#### **11. Strengthening of Research & Development Wing of the Factories Directorate**

With a view to improving performance of the Research & Development Wing of the Factories Directorate in pursuance of report of Govt. of India, to prevent & control of Chemical disaster like Bhopal. the said wing is required to be strengthened by equipping with modern machineries. For monitoring the work & environment some posts are also to be created in accordance with Govt. of India guidelines. For this purpose a sum of Rs. 37.50 lakhs will be required in this financial year.

#### **12. Strengthening of the Enforcement Machinery of the shops and Establishments Directorate**

In order to cope up with the increasing workload for enforcement of the provisions of different statues, the existing infrastructural set up of the enforcement wing of the shops & Estt. Directorate is required to be strengthened by creating some posts. For this purpose, a sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs will be required during this financial year.

#### **13. Computerization of the Registration Section of the HQ. of the Shops & Estt. Directorate**

During 9th Five Year Plan, it was decided to instal a computer for expeditious disposal of the registration cases keeping in view its gradual increase in number day by day. During the last financial year a computer was purchased. During this financial year, the room where the computer, is to be installed is required to be suitably renovated by air-conditioning. A sum of Rs. 7.50 lakhs will be required for this purpose during this financial year.

#### **14. Extension of Employment Services**

Under this plan scheme it has been proposed that for extending services upto the block level some more Employment Exchanges, UEI & GBX, women cells & physically handicapped cells with standard staff pattern will be opened during this financial year. For this purpose, a sum of Rs. 40.00 lakhs will be required.

#### **15. Computerisation of Employment Exchanges**

It has since been suggested to computerise some more Employment Exchanges during this financial year. Financial requirement for this purpose will be Rs. 400.00 lakhs.

#### **16. SESRU in West Bengal**

It was decided that under this continuing scheme financial assistance to the Registered Un-employed in West Bengal would be provided and for proper functioning of the machinery some more posts will be required to be created during 9th Plan Scheme. For this purpose a sum of Rs. 108.00 lakhs will be required.

#### **17. SESRU in West Bengal for SC**

During this financial year a sum of Rs. 33.00 lakhs will be required to provide financial assistance to the Registered unemplyed in West Bengal belonging to Schedule Castes & creation of some posts for smooth running of the machinery under this continuing scheme.

**18. SESRU in West Bengal for ST**

During this financial year a sum of Rs. 9.00 lakhs will be required to provide financial assistance to the Registered Unemployed in West Bengal belonging to schedule Tribes and creation of some posts for smooth running of the machinery under this continuing scheme.

**19. Employment Market Information**

With a view to building up effective systems of information collection and interpretation of employment market it was decided to open employment market information units for each Employment Exchange with requisite staff during 9th Plan period in phases for achievement of the target. During this financial year a sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs will be required.

**20. Strengthening of the Planning Cell of the Labour Department**

In order to strengthen the Planning Cell of the Department some posts are required to be created. For this purpose a sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs will be required.

**21. Setting up of Tribunals & Labour Courts**

It is contemplated that during 9th Plan period two new Labour Courts would be set up with necessary staff for which some posts are to be created. For the said purpose, a sum of Rs. 3.00 lakhs will be required during this financial year.

**22. Setting up of Child Labour Cell under the Labour Department**

In pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement for withdrawal of the children working in the hazardous occupations from work and their rehabilitation necessary effective steps have already been initiated by this Department. For effective monitoring of the programme, a special cell in the Labour Department is also to be created with necessary staff in view of the magnitude of the task as per direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. For this purpose, a sum of Rs. 3.00 lakhs will be required for this financial year.

**23. Statewide Survey to Identify Child Labour in Different Employment**

Pursuance to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Judgement passed on 10.12.1996 in connection with engagement of child labour in hazardous occupations, a statewide survey was started which has almost been completed. To undertake the survey to identify child labour engaged afresh, if any, a sum of Rs. 4.00 lakhs will be required during this financial year.

**24. Model Labour Welfare Centres & Holiday Homes**

In order to renoate the existing model labour welfare centres, arrangement of auditoriums, construction of boundary walls of different existing model labour welfare centres to cater more welfare measures and recreational facilities to the workers and of their families, a sum or Rs. 15.00 lakhs has been proposed to be spent during this financial year.

**25. Subsidised Housing Scheme for Beedi Workers**

For providing subsidy to the Beedi workers for building dwelling house for their own under this continuing scheme, a sum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs has been provided during this financial year.

**11.11.2 Programme of the Development and Planning Department**

**Special Employment Programme**

Special Employment Programme for the urban and semi-urban areas for this State was launched in September, 1996. This is a small industry-based and Credit Linked Employment

Programme. The objective of the Scheme is to ensure significant generation of employment for the urban and semi-urban areas of the State through the growth to tiny/small scale industrial and other production units.

The scheme shall be applicable to the eligible entrepreneurs who want to generate income by setting up viable tiny/Small Scale Industries and other production units within total project cost up to Rs. 10.00 lakhs.

An entrepreneur whose family income does not ordinarily exceed Rs. 5,000/- per month, and intends to generate income through setting up of viable industrial industries is eligible for this purpose. 15% of the project cost should be provided by the entrepreneur himself. 10% of the same would be provided by the State Government as margin money and the rest would be provided by way of term-loan by the Banks, Co-operative Banks and the West Bengal Financial Corporation (WBFC).

An eligible entrepreneur would be provided margin money to the tune of 10% of the project cost duly sanctioned by the prescribed authority.

During 1996-97 at total of 1205 and 8201 numbers of applications were received from the Calcutta Municipal Corporation Area and from all the 17 districts taken together respectively. Out of those cases 315 cases involving total project cost of Rs. 1552.00 lakhs and 2225 cases involving total project cost of Rs. 8257.28 lakhs respectively have been sponsored to Banks. 13 cases involving Rs. 39.21 lakhs have been sanctioned so far.

The amount of Ninth Plan Outlay is being worked out and an amount Rs. 708.00 lakhs has been provided for the Annual Plan Period of 1999-2000.

## **11.12 SOCIAL WELFARE**

### **11.12.1 Programme of the Social Welfare Department**

#### **1. Creation Public Awareness for different Social Welfare Programmes.**

The purpose of this Scheme is for creation of public awareness for different social welfare schemes by setting up awareness camps at the Block levels where people need be aware of different Social Welfare Programmes. Rs. 2.00 lakhs is the Budget Estimate for 1999-2000. A portion of the fund will be used on development of consciousness of handicapped persons in respect of their social rights.

#### **2. Strengthening of stepup for office of Commissioner established under Disability Act, 1995**

The provision under this head is being utilised for meeting establishment cost of the office of Commissioner under Disability Act 1995. The provision is Rs. 2.00 lakhs in 1999-2000.

### **Welfare of Handicapped**

#### **1. Prosthetic Aid to handicapped persons in all districts**

The purpose of this Scheme is to provide fitting aids and appliances to the economically weaker section of handicapped persons. Budget-estimate for 1999-2000 for this Scheme is Rs. 20.00 lakhs. A large no. of petitioners are waiting for aid at different levels. The fund is being spent through DMs/DSW, W. B.

