

ANNUAL PLAN

WEST BENGAL

1997-98

Volume I



सत्यमेव जयते

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

ANNUAL PLAN
WEST BENGAL
1997-98
VOLUME I
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FOREWORD

The proposals for the Annual Plan (1997-98) have been prepared on the basis of a perspective. The main social direction and objective behind this perspective has been to assist, within the limited powers of the State Government, the increase in employment generation as far as possible, through efficient enhancement in levels of production in various sectors of the State economy. This requires that, in the spheres of infrastructure and social services, characterised by economic externalities and properties of public goods, there should be social action that is feasible in the State. This social action can be initiated by the State Government, the Panchayats or municipalities, and in some cases, even by organised group efforts of local people in coordination with the planning objective and process. At the same time there should be in the relevant spheres in the State, a persistent move towards equal competition.

2. In the context of social action, as mentioned above, the issue of decentralisation in planning in the State becomes relevant. The process of participatory decentralisation, through increasing devolution of financial and decision-making powers to the elected Panchayats and municipalities in the districts has been seriously pursued in the State over the last nineteen years or so. Keeping the social direction and objective, and the recommendations of the State Finance Commission in view, this process of decentralisation will now be made more comprehensive and taken to a greater length in the current year. Not only will the decentralisation be effected for district (and below)-level schemes of all the departments much more exhaustively through the District and Block Planning Committees to the level of each village under the Gram Panchayats in rural areas, and to the level of each ward under the municipalities in urban areas, but the participation of people will also be more systematically ensured through the mandatory open mass meetings at the level of each village and through the beneficiary committees in relation to the plan schemes. It is through this participation of the people that the efficiency and accountability of the planning process will be upheld. We do not want only decentralisation, but that participatory decentralisation which is efficient and accountable.

3. Keeping the main social objective and organisational direction in view, and on the basis of present trends, specific targets relating to increase in production and employment generation have been fixed in the State for the current year 1997-98. According to the latest available data, the State Domestic Product of West Bengal in 1995-96 had increased at a rate of 7.4 per cent, which was higher than the corresponding rate of growth of the Gross Domestic Product of 7.1 per cent at the national level. In the last year (1996-97), the rate of growth of the State Domestic Product of West Bengal had been estimated at 7.7 per cent, which was again notably higher than the corresponding rate of growth of the Gross Domestic Product of 6.8 per cent at the national level. Related to this overall rate of growth of the State Domestic Product in the last year, there were rates of growth of different sectors of the State economy, and corresponding to such growth of output in the sectors, there were also sectoral increases in employment, finally adding up to a total employment generation of about 5.59 lakhs in the last year. This total additional generation of employment in the last year was greater than the reported increase of about 1.36 lakhs of registered unemployed during the year, and was therefore helpful in redressing, to an extent, the problem of backlog of unemployment in the State.

4. On the basis of this recent trend in output growth and employment generation in the State, the target for rate of increase in the State Domestic Product in the current year has been placed at 8 per cent, which is much higher than the annual rate of growth of the Gross Domestic Product stipulated at 7 per cent at the national level for the entire Ninth Plan period (1997-2002). On the basis of this stipulated increase of the State Domestic Product and the estimated elasticity of employment generation with respect to output growth calculated on the immediately past data for each sector, it is possible to have the target for employment generation of 6 lakhs in the State in the current year. After stipulating the overall target for growth and employment generation, it is necessary now to disaggregate these targets for each important sector, with corresponding specification of plan outlays as well as relevant organisational steps towards competition and decentralisation in planning.

5. With this overall perspective and the specific targets in view, implementation of the policy in agriculture in the State begins with land reforms. It has to be noted here that efforts at land reforms amount to a move towards more equal access to land by vast majority of working

farmers, and therefore, also towards more equal competition in agriculture. And, since the highest record of production as well as employment generation is obtained from the lands of small and marginal farmers, land reforms have provided the basis for increase in production and employment generation in agriculture in the State. In this sphere of land reforms, the State has occupied the foremost position in the entire country. According to the National Sample Survey data, while for the country as a whole, the small and marginal farmers, comprising the significant section of the bottom 90 per cent of rural population hold around 29 per cent of total agricultural land, in West Bengal, due to land reforms, the small and marginal farmers have now come to own nearly 60 per cent of total agricultural land. If to this, the land under recorded sharecroppers is added, then the total land over which the farmers now have control in West Bengal, would be around 70 per cent. According to the latest data available for 1996-97, the total agricultural land vested due to land reforms has now amounted to 12.47 lakh acres, and out of the distribution of nearly 10.05 lakh acres, 23.54 lakh poor peasants have been benefited, with nearly 56 per cent of them belonging to the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes. This priority given to land reforms would continue firmly in the current year, with a preparation for vesting of at least 20 thousand acres of land.

6. Along with land reforms, a special emphasis has been given to the extension of irrigation facilities. As a result, it has been possible to increase in a steady manner the proportion of gross cropped areas under irrigation from less than 30 per cent in the first half of seventies to nearly 50 per cent in 1995-96, and this proportion has further increased to 52 per cent in the last year (1996-97). In the current year, keeping in view the objective of growth and employment generation in agriculture, about 2.25 lakh hectares will be brought under irrigation, and this will raise the percentage of gross cropped area under irrigation to nearly 55 per cent. Given this importance of irrigation, it has been decided to increase the plan outlay in irrigation sector from Rs. 257 crores in 1996-97 to Rs. 326 crores in the current year, 1997-98. The issue is not simply one of increasing the outlay, it is also important to improve the management of the irrigation projects. Towards this end, it has been decided that in the management of minor irrigation projects, (say, cluster of tubewells) after the installation of tubewells by the State Government, its operation and maintenance would be given to the local farmers of the tubewell command area through the concerned benefi-

ciary committees, under the supervision of the Panchayats. Experience has shown that in such cases, not only have the operation and maintenance costs been fully recovered, but enough surplus has also been generated which has been ploughed back by the farmers for installing new tubewells. In coordination with overall plan priority and organisation, this local group effort is an example of efficient and accountable decentralisation. In the sphere of large irrigation projects also, thoughts are being given to similar involvement of local people through the Panchayats for more efficient utilisation of irrigation water.

7. In this context, it is important to mention the severe problem of bank erosion of the Ganga-Padma river in the districts of Murshidabad and Malda. This problem is truly of national concern, and therefore we had urged the Central Government repeatedly to take effective steps as soon as possible. It is worth mentioning that the present Central Government had set up in September last, a high-powered expert committee to suggest remedial measures. This committee, after completing work expeditiously, has already submitted its recommendations. According to these recommendations, to prevent the menacing erosion, it is urgent to provide funds to the tune of Rs. 315 crores in the short run, and Rs. 612 crores in the long run. It is expected that the Central Government would provide these funds without delay. In anticipation, the State Government has already decided to advance a sum of Rs. 20 crores to tackle the immediate problems.

8. Because of these steps taken on the basis of land reforms, extension of irrigation facilities and also provisioning of other inputs (improved seeds, fertilisers, etc.), the curve of agricultural production in the State has become noticeably upward-rising, and it has also been possible for West Bengal to attain the highest position among all the States in several spheres of agricultural production. According to the State-wise data over the period from 1980-83 to 1990-93, the annual rate of growth of foodgrains production has been highest in West Bengal (5.9 per cent) as against the all-India average annual rate of growth of 2.8 per cent. Among foodgrains, in the case of rice, the State's position is first not only in terms of the level of production, but also in terms of the rate of growth of productivity in the same period. In addition, the State's record of cropping-intensity in agriculture has also become remarkable in recent years. In the period from 1990-91 to 1995-96, the cropping-intensity in West Bengal has not only increased

steadily from 158.2 to 164.3, but in terms of the progress of cropping intensity, West Bengal's position has now become second among all States, being next only to Punjab.

9. In order to enhance further the growth of agricultural production, it is important to ensure provision of improved seeds. To this end, it has been decided to adopt the target of attaining self-sufficiency at the State level in the supply of improved seeds for the major crops within the period of Ninth Plan. With this as the objective, research work with full intellectual independence will be specially encouraged in the agricultural university and institutes. At the same time, fruits of such research will have to be taken to the farmers, with affordable price and by fully utilising the agricultural farms and Comprehensive Area Development Projects in the districts as well as the organisation of Panchayats. For reasons of self-reliance and affordability by the farmers, similar emphasis will be given to research and its application in relation to improved bio-fertilisers.

10. In the interest of employment generation, importance will be given not simply to agriculture but also to animal resource development, fishery, horticulture and social forestry. In each of these areas, there is significant scope of enhancement of production and employment generation, and also potential for industrial growth. For this purpose, a special effort will be made to provide the knowledge of improved research, cooperative credit and marketing facilities to these areas in a coordinated manner by involving the Panchayats in the districts.

11. On the basis of these efforts, the rate of increase in the total production in agriculture and all these allied activities has been stipulated at 6.2 per cent for the next year, with a consequent employment generation of 2.12 lakhs. Keeping this objective in view, plan outlay for agriculture, allied sectors and rural development is being proposed to be increased from Rs. 414 crores in the current year to Rs. 472 crores in the next year.

12. For enhancing production in agriculture and allied sectors, it is essential to extend facilities of rural electrification. At present, about 77 per cent of the total rural mouzas in the State is covered under rural electrification. In the current year, we have decided to take a major step in this sphere, by increasing the coverage by 10 per cent and extending the electrification facilities to 87 per cent of the rural mouzas. Keeping this target in view, the

plan outlay under rural electrification will be enhanced from Rs. 50 crores in the last year to Rs. 125 crores in the current year 1997-98. The plan outlay for the entire power sector is also being increased from Rs. 1,217 crores in the last year to Rs. 1,318 cores in the current year. The issue is once again not only of the requirement of funds. Along with fund provisioning, innovative organisational steps will also be taken towards decentralisation at two levels. On the one hand, within the West Bengal State Electricity Board itself, there will be a special setup, appropriately decentralised to monitor the implementation of the programe regularly. On the other hand, Zilla Parishads in the districts will be given additional responsibility in the sphere of implementation. In this regard, they will get the assistance of the West Bengal State Electricity Board. At the same time, depending on the need for the programme, the Zilla Parishads can also appoint technical personnel and skilled people on contract basis and with accountability. The local people could also be involved through the “beneficiary committees” to ensure accountability at the base level. In coordination with the State level, this may be another example of accountable decentralisation.

13. Along with extension of electrification facilities, the development of infrastructure relating to roads and transport is also essential. The plan outlay for roads and transport is therefore proposed to be increased from Rs. 183 crores in he last year to Rs. 260 cores in the current year. In this sphere, again, the provisioning of funds is not the only issue. In a manner similar to irrigation and power sectors, attempts will also be made here at involving the local people through the “beneficiary committees”, and under the general supervision of the Panchayats, in the formulation and implementation of road schemes in relation to the level of districts and below.

14. With the objective of mobilising additional resources for significant infrastructural projects, a new Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation has just been set up under the State Government. In coordination with the State Planning Board, concerned departments and District Planning Committees, this Corporation will provide funds to the tune of Rs. 50 crores in the current year for important schemes of infrastructural development. The State Government has already contributed Rs. 15 cores for equity contribution to this corporation. Any specific scheme important for agricultural or industrial growth (such as roads, bridges etc.) conceived as a joint-sector project, including BOT projects, involving the departmental agencies or Zilla Parishads, would also qualify for support from this corporation.

15. It needs to be noted that there has not only been an increase in the total production in agriculture and allied sectors, but since the basis of this increase has been land reforms, there has also been an improvement in income and purchasing power of the common people in rural areas. From the latest data relating to the State Domestic Product, it is found that income of the people of rural areas of the State has now crossed Rs. 30 thousand crores, and from out of this income nearly Rs. 9 thousand crores are being spent by the people in rural areas on the industrial goods. In other words, a new internal market and demand for industrial goods has been created within the State itself.

16. A part of this demand is related to industrial consumer goods for the common rural people. Other parts of the demand for industries are related to the agricultural inputs and processing of the agricultural and horticultural produce. In addition, new industrial possibilities have emerged in relation to leather and diversification of jute products. After the recent partial abolition of freight equalisation, the State has also started speedily recovering its natural locational advantage in iron and steel and engineering industries. In the sphere of modern industries, the State has a special comparative advantage in the sphere of software and services due to the availability of efficient technical personnel. Finally, after overcoming all obstacles, the implementation of the all-important Haldia Petrochemicals Project has also started.