#### **2. Scholarship to handicapped students studying below Class-IX**

The Scheme is aimed at awarding scholarship to the handicapped students studying below class-IX for smooth prosecution of studies. Budget estimate for 1999-2000 for this scheme is

Rs. 46.00 lakhs. This provision is sought for to accommodate more petitioners who are awaiting. It is also spent through DMs/DSW, W. B.

### **3. Expansion of capacity and Modernisation of Composite Homes for Deaf and Dumb and Blind**

The Scheme is for construction of School buildings, dormitory for deaf, dumb and blind students and residential staff quarters and to equip Government Homes with modern aids and appliances. Budget estimate for 1999-2000 for this Scheme is Rs. 4.00 lakh.

### **4. Assistance to Physically handicapped in all Districts (Disability Pension)**

This Scheme targets to give financial assistance to destitute physically handicapped and mentally retarded persons @ Rs. 100/- p. m. per beneficiary which has been revised to Rs. 300/- p. m. The Budget estimate of this scheme for 1999-2000 is Rs. 77.00 lakhs only. At present 1571 handicapped persons are receiving this pension under plan provision.

### **5. Economic Rehabilitation to physically handicapped and mentally retarded persons**

This is a scheme to provide financial assistance to handicapped persons for their economic rehabilitation in trade or vocation. The budget estimate for this scheme is Rs. 17.00 lakhs only though there is high demand on this programme. The applicants get one time grant of Rs. 1000/- per head normally to help start a trade for self-employment.

### **6. Integrated Education for Disabled Children**

This scheme aims at educating disabled children by making extra efforts to get them enrolled in existing formal schools. The B. E. for 1999-2000 is Rs. 1.00 lakhs, which is utilised with the help of NGOs to afford special training schools for handicapped children.

### **7. Creation of Public Awareness against drug abuse**

In order to curb the incidence of drug addiction among youths adequate awareness should be created to prevent the minance from distroging the young generation of our state. hence, a provision of Rs. 2.00 lakh has been made. In Calcutta, Police Commissioner conducted a campaign on International day on drug abuse while in Districts D. Ms organise the campaign.

### **8. Printing of I. C. for the Disabled**

The provision on the head is Rs. 1.00 lakh. We need at least 50 lakhs of Identity Cards for Disabled Persons. We propose this provision which is only a part of our requirement. Identity Cards are basic requirement for awarding order benefits to disabled persons. Cards are distributed through D. S. W. O./D. S. W., W. B.

## **Child Welfare—**

### **Remodelling and Renovation of Cottages at Digha**

1. The purpose of this Scheme is for renovation and remodelling of the cottage at Digha for use as a Holiday Home for poor inmates and members of lower income groups and for its maintenance. The Budget Estimate under the scheme for 1999-2000 is Rs. 4.00 lakhs only which will be used for construction of a big dormitory building and meeting of pay and allowances to staff of caretaker.

### **2. Grants-In-Aid to Voluntary Organisations for Welfare of children in need of care and protection**

The scheme is having a purpose for maintenance of destitute children at cottages run by voluntary agencies and to provide institutional services for them under erstwhile centrally sponsored



scheme. Govt. of India withdraw their contribution w. e. f. 1. 4. 93. The Budget estimate for 1999-2000 for this scheme is Rs. 200.00 lakhs only. 6900 children are maintained with fund under the head. Higher provision is necessary to afford more facilities to the inmates. Maintenance cost is Rs. 500/- p.m.

### **3. Non-institutional care for Destitute Children**

The Scheme is aimed at giving incentive to the guardians of the destitute children who are living below poverty line so that they may send their children to schools. Budget estimate under this scheme for 1999-2000 is Rs. 7.00 lakh. They are granted Rs. 60/- per head per month. D. Ms are the disbursing authorities.

### **4. Introduction of Vocational Training Centre for Destitute Boys**

This Scheme is for imparting vocational training to the destitute children reared up in the Homes run by Govt./Voluntary organisations. Budget estimate for 1999-2000 is Rs. 5.00 lakhs only. The vocational trades are also imparted by NGOs like Ramkrishna Mission, Narendrapur, Rahara, Karma Kutir etc. Training of es-inmates of Govt. Home comes under this scheme.

### **5. Welfare of Street Children**

This scheme aims at health inputs providing education and nutrition to street children living in cities. The scheme is meant for imparting through N. G. O.s. The B. E. for 1999-2000 is Rs. 1.00 lakh. The scheme is being implemented through NGOs.

### **6. Welfare of Children of Red Light Areas**

The scheme is for imparting education, awareness and nutrition to children of Red Light Areas, counselling their mothers etc. through N. G. O.s. The B. E. for 1999-2000 is Rs. 1.00 lakh.

## **Women's Welfare—**

**1. Grant of pension to Destitute Widows—**The purpose of this scheme is to give financial assistance to destitute widow Rs. 100/- per month per beneficiary, which has been revised to Rs. 300/- p.m. Budget estimate of this scheme is Rs. 137.00 lakhs only to accommodate more number of beneficiaries who are waiting at different levels. At present 2375 widows are getting widow pension with provision under this head. Higher Provision is required for additional, coverages.

### **2. Vocational Training for girls and women in Government Homes**

The scheme is aimed at strengthening vocational training in Homes run by Govt. for girls and women . Budget estimate for this scheme for 1999-2000 is Rs. 3.00 lakh only. The vocational trades running are weaving, printing, tailoring and knitting etc. A number of NGOs is conducting the scheme in the Homes for girls' with this assistance.

### **3. Training Programme for women in Distress**

The scheme is for imparting training to distressed women under erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Scheme run by Voluntary Organisations. Budget estimate for 1999-2000 for this scheme is Rs. 2.00 lakhs only. Govt. of India discontinued funding on this programme since 1.4.92. A few NGOs are working on this Scheme.

### **4. Establishment of Women's Development Undertaking**

This scheme of setting up of the undertaking is to assist in arranging loans through financial institutions by giving margin money and seed money to help women to set to income generating activities. Budget estimate for the scheme is Rs. 10.00 lakhs only. This is a State Plan Scheme.

The fund will be spent for maintenance of different programmes of women development and empowerment.

**Welfare of Aged, Infirm and Destitute—**

1. Promotion of Establishment of Homes for the old Destitute—The scheme is for completion of construction/renovation of the existing structure of South Girls Home and its maintenance and also for opening of new old-age Home. Budget estimate for 1999-2000 for this scheme is Rs. 3.00 lakhs only. 42 Aged people are being maintained by this provision.

**2. Expansion/Renovation of existing vagrants' Homes and establishment of Homes for Vagrants in Calcutta and Districts**

This scheme is meant for expansion/renovation of existing Vagrants' Home under the Controller of Vagrancy, West Bengal and for construction/renovation of existing Vagrants' Home in the State Budget estimate under this head is Rs. 12 lakhs only for 1999-2000. The fund is essential to meet up unavoidable repair/maintenance of vagrants' home. Some completed works also are lying unpaid.

**3. Grant of Pension to Destitute Old People (Old Age Pension)**

This scheme is proposed for giving pension to old destitute people @ Rs. 100/- per month per beneficiary, which has been revised to Rs. 300/- p.m. Budget estimate is Rs. 85.00 lakhs only for 1999-2000 under this scheme to accommodate more number of beneficiaries who are waiting at different level. 2357 destitute old people are getting Pension under this head. Addl. fund is sought for more coverages.

**4. Financial support to W. B. Commission for Women**

This fund is being utilised for conducting various programmes on women issues by West Bengal Commission for Women set up under W. B. Com. for Women Act, 1994. During 1999-2000 we have kept a provision of Rs. 8 lakhs.

**Correctional Services—**

This is a scheme regarding a national policy for care and protection, education, treatment, development and rehabilitation of juveniles. This is having a Budget estimate of Rs. 80 lakhs only for 1999-2000. Funds will be spent on construction and upgradation of services in the homes.

**Other Expenditure—**

**Assistance to Voluntary Organisations**

This Scheme aims at giving financial assistance to voluntary organisations for promotion of Social Welfare activities. This targets a Budget Estimate of Rs. 15.00 lakhs only for 1999-2000 under the state Annual Plan Scheme under the head of Account. The NGOs are conducting various training/rehabilitation programme for destitute children/Women.

## **11.13 NUTRITION**

### **11.13.1 Programme of the Social Welfare Department**

#### **Supplementary Nutrition Programme for Children and Expectant and Nursing Mothers under I. C. D. S. Scheme**

This scheme proposes to provide for the cost of food and other materials in connection with the I. C. D. S. Projects. The Budget estimate for 1999-2000 under this scheme is Rs. 32.00 crores for operationalisation of new ICDS Projects and enhancement of nutritional norms. We would require

Rs. 150 crores for ICDS under 9th Plan period out of 358 ICDS Projects sanctioned so far in the State. 294 Projects are fully operational. At present 4000 regular staffs and 80000 honorary workers are working under I. C. D. S. Projects. 27.00 lakhs of beneficiaries namely children upto the age of 6 yrs. and pregnant women and lactating mothers, are receiving package of services through Anganwadi centres in this State.

## **11.14 OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **11.14.1 Programme of the Minorities Development & Welfare Deptt.**

Minorities' Development and Welfare Department was created by the State Government in May 1996. Four types of schemes have so far been identified and included in the plan proposals.

Rs. 1000 lakh has been earmarked as plan outlay for the year 1999-2000 for the schemes implemented by this Department out of Rs. 1000 lakh an amount of Rs. 200 lakh is tied up fund with I. D. F. C.

#### **1. Scheme for Construction of Muslim Girls' Hostels in the Districts**

The scheme aims at providing hostel facilities at District Headquarters and in important towns, to the Muslim Girls who are being deprived of higher education because of dearth of residential accommodation in the around the important towns of the Districts having facilities of higher education for girl students.

So far six such hostels for Muslim Girl students have been constructed in the Districts of Burdwan, Murshidabad, Midnapore, Birbhum, Malda and Uttar Dinajpur on the basis of proposals submitted by Sabhadhipatis of Zilla parishads.

An amount of Rs. 65 lakh has been earmarked as plan outlay for the year 1999-2000.

#### **2. Construction of Boundary Walls surrounding Muslim/Christian Graveyards.**

This Department has taken up a scheme of construction of Boundary Walls surrounding Muslim/Christian Graveyards only from the financial year 1997-98.

This scheme which provides for sanction of expenditure for fencing Muslim/Christian Graveyards to ensure proper maintenance and protection of Muslim/Christian Graveyards from being utilised otherwise by way of encroachment.

Out of the plan allocation of Rs. 50 lakh (Rupees fifty lakh) for the year. 1997-98, a sum of Rs. 33.16 has been utilised and out of the plan allocation of Rs. 75 lakh for the year 1998-99, a sum of Rs. 61.90 lakh has been utilised during the year 1998-99. An amount of Rs. 60 lakh has been proposed as plan outlay for the year, 1999-2000.

#### **3. West Bengal Minorities' Development & Finance Corporation**

The West Bengal Minorities' Development and Finance Corporation was set up on 08.01.96 as a State Channelising Agency of the National Minorities' Development and Finance Corporation with a view to extending financial assistance in the shape of loan to the backward section of the religious minorities to set up their own self-employment units. In the said programme the contribution of the NMDFC, the WBMDFC and the beneficiaries are in the ratio of 85 : 10 : 5

The WBMDFC disbursed loan amounting to Rs. 4.74 crores to 687 beneficiaries upto 31.03.98 in 14 approved activities.

For the year 1998-99 an amount of Rs. 250 lakh has been sanctioned as Grants-in-aid to WBMDFC for investment in scheme of share capital of WBMDFC and a further sum of Rs. 204.20 lakh for meeting 10% of project cost of the sanctioned scheme by WBMDFC.

An amount of Rs. 550 lakh has been earmarked for 1999-2000 for both the investment in share capital and for meeting 10% project cost.

#### **4. Minorities' Development and Welfare Department**

As against a plan allocation of Rs. 30 lakh during 1998-99, a sum of Rs. 35 lakh has been earmarked as plan outlay during the financial year 1999-2000 for meeting the establishment cost of the newly created department namely 'Minorities' Development and Welfare Department'.

#### **5. West Bengal Urdu Academy**

In the advancement of Urdu Education the Urdu Academy under this department has been playing a significant role for quite sometime. The Academy has made a commendable contribution to the promotion and advance of Urdu literature and printing and publishing of standard Urdu books. The Plan allocation under this head of account for the year 1998-99 was Rs. 50 lakh out of which Rs. 35.11 lakh was expended during 1998-99.

#### **6. Central Sector Scheme—Multi Sectoral Plans in the Minority concentrate Districts**

The department has undertaken a survey work in all the ten minority concentration districts for preparation of Multi Sectoral Plans under Central Sector Scheme. Under this programme a maximum limit of Rs. 5 lakh for each minority concentration district would be provided by the Central Government for conducting such survey. The survey work in all the ten minority concentration districts has been completed. Hence no amount has been proposed as plan outlay for the year 1999-2000.

### **11.14.2 Programme of the Co-operation Department**

#### **Labour Co-operatives**

In order to organise the unorganised labour force and safeguard their economic interest against the exploitation of the private contractors, formation of Labour Contract Co-operative is encouraged by the State Government. The financial assistance in the shape of share capital assistance for strengthening its share base and loan-cum-grants for tools and equipments are given to those societies from the State Budget.

### **11.14.3 Programme of the Finance (Taxation) Department**

The West Bengal Industrial Promotion (Assistance to Industrial Units) Scheme 1994 has been formulated by Government of West Bengal under Resolution No. 1460-F.T. dt. 27.5.95 renewed up to 31.8.97 to extend Financial Assistance to the manufacturing units in West Bengal manufacturing such goods as specified in schedules A & B of the said Resolution. The scheme will be continued in the year 1999-2000 also. Rs. 1650.00 lakhs have been kept in the other Social Services Sector for Annual Plan 1999-2000 of this Department.

## CHAPTER XII

### General Services

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## XII. GENERAL SERVICES

### 12.1 JAILS

#### 12.1.1 Programme of the Jails Department

Jails Department have the following programme under Plan Schemes.

##### 1. Upgradation of Standard of Administration

- (i) Construction of new jails.
- (ii) New jail annexure for women prisoners.
- (iii) Schemes for non-criminal lunatics.
- (iv) Amenities for the prisoners and staff under following categories :
  - (a) Supply of drinking water.
  - (b) Electrification in Jails.
  - (c) Sanitation in Jails.
- (v) Upgradation of Standard of Administration as recommended by Tenth Finance Commission :
  - (a) Repair and renovation of Jails.
  - (b) Medical facilities of the prisoners.
- (vi) Housing projects for officers and staff of Jails.