17. For these positive developments in the industrial sphere, in addition to the factors related to internal market, abolition of freight equalisation, availability of technical personnel and skilled workers, a special basis has also been provided by the improved power situation, socio-economic stability and the geographical location of the State in relation to the south-east Asian countries. It is due to the collective effect of all these factors that the curve for industrial investment in the State has at present become sharply rising. During the period from 1991 to 1996, of the total number of 1,406 industrial approvals involving investment of Rs. 31,527 crores, 214 projects involving Rs. 6,728 crores have already completed their implementation, and started production providing employment to 19,943 persons. In addition, 76 projects involving Rs. 1,800 crores are already under construction. On the basis of actual implementation of industrial projects, the rate of growth of industrial production of the State has increased from 2.8 per cent in 1993-94 to 6.9 per cent in 1994-95, and then it has increased further to 10.8 per cent in 1995-96. In the last year, although in the first six months this rate of growth has been 8.7 per cent, it may once

again cross 10 per cent, and may improve even further in the next year. It may be noted here that although the Haldia Petrochemicals project has started its construction, its activities are not yet included in the index for industrial growth. When, within the next two years, the construction of this project will be over, followed by the new joint sector steel project at Durgapur, the joint sector PTA project at Haldia and the joint sector Paharpur Fertiliser project, along with all their ancillary small scale units, then the rate of growth of industrial index will scale new heights.

18. The positive outcome of these new industrial possibilities will take place not only in and around Calcutta, but also in all the districts. In the industrial development of districts, the Zilla Parishads will be specifically associated, particularly for expeditious provisioning of land and other facilities. Keeping this in view, if the Zilla Parishads in coordination with the Departments of Commerce and Industries and the Cottage and Small Scale Industries, come forward directly or through joint sector efforts to set up industrial parks, then funds will be appropriately provided from the State Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation proposed earlier.

19. In this district-based industrialisation, along with the large industries, the role of small industries will be very significant, particularly for reasons of ensuring competition and also employment generation. It is our intention that in this positive situation of industrial resurgence, the common industrialists and the common businessmen should come forwards to set up small scale units. In order to encourage the growth of small-scale units, a special employment programme through the setting up of small-scale units in urban and semi-urban areas of the State has already been started by the State Government in the current year. Under this programme, 10 per cent of the project cost is being provided as subsidy by the State Government, 15 per cent as promoter's own contribution and rest as loans from the banks and financial institutions. In the last year, the total project cost has been considered at Rs. 250 crores, and a sum of Rs. 25 crores provided as subsidy in the subject. The response to this project has been so positive that we have decided to raise the sum for the total project cost of Rs. 350 crores, and the State's provision of subsidy to Rs. 35 crores in the next year.

20. It is relevant to mention in this context that the West Bengal Financial Corporation (WBFC) has recently obtained permission from the Reserve Bank of India to obtain deposits also. It has therefore been decided

that the WBFC will not restrict their branches at the level of districts only, but extend the branches gradually to the level of blocks as well. It has also been decided that these decentralised block-level branches will be set up with a strict sense of accountability. Simultaneously, the cooperative banks will also be further extended at the grass-root level. The WBFC and the cooperative banks, in mutual coordination, will extend loans to the small industrialists, the small farmers and other common producers on the basis of projects which are both viable and employment generating. It is also desirable that in these development efforts, the nationalised banks should come forward to play a positive role and increase their credit-deposit ratio by at least 10 per cent in the State. In this positive climate of industrialisation, efforts will also be made at the revival of closed and sick units by making special provision for proper use of the surplus land of the factories and also credit facilities. Keeping this entire perspective in view, the target for rate of growth of the entire industrial sector, including the large, medium and small units, has been fixed at 9.4 per cent and that of employment generation at about 45 thousand in the current year.

21. In coordination with production efforts in industry and agriculture, and in the interests of both the common producer and the common consumer, it is necessary to have some social control over the marketing sphere and set up a public distribution system for essential items. In the interest of common people, we have therefore repeatedly urged the need for a subsidised public distribution system from the national level. The public distribution system which has been recently announced does not fully reflect our views. The implementation of this present scheme will start, but we will make persistent efforts to improve its scope.

22. At the same time, we intend to resolve a continuing problem in the structure of public distribution at the State level. West Bengal has now occupied, as already mentioned, the foremost position among the States in the production of rice which has reached a figure of about 120 lakh tones per year. In spite of this, the annual target of 3.5 lakh tonnes of procurement of rice has remained unfulfilled over the years. On the other hand, because the quality of rice given to us from the central pool is inferior to the local rice, the off-take through the ration shops is only about 40 per cent. As a result, in spite of the legal restrictions on the sale of foodgrains in the Statutory Rationing areas, the sale of rice is taking place in the open market

in an unrestricted manner. It is time that we bring this anomalous situation under some measure of social control. Accordingly, we have decided that the rice mills will have to meet their levy obligation, and they will be permitted to sell rice in Calcutta and other industrial areas in the Statutory Rationing areas through the West Bengal Essential Commodities Supply Corporation (WBECS) and the existing ration shops. Husking mills would also be brought under a similar arrangement. If this proposed scheme is effectively implemented, then self-reliance of the State for its own rice-reserve will increase; the common farmers and the consumers will be benefited; there will be restriction on the market price of rice and the modern rice mills will also become more viable industries in the districts. If, as a consequence, there is a growth in the number of modern rice mills, particularly with facilities to extract rice bran oil, then the deficit of the State in edible oil will also be reduced. In the interest of further strengthening of the public distribution system, we are also planning to set up, under the social control of the State Government, a network of godowns at the block level in the districts. If the public distribution thus becomes more significant, then efforts will be made to sell handloom saris at a fair price through the ration shops to protect the interests of both the handloom weavers and the consumers. On the basis of all these steps, it should be possible to effect a growth of trade by about 8.9 per cent in the next year, with the possibility of 1.15 lakhs of additional employment generation from the trade sector.

23. In the sphere of education, as has already been expressed by the Chief Minister in the last meeting of the National Development Council on the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan that we have adopted the target of universalisation of elementary education during the Ninth Plan period. As a part of this objective, it has been decided to set up, in addition to 1000 primary schools in the conventional manner, another 1000 primary education centres. These educational centres will be under the general supervision of the concerned Panchayat Samitis, and will be under the direct management of the concerned village education societies where at least 50 per cent members will be the guardians of the students. The teachers will be recruited, and their terms will be renewed on the basis of accountability. Similarly, 341 such type of higher secondary schools will also be additionally set up at the level of each block under the general supervision of the Panchayat Samitis and management by the concerned management committee, with adequate representation of guardians and where teachers will again

be recruited on the norm of accountability. A special feature of these schools is that from the level of Class VIII, specific arrangement would be made for modern vocational training. At the same time, for the next stage, 50 more polytechnic institutes will be set up to impart necessary modern training in the sphere of industry, agriculture and allied sectors. Trainers for these polytechnics will again be employed on the basis of accountability. Keeping these considerations in mind, the plan outlay under education has been increased from Rs. 136 crores in the last year to Rs. 189 crores in the current year. The non-plan outlay on account of salary of teachers, maintenance of building etc. would be around Rs. 2,455 Crores.

24. For primary health care under the basic minimum needs, no specific target has yet been set from the national level in the Ninth Plan period. There is, however, a national goal already declared for achieving to lower by 2000 AD death rate, infant mortality rate and birth rate to 9.0, 60 and 21 respectively. Against the present all-India figures of 9.0, 74 and 28.3 for these rates, the corresponding rates have already been lowered in West Bengal to 7.7, 59 and 23.6 respectively. Under these circumstances, we have decided to set the targets for lowering these rates in West Bengal further to 6.5, 45 and 20 to be achieved by the end of the Ninth Plan period. Keeping this importance of primary health care in view, it has been decided to associate the Panchayats in the functioning of the primary health centres and sub-centres in the districts, and also recruit, if necessary, the doctors and other staff on contractual basis. At the same time, a special emphasis has been placed in the comprehensive improvement of the hospitals in the districts. In this context, on the basis of positive experience gathered in the running of hospitals on the principles of contract-based employment in some of the municipalities, if similar efforts are made at the district-level to set up required hospitals on this principle of accountability, then to help such efforts, specific provision has been made under relevant heads in the Budget. Keeping all these considerations in view, plan outlay under the health sector has been increased from Rs. 72 crores in the last year to Rs. 227 crores in the current year. The non-plan outlay on account of medicine, maintenance, medical personnel etc. would be around Rs. 641 crores.

25. Another important item under the programme in basic minimum needs relates to the provision of safe drinking water. No time-specific target has again been fixed at the national level in the Ninth Plan period. In our State, even after providing at least one source of drinking water in every village, there is still a need for regular maintenance and improvement in

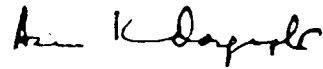
terms of norms of availability. We have therefore decided to fulfil these additional objectives within the specific period of the Ninth Plan. Keeping these objectives in mind, the plan outlay for the Public Health Engineering Department has been increased from Rs. 53 crores in the current year to Rs. 102 crores in the next year. At the same time, special efforts are being made, with the assistance of the Central Government, to redress the problem relating to arsenic-pollution.

26. The State Government has attached a very special importance to the need of preventing environmental pollution in general. To this end, effective steps have recently been taken to prevent industrial and noise pollution. Keeping, in the interest of common people, a proper balance between the need for environmental improvement and that for production activities, environmental measures will be strengthened in the current year. In the sphere of urban development, along with the development programme for Calcutta, a special attention is being given to the development needs of the district towns as well. As a part of this approach, a specific priority will be given to infrastructural development of the slums and residential areas of lower income groups in Calcutta and all other towns. In the implementation of all these urban programmes, the local people would again be directly associated through the ward committees under the municipalities. With these priorities, the plan outlay under urban development is proposed to be increased from Rs. 326 crores in the last year to Rs. 408 crores in the current year.

27. If the activities of these sectors are aggregated, then the rate of growth of this sub-aggregate of these sectors on the basis of existing trend, can be stipulated at 7.9 per cent with employment generation of about 2.31 lakhs in the current year.

28. It may be noted that the stipulated rate of growth of output and corresponding employment generation for the sectors relating to agriculture, industry and trade have already been mentioned. If now the sectoral activities of all the spheres, relating to agriculture, industry, trade and other sectors, are finally aggregated, then, on the basis of prevailing trends in output-employment relations and policy actions, it would be possible to obtain the aggregate rate of growth of the State economy at 8 per cent, with corresponding aggregate employment generation of about 6 lakhs in the next year, as mentioned earlier.

29. If the plan outlays of all the sectors are aggregated, then the total State plan outlay will increase by 24 per cent, from Rs. 3,165 crores in the current year to Rs. 3,922 crores in the next year. Of this total State plan outlay, contribution of the Central Plan Assistance would be about 23 per cent. The remaining portion will be provided again by the State's own efforts at resource mobilisation. The plan expenditure will then be carried out on the basis of social objectives and participatory decentralised planning, as I have mentioned at the outset.



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Calcutta,
29th May 1997

Review of the Eighth Plan 1992-97

REVIEW OF THE EIGHTH PLAN

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 positions in respect of approved plan outlay and budgetted outlay during Eighth Five Year Plan were as follows :

Sl. No.	Major Head	Eighth Plan outlay 1992-97	Percentage	Budgetted outlay for 5 yrs. from 1992-93 to 1996-97.	Percentage	Deviation Col. 4 & Col. 6
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I.	Agriculture and Allied Activities.	60932.00	6.14	45953.49	4.62	(-) 1.52
II.	Rural Development	68662.00	6.92	73047.79	7.36	0.44
III.	Special Area Programme	14435.00	1.45	15985.58	1.61	0.16
IV.	Irrigation and Flood Control	119800.00	12.07	92417.00	9.31	(-) 2.76
V.	Energy	302088.00	30.42	305868.00	30.80	0.38
VI.	Industry & Minerals	107478.00	10.82	85603.98	8.62	(-) 2.20
VII.	Transport	57515.00	5.79	62955.17	6.34	0.55
VIII.	Science, Technology & Environment	2587.00	0.26	1982.90	0.20	(-) 0.06
IX.	General Economic Services	9455.00	0.95	70573.69	7.11	6.16
X.	Social Services	239231.00	24.09	235514.37	23.72	(-) 0.37
XI.	General Services	10817.00	1.09	14622.43	1.47	0.38
GRAND TOTAL :		993000.00	100.00	1004524.40	101.16	1.16

It would appear that sectoral budgetary allocations of the Eighth Plan underwent some changes as revealed in the above statement but they had been necessiated by the emerging

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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/ Anti. Exp. during the 1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I.	Agriculture & Allied Activities	8933.46 4510.29	6437.35 5978.01	8832.05 6984.52	9676.95 8758.51	11958.10 12542.46
II.	Rural Development	9733.25 9653.61	9441.00 11946.15	13170.19 17948.42	15243.00 12643.84	25410.35 38737.85
III.	Spl. Area Programme	3193.87 1519.24	2363.99 2505.77	3355.03 3661.81	3044.50 2807.12	4028.19 4072.64
IV.	Irrigation & Flood Control	15799.00 9789.27	15247.00 18729.31	18583.00 15916.63	17070.00 16518.23	25718.00 26335.25
V.	Energy	46155.00 27261.92	32190.00 35842.31	30109.50 57307.33	75786.50 93082.34	121677.00 30444.00
VI.	Industry & Minerals	18437.35 6891.91	12916.58 8827.09	13699.00 21633.56	19369.05 10332.94	21182.00 21894.73
VII.	Transport	9503.67 8604.38	8392.00 9838.12	11719.50 12129.51	15070.00 11783.66	18270.00 19371.00
VIII.	Communication	—	—	—	—	—
IX.	Science & Technology & Environment	315.90 60.90	206.00 100.05	192.00 133.82	222.00 169.07	1029.00 1029.00
X.	General Economic Services	1369.39 614.25	36971.26 826.59	27747.63 5298.94	2230.08 6548.17	2388.91 23416.41
XI.	Social Service	34494.39 18686.54	29494.54 24361.64	41591.13 27660.15	58395.30 47826.31	71539.01 68018.44
XII.	General Service	2164.72 1184.13	1340.28 1411.25	1600.97 1526.49	4622.62 4157.29	4893.84 4901.34
Total :		150100.00 88776.44	155000.00 120366.29	170600.00 170201.18	220730.00 214627.48	308094.40 250763.12

SOME SECTORAL SCENARIO

Agriculture and Allied Activities

The basic objective in the Agriculture sector in the Eighth Plan was to increase agricultural production and productivity through wide spread application of improved technol-

ogy, bringing larger areas under HYV through the supply of quality seeds and specially by increasing areas under summer rice, accelerating the spread of irrigation in the State and pari passu raising the cropping intensity. And as the growth foci in the agricultural sector in the State is the small and marginal farmers special efforts were made to supply crucial non-land inputs like seeds, fertilisers, irrigation and credit to these cultivators during the Eighth Plan.

The State has done well in the production of foodgrains as can be seen from the following Table.

Crop Season	Seventh Plan Achievement (Av. of 5 yrs. from 1985-86 to 1989-90)	Achievement of 4 yrs. from 1992-93 to 1995-96)	Percentage increase
1. Autumn Rice	7.73	8.78	13.58
2. Winter Rice	66.30	79.79	20.34
3. Summer Rice	20.37	30.61	50.27
Total Rice :	94.41	119.19	26.24

The actual achievement in the fourth year (1995) of the Eighth Plan was 118.86 lakh tonnes against the target of 117.88 lakh tonnes. The target of 120.81 lakh tonnes fixed for 1996-97 are also likely to be achieved.

In comparison with the Seventh Plan period there has been a reduction of about 15% of area under Autumn Rice in the Eighth Plan while the coverage under Summer Rice has increased by about 48%. The productivity of Winter Rice has gone up from 1868 K.Gs to 2607 K.Gs (an increase of 16.24%).

In the Animal Husbandry sector the basic strategy has been to improve the quality of the stock of livestock and poultry population by distributing quality species to the farmers, providing cross breeding facilities through artificial insemination, encouraging the wide spread application of scientific methods of rearing livestock and poultry among farmers, increasing the supply of fodder and animal feed and providing scientific veterinary cover. The milk production has increased from the level of 17.2 lakhs tonnes in 1981-82 to 32.50 lakh tonnes in 1994-95 and to 33.41 lakh tonnes in 1995-96. The annual growth rate has been higher than the all India growth rate.

The production of eggs increased from 2500 millions in 1994-95 to 2568 millions in 1995-96. West Bengal is the third largest producer of eggs among the States in India.

Production in Animal Husbandry Sector

	1994-95	1995-96
Milk (Lakh Tonnes)	32.50	33.41
Eggs (Million No.)	2500	2568
Broiler (Lakh No.)	450	475
Meat ('000 MT)	470.80	416.00

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Production of fish in the State over the last decade has more than doubled from around 4 lakh tonnes in 1984-85 to about 9 lakh tonnes in 1995-96. At present West Bengal is the largest producer of fish among the States in India.

Production of Fish and Fish Seeds in West Bengal

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Anticipated)
Inland ('000 M. T.)	699.22	740.00	760.00
Marine ('000 M. T.)	151.42	153.00	170.00
Total Fish Production ('000 M. T.)	820.42	893.00	930.00
Fish Seeds (in Million)	8126	8180	8400

West Bengal is the largest producer of fish seeds in India. There are 18 fish farmers development agencies working in the State. During the Eighth Plan period, 5387 hectares of beels have been developed under assistance of the National Co-operative Development Corporation for development of beels into productive fisheries.

The recorded forest cover of 11379 K. M. constitute about 13.4% of the total area of the State. As a result of massive programme of afforestation carried out in the State over the last decade, the actual forest cover in the State as revealed by Satellite imagery carried out jointly by IIT Kharagpur and Forest Department has gone up to 15.06% by December, 1994 and vegetative cover in the State was around 19.98 per cent in December, 1994 as can be seen from the table below :

Recorded Forest Land	Survey Period	Percentage of Forest Cover.	Percentage of Vegetation Cover
13.4	Oct./Nov. 1988	14.32	18.93
13.4	Nov./Dec. 1991	14.92	19.90
13.4	Nov./Dec. 1994	15.06	19.98

Rural Development

Under Rural Development a number of income and employment generating schemes like IRDP, JRY, EAS etc. were implemented to assist the rural poor specially during slack agricultural season by involving them in the social assets like roads, culverts, school buildings, irrigation facilities like ponds, dug-wells etc.

Under IRDP, poor families were assisted through credit from commercial banks and subsidy from the Government to take up income generating schemes on a sustainable basis. Utilisation of fund allocated under IRDP was 89.5% of the total allocation for the year 1995-96.

For the year 1996-97 up to December, 1996 the percentage of utilisation was 44.87 of the total allocation to this programme. Per family investment under IRDP during 1995-96 was Rs. 9455/- Credit availability was a major problem for the achievement of the target. Under IRDP 31.46 lakh families have been assisted till date. In 1995-96 1.62 lakh families were assisted against 1.60 lakhs families assisted in 1994-95. Upto November, 1996 62,793 families were assisted under IRDP and the estimated number of families to be covered during 1996-97 was around 1.5 Lakhs. The details of IRDP Programme in the last few years are shown below :

Year	Financial Achievement (Rs. lakhs)	Physical Achievement (No. of families)	Per capita Investment (Rs.)
1994-95	6,196.36	1,59,722	8,187.80
1995-96	6,592.54	1,61,724	9,454.60
1996-97 (Upto Nov. '96)	2,937.94	62,793	10,602.85

Under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana the landless rural poor are provided employment by involving them in the construction of social assets like dug wells, irrigation tanks, rural roads, sanitation etc. JRY in the State is formulated and implemented by the Panchayats. From 1989-90 to 1995-96, 20,252 Km of field channels were constructed creating minor irrigation potential of 1.31 lakhs hectares. 85,471 Km of rural roads, 32,523 sanitary latrines, 65,382 houses for SCs and 29,109 houses for STs, 38,852 wells etc. were also constructed. Further, 4,167,05 trees covering 1,16,227 hectares were planted under JRY during this period. In 1995-96, under JRY, Rs. 312.35 crores were spent generating 423.61 lakh mandays of employment; of this 154.66 lakh mandays were for scheduled castes and 60.35 lakh mandays were for scheduled tribes. Thus the share of SC and ST beneficiaries in the total employment generated under JRY was over 50 per cent. The share of the landless and women in the total mandays generated were 265.61 lakh mandays and 109.88 lakh mandays respectively.

In 1996-97 the two components of JRY, Million Wells Schemes (MWS) and Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) have been separated. Under JRY (excluding MWS and IAY) in 1996-97, upto November, 1996, Rs. 132.51 crore were spent generating employment for 114.42 lakh mandays, of which 31.38 lakh mandays were for women, 42.91 lakh mandays for SCs and 15.83 lakh mandays for STs.

Expenditure and Employment Generated under JRY

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Upto Nov. 1996)
1. Expenditure (Rs. Crores)	309.72	312.35	132.51
2. Employment (Lakh mandays)	600.40	423.61	114.42
i) Percentage of SC & ST in (2)	50.56	50.76	51.34
ii) Percentage of Women in (2)	26.43	25.94	27.43

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Out of total of 341 Blocks in the State 214 Blocks have been covered under Employment Assurance Scheme. The number of persons registered under EAS since its inception is 48.41 Lakhs. In 1995-96 143.08 Lakhs mandays of employment were generated under EAS. The physical assets created under EAS in 1995-96 include 2,939 water conservation units and 2,998 irrigation units with irrigation potential of 10,046 hectares, 1,318 Km of village link roads, 307 Anganwadi houses and repair of 2,611 primary schools with 2,144 class rooms etc. In 1996-97 (upto February, 1997) 143.26 lakh mandays were generated as against 146.08 lakh mandays of employment generated over the 1995-96.

IRRIGATION

As against the ultimate irrigation potential of 23 lakhs hectares under major/medium irrigation, potential created in the State by March, 1992 was 12.56 lakhs hectares and in the case of minor irrigation the corresponding figures were 44 lakhs (Surface water 13 lakh hectares and ground water 31 lakh hectares) hectares and 27.72 lakhs hectares respectively. During Eighth Plan the State has done very well in achieving target for creation/utilisation of minor irrigation potential. 30.89 lakh hectares of gross minor irrigation potential was created at the end of the Eighth Plan. Potential created through major and medium irrigation schemes for the last few years is shown below :

Year	Potential created in '000 ha
1992-93	1265
1993-94	1294
1994-95	1307
1995-96	1315 (approximate)
1996-97	1347 (")

Teesta Barrage Project, the largest Irrigation Project in the State would irrigate about 9.22 lakh hectares in six Northern districts when completed. The first sub-stage of stage-I of this Project has been under execution and during the Eighth Five Year Plan expected Irrigation potential created was of the order of 72.83 thousand hectares.

POWER

Total installed capacity of the power stations situated within the State including the State, Central and Private power stations, is 5750 M. W. But the effective capacity of these power stations at present is 5680.2 M. W. The Table below indicates the position of the installed capacity in the State.

At the end of the Year	Installed capacity (MW)
1993-94	4456.0
1994-95	4956.0
1995-96	5481.5
1996-97 (November, 1996)	5680.2

Installed power generating capacity of the State sector by the end of 1991-92 was 3105.39 MW. Under the Eighth Plan period it was programmed to add a capacity of 537.5 MW (117.5 Hydro and 420 MW thermal) out of which 470 MW capacity could be added during 1995-96.

Electricity generation in the State increased to 14,200 million units in 94-95 from 8309 million units in 1989-90 registering an annual compound growth rate of 11.31%. The revised estimate of availability of power for the year 96-97 is 11,775.45 M. W. of which the share of net own generation is about 32.9%. The per capita consumption of energy of the State which was stagnating in the range of 135-137 (kwh) between 1985-86 to 1989-90 increased to 151 (kwh) in 1991-92 and has since further increased.

Important Power Projects implemented during the Eighth Five Year Plan included Teesta Canal Fall Hydro Electric Project, Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project and Purulia Pumped Storage Scheme. Teesta Canal Fall Hydro Electric Project has been completed and would be commissioned soon.

Rural electrification

The WBSEB has a command area which does not include State's major industrial and commercial establishment and it is rather difficult for WBSEB to set aside sufficient fund for rural electrification from its revenue collection after meeting its obligations, such as debt servicing, purchase of power from other utilities, system augmentation etc. But for the norms of rural electrification of REC Ltd. achievements under rural electrification were rather modest.

Rural Electrification during Eighth Plan

At the end of the year	No. of virgin Mouzas Electrified	Percentage of Virgin Mouzas	No. of Pump-sets Energised
1	2	3	4
1992-93	28455	74.83	94710
1993-94	28806	75.75	96988
1994-95	29116	76.57	99254
1995-96	29205	76.81	101232
1996-97	29264	76.96	102773

In addition to the programme of State Electricity Board, the State Government also provided additional fund for rural electrification to the District Planning Committees. During 1995-96, Rs. 3641 lakhs were released to Seventeen District Planning Committees. For the year 1996-97 the State Government considered rural electrification as Basic Minimum Services relevant for the State and Rs. 2200.85 lakhs were released to District Planning Committees for rural electrification for the Seventeen districts of our State.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

During the Eighth Five Year Plan the Technical Education and Training Department endeavoured to match the changing trend in the industrial scenario of the State with the national and global perspective. 25 Community/Polytechnics have started their manpower development

Review of the Eighth Plan

programmes with 30 different trades. There are 20 Junior Technical Schools in the State with 9 different Trade Courses (identical to those of ITI courses) with admission of capacity of around 1000 students. In addition, 23 ITI/ITCs impart training to meet the demand of skilled personnel of Supervisor at the shop floor level. Two Polytechnics exclusively for women with Architecture and Telecom Engineering have been set up in Chandernagore and Siliguri.

The facilities at all the Polytechnics are being upgraded with the help of World Bank Loan.

A new Government Engineering College has been started at Kalyani and another new Engineering College has been founded at Haldia with Government support.