##### 2. Modernisation of Prison Administration

- (a) Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes on 75 : 25 ratio basis for strengthening of security and communication arrangements in Jails.
- (b) Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes on 50 : 50 assistance basis for repair and renovation of old prison buildings, security equipment, health hygiene, medical facilities, transportation facilities to women offenders, development of borstal schools vocational training and modernisation of prison industries and training to prison personnel.

##### 3. Miscellaneous Development Works

As to notable achievement in this sub-sector it may be mentioned that Balurghat Sub-Jail has been upgraded as District Jail following the compulsion of bifurcation of West Dinajpur District. Simultaneously with the creation of a new Sub-division at Raghunathpur a new Sub-Jail has been opened. Efforts were made to provide quarters for staff and officers of the jails as those are considered essential requirement for better service. Renovations of old jail barracks and buildings were also undertaken to jail buildings which happen in many cases century years old. Attempts have also been made to make the jail as Correctional Service Institutes and reorient the behavioural approach towards the jail-mates as per recommendation of Human Rights Commission.

Emerging modern view on jails as a forum of correctional services on Plan Schemes. In tune with the approach, medical facilities, service facilities and security measures are reoriented with application of modern equipment diesel gas oven, Historic Data Storage System. FAX machine, CCTV, modern sanitary and medical facilities etc. Emphasis is being placed to impart vocational training to the inmates in form of Broiler Poultry Farm, Sericulture, Electronic Lamps etc. Service latrine are replaced by sanitary latrines on hygienic ground.

Raiganj Sub-Jail will also be converted into District Jail for the Uttar Dinajpur District.

Appropriate provisions have been kept for the Annual Plan 1999-2000.

## 12.2 STATIONERY & PRINTING

### 12.2.1 Programme of the Commerce & Industries Department

Steps are being taken for betterment of work in the West Bengal Government Presses. DTP Press has been functioning well with printing of urgent jobs. The Stationery office under supervision of Superintendent, Stationery, West Bengal has been functioning smoothly in distribution of different stationery articles to the Government Offices located in Calcutta and vicinity.

For the Annual Press 1999-2000 provision has been kept for proper functioning of the organisation.

## 12.3 PUBLIC WORKS

### 12.3.1 Programme of Excise Department

Excise Department is one of the major sources of Government revenue and during the year, 1998-99, the department collected Rs. 400.00 crores as against the targetted amount of Rs. 390.00 crores at Government revenue.

The function of the Excise Department is to collect revenue from the different sources under its control, to prevent illicit distillation as also Excise crimes. For obvious reasons, the Excise personnel entrusted with the responsibility are to perform their duties at odd hours and often at odd places far from their residence. In the recent past, certain excise Crimes have been made non-bailable by way of amendment of B.E. Act. 1909 which necessitates deployment of more Excise personnel and the number of arrested accused are expected to increase in number. Before the accused persons arrested are produced before the court they are temporarily put up in Excise custody. So, provision for lockups in Excise Barracks is urgently necessary. The Excise personnel on duty relating to such preventive work also require arrangements for their accommodation at Excise Barracks. Therefore, it is very much essential to renovate the existing Excise Barracks by way of necessary repair works as also extension to provide lockups and extra accommodation for Excise personnel. It is also necessary to construct new Government buildings at several new places for which purchase of new lands in several districts is also necessary.

Excise Department is expanding very fast, both as functionary and also in terms of organisation, in recent years. Therefore, to achieve effective results, it is necessary to build up better working arrangements with all facilities as can be made available to the Excise personnel, to boost up collection of Excise revenue substantially as well as to prevent Excise crime effectively.

For the Annual Plan 1999-2000 scheme-wise provisions may be seen from the statement at Part-II.

### 12.3.2 Programme of Finance (Audit) Department

The Finance (Audit) Department is concerned with the construction of Treasury Buildings in the districts and Sub-divisions including Calcutta. In some districts, there are no exclusive buildings for Treasuries. Hence, construction of Treasury Buildings with strong rooms have been necessitated. Repair and renovation of some treasury buildings are also needed. Out of total allocation of Rs. 342 lakhs under the Eighth Five-Year Plan, a sum Rs. 251.01 lakhs was actually released. Apart from completion of various ongoing schemes, some new schemes will be taken up during the next plan period. With the creation of new Sub-divisions at Canning, Kakdwip, Baruipur, Tehatta, Kharagpur and Bidhannagar it has been decided to open new Treasuries. Opening of new Treasuries at Buniadpur and Chanchal is also under consideration.

For the Annual Plan 1999-2000, a provision has been kept for the above programme.



### **12.3.3 Programme of Finance (Taxation) Department**

Finance (Taxation) Department administers a number of Revenue Collecting Directorates, such as Commercial Taxes Directorate, Registration Directorate, Agricultural Income Tax Directorate etc.

The Commercial Taxes Directorate, the largest revenue collecting Directorate of the State of West Bengal contributing more than 65% of the total Tax Revenue, have been expanding very fast both functionally and in term of organisation. Most of the Checkposts of that Directorate are situated in the border area to monitor the movement of notified Goods & Commodities in and across West Bengal. The personnel of those Checkposts and Offices have to work round the clock. In the interest of better administration and also collection of Tax Revenue, the Plan Scheme of this Department relates to such constructions related to better functioning of those checkposts. For better monitoring and reviewing of day to day collection of Sales Tax and for better administration of the Directorate use of computer has been proposed in a planned manner in that Directorate.

The Registration Directorate came under the administrative control of this Department at the end of the financial year 1992-93 from the Judicial Department. Expansion and construction of the Registration Offices, Record Rooms etc. for Districts, Sub-division and Block Level are aimed to provide better working condition to the Government Staff. The visiting public having business with these Offices require a spacious and healthy environment. Apart from new construction, upgradation of existing office Buildings, Record Rooms etc. are necessary. The consequential land acquisition expenses in some cases are also being met from the Plan Schemes.

#### **Treasury Computerisation**

For speedier and more comprehensive compilation of Government Accounts, for more effective expenditure and budgetary control and for imparting better services to all those who financially interact with the State machinery, the process of computerisation of treasury accounts was started in early 1992 in West Bengal. The process was consolidated when the Finance Department decided in 1993 to instal its own computer network in all the 79 treasuries across the State instead of using the computers of the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

Pilot project on computerisation got underway in 1993 itself in two districts, namely Howrah and South 24-Parganas. Four district treasuries of these two districts have successfully been computerised with impressive results in terms of improved services and faster accounting.

The application package developed by the NIC, inter alia, incorporates fully computerised pension accounting and billing which is likely to help several lakhs of pensioners taking their pension through the treasury system. In addition, several areas where detailed accounting was not possible hitherto will now be comprehensively accounted for.

In about 35 treasuries of the State, site preparation work is going on during the current financial year and it is expected that by end of the financial year all these treasuries will be on-line computerised. Remaining treasuries will be taken up for computerisation during the next financial year. Several new areas of treasury functioning which are hitherto not incorporated in the project will be included progressively in the package to enable the treasuries to reap maximum benefits of automation.