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

“Health for all by 2000 A. D.” is being implemented by way of extending institutional health care services. 402 hospitals (including Government and non-Government voluntary organisation) and 1266 health centres (including rural hospitals) are functioning at present with provision of 56199 and 12587 beds respectively. The number of beds in the hospital health centres and clinics taken together have increased to 68907 in 1995-96 from 67075 in 1992-93. The Number of additional Doctors and Nurses appointed during the Eighth Five Year Plan was 4082 and 2500 respectively. The Doctor population ratio at the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan was at 1 : 2160 and of Nurse and Patient ratio was 1 : 5.

State Health System Development Project-II with the assistance of the World Bank has been taken up in 1996 at a project cost of Rs. 701 crores.

The State has achieved considerably in the areas of Birth rate, Death rate and IMR which broadly indicate overall performance in the Health & Family Welfare sector and are as follows :-

	<u>West Bengal</u>	<u>National average</u>
Birth rate	23.6	28.3
Death rate	7.7	9.0
Infant mortality	59	74

RURAL WATER SUPPLY

Safe Drinking Water supply was an important area of the Eighth Five Year Plan in the State. At the beginning of the Eighth Plan the number of fully covered villages under water supply stood at 16360 and the number partial covered villages was 15611. The target in the Eighth Five Year Plan was to fully cover 15611 partial covered problem villages.

However, the survey of drinking water status changed the concept of the villages to habitations. Of the 80377 habitations, only 28889 were fully covered, 20441 partial covered and 31047 were not covered at all. A validation survey conducted by the Govt. of India indicated that as on 1.4.95 there were 6178 habitations remaining uncovered. Gradual progress of coverage of habitation is indicated below :

	<u>As on 1.4.95</u>	<u>As on 1.4.96</u>	<u>As on 1.4.97 (Target)</u>
NC	6178	2993	—
PC	31221	29840	30833
FC	42978	47544	49544
Total :	80377	80377	80377

INDUSTRY

The growth of Small Scale & Cottage Industry in the State has taken shape as off-the-farm activities arising out of agricultural production and rural income. In this connection it may be pertinent to mention that while an important objective of the Eighth Plan was the growth of Cottage & Small Scale Industry economic reforms in the financial sector initiated by the Central Govt. undermined the prospect of achieving the desired objective. With the constraints of availability of bank credit the number of Small Scale units set up in the State in 1995-96 was 5434. The number of Small Scale units registered each year generally indicated growth potential of this sector. In 1994-95 14684 Small Scale units were registered and in 1995-96 number of Small Scale units registered was 16522. Of the Small Scale units registered a large number of them belong to the agriculture districts which indicate significant rise in agricultural production in the State and its linkage with growth of Small Scale sector.

The surge in industrial investment that began at the beginning of the Eighth Plan gained momentum from '94 onwards. While total investment from industrial approval of various kinds received by the State in '95 was 469 per cent higher than the corresponding investment in 1994, in 1996, upto 15th December, industrial approvals received by the State were for 262 projects involving an investment of Rs. 6224.76 crore. Thus between 1991 and 96 (upto 15th December) the number of approvals received by the State were 1406 entailing an investment of Rs. 31526.62 crore. This includes industrial approvals for 215 Non-Resident Indian and Foreign Direct Investment projects with an investment of Rs. 12291.28 crore. The rising interest of entrepreneurs to invest in the industrial sector of the State is also revealed by large number of investors approaching 'Silpa Bandhu', the one window facility operating under West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation. Between 1st November, 1994 and 31st January, 1997 'Silpa Bandhu' handled 909 cases, of which 857 were new units and 52 existing units with total capital outlay of Rs. 23554 crore. The pace of actual implementation of industrial project in the State has also been significant. During 1996, upto 15th December, 35 industrial units with total investment of Rs. 406.28 crore started commercial production and another 98 industrial units involving an investment of Rs. 3052 Crore are in advanced stages of implementation.

CHAPTER 1

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I-Agriculture and Allied Activities

I. AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED ACTIVITIES

1.1 CROP HUSBANDRY

1.1.1 Programme of the Agriculture Department

The State of West Bengal is located between 21°31' and 27°14' North Latitude and 85°91' and 80°53' East longitudes. The tropic of Cancer runs across the middle of the State covering the districts of Nadia, Burdwan, Bankura and Purulia.

West Bengal has a land area of 88.75 lakh hectares. With 2.7 per cent of the geographical area, it supports about 8 per cent of population of the country. The States population as per 1991 Census was around 68 million with a density of 766 per sq. km. which is second highest in the country. Out of the total population, 23.62 per cent belongs to Scheduled Castes and 5.59 per cent belongs to Scheduled Tribe communities.

The net cultivated area of the State is 54.63 lakh hectares (1994-95) and per capita availability of net sown area comes to less than 0.1 hectare.

West Bengal agriculture is dominated by small and marginal farmers being 73.82 and 17.82 per cent respectively (Agriculture Census 1990-91), and these 91.44 per cent farmers operate 66.45 per cent of net cultivable area, which will be evident from Table No. 1.1 below:

Table 1.1
Sub-regionwise small and marginal farmers and area under the operation

Region	Sub-Region	No. of holdings (in %) of small & marginal farmers	Area under operation (in %)
1. Eastern Himalayan Region	a) Hills	82.74	31.68
	b) Terai	89.95	52.33
2. Lower Gangetic Plain Region	a) Old Alluvium	90.30	65.50
	b) New Alluvium	91.34	68.50
	c) Coastal Saline	96.16	80.15
	d) Lateritic	68.33	67.17
3. Eastern Plateau and Hill Region	—	85.13	59.82
4. West Bengal	—	91.44	66.45

Cultivated land area in West Bengal is undergoing the gradual division of fragmentation thereby creating a condition which is not conducive to healthy growth and development of agriculture.

Agro-climatic Regions:

For scientific management of the regional resources and formulation of need based agricultural plans, the districts of West Bengal have been divided into three Agro-climatic regions out of 15 Agro-climatic regions in India. Taking district as the minimum unit and on the

Agriculture and Allied Activities

basis of soil topography, climate and cropping pattern, the regions have been further sub-divided as indicated below:

Regions	Sub-Region, Sub-Zones	District
Eastern Himalayan Region, Zone-II	a) Hills	Darjeeling, Jalpaigoori & Coochbehar
	b) Terai	
Lower Gangetic Plain Region, Zone-III	a) Old Alluvium	Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur and Malda.
	b) New Alluvium	Murshidabad, Nadia, Hooghly, Burdwan & North 24 Parganas
	c) Coastal Saline	South 24 Parganas Howrah & Midnapure (East).
	d) Lateritic	Birbhum, Bankura & Midnapore (West).
Eastern plateau and Hill Region, Zone-VII		Purulia.

This plan document has been prepared following the above delineation of Agro-climatic Region/Sub-Region.

Land Use & Other Information:

The densely populated State has primarily an agricultural land use system. Statistical data on land use pattern during 1994-95 of the State would show about 65% of the State's geographical area is available for agriculture of which about 95% is actually under agricultural use and 5% is uncultivable waste land including current fallow. Approximately 13.5% of the land area is under Forest.

The net cropped area percentage of geographical area of the State is about 62% against the national average of 46%. About 33% of the net cropped area is under irrigation. The gross cropped area during 1994-95 was 87.18 lakhs ha. Out of total geographical area of 88.7 lakh ha. the cropping intensity was 160%.

Agro-climatic Region/Sub-Regionwise Land use Statistics of West Bengal for the year 1994-95 is presented in Table 1.2. Information on cultivable area, net cropped area, gross cropped area and cropping intensity of West Bengal during 1994-95 has been presented in Table 1.3.

Table 1.2

Agro-climatic Region/Sub-Region wise Land Use Statistics of West Bengal for the year 1994-95

(Area in hectare)

Sl. No.	Sub-Region	Reporting Area	Forest Area (X1)	Area under non-Agril. used (X2)	Barren & unculturable land (X3)	Permanent pastures and other grazing lands (X4)	Land under misc. Tree Crops & Groves not included in net area sown (X5)	Culturable waste land (X6)	Fallow land other than current fallows (X7)	Current Fallows (X8)	Net Area Sown (X9)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Hill	3,25,469	1,24,574	32,337	6,538	1,374	1,885	1,923	3,623	9,815	1,43,400
2.	Terai	9,64,200	1,87,782	1,68,354	8,558	269	17,805	2,869	773	7,388	5,70,412
3.	Old Alluvium	9,03,359	3,640	1,18,991	447	23	6,424	706	542	37,171	7,35,415
4.	New Alluvium	23,12,659	31,617	5,32,614	8,206	591	20,962	16,512	5,703	25,721	16,71,323
5.	Coastal Saline	15,92,927	4,27,756	2,76,217	2,297	167	9,702	1,755	4,227	15,751	8,55,055
6.	Lateritic	19,73,308	3,32,986	3,68,517	9,301	3,930	20,206	25,982	14,960	35,167	11,58,987
7.	Eastern Plateau & Hill Region	6,14,038	85,830	93,965	8,779	1	985	12,531	4,434	78,518	3,28,995
WEST BENGAL :		86,85,960	11,94,185	15,90,995	47,399	6,355	77,378	62,268	34,262	2,09,531	54,63,587

Table 1.3**Cultivable Area, Net Cropped Area, Gross Cropped Area and Cropping Intensity of West Bengal during 1994-95***(Area in hectare)*

Sl. No.	District Name	Cultivable Area*	Net Cropped Area	Gross Cropped Area	Cropping Intensity (in per cent)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Darjeeling	1,56,838	1,43,400	1,50,726	105
2.	Jalpaiguri	3,25,972	3,21,532	4,54,818	141
3.	Cooch Behar	2,52,601	2,48,880	4,46,063	179
4.	Dinajpur (N&S)	4,71,685	4,49,290	7,17,530	160
5.	Malda	3,01,443	2,86,125	4,47,426	156
6.	Murshidabad	4,11,556	4,07,654	7,59,489	186
7.	Nadia	3,04,278	3,00,257	6,79,803	226
8.	24-Pgs. (N)	2,66,034	2,60,552	4,61,328	177
9.	24-Pgs. (S)	4,12,160	4,08,687	5,23,722	128
10.	Howrah	89,591	78,489	1,56,499	199
11.	Hooghly	2,29,806	2,28,954	4,70,510	205
12.	Burdwan	4,91,073	4,73,906	7,70,698	163
13.	Birbhum	3,18,500	3,10,000	4,49,691	145
14.	Bankura	4,01,035	3,79,233	5,14,111	136
15.	Purulia	4,11,947	3,28,995	3,57,419	109
16.	Midnapore (W)	4,89,579	4,69,754	7,48,953	159
17.	Midnapore (E)	3,73,282	3,67,879	6,09,380	166
WEST BENGAL		57,07,380	54,63,587	87,18,166	160

*Cultivable Area includes: Net Area Sown, Current Fallows and Fallow Land other than Current Fallows.

Review of Progress made during Eighth Plan**i) Weather Condition and Monsoon anomaly:**

West Bengal experienced varied weather condition, both favourable and unfavourable situation, like delayed onsets of monsoon and early withdrawal, prolonged break in monsoon and sometimes continued heavy rains causing flood both in the North Bengal and South Bengal districts. All these events have left their individual effect on the agricultural situation in the State, which have been indicated in Tables, 1.4 and 1.5.

Table 1.4
Monthly and Seasonal Rainfall (in mm.) Anomaly Monsoon—1996

Sl. No.	District/Region	June				July				August				September				Monsoon—'96 (June to September)			
		Act	Nor.	%D	RD	Act	Nor.	%D	RD	Act	Nor.	%D	RD	Act	Nor.	%D	RD	Act	Nor.	%D	RD
1.	Darjeeling	438	544	- 19	19	827	758	9	25	643	613	5	24	343	404	- 15	16	2251	2319	- 3	84
2.	Jalpaiguri	393	684	- 43	17	1618	774	109	24	643	658	- 2	20	253	561	- 55	9	2907	2677	9	70
3.	Cooch Behar	314	834	- 62	15	1152	747	54	22	510	581	- 12	15	234	591	- 60	9	2210	2753	- 20	61
4.	Uttar Dinajpur	257	346	- 26	15	639	560	14	17	371	400	- 7	15	297	342	- 13	11	1564	1648	- 5	58
5.	Dakshin																				
	Dinajpur	245	261	- 6	15	272	408	- 33	14	286	314	- 9	13	653	290	125	12	1456	1273	14	54
6.	Malda	212	253	- 16	11	265	292	- 9	11	330	284	16	13	433	287	51	11	1240	1116	11	46
7.	Murshidabad	268	245	9	13	203	281	- 28	14	322	298	8	18	166	229	- 28	11	959	1053	- 9	56
8.	Nadia	276	261	6	12	209	286	- 27	13	346	271	28	17	265	197	35	8	1096	1015	8	50
9.	Birbhum	247	198	25	13	255	272	- 6	16	445	293	52	17	139	246	- 43	9	1086	1009	8	55
10.	Bankura	324	257	326	12	269	336	- 20	13	446	319	40	18	147	197	- 25	8	1186	1109	7	51
11.	Purulia	479	241	99	11	296	289	2	13	387	274	41	18	193	224	- 14	9	1355	1028	32	51
12.	Burdwan	248	250	- 1	13	276	347	- 20	14	444	331	34	18	121	212	- 43	8	1089	1140	- 4	53
13.	Hooghly	242	256	- 5	12	223	316	- 29	14	544	278	96	19	119	287	- 59	8	1128	1137	- 1	53
14.	Midnapore (E)	198	248	- 20	12	222	291	- 24	13	535	377	42	18	122	304	- 60	7	1077	1220	- 12	50
15.	Midnapore (W)	331	252	31	13	296	334	- 11	14	389	342	14	18	108	226	- 52	7	1124	1154	- 3	52
16.	Howrah	342	290	18	14	136	331	- 59	11	551	334	65	20	99	253	- 61	7	1128	1208	- 7	52
17.	24-Pgs. (N)	312	256	22	12	208	316	- 34	15	377	278	36	18	169	287	- 41	10	1066	1137	- 6	55
18.	24-Pgs. (S)	284	297	- 4	16	328	363	- 10	16	724	356	103	22	167	255	- 35	9	1503	1271	18	63
Sub-Himalayan West Bengal		310	487	- 36		795	590	35		464	475	- 2		369	413	- 11		1938	1964	- 1	
Gangetic West Bengal		296	254	17		243	313	- 22		459	313	47		151	243	- 38		1149	1125	2	

Table 1.5

An Analytical assessment of Districtwise Seasonal and Annual Rainfall (mm) and Rainy days—1996

Sl. No.	District/Region	Winter				Hot Weather				Monsoon				Retreating Monsoon				Annual			
		Dec. '95-Feb. '96				March '96-May '96				June '96-Sept. '96				Oct. '96-Nov. '96				Jan. '96-Dec. '96			
		Act	Nor.	%D	R/D	Act	Nor.	%D	R/D	Act	Nor.	%D	R/D	Act	Nor.	%D	R/D	Act	Nor.	%D	RD
1.	Darjeeling	77	37	108	5	284	327	-13	15	2251	2319	-03	84	98	146	-32	6	2691	2829	-05	113
2.	Jalpaiguri	47	28	68	3	677	450	50	22	2907	2677	9	70	138	164	-16	7	3767	3319	13	106
3.	Cooch Behar	25	31	-19	3	576	622	-07	18	2210	2753	-20	61	74	202	-63	5	2883	2608	11	92
4.	Uttar Dinajpur	40	24	67	4	168	285	-41	6	1564	1648	-05	58	56	130	-57	4	1824	2087	-13	75
5.	Dakshin Dinajpur	17	20	-15	3	114	269	-58	5	1456	1273	14	54	68	128	-47	5	1647	1690	-03	67
6.	Malda	37	34	9	5	77	168	-54	4	1240	1116	11	46	74	135	-45	4	1418	1453	-02	58
7.	Murshidabad	29	34	-15	4	181	202	-10	5	959	1053	-09	56	139	128	09	4	1303	1417	-08	73
8.	Nadia	53	43	23	5	170	267	-36	5	1096	1015	08	50	172	149	15	3	1487	1474	01	67
9.	Birbhum	49	32	53	4	142	111	28	5	1086	1009	08	55	95	137	-31	4	1366	1289	06	71
10.	Bankura	57	52	10	4	72	156	-54	7	1186	1109	07	51	65	105	-38	4	1374	1422	-03	63
11.	Purulia	52	46	13	7	59	118	-50	7	1355	1038	32	51	27	90	-70	3	1476	1249	18	62
12.	Burdwan	41	50	-18	5	187	183	02	4	1089	1140	-04	53	110	123	-11	4	1424	1496	-05	71
13.	Hooghly	55	28	96	4	159	191	-17	6	1128	1137	-01	53	106	167	-37	4	1448	1523	-05	67
14.	Midnapore (E)	24	47	-49	3	89	188	-53	10	1077	1220	-12	50	153	169	-09	5	1343	1624	-17	63
15.	Midnapore (W)	44	54	-19	3	123	206	-40	9	1124	1154	-03	52	112	146	-23	5	1403	1560	-10	67
16.	Howrah	28	44	-36	3	70	219	-68	7	1128	1208	-07	52	124	154	-19	5	1350	1625	-17	66
17.	24-Pgs. (N)	34	28	21	4	214	191	12	7	1066	1137	-06	55	373	167	87	5	1626	1523	07	75
18.	24-Pgs. (S)	24	45	-47	2	78	197	-60	8	1503	1271	18	63	354	201	76	5	1959	1714	14	75
Sub-Himalayan West Bengal		41	29	41		316	353	-10		1938	1964	-01		84	151	-44		2371	2498	-05	
Gangetic West Bengal		40	42	-05		129	185	-30		1149	1125	02		147	145	01		1463	1493	-02	

ii) Food-grain production :

In spite of the rapid progress made in the production of foodgrains in the recent past, it has become difficult to keep pace with the increasing demand of the growing population of our State.

Rice: Rice occupies an area of about 58 lakh hac. which is about 66% of the gross cropped area. The principal rice growing season-Pre-Kharif and Kharif as Aus (Autumn Rice) and Aman (Winter Rice) accounts for about 83% of the total rice area. Summer rice having an area of about 17% contributes more than 25% of the total production. The coverage under Summer rice has increased to manifold, in the recent years.

Achievement made in the production of rice during the first four years of the Eighth Plan in comparison to Seventh Plan have been presented below :

Table 1.6

(Production in Lakh Tonnes)

Crop Season	7th Plan achievement (Average of 5 years from 1985-86 to 1989-90)	Achievement of 8th Plan (Av. of 4 yrs. from 1992-93 to 1995-96)	Percentage Increase
1. Autumn Rice	7.73	8.78	13.58
2. Winter Rice	66.30	79.79	20.34
3. Summer Rice	20.37	30.61	50.27
Total Rice	94.41	119.19	26.24

The actual achievement in the fourth year (1995-96) of the Eighth Plan was 118.86 Lakh tonnes against the target of 117.88 lakh tonnes. The target of terminal year of the Eighth Plan was fixed at 120.81 lakh tonnes, which is also expected to be achieved.

In comparison with the 7th Plan Period there has been a reduction of about 15% of area under Autumn Rice in the 8th Plan while the coverage under Summer Rice has increased by about 48%. The productivity of Winter Rice has gone up from 1607 kgs. to 1868 kgs. per ha. (an increase of 16.24%), Autumn Rice from 1258 kgs. to 1681 kgs. (an increase of 33.62%), Summer Rice from 2943 kgs. to 2980 kgs. (1.26% increase) and from 1738 kgs. to 2047 kgs. with an increase of 17.78% with all the 3 rice crops taken together.

During the year 1994-95, the state recorded the highest level of production ever achieved in respect of total food grains (132.78 lakh tonnes) and total rice (122.35 lakh tonnes) and Winter Rice (83.84 lakh tonnes), and so also in case of productivity 2077 kgs. 2120 kgs. and 1991 kgs. per hectare respectively.

Agriculture and Allied Activities

Table 1.7

Trend in area, production and productivity of total Foodgrains during the first 4 years of Eighth Plan period (1992-93 to 1995-96) in West Bengal

A = Area in '000 ha.

Y = Yield rate in kg./ha.

P = Production in '000 tonnes.

Crop	Item	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	Average (4 yrs.)
1. Autumn Rice	A	532.43	539.63	518.84	510.52	522.861
	Y	1712	1683	1615	1674	1681
	P	915.31	908.19	837.91	854.46	878.967
2. Winter Rice	A	4301.41	4290.85	4210.64	4282.79	4271.18
	Y	1849	1855	1991	1778	1868
	P	7955.14	7961.18	8384.96	7615.19	7979.12
3. Summer Rice	A	860.71	1045.04	1043.25	1160.13	1027.28
	Y	2992	3102	2888	2946	2980
	P	2574.96	3241.54	3013.01	3417.34	3061.71
Total Rice	A	5694.56	5875.52	5772.74	5953.45	5824.07
	Y	2010	2061	2120	1997	2047
	P	11445.41	12110.91	12235.88	11886.99	11919.79
4. Wheat	A	272.14	306.963	325.63	337.82	310.62
	Y	2158	2060	2286	2147	2164
	P	587.30	632.08	744.46	725.29	672.20
Total Cereals	A	6046.96	6262.45	6166.51	6362.49	6209.60
	Y	2016	2065	2132	2003	2054
	P	12190.21	12929.97	13144.03	12743.63	12751.96
5. Total Pulses	A	275.97	268.99	227.30	212.65	246.25
	Y	721	635	593	670	657
	P	198.93	170.85	134.95	142.54	161.82
Total Foodgrains	A	6322.94	6531.44	6399.90	6575.14	6455.861
	Y	1959	2006	2907	1960	2000
	P	12389.14	13100.82	13270.90	12886.18	12913.78
6. Rabi & Mustard	A	393.18	380.88	377.67	327.54	369.82
	Y	740	769	791	700	751
	P	290.77	292.80	298.55	229.15	277.817
7. Sesame	A	91.78	114.85	108.67	115.30	107.65
	Y	994	827	752	787	833
	P	91.18	94.87	81.69	90.72	89.64

Table 1.7 (Contd.)

Crop	Item	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	Average (4 yrs.)
Total Oilseeds	A	521.93	532.34	530.88	496.64	520.45
	Y	787	781	780	747	774
	P	290.77	292.80	298.55	229.15	402.92
8. Jute	A	493.32	475.20	507.93	515.84	498.07
	*Y	10.84	11.72	11.68	10.99	11.30
	**P	5347.20	5568.95	5934.42	5671.29	5630.46
9. Sugarcane	A	15.35	10.28	10.58	17.16	13.34
	Y	57894	52738	61293	76436	63539
	P	888.68	542.36	640.91	1311.79	847.93
10. Potato	A	220.75	230.91	232.34	255.88	234.97
	Y	21649	22396	23985	24456	23159
	P	4779.09	5171.59	5550.88	6258.02	5441.90

Note :

*Productivity in bales/ha.

**Production in '000 bales.

Table 1.8
Area, Production and Productivity of Foodgrains—Target & Achievement of
Eighth Plan period over Achievement of Seventh Plan in West Bengal

A—Area in '000 hectare.
 Y—Yield rate in kg./ha.
 P—Production '000 tonnes.

Crops	Achievement of 7th Plan Period (Average of 5 years from 1985-1986 to 1989-90)			Target of 8th Plan Period (Terminal year, 1996-97)			Achievement of 8th Plan Period (Average of 4 years from 1992-93 to 1995-96)		
	A	Y	P	A	Y	P	A	Y	P
1. Autumn Rice	614.7	1258	773.5	640.00	1445	924.80	522.861	1681	878.967
2. Winter Rice	4126.4	1607	6630.8	4175.00	1918	8007.650	4271.18	1868	7979.12
3. Summer Rice	692.3	2943	2037.6	1000.00	3149	3149.00	1027.284	2980	3061.712
Total Rice	5433.3	1738	9441.8	5815.00	2078	12081.45	5824.072	2047	11919.799
4. Wheat	340.8	1991	657.8	300.00	2100	630.00	310.628	2164	672.282
Total Cereals	5873.2	1747	10260.8	6215.00	2073	12883.05	6209.608	2054	12751.965
5. Total Pulses	357.0	623	222.3	340.00	678	230.52	246.252	657	161.82
Total Foodgrains	6230.2	1683	10483.1	6555.00	2000.5	13113.57	6455.861	2000	12913.786
6. Rape and Mustard	329.6	805	265.2	420.00	1200	504.00	369.820	751	277.817
7. Sesamum	96.8	718	69.5	130.00	950	123.50	107.655	833	89.646
Total Oilseeds	473.1	771	364.9	615.00	1138	700.00	520.452	774	402.934
8. Jute	502.7	10.15 *	5102.4 **	450.00	12.0*	5400.00	498.075	11.304	5630.465
9. Sugarcane	13.6	65507	890.9	16.50	83292	1374.38	13.345	63539	847.935
10. Potato	177.3	21395	3793.4	200.00	24000	4800.00	234.976	23159	5441.901

*Productivity in bales/ha.

**Production in '000 bales.

There has been an increase of total foodgrain production to the tune of 24.3 lakh tonnes i.e. 23% increase in the Eighth Plan Period over the Seventh Plan; this increase was 24.78 lakh tonnes, or 26% in case of rice production. There has been marginal increase of 14 thousand tonnes in case of wheat production, while the production of pulses had declined by 61 thousand tonnes (27.5%).

Total oilseed production increased by 10.4% (38 thousand tonnes) with an increase of coverage by about 10% during the same period. The increase of production in case of Rape and Mustard was to the tune of 4.75% and 12% in area, but the productivity was reduced from 805 kgs. to 751 kgs. per hectare.