The State Government has decided to set-up a satellite based comprehensive Wide Area Network (WAN) in the year 1998-99, to interconnect all the treasuries of the State and all of them with the main computer system in the Finance Department. This will facilitate availability of

detailed information on daily transactions in all the treasuries across the State by the end of each working day.

A sum of Rs. 15 crore has been projected to be spent on the computerisation in all the treasuries and an additional sum of Rs. 5 crore is likely to be spent on establishing Wide Area Network (WAN) to connect all treasuries with the Finance Department at the State headquarters. Of this, Tenth Finance Commission has recommended a total grant of Rs. 1.10 crore only. The remaining amount of Rs. 18.90 crore will be spent by the State Government from out of its own budget.

Once all the treasuries are computerised and interconnected, accounting of the State Government shall be almost complete on daily basis. Compilation of State Accounts by the Accountant General will also be faster and more accurate since the Accountant General's office is also currently under process of computerisation. Drawing & Disbursement Officers (DDOs) across the State will get better and faster services, pensioners will face least amount of trouble in receiving their pensions and people at large interacting with the treasury system will find their interface with treasuries a simpler and quicker exercise once the treasuries get computerised. Finally the State Government will have full control over expenditure pattern on daily basis and in most exhaustive details so that avoidable expenditure would be controlled most expeditiously. It will help the State in implementing complete budgetary control even at the field level.

### **12.3.4 Programme of the Food and Supplies Department**

#### **Acquisition of land**

A total sum of Rs. 73.00 lakh was the Eighth Plan approved outlay for the scheme in question. It now appears that during the first four years of the Eighth Five Year Plan a total sum of Rs. 1863 lakh only has been spent for the purpose. The progress is very slow because of the fact that a number of cases are sub-judice. Required proposals for a number of cases are also allotted. Provision has been made for the Annual Plan 1999-2000.

#### **Construction/Re-construction/Repair of Food Storage Godowns**

For smooth running of the PDS, alternate storage space is required.

Provision has been kept for the Annual Plan 1999-2000.

#### **Creation of Office Accommodation in Districts and Sub-division Headquarters**

Provision has been made for the Annual Plan 1999-2000

#### **Construction of Workshop sheds and Allied Works of Lake Garage**

The Lake Garage in Calcutta has several sheds (approximate 10) for accommodating vehicles etc. The condition of most of the sheds are very deplorable.

Provision has been made for the Annual Plan 1999-2000.

#### **Construction of Godowns with a Capacity of 500 M.T. in RPDS areas (Centrally Sponsored Scheme)**

Under this Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Government of India sanctioned a sum of Rs. 96.46 lakh (Rs. 48.23 lakh as loan and another 48.23 lakh as subsidy) for construction of 12 godowns with a capacity of 500 M.T. each in RPDS areas. The loan amount of Rs. 48.23 lakh has to be repaid in five equal instalments together with usual interest of 11.75% per annum. Provision has been kept for the Annual Plan 1999-2000.

### **12.3.5 Programme of the Home (Police) Department**

A large number of Police station in the State are new used at rental premises and these stations have to be shifted in government buildings as early as possible.

Under Upgradation of Administrative Programme, 10th Finance Commission awarded Rs. 236 lakhs for construction of buildings for Police Stations. During 1997-1999, an amount of Rs. 40 lakhs were allotted to PW Department for construction of buildings of 10 Police Stations under the Programme.

The existing training facilities for police personnel in the state are inadequate. Hence, extension and expansion of existing training arrangements is urgently called for. The Tenth Finance Commission awarded Rs. 409.67 lakhs for construction of buildings for police training schools. During 1998-99, Rs. 86.09 lakhs were allotted to P.W. Department for improvement of Police Training School, Calcutta and the Police Training College at Barrackpur. A further amount of Rs. 300 lakhs has been provided for 1999-2000.

The need for Forensic Science Laboratory has to be met urgently. The existing laboratory at Calcutta needs upgradation and new laboratories need to be set up. In Jalpaiguri, a laboratory has been set up, but that is not yet fully equipped. Another such laboratory will be set up in Malda for which process of land acquisition has started. An amount of Rs. 20 lakhs has been provided for in the Budget for 1999-2000 for the purpose.

The ever-rising population as well as increase in number of vehicles in the roads require efficient traffic management in the city of Calcutta and other district towns of the state. Purchase of computer, wireless sets, different small vehicles and other apparatuses are also necessary for the traffic wing of the Police Department. During 1998-99, a sum of Rs. 43 lakhs was utilised for this purpose and a further sum of Rs. 100 lakhs have been provided for during 1999-2000.

### **12.3.6 Programme of the Parliamentary Affairs Department**

The Department of Parliamentary Affairs has the following schemes under Public Works Sector :

- (i) Construction of a New Assembly House ;
- (ii) Construction of an Office Building within the complex of West Bengal Legislative Assembly House.

During the Eighth Five Year Plan period construction of Library at West Bengal Legislative Assembly premises has been completed. However, the Schemes mentioned above in (i) and (ii) have been designed to increase the capacity of the present House consequent upon to increase of members of M. L. As and also to cope up with the increased function of West Bengal Legislative Assembly Secretariat. For the Annual Plan 1999-2000 provision has been kept for the above programme.

### **12.3.7 Programme of the Home (P & AR) Department**

This Department is concerned with construction of Administrative Buildings both in the District and the Sub-divisional Headquarters under the Plan Scheme.

The scheme for construction of Administrative Buildings both in district Headquarters and Sub-divisional Headquarters aims at providing improved physical environment by way of construction of new office buildings. The Scheme is executed by the P. W. Department while the Home (P&AR) Department approves the schemes and the estimated cost. During the Eighth Plan period construction of Administrative Buildings were completed at Barasat in Ninth 24-Parganas, Baharampur

in Murshidabad, Katwa in Burdwan and Rampurhat in Birbhum. Construction are near completion at Kalyani in Nadia, Coochbehar Collectorate and Suri in Birbhum, Apart from these, large construction, renovation, special repairs have been done in other district Headquarters and Sub-division Headquarters.

In recent years Govt. has established seven new Sub-divisions at Bidhannagar in North 24-Parganas, Canning, Kakdwip and Baruipur at South 24-Parganas, Tehatta at Nadia, Kharagpur at Midnapur and Gargampur at Dakshin Dinajpur. Construction of Administrative Buildings in those newly established Sub-divisions are to be undertaken. For the Annual Plan 1999-2000 provision has been kept for the above programme.

### **12.3.8 Programme of the Judicial Department**

The Judicial Department is concerned with the scheme for construction of Court Buildings, including amenities to Courts under Public Works sector of the Plan Outlay.

During the Eighth Plan period the construction works of the Court Buildings at Diamond Harbour, Dantan, Bangaon, Bashirhat, Kalimpong were completed. Besides, construction of other Court buildings already undertaken were also nearing completion.

The new schemes have been taken up as follows :

- (i) Modernisation and computerisation at the High Court and at the different district Courts.
- (ii) Construction of litigants' and all the Court of the State.
- (iii) Establishment of some Courts of Additional District Judge and Civil Judge at Sub-division level for decentralisation of the Justice Delivery System.
- (iv) Construction of new Court Buildings for accommodation of Family Courts and NDPS Act's Courts.
- (v) Construction of Court Buildings in newly created sub-division.

Provision has been kept for the Annual Plan 1999-2000.