The production of Jute increased to the tune of about 10.3%, inspite of reduction in the coverage of the crop. However, area, production and productivity of another commercial crop viz. sugarcane had declined marginally in the Eighth Plan Period over the Seventh Plan achievement.

A spectacular achievement had been made in case of Potato Crop. The increase of production was 43% and that of coverage by 32.5%; the productivity was increased by 2000 kgs. per hectare over the Seventh Plan.

The overall progress of the Eighth Plan (first 4 years) in respect of important crop can be considered satisfactory in comparison to the Seventh Plan Period.

iii) Inputs

a) *Seeds*: Quality seeds, basic input for raising the productivity and production of crop are being made internally by the West Bengal State Seed Corporation Ltd., Government Farms, Co-operative Societies and Private Organisations as per demand of the farmers. In spite of this, some seeds are also imported from other States. During the Eighth Plan Period a target for replacement of certified seeds was fixed, at 10% for paddy, 20% for jute and maize, 20% for moong, 4% for groundnut, 8% for lentil, 50% for groundnut, 20% for oilseeds, 50% in case of jute.

The achievements made during the 8th plan regarding distribution of quality seeds have been indicated below:

Table 1.9

(Qty. in Quintals)

Seeds	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Anticipated)
1. Cereals	1,40,275	2,75,244	3,21,600	3,05,000	2,67,600
2. Pulses	7,429	5,950	12,500	13,200	14,700
3. Oilseeds	11,621	13,250	15,525	16,525	17,625
4. Jute	18,500	18,500	18,500	18,500	18,500
5. Potato	3,00,000	3,00,000	3,00,000	3,00,000	3,00,000

Agriculture and Allied Activities

b) *Fertiliser* : The State has made great strides in the consumption of chemical fertilizer. The target fixed for supply of fertilizer in terms of Nutrient during the terminal year of the Eighth Plan Period was 9,32,000 Tonnes (N + P + K).

Quantity of fertilizers used during the Eighth Plan Period (quantity in terms of nutrients in tonnes) have been indicated below:

Table 1.10

Nutrient	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	
N	4,24,680	4,25,308	4,51,911	5,12,187	
P	2,12,644	1,83,212	1,77,711	1,95,221	
K	93,960	1,36,576	1,23,960	1,40,308	
Total:	<u>7,31,284</u>	<u>7,45,096</u>	<u>7,53,582</u>	<u>8,47,716</u>	
Consumption of Fertilizer in terms of Nutrient in kg. (per ha.)	90.5	87.6	89.7	100.00	
	Ratio of N + P + K				
	N	+	P	+	K
1992-93	4.5		2.2		1
1993-94	3.1		1.3		1
1994-95	3.6		1.4		1
1995-96	3.6		1.3		1

c) *Irrigation*: The irrigation is the most important input in boosting up the agricultural production. Irrigation potentials created provide supplementary irrigation during Kharif, Rabi and Summer seasons.

Irrigation potentials of the State is given below:

Table 1.11

(in '000 ha.)

Source	Cumulative Achievement		Achievement during				Target during '96-97	Anticipated at the end of Eighth Plan
	At the end of the Plan '89-90	At the end of '91-92	'92-93	'93-94	'94-95	'95-96		
Ground Water	1349.32	1470.14	44.38	70	75	80	80	1819.52
Surface Water	1147.13	1173.48	15.62	20	25	20	20	1274.10
Total	2496.45	2643.62	60.00	90	100	100	100	3093.62
Government Canals	NA	NA	896.73	1000.85	956.26	NA	NA	1314.05
Grand Total			956.73	1090.85	1056.26			4407.67

At the end of 1995-96 the Irrigation potential from ground water sources has been created to the tune of 17.39 lakh ha., that of surface water 12.54 lakh ha., and 13.1 lakh ha. under

Government Canal, with a total irrigation potential of about 43.00 lakh ha. which is about 49% of the gross cropped area.

d) *Plant Protection Chemicals*: For sustainable agricultural production, Plant Protection Chemicals have been considered as essential input in agricultural production. Indiscriminate and unilateral use of pesticides result in human and animal health hazards and ecological imbalance resistance to pesticides, resurgence of minor pests and environmental pollution. Keeping this in view Integrated Pest Management was launched in the 8th Plan period. This approach has been appreciated by the farmers leading to reduction of consumption of pesticides as would be evident from the following table:

**Use of Plant Protection Chemicals during the Eighth Plan Period
(Qty. in terms of Active ingredients in tonnes)**

Table 1.12

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1. Qty. used in tonnes	4625	4790	4500	4210	4297
2. Consumption of Plant protection chemicals in tonnes of active ingredients in kg./ha.	0.55	0.57	0.53	0.50	0.51

e) *Credit*: A target set out by the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) for the year, 1996-97 (Terminal year of 8th Plan) has been given hereunder:

i) Nationalised Bank	Rs. 34539.20 lakh
ii) Co-operative Sector	Rs. 17350.00 lakh
Total:	Rs. 51889.20 lakh

The overall performance of Kharif lending ('96-97) appears to be more or less satisfactory in case of co-operative sector.

f) *Implements*: The role of Agricultural Implements for increasing the production and productivity needs no special emphasis.

During the Eighth Plan Period, quite a substantial numbers of implements including small tractors have been provided under different schemes on subsidy specially for small & marginal farmers through both State & Central Government assistance.

Ninth Plan approach and Annual Plan 1997-98

(i) Sub-Regionwise Prioritisation of strategies for development during the Ninth Plan Period

Table 1.13

Region	Sub-Region	Constraints to Higher Productivity	Prioritisation of Strategies
1. Eastern Himalayan Region (Zone-II)	a) Hill	i) Slopy land and shallow depth of soil. ii) Low pH and high content of undecomposed organic matter. iii) Low temperature and persistent winter. iv) Lower No. of sunny days. v) Inadequate input supply infrastructure. vi) Inadequate marketing facilities.	i) Soil and Water Conservation. ii) Crop substitution and use of location-specific varieties. iii) Fruits, Flowers and Vegetables Cultivation. iv) Use of soil amendment and micro-nutrients. v) Vegetable seed production.
	b) Terai	i) Porous soil with low pH. ii) Micro-nutrient deficiency. iii) Lack of sunny days during rainy season. iv) High rainfall. v) Lack of irrigation facilities. vi) Economic backwardness of farmers. vii) Inadequate marketing infrastructure and storage and communication facilities.	i) Use of soil amendments. ii) Need-based use of micro-nutrients. iii) Soil Conservation and Irrigation Development. iv) Crop substitution including change of varieties and agronomic manipulation. v) Increased use of inputs and adoption of improved management practices.
2. Lower Gangetic & Plain Region (Zone-III)	a) Old Alluvium	i) Lower input use and micro-nutrient deficiency. ii) Considerable area of low lying and flood prone. iii) Lack of marketing infrastructure and storage facilities. iv) Inadequate irrigation facilities.	i) Use of more inputs and need-based micro-nutrients. ii) Crop substitution including changes of varieties crop and agronomic practices. iii) Development of irrigation.

Region	Sub-Region	Constraints to Higher Productivity	Prioritisation of Strategies
	b) New Alluvium.	i) Agro-ecological environment is generally conducive for crop growth in major areas.	i) Cultivation of high value crops and following more profitable cropping system.
	c) Coastal Saline	i) Soil salinity and drainage congestion. ii) Low level of use of inputs and low efficiency of use of fertiliser. iii) Lack of communication, storage, irrigation, power and marketing facilities. iv) Economic backwardness of farmers.	ii) Water management and increase in water use efficiency. iii) Increasing fertiliser use efficiency. iv) Growing of salt tolerant crops and varieties.
	d) Laterite	i) Undulating topography and shallow depth of soil with laterite structure in sub-soil particularly at higher situation. ii) Low pH and low content of organic matter, available N and P ₂ O ₅ . iii) Low level of use of Input. iv) Inadequate irrigation facilities. v) Sporadic micro-nutrient deficiency.	i) Use of soil amendment and need-based application of micro-nutrients. ii) Change in cropping system including varieties suiting to dry land farming. iii) Soil and moisture conservation including construction of water Harvesting structure.
3. Eastern Plateau & Hill Region (Zone-VII)	Purulia	As in the case of Laterite sub-region.	As in the case of Laterite Sub-region.

ii) Strategy for Agricultural Development in the Ninth Plan

It is proposed to continue twin objectives to increase the agricultural production and of social justice i.e. greater opportunity to the weaker sections to participate in such increased production. Small and marginal farmers constitute 17.62% and 73.82% respectively aggregating 91.4% of the total farming community and their operated area being 29.96% and 36.5% respectively of total cultivated area (totalling 66.46%). It is essential to boost up the productivity of their farms and to increase their income through mobilisation of all productive services to them.

The main objectives of the Ninth Five-Year Plan would be as follows:

- 1) Raising the agricultural production and productivity through wider adoption of appropriate ecology specific and cost effective technology.
- 2) Bringing more area under High yielding, hybrid and improved varieties of crops through increased supply of Certified/Quality Seeds, strengthening Seed Certification and Seed Testing Agency of the State.
- 3) Increasing the cropping intensity from the present level of 162% to 190% by the end of Ninth Plan (about 5% rise annually) in both irrigated and rainfed areas through replacement of existing crop, varieties, introduction of new cropping sequence to different agroclimatic conditions.
- 4) Special attempt would be made to increase production of pulses and oil seeds in non-traditional areas and non-conventional seasons utilizing residual moisture.
- 5) Small and marginal farmers will be encouraged to maintain the increased production tempo by providing different inputs on subsidy/reasonable price.
- 6) Training of farmers and establishment of demonstration centres in farmers' field on the latest know-how would be intensified.
- 7) Agricultural programmes would be intensified in the low productive areas, and inaccessible areas with special reference to Coastal Saline Zone, Lateritic Zone, Terai Zone and Hill Zone.
- 8) Agricultural programmes benefitting the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and also Farm Women would be intensified.
- 9) Farmers would be encouraged for mechanisation through the uses of agricultural implements.
- 10) Emphasis would be given to maintain soil health, use of Bio-fertiliser and green manuring balanced nutrition, consumptive use of irrigation water and conservation of surface water and their subsequent use in dry season through Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM), need-based use of Plant Protection materials and conservation of friendly insects through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) concept.
- 11) Emphasis would be given to set up Soil Testing Service up to District level for proper use of fertilizer.
- 12) Agricultural Extension Services including Training and Visit System of Extension would be strengthened to intensify the linkage between Research and Extension Worker.

Infrastructural facilities would also be developed for the interest of the farming community of the State.

- 13) Research Wing of the Agriculture Directorate and SAUS would be strengthened to solve the field problems of the farmers to boost up the agricultural production.
- 14) Infrastructural facilities of the existing Government Farms would be strengthened for increasing the production of quality seeds and making it a model demonstration centre for the farmers.
- 15) Emphasis would be given to crisis Management in the event of natural calamities.
- 16) With the adoption of latest know-how in the agricultural production programme more employment opportunity would be created and the socio-economic status of the farmers would be improved to a great extent.
- 17) The West Bengal State Seeds Corporation Ltd., would be persuaded for the constant supply and distribution of Certified seeds as per requirement of the State.
- 18) Credit flow would be ensured to cope-up with the increasing demand and augmentation of production. Constant monitoring would be made with the Financial Institutions up to the block level.

iii) Target of Area, Production & Productivity of Crops in West Bengal during 1997-98

On the basis of performance made during the Eighth Plan Period (1st 4 years from 1992-93 to 1995-96), the target of production for all the important crops has been set out after considering all aspects.

A—Area in '000 Hec.

Y—Yield rate in kg/per ha.

P—Production in '000 tonnes.

Table 1.14

Crop		8th Plan Achievement (Average of 4 yrs. i.e., from 1992-93 to 1995-96)	Target for 1997-98	Percentage increase
Total Rice	A	5824.07	5850.00	0.44
	Y	2047	2150	
	P	11919.80	12577.5	5.56
1) Autumn	A	522.8	530.0	1.38
	Y	1681	1751	
	P	878.9	928.0	5.58
2) Winter	A	4271.18	4270.0	—
	Y	1868	1959.77	
	P	7979.1	8368.25	4.88
3) Summer Rice	A	1027.2	1050.0	2.2
	Y	2980	3125	
	P	3061.7	3281.25	7.17

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Crop		8th Plan Achievement (Avg. of 4 yrs. i.e., from 1992-93 to 1995-96)	Target for 1997-98	Percentage increase
4) Wheat	A	310.6	325.0	4.6
	Y	2164	2225	
	P	672.2	723.12	
5) Other Cereals	A	74.908	60.62	- 19%
	Y	2134	2134	
	P	159.884	129.38	
Total Cereals	A	6209.6	6235.627	0.4%
	Y	2054	2153.752	
	P	12751.9	13430.0	
6) Pulses	A	246.2	310.0	26%
	Y	657	670	
	P	161.8	207.7	
Total Food-grains	A	6455.8	6545.627	1.4%
	Y	2000.0	2083	
	P	12913.7	13637.7	
7) Total Oilseeds	A	520.4	580.0	11.4%
	Y	774	910	
	P	402.9	527.8	
Rape/Mustard	A	369.8	420.0	13.56%
	Y	751	880	
	P	277.8	369.6	
Sesamum	A	107.6	120.6	12%
	Y	833	860	
	P	89.6	103.7	
8) Commercial Crops Sugarcane	A	13.3	20.0	50%
	Y	63539	71500	
	P	847.9	1430	
Potato	A	234.9	235.0	—
	Y	23159	24000	
	P	5441.9	5640.0	
Jute	A*	498.0	550.0	10.4%
	Y*	11.3	11.9	
	P**	5630.4	6545.0	
Vegetable	A	575.75	779.876	35.45%
	Y	11017	12500	
	P	6343.25	4748.46	

*Y—Bales per ha.