### **12.3.9 Programme of the Land and Land Reforms Department**

Upgradation and modernisation of records of royalty system in land in West Bengal has been taken up since last few years. About 480 Record Rooms have so far been constructed and 60 more are expected to be constructed at Gram Panchayet and district levels for safe preservation of land records and land-related documents.

The departmental training, namely Analysis, Research and Training Institute has been set up at Shalboni in Midnapore district a few years back to cater the needs of imparting thorough training to new entrants in Govt. Services at various levels including those belonging to I.A.S., I.P.S., I.F.S., WBCS (Ex.), WBCS (JUD.), West Bengal Police Service and the various services under the Land and Land Reforms Department on survey, settlement and management of land. The infrastructure of the Institute has not yet completed and the scheme needs to be continued during 1999-2000.

### **12.3.10 Programme of the Public Works Department**

The Public Works Department is entrusted with the construction works of Office Buildings for different Public Works Department's Subordinate offices. In this sector attempt has been made to construct Division and Sub-division offices where these offices are housed either in rented accommodation or with very inadequate facilities. In order to meet the present day demand, Public Works Department has taken up an ambitious Project for construction of an Office Complex at

Camac Street, Calcutta. Further old Secretariat Buildings which require thorough renovation and improvement to cope with the present requirements have been considered.

During the Eighth Plan period. Public Works Department completed construction of Office Building at Diamond Harbour. The Department have also completed Electronic PBX System at Writers' Buildings, Calcutta.

The Department was continued the following schemes since 1997-98 :

- (i) Construction of Office Complex with Auditorium at 4, Camac Street, Calcutta.
- (ii) Construction of Office Building at Balurghat in the district of Murshidabad.
- (iii) Construction of Office Complex for Burdwan University, Division and Sub-division Offices (C. B.).

The Department has programmed to include the following new works in the Ninth Plan Period.

- (i) Construction of New Annex Building of Public Works Department Office Complex at Jalpaiguri.
- (ii) Construction of Purta Bhavan at Siliguri in the district of Darjeeling.
- (iii) Construction of Office Buildings for different Division and Sub-division Offices of P.W.D. in the different districts of the State.
- (iv) Installation of Electronic PBX System at C.I.T. Building, New Secretariat Buildings, Purta Bhavan and Bhawani Bhavan.
- (v) Fire protection arrangements at New Secretariat Buildings, C.I.T. Buildings, Purta Bhavan, Bhawani Bhavan and M.S. Building.
- (vi) Modernisation of A.C. System at Writers' Buildings, Calcutta.
- (vii) Improvement & Renovation of Heritage Buildings at Calcutta.

Provisions has been kept for the Annual Plan period, 1999-2000.

#### **12.3.11 Programme of the Relief Department**

Relief Department allots fund mainly under Non-Plan Budget. However, for the last few years following schemes under Plan Budget are being executed :

- (a) Construction of Relief Complex in Calcutta.
- (b) Construction of Flood Shelters.
- (c) Construction of Relief Godowns.

Construction Works of a four-storied Building with six-storied foundation for relief complex is nearing completion during the 8th Plan period. The construction works of two flood shelters each in Dakshin Dinajpur and South 24-Parganas districts and one flood shelter each in Malda and Murshidabad districts have already been started to alleviate sufferings of the people hit by flood/cyclone. Besides, to ensure the proper facility of storing of relief articles at the district, sub-division and block headquarters, the scheme for construction of relief godowns/stores was introduced in the year 1990-91. This scheme will be continuing during the year 1999-2000.

Provision has been kept in the Public Works Sector of the Annual Plan period, 1999-2000.

## **12.4 OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

### **12.4.1 Programme of the Home (P & AR) Department**

The Home (P & AR) Department is the nodal Department of the State Government which administers all the Training Programme for the Officers and Staff of the State Government.

In order to keep pace with the time it is of utmost importance that State Government employees be recruited and updated with the changing requirement of administrative skill and knowledge. In-service training for Government employees is essential. With this end in view Administrative Training Institute (ATI) was established at Bidhannagar in the year 1981. This Institute now occupies a place of pride in the State. It serves as a Central Training Institute for the Government employees. Apart from imparting training to new entrants, the Institute conducts various in-service training and refresher courses for various categories of Government functionaries of different Ministries, Department, Directorate and other Government Officers.

During 1996-97, 72 courses were conducted excluding seminars, workshops etc. Besides those, ATI has been successfully conducting the Joint Inspection Training Courses for IAS, WBCS (Ex.) WBFS (Judicial), WBPS Officers. In addition to State Government sponsored programmes, several courses sponsored by the Union Government are conducted by the ATI. A separate wing for Natural Disaster Management has been in operation since February 1996. The Department proposes to undertake the work for setting up of a Regional Training Institute at Siliguri and for running Computer Training to various Government officials up to 'A' level at ATI Computer Laboratory.

For this purpose, a provision has been kept in the Annual Plan proposal 1999-2000.

### **12.4.2 Programme of the Finance (Audit) Department**

The West Bengal Administrative Tribunal has been set up by the Government of India, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension (Department of Personnel & Training) on specific request of the Government of West Bengal under the provisions of Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 for the adjudication or trial of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of all State Government employees.

The said Administrative Tribunal was constituted with effect from the 16th January, 1995

At present there are one Vice-Chairman, one member (Judicial) and two members (Administrative).

All expenses of the Tribunal are met from the Plan Budget. Provisions has been kept in the Annual Plan proposal as 1999-2000.

### **12.4.3 Programme of the Parliamentary Affairs Department**

A Programme styled Youth Parliament Competition Scheme for School Students was taken up during the 8th Plan period. Under the scheme school students would be brought within the ambit of open competition to inculcate the healthy habits of tolerance and imbibe the student community with Parliamentary Democracy and Parliamentary Procedure.

The Scheme would continue during the Ninth Plan and a provision has been earmarked in the Annual Plan.

### **12.4.4 Programme of the Home (Civil) Defence Department**

The Civil Defence Organisation was set up in the state in the year 1962. The personnel of the organisation are engaged in saving human lives during natural calamities. At present, about 22,500 Home Guards of this organisation do also assist police force in maintenance of Law and order duties, traffic control and guarding government property.

In the year 1998-99, Rs. 10 lakhs has been utilised by construction of two barracks—one at Midnapore and one at Darjeeling. The Department has taken up construction of a Central Training Institute for Home-guards at Itahar, Uttar Dinajpur district for which Rs. 60 lakhs was provided for in 1998-99. A further amount of Rs. 85 lakhs has been provided for in 1999-2000. Provision has been earmarked in the Annual Plan 1999-2000 for above works.

#### **12.4.5 Programme of the Finance (Taxation) Department**

During 1992-93, a scheme viz. Decentralised Resource Mobilisation was introduced in order to augment collection of Taxes Revenue. Under this Scheme, 58% of the additional collection of Revenue over and above the target as fixed by the Department on the basis of the Budget Provision is released to undertake development work in the districts through District Authorities of West Bengal on the Taxes viz. M.V. Tax, Amusement Tax, Stamps, Registration and Royalty on major and minor minerals.

Provisions has been kept in the Annual Plan, 1999-2000 for the above programmes.





## CHAPTER XIII

### Forestry and Wild Life

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## XIII FORESTRY AND WILD LIFE

### 13.1 Forestry and Wild Life

#### 13.1.1 Programme of the Forest Department

West Bengal being deficient in forest area only having a recorded forest area of 13.4% of the State with a population density of 615 per Sq. Km. against a national average of 216 per Sq. Km. and productive per capita area being meagre 0.01 against an average of 0.45 ha. for less industrial part of world, a multifaceted programme of forestry development in the state for a durable eco-system with judicious use of forest resources for economic stability of fringe dwelling community, with their active involvement in forest development is the need of the hour in larger interest of survival of the eco-system of the State. With concerted effort through scientific forest management it has been possible to enhance forest cover by about 1.5% over the recorded forest area, as revealed during rapid forest cover as raised using satellite imageries done jointly by the Forest Department, Government of West Bengal and Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre of ISRO, Kharagpur. If the village orchard areas developed through Social Forestry programme in some districts are taken into consideration, the vegetation cover will come around 27.18%.

1. Afforestation on available forest and private land including wasteland and restoration and rejuvenation of sal forests of South-West Bengal by involving local fringe population by forming Forest Protection Committee and extending the same management system gradually to productive forests of other parts of the State as also working closely with panchayets for afforestation in non forest land.
2. Soil and Water conservation.
3. Conservation of eco-system and environment of ecologically fragile zones.
4. Wildlife conservation and habitat improvement.
5. Socio-economic development of forest fringe population
6. Result oriented research, development of minor forest produce and alternative energy sources, training and education

The important schemes are described below :

#### **Eco-Conservation**

It is being increasingly felt that unless the environment and its conservation is given due priority, no developmental activity can sustain in the long run. Schemes under this category take care of those aspects in vulnerable zones.

#### **Forest Resources Survey**

Under this programme, survey of forest resources is done. This is necessary to continuously update the forest resources position of the State for future planning and to fix up the priority.

#### **Forest Consolidation**

Recorded forest area is only 13.4% of the total area of the State. There is no chance this area can be increased due to high population pressure. It is necessary to preserve at least the area which are now under control of this State. Therefore, Forest Consolidation is one of the vital aspects to go over the forest boundaries periodically to survey and maintain it. This gives a continuous update for the boundary position its adjoining villages and tea estates.

#### **Forest Communication**

Efficient forest protection in North Bengal will be possible when remote areas may be approached. At present communication facilities are not adequate, the scheme for construction of the new roads in forest areas has been envisaged.

### **Building**

There is need for the forest personnel to live in forest areas for protection and also for executing different developmental works. These areas being included, there is necessity of having a separate infrastructure for posting of staff. It will not be out of place to mention that in view of continuous pressure on forests there is necessity to strengthen the existing positions and also to improve the security arrangement for staff to work under minimum security arrangement.

### **Forest Protection Force**

To provide effective protection, it is necessary to cover the forest areas with Radio telephone net work and create forest protection force to combat mafia activity in forest area.

### **Working Plans**

For intensive working of forest areas, preparation of working plan is a statutory requirement. Presently, 3 working plan divisions are working all over the State to cover all the 16 territorial divisions in a phased manner.

### **Management Information System**

For successful management of any resource, a comprehensive and informative data base is necessary.

### **Economic Plantation**

This scheme will mainly operate in alluvial zone of the State. Areas which could not be covered under West Bengal Forestry Project will be addressed under this scheme.

### **Plantation of Quick-growing Species**

Under this scheme, mainly industrial plantations of laterite zone will be covered. Area which could not be covered under West Bengal Forestry Project, will be taken care of in this scheme.

### **Area Oriented Fuel Fodder Project**

This is a scheme with 50% Central assistance to build up resource of fuel and fodder in forest areas of the fuel deficit districts such as Bankura, Midnapore, 24-Parganas, Burdwan, Birbhum, Nadia, Murshidabad, Malda and West Dinajpur. This scheme mainly aims at supply of fuel and fodder to the local population so that pressure of illicit felling of Government forest becomes reduced and at the same time, local fringe people get some employment to sustain themselves during the lean months.

### **Forestry Treatment on Forest lands**

In view of a very wide range of agro-ecological conditions prevailing in this State, altogether 12 treatment models have been adopted, which are grouped in 3 (three) broad categories. They are :

#### **A. *Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest Lands***

This constitutes the largest component of the treatment models involving joint management arrangement with FPCs. This mainly concerns regeneration from viable root stock mainly degraded sal forests of South West Bengal and partly of similar areas of North Bengal. Enrichment planting is also undertaken in blank pockets within these areas as also treatment of large forest blanks in South-West and North-Bengal (including multi-tier reforestation and reforestation with Tassar host plants targeted at women FPC members and mangrove plantations in the Sunderbans.

#### **B. *Production Forestry on Forest Lands***

Those treatments are confined to replanting of mature plantation areas. In line with the prevailing National Forest Policy clear felling of degraded natural forest areas (with canopy density less than 20%)

will come within these treatments. The plantations will comprise of useful species like sal, teak, simul etc. and hill timber plantations will incorporate the analogue mixture or principal associate species.

### *C. Forestry Development on Non-Forest Lands*

The principal focus is Farm Forestry which is directed towards small and marginal farmers. This includes promotion of agro-forestry system also. A part of the total area has been earmarked for strip plantation along national highways, canal embankments, roads, etc.

### **Allied Works Components**

Apart from the forestry treatment models certain additional associate works have been included in the programme, namely, Survey and demarcation of external forest boundaries, improvement of forest roads, construction of small earthen dams, and other water-bodies for ground water recharging, gully control and watershed stabilization, special amenities, income generation and employment.

### **Community Development**

The problem of biotic interferences responsible for massive forest degradation has been addressed through Government people co-operation. The foundation has been firmly laid in South-West Bengal through formation of FPCs and micro-planning process. This is proposed to be extended to other parts of the State. This involvement of FPC members is to be established more through training, group organisation, production management, processing and marketing, extension and publicity will also be geared up couples with development of NGOs and private institutions in establishing the process of the joint forestry management.

The concept of participatory measure management in the preservation of forests was evolved into the pilot project of "Arabari Socio-economic Scheme" in 1991-92 in West Bengal. The Joint Forest Management (JFM) was formalised in the Govt. resolution 1889 and more than 3400 FPC's with 290,000 members protecting nearly 4,50,000 hectares of forest which is about 30% of the total forest area. The success of JFM in South Bengal can be well assessed from the fact that the 1/4 share of the proceeds to the FPC members (the village dwellers belonging mainly to the weaker section of the people) during the last 3 yrs. exceeded Rs. 5.00 crores. The FPC members have been involved in microplan preparation at the first beat level and FPC level as well as in the income generation programmes like pisciculture, tussar cultivation, lac cultivation, basket making etc. The female members of the family have also been associated through the concept of joint membership meaning that the wife is an automatic member if the husband is the member of the FPC & vice versa. There are also exclusively woman FPC's numbering about 20, the concept of revolving fund in FPC has also been introduced. Revolving fund is the community fund raised through the contribution of FPC members from various source including share from final harvest and part of their wages by selling dry leaves or 'musti savehaya' (a fistful of rice) as inculcated by the Ramkrishna Mission Lokasiksha parishad a NGO. In the wild life areas, and around national Parks and Sanctuaries eco-development committees have been formed in the same line as FPC for better management and protection of wild life but without way sharing arrangement of major forest produce.