**P—Production in '000 bales.

At the terminal year of the Ninth Plan, there would be increased demand of food-grains around 170.93 lakh tonnes as against the present level of production of 129.13 lakh tonnes. As such, the State has to produce an additional quantum of about 42 lakh tonnes of food-grains.

During 1997-98, it has been aimed to produce an additional tonnage of food-grains to the tune of 7.24 lakh tonnes, an increase of 5.6% over the existing level of production. The target, is likely to be achievable through adoption of appropriate strategies for production of different crops.

Rice occupies more than 70% of the net cropped area. Both Autumn rice and winter rice are raised in kharif season and accounts for about 9% and 73% of the total rice area of the State. Virtually, there is no scope to increase area under Kharif rice. The scope of increasing area under Summer rice is also limited. The option is limited to improve the existing level of productivity and achieve the higher production through optimal use of latest know-how. It is, therefore, planned to augment production of rice by about 6.58 lakh tonnes or 5.5% higher than the present level. This additional production would be obtained from Autumn rice—50 thousand tonnes, Winter rice—389 thousand tonnes and that from Summer rice—219 thousand tonnes with augmentation of per hectare yield of 103 kgs.

Wheat is the second most important cereal of the State. During the AP 1997-98, it has been planned to increase the level of existing production level by 7.57% through extension of area and augmentation of yield rate.

Pulses cultivation would be encouraged. It has been planned to raise its coverage by 26% to achieve an increased production of 28% in the ensuing AP—1997-98 period.

Despite remarkable progress in oilseeds production domestic production is still at a level of 50% of the total requirement. During 1997-98, it has been planned to increase the production of rape and mustard by 33%, and sesame by 15.7% over their existing production level. Special programme would be launched for cultivation of groundnut crop in the non-traditional and non-conventional areas and seasons. The total production of oilseeds at the end of 1997-98 has been aimed at 3.3 lakh tonnes i.e. nearly 31% higher than the existing level.

An increasing trend in production of potato has been achieved during the Eighth Plan Period. It has been planned to sustain its productivity to the level of 24 M.T. per ha. during the Annual Plan Period. This effort will push the production to the tune of 3.6% higher over the existing level.

Vegetables are collectively considered as the most important cash crop for the farming community of the State. Emphasis will be given to increase production by expansion of area and augmentation of productivity with hybrid varieties during the 1997-98 plan period. The targetted increase of area is expected to be 2 lakhs ha. or 35.4% more with production around 34 lakh tonnes i.e. 53.7% over the existing level.

Jute is the major fibre crop of the State. During the 1997-98 Plan Period, 10.4% increase in area and 11.9% increase in productivity have been targetted to push the fibre production of the State to the tune of 65.45 lakh bales.

Sugarcane has been exhibiting declining trend in its production. Emphasis would now be given to increase its area and productivity during the 1997-98. An increase of 50% in area and 68.6% in production over the existing level have been planned for 1997-98.

iv) **Thrust Programme for Crop Production**

a) **Rice: Varieties and Quality Seeds**

- Autum:*
- (1) Replacement of existing Low yielding varieties with locations specific varieties in North Bengal region.
 - (2) Introduction of Hybrid rice as transplanted Aus throughout the State.
 - (3) Replacement of Farmers' seed by certified seed to the extent of 15% per annum.

- Aman:*
- (1) Increase of coverage under high yielding varieties to the extent of 70% from 66%.
 - (2) Replacement of existing cultures with locations specific improved and high yielding varieties.
 - (3) Replacement of farmers' stock with certified seeds to the extent of 15%. The replacement is targetted at 20% with the low productive areas with special reference to semi deep and deep water situations.

- Summer Rice:*
- (1) Increase of coverage under Hybrid rice to the extent of 15%.
 - (2) Seed replacement to the tune of 20%.

Increasing fertiliser use efficiency:

- (1) Use of soil amendments in North Bengal and Lateritic zone.
- (2) Use of organic manures, green manures and blue green algae for improving the soil health.
- (3) Application of fertiliser on the basis of soil test results.
- (4) Use of recommended balanced dose of fertilisers.
- (5) Application of micro-nutrients in deficient areas.
- (6) Use of coated/granular area in medium/low land Kharif rice.

Plant Protection: The Plant Protection Strategy is based on IPM technology. Thrust will be given on Seed treatment and Nursery treatment.

Irrigation & Drainage:

Improvement in drainage condition for the Kharif rice and efficient management of irrigation water at the critical growth stages of the Summer Rice will be given due importance.

Cultural Practices:

- (1) Timely planting in rows with seedlings of proper age.
- (2) Maintenance of proper spacing.
- (3) Timely seeding and other inter cultural operation.

- (4) Advance seeding in low land areas for Kharif rice.
- (5) Double transplanting in semi deep areas to have optimum plant stand.
- (6) Transplanting within 10th of February of Summer Rice for yield maximisations.
- (7) Harvesting crop at proper stage.

b) **Wheat:** The main objective is to increase the productivity of wheat since there is a very little scope to increase the area under the crop. To fulfil the objective emphasis will be laid:

- a) Replacement of old variety by the recent released variety.
- b) Increased use of quality seeds especially in the areas where productivity is low.
- c) Application of soil amendments where necessary.
- d) Increased the judicious use of balanced dose of fertiliser at proper time.
- e) Application of micro-nutrients in identified deficient areas.
- f) Following of proper plant protection measures.
- g) Following of improved cultural management practices such as proper seed rate, line sowing, timely sowing, proper spacing, timely weeding and inter-cultural operations and application of irrigation at critical growth stages of the crop.

c) **Pulses:** Due to low productivity, pulse cultivation has become less remunerative. The aim would be to arrest this trend and improve the productivity by adopting improved varieties of pulses and latest production technology. The strategy would be as follows:

1. Stabilisation of pulses area through inter cropping mixed cropping and payra cropping.
2. Growing Summer Mung after harvest of Rabi Crop.
3. Popularisation of Rabi Arhar cultivation.
4. Growing Rabi Pulses in fringe area of irrigation command.
5. Intercropping Summer Mung with Sugarcane.
6. Growing Kharif pulses with drilled paddy. Maize in drought prone areas.
7. Growing pulses in non-traditional areas after correcting soil acidity.
8. Distribution of quality seeds of improved latest varieties of pulses and multiplication of Certified Seed from Foundation and Breeders' Seed.
9. Use of Phosphatic fertilizer and Bio-fertilizer including use of PSB would be introduced in pulse cultivation.
10. Plant Protection measures: In Pulse IPM (Integrated Pest Management) demonstration would be organised in farmers' field to acquaint farmers with the latest plant protection technology.
11. Improved agronomic practices would be popularised for increasing productivity in farmers' field.

Table 1.15

Crop	Av. of Eighth Plan			Target for 1997-98		
	Area '000 ha.	Yield Kg./ha.	Production ('000 M/T.)	Area '000 ha.	Yield Kg./ha.	Production ('000 M/T.)
Arhar	4.52	756	3.42	12.0	900	10.8
Kalai	107.28	567	60.87	135.0	615	83.0
Gram	22.57	936	21.21	28.0	800	22.40
Lentil	50.90	641	32.65	60.0	700	42.0
Pea	7.30	418	3.06	8.0	500	4.0
Khesari	33.86	946	32.05	40.0	750	30.0
Mung	12.69	483	6.13	22.0	568	12.54
Other Pulses	3.30	386	1.27	5.0	600	3.00
TOTAL:	242.42	662	160.66	310.0	670	207.70

d) Oil Seeds:

Despite a remarkable progress in production of oilseeds in the State, the State is able to produce only about 50% of its total requirement. Per capita consumption of oil per year has increased from 1.2 kg. per year during 1980-81 to 6.5 kg. per year during 1990-91. As the consumption of oil has increased, it will be difficult to meet up the deficit at the end of Annual Plan i.e. 1997-98.

Keeping in mind the above situation the following strategies have been formulated:

i) Area Expansion:

ii) Sequential cropping:

iii) Oilseed in intercropping system:

- (a) Soyabean as intercropping with maize.
- (b) Sunflower as intercropping with groundnut, pulses etc.
- (c) Linseed as intercropping with wheat, gram, lentil etc.

iv) Replacement of low economy crops:

In Kharif, replacement of low yielding Aus crop with groundnut in upland areas of Purulia, Birbhum, Bankura, Midnapore (West) etc.

2. Productivity increase: Oilseed production could be increased by adoption of improved crop production technology.

i) Use of improved varieties.

ii) Use of quality seeds, optimum seed rate and timely sowing with pre-sowing seed treatment.

iii) Use of balance dose of fertilisers including bio-fertiliser. Application of gypsum as sulphur source and application of micro-nutrient.

- iv) Control of weeds through mechanical method.
- v) Timely plant protection measures including use of bio-pesticides.
- vi) Transfer of improved production technology to farmers.

3. Introduction of alternate source of oilseeds:

- i) Oil palm cultivation.
- ii) Extraction of oil from Karanja.
- iii) Extraction of oil from rice bran etc.

Table 1.16

Crop	Mode	Base	Target for 1997-98		
		Average of 1st 4 years of Eighth Plan Period (1992-93 to 1995-96)	A	P	Y
1	2	3	4(a)	4(b)	4(c)
Rapeseed & Mustard	A Y P	369.820 751 277.817	418.692	334.95	800
Kharif Sesamum	A Y P		4.052	2.351	580
Winter Sesamum	A Y P		5.062	3.589	709
Summer Sesamum	A Y P		111.536	97.817	877
Total Sesamum (Kh. + Winter + Summer)	A Y P	107.655 833 89.646	120.65	103.757	860
Kharif Groundnut	A Y P		11.506	11.494	999
Rabi Groundnut	A Y P		12.557	13.983	1113
Summer Groundnut	A Y P		33.028	44.734	1354
Total Groundnut (Kharif + Rabi + Summer)	A Y P		54.887	70.211	1279

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Crop	Mode	Base Average of 1st 4 years of Eighth Plan Period (1992-93 to 1995-96)	Target for 1997-98		
			A	P	Y
1	2	3	4(a)	4(b)	4(c)
Sunflower	A Y P		3.206	3.055	753
Niger	A Y P		10.145	5.498	542
Linseed	A Y P		13.163	5.100	307
Soyabean & Other Oilseeds	A Y P		8.678	5.215	601
Total Oilseeds	A Y P	520.452 774 402.924	631.625	527.80	833

A = Area in '000 ha.; Y = Yield in kg./hectare ; P = Production in '000 tonnes

e) **Potato:**

The area and production of potato in the State of West Bengal is gradually increasing. In West Bengal the crop covers only 2.6% gross cropped area of this State and contribute 50 Lakh tonnes in the State Food Budget equivalent to 28% of total Potato production in the country. During Eighth Plan Period the average estimated coverage (1992-93 to 1995-96) is 234.976 thousand hectares productivity is 23159 Kgs. per ha. and production is 5441.901 thousand tonnes. There is a considerable scope to improve the production and productivity of this crop during Ninth Plan Period in non-traditional areas of North Bengal.

Considering all these aspects, a target of production of 5640 thousand tonnes has been fixed during 1997-98.

1) **Expansion of Area:** There is abundant scope to increase the area in the non-traditional regions like Eastern Himalayan.

2) **Distribution of Quality Seeds:** Distribution of Quality Seeds would be taken up through Public Sector organisations and priority would be given to both Eastern Himalayan Region, Lower Gangetic and Plain regions.

3) **Use of Fertilizer:** Fertilizer Consumption is high in lower gangetic plain regions. There is a scope for increasing use of fertilizer in the Eastern Himalayan Regions where considerable potato area is unirrigated and rate of fertilizer application is low and as a result productivity is also low.

4) **Plant Protection:** Preventive measures like Seed bed treatment, need based plant protection measures would be taken.

5) **Improved practices:** This consist of proper land preparation, timely sowing, use of proper seed rate, timely earthing up, proper placement of fertilizer, irrigation at critical stage, timely harvesting and storing would be followed.

f) **Sugarcane Development:**

Sugarcane is cultivated as an important commercial crop in West Bengal since long with considerable-variation in respect of area, yield rate and production among Agro-Climatic Regions and Sub-Regions. During the terminal years of Eighth Plan both the area and production of the crop recorded increasing trend as shown hereunder.