### **Wildlife & Bio-Diversity**

Species conservation depends first and foremost on the habitat conservation. Bulk of the project development activity is directed towards this end and would have specific wildlife and bio-diversity focus. This will be achieved by targeting the works on the fringe population and buffer zones that require full protection on account of their wildlife values, floral composition or acute vulnerability to erosion hazards. Prior studies are to be taken up on the man-animal conflict before effective action programmes are defined. Major parts of project-finding proposals consists of these studies.

### **Urban Forestry, parks & Gardens and Rural Greening Programme**

Due to rapid industrialisation and population growth, gradually all the available upon spaces are being covered. Need for taking care of the aesthetic and recreational aspect of people is being increasingly felt in rural, semi urban and urban areas. There are more than 60 such parks and beautification sports. At Salt Lake, Central Park is under creation now and a few more parks in the districts are also under creation. Apart from this, renovation of older parks are done under these schemes.

### **Coastal Shelter Belt Plantation**

Mainly coastal areas which were not covered under the West Bengal Forestry Project are being taken up under this programme. Mainly this programme will be taken up in Midnapore district.

### **Agro-Silviculture**

In order to keep down the weed as a subsidiary silvicultural operation, inter-plating by grass, legumes and other permitted agricultural crops are done between plantation lines. This helps in plant growth apart from giving some production in terms of cash crop. This is mainly done in high rainfall areas off North Bengal particularly in productive forests.

### **Timber Operation**

One of the thrust area is judicious harvest of forest resource compatible with ecological, economic and environmental needs. as contractor system has been abolished in West Bengal, this operation is done wholly departmentally all over West Bengal. Mainly the areas of North Bengal are worked under this Schemes. Main revenue of Forest Department is realised by working through this scheme.

### **Economic Rehabilitation of Fringe Population**

It is being largely felt that forests cannot be protected without enlightened support of forest fringe dwellers. Therefore, development activity in villages situated at forest fringe is a necessity for protection of forests.

### **Intensification of Management**

With rapid urbanisation and rise in demand of forest produce, protection of forests is becoming increasingly difficulty. This task is becoming more complex due to opening up of new roads at new directions. To keep pace with this development, intensification of management practice has to be done as a continuous process for upgrading the protection mechanism.

### **Amenities to Forest Staff and Laborurers**

This is a scheme for providing amenities to forest staff and forest villages. It will not be out place to mention that there are more than 10,000 forest staff all over West Bengal in more than 200 locations.

### **Publicity-cum-Extension**

This scherne is meant for awareness programme throughout the State.

### **Improvement of Wildlife**

This scheme is meant for improvement of wildlife in State which include improvement of wildlife habitat in different forest areas of the State and improvement of Wildlife Sanctuaries. It will not be out of place to mention that 11% of forest area of the State is covered under either Wildlife Sanctuaries or tiger Reserves. Elephants menace during the harvesting season in South Bengal and North bengal is on increase now. Therefore, it is now imperative that more and more schemes to create resource for wildlife fodder within forest areas have to be undertaken.

### **Tiger Reserves of Sunderbans and Buxa**

These are 50% Centrally Sponsored Scheme meant for overall development of two Tiger Reserves. Eco-development works, infrastructural development works and other developmental programmes are pursued under this scheme. Allocation of the Government of India depends on the matching allocation by the State.

### **Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary**

This is 50% Centrally Sponsored Scheme meant for improvement and preservation of wildlife habitat in Jaldapara Sanctuary. Allocation from Centre boosts up developments activity in the sanctuary. This is a very important scheme for preservation of Rhino in the State.

### **Control of Poaching**

This is 50% Centrally Sponsored Scheme meant for control of poaching in the State. This scheme is meant for upgrading the protection mechanism of wildlife sanctuaries to combat poaching activities.

### **Development of Singallila National Park**

This is a 50% Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Systematic Development of this National Park has been taken up lately. This area due to its uniqueness has been declared as national park. Therefore, development scheme are needed to sustain the status of Wildlife and also to maintain the habitat in pristine state.

### **Improvement of Neora Valley National Park**

This is very necessary in view of population pressure all round. This is also a 50% Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

### **Improvement of Mahananda and Senchal Wildlife Sanctuaries**

These are 50% Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Contribution by the Government of India leads to gradual development of these sanctuaries. Works are being done to improve the wildlife status of the area which is under pressure due to multifarious biotic factors.

### **Wildlife Research**

Any development programme requires research activity to simultaneously continue for technology upgradation and improvement keeping pace with the development of other sectors of the economy.

### **Training of Staff**

This scheme is meant for training of forest staff in Wildlife, Soil Conservation, General Forestry, management, Computer Application, Research, Seed Technology, Social Forestry and other sector connected with fringe area development programmes.

### **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (100% allocation from the Govt. of India)**

#### **Elephant Project**

This is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme. This project has been launched by the Government of India mainly for improvement of elephant habitats in different states. Of late the elephant depredation has assumed a serious magnitude mainly due to paucity of elephant fodder in forestry areas and also for encroachment on lands which used to be their traditional migration routes. Due to this elephant herds have been broken into smaller herds and have lost direction completely. These small herds have the tendency to colonise a small forest patch. Therefore, forest areas are

being taken up under this project to create suitable area for their habitat so that depredation in villages is reduced.

#### **River Valley Project—Teesta and Kangsabati**

Works under this project is being carried out in catchments of Kangsabati and Teesta. This work is due on watershed basis for which management plan is submitted to the Government of India. Mainly work is in progress in priority watersheds. In other watersheds, maintenance work is in progress.

#### **Flood Prone River—Ganga and Rupnarayan**

Work is in progress on watershed basis. This work is being done as per guideline given by the Government of India

#### **Seed Development Scheme**

Under this scheme, development of potential seed production areas are being undertaken. New Seed stands are being created along with development of old seed stands. Seed testing laboratories are being strengthened. Stress has been given on production of quality seeds. Silviculture divisions of the State are undertaking this programme and supplying quality seeds to executing division.

#### **Development of Minor Forests Produce**

Bamboo, Myrabalon and cane plantations are being taken up under this programme mainly in South-West Bengal.

#### **Decentralised People's Nursery**

Seedlings are being raised through Kishan Nurseries under this programme. Funds are provided by the State Govt. for producing seedlings for outside sale. These Kishans are being selected through Panchayets mainly among Small and marginal Farmers. This is a programme to improve the economic condition of the rural poor people by the additional income generated through sale of seedling. The scheme has been transferred from Central Sector to the State Sector from 1993-94.

#### **India Eco-Development Project**

India Eco-Development Project has been taken up in Buxa Tiger Reserve along with seven other Tiger Reserves from 1997-98 with the assistance of World Bank, Global Environment Fund, Central and State Government. The total project cost for this State is about 35 crores to be spread over a period of 5 (five) years. The main purpose of this scheme is to restrict the biotic interference within the Tiger Reserve area by providing economic and other benefit to the forest fringe dwellers through formation of Eco-Development Committees. Apart from this, there are various support activities like improvement of roads, training of forest personnel, economic rehabilitation of fringe dwellers, shifting of forest villagers into fringe areas and wildlife research. Though initially there was fund constraint, now the scheme is going on in full swing with appropriate fund support.