Table 1.17

Year	Area in '000 ha.	Yield in kg. per ha.	Production in '000 tonnes.
1992-93	15.350	57,894	888.680
1993-94	10.284	52,738	542.360
1994-95	10.587	61,293	648.910
1995-96	17.162	76,436	1311.790
1996-97	24.882 *	63,450 *	1581.000 *

*Estimated

A target has been set out for the 1st year of the Ninth Plan as indicated below :

Table 1.18

	Average of Eighth Plan (1992-93 to 1995-96)	1997-98
a) Area (in '000 ha.)	13.346	16.000
b) Productivity (in kg/ha.)	63,540	70,000
c) Production (in '000 tonnes)	847.935	1120.00

During Ninth Plan Period, all development Programmes and schemes in respect of Sugarcane would revolve around the idea of improvement of cropping system rather than that of a single crop for optimum utilization of land, labour and capital, available to the growers.

Action Points:

- i) Raising nursery for production of disease-free planting materials and distribution of the same.
- ii) Balance and timely use of fertilizer at recommended dose.
- iii) Treatment of sets/handing materials with pesticides, would be advocated alongwith need-based use of pesticides.
- iv) Coverage under autumn planting would be increased in Mill Zones.
- v) Inter-cropping would be advocated to increase farm income.

A centrally sponsored scheme in the name of "Sustainable Development of increase-based cropping system" has been introduced from the middle of Eighth Plan Period in Seven

districts of the State with items of work as:

- a) State Level Training for extension officials,
- b) Farmers' Training,
- c) Field demonstration,
- d) Seed care multiplication,
- e) Productivity award,
- f) Setting up of culture units for multiplication of newer varieties in Laboratory.
- g) Incentives for purchasing implements,
- h) Setting up bio-pesticide agent units in order to intensify Integrated Pest Management (I.P.M.),
 - i) Drip-irrigation,
 - j) Setting up of Rot-treatment plants etc.

This Centrally Sponsored Scheme would also be implemented in this State in the Ninth Plan.

g) **Jute Development:**

Jute is one of the most important commercial crops of the State. With a 66% national area, contribution to the national production is 73%. During the last decade and even beyond that productivity of Jute Crop in the State was highest in India which is still continuing.

Development work consists of the following aspects:

a) **Improvement of Productivity:**

Improvement of productivity can be achieved by adopting latest technology in Jute Cultivation. Technologies, like—(i) Use of certified Jute Seed; (ii) Sowing of Jute in time with pre-sowing irrigation wherever necessary; (iii) Use of Jute Seeder & Wheel have to maintain plant population, minimise labour engagement for weeding and other operations. (iv) Judicious & timely application of fertilizer; (v) application of need-based pesticides; (vi) timely harvest of Crop.

b) **Minimise Cost of Cultivation:**

Jute Cultivation is labour oriented. Approximately 260-270 labourers are engaged per ha. of land. Weeding alone needs 32% of labour. If Jute is sown in line through Multi row Seed drill and Weeding is done through Wheel hoe, Cost of Weeding can be minimised to a great extent resulting reduced cost of cultivation. Use of Jute Seeder will give an opportunity for optimum plant population which will ultimately give better yield.

c) **Improvement of Fibre quality:**

Due to diversified use of Jute Fibre other than packaging material and hessian it is being used for production of carpets, mats, non-woven materials, wall coverings, furnishing fibres, door mats, bags, geotextiles, laminated Jute etc., demand for quality Jute Fibre has increased. Quality of Jute fibre can be obtained by

- i) Timely harvest of Jute Crop. i.e. 100-110 days.
- ii) Proper retting in slow running water.

- iii) Washing of Fibre in fresh water.
- iv) Proper drying and storing.
- v) Use of fungal culture to remove root content whenever felt necessary.

These technologies are transferred to the farmers through Demonstration, T. & V. system, and by organising special meeting for these purpose in the Jute growing belts. There is also arrangements for distribution of Seed Fert., implements at subsidy and fungal culture free of cost.

Since no fund for development work is available under “Intensive Jute District Programme”, a State Plan scheme, from where only establishment cost is met out work on Jute Development is being done through the Central Sector scheme, viz. “Special Jute Development Programme” with 100% grant from Government of India, since 1987-88 and fund utilised up to 1995-96 is Rs. 9,81,45,618.00 only.

Table 1.19

Achievement of Eighth Plan		Production (Jute Fibre)
1992-93	—	53.47 Lakh bales
1993-94	—	55.68 ”
1994-95	—	59.34 ”
1995-96	—	56.71 ”
Average	—	56.30 Lakh bales

Physical target has been preposed by Government of India in their draft Expenditure Finance Committee memo for “Central Sector Scheme—Special Jute Development, Programme”, at 58.68 lakh bales, against State target of 65.45 lakh tonnes during 1997-98.

h) Cotton Development Scheme:

Cotton is an important Fibre Crops and has been introduced for cultivation in saline tracts of 24-Parganas (North & South) in particular.

The objectives are :

- i) Adoption of improved technology on an intensive scale,
- ii) Additional area to be brought under cotton in rice fallows in coastal area of the State.
- iii) To increase productivity of Cotton.

During nineties, Cotton cultivation took a new turn availing recent technology with the help of newly introduced medium duration varieties, like, LRA-5166, H-777 etc. Cotton has performed well as a second crops in rice-fallows.

At present two schemes under Cotton Development Programme are being implemented in the State, namely;

- 1) Development of Cotton & other Fibre Crops under Annual State Plan.
- 2) Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes & Development of Cotton and other Fibre Crops under Annual State Plan.

The schemes are in operation in the State covering 100 ha. The State Govt. provides assistance for supplying inputs to the farmers for popularisation of the crop. Due to increasing

demand, number of demonstrations would be increased during Ninth Plan Period. Moreover, for popularisation and expansion of area under cotton cultivation in coastal areas seed minikits on cotton would be supplied in 1996-97 if approved by the Government

In the Ninth Plan, 1000 Nos. of demonstration centres would be laid out in each year under the scheme "Development of Cotton and other Fibre Crops under Annual State Plan" similar target has been taken for the scheme, "Development of Cotton and other Fibre Crops Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes & Annual State Plan". Seed Minikits would also be distributed in the Ninth Plan Period.

v) High Yielding Varieties Programme and Seed Requirements

a) High Yielding Programme:

High Yielding Varieties of rice and wheat became popular amongst the farm communities of this State since the Seventh Plan Period and its rapid acceptance was achieved during the Eighth Plan Period. At present there is 100% coverage of both wheat and summer paddy with the High Yielding Varieties in this State during Rabi-Summer Season. Around 10.00 lakhs and 3.00 lakhs are the present coverage with high yielding varieties in respect of summer rice and wheat respectively.

During Kharif season, specially for Kharif rice the picture is quite different in regard to coverage of Kharif rice with high yielding varieties. The present level of coverage with high yielding varieties in respect of kharif rice is around 66.62%. The extension of areas under HYV coverage is restricted in this State due to presence of several problem areas of this State which occupies around 36.00 lakh ha. However, the invention and introduction of location specific varieties of rice, suitable for all those problem areas may solve the problem or coverage of those problem areas with High Yielding Varieties of rice during the Ninth Plan Period.

The projection of the requirement of foodgrains for the increased population during the terminal year of Ninth Plan gives us an idea to make a suitable action plan for coverage of problem areas with suitable location specific High Yielding Varieties of Rice. The proposition for coverage with High Yielding Varieties in respect of Kharif rice during the terminal period of Ninth Plan Period is around 85-90% from the present level of 66.62%. If the Action Plan is properly implemented during the Ninth Plan Period it will be easier to arrive at a production level of 170.95 lakh tonnes at the terminal year of the Ninth Plan in the way of increasing area under HYV coverage as well as increasing production and productivity of Kharif rice.

As regards Summer rice there is also possibility of extension of areas under summer rice during the Ninth Plan Period to the tune of 12.00 lakh ha. from the present level of 10.00 lakh ha. This extension of areas under summer rice as well as proper management practices and introduction of recent agricultural technology in the matter of summer rice cultivation with the short duration and superfast varieties of rice may contribute towards total foodgrains production during the Ninth Plan Period.

The achievement of High Yielding Coverage during the Eighth Plan Period (Sub-region-wise) as well as projection during the ensuing Ninth Plan Period have been prepared in a statement annexed herewith.

Area Coverage Under High Yielding Variety of Kharif Rice During the Eighth Plan & Projection of Target of Coverage during the Ninth Plan Period

Table 1.20

Zone/ Sub-Region	Coverage of Kharif Rice (Aus & Aman) in '000 ha. and Target of the Ninth Plan						
	Eighth Plan 1992-97 Target	Annual Plan 1992-93 & 1994-95 Actual Achievement	Annual Plan 1995-96 Actual Achievement	Annual Plan—1996-97		Ninth Plan 1997-02 Target	Annual Plan 1997-98 Target
				Target	Anticipated Achievement		
A. Zone-II							
(a) Hill	120.00	68.60	24.10	26.00	25.00	133.75	26.75
(b) Tarai	1630.00	923.00	352.00	355.00	353.00	1895.55	379.11
B. Zone-III							
a) Old Alluvium	1820.00	1010.00	403.00	410.00	405.60	2169.95	433.99
b) New Alluvium	4860.00	1676.80	1041.37	1150.00	1136.20	6078.65	1215.73
c) Costal Saline	2326.00	1320.00	502.00	510.00	503.90	2695.85	539.17
d) Lateritic	3325.00	1910.00	705.00	710.00	706.30	3778.70	755.74
C. Eastern Plateau & Hill Region Zone-VII	790.00	456.07	165.90	169.00	168.00	898.80	179.76
TOTAL	14871.00	7364.47	3193.37	2330.00	3298.00	17651.25	3530.25

b) Seeds:

Seed is a basic agricultural input around which all other agroclimatic practices revolve. In recent time, the contribution of desirable characteristics like high-yielding short duration, fertilizer response, disease resistance, moisture/flood/drought resistance in seeds by the scientists have created revolution in crop yields. Seed consciousness amongst the farmers of West Bengal has been increasing rapidly. Around 68.88% of the total rice is covered under HYV during Kharif, 100% coverage in wheat and Boro paddy during Rabi summer. Seed is one of the low cost inputs which can truly give benefit to all sections of farm communities.

During the Ninth Plan Period, the State Government has fixed the replacement ratio of certified seeds in respect of rice—25%, wheat—33%, maize—20%, moong—25%, gram—7%, lentil—7%; groundnut—50%, mustard & til—20%; jute—78%; potato—12%, Vegetables—12%.

Projection of assessment rate (percentage) of replacement by certified seeds have been calculated including 10% as reserve stock for Seed Bank to meet the contingent situation of the

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State like flood, drought or other natural hazards. The requirement as envisaged at the end of Ninth Plan Period in respect of different categories of seeds are as follows:

1) Cereals	:	3,54,000	qntls.
2) Pulses	:	16,000	”
3) Oil Seeds	:	20,000	”
4) Jute	:	25,000	”
5) Potato	:	4,00,000	”
6) Vegetable	:	3,500	”

This calculation is based on the target of coverage under different crops.

Availability of seeds of high yielding or improved varieties of important crops recommended by the State Government for 7 Agro-climatic sub-regions both Nation & State varieties are eventually distributed in the State, the Institutional Agency i.e. West Bengal State Seed Corporation is responsible for supply of quality seeds to the farmers. Besides, the National Agencies like NSC, SFCI & UPS & TDC including several private growers are also responsible for production of certified seeds within the State. The West Bengal State Seeds Corporation Ltd. is solely responsible to produce and distribute different crop seeds of certified class, monitoring the production and distribution of National Agencies and Private growers including the State Seed Corporation of other States. Of course, during Ninth Five Year Plan Period the private growers local NGO.s, Co-opoerative and other private organisations would be given impetus from the State Govt. on the basis of Ninth Plan Proposition of the Government of India for making seeds available to the farmers of the State.

For want of any suitable conditional storage facility and adverse climatic condition, it is very difficult to maintain certification standards of different seeds grown and distributed in this State. However, the State Government in collaboration with the Government of India is taking up several projects and programmes to construct conditional stores for the purpose of maintaining certification standards of different seeds. Previously, the maintenance of germination percentage of some of the crops like groundnuts, sunflowers, jute etc. was difficult in the climatic condition of this State. The construction of conditional storage and the extension of the conditional storage facilities for storing such seeds during the Ninth Plan Period would minimise the problem of maintaining germination percentage as per seed certification standard in the way of keeping the viability of the seeds for a considerable period. Each year during Kharif and Rabi summer the requirement of seeds for the State of different crops grown during the season are assessed. If there is any short-fall, the Government of India is approached for making it available from outside the State. Government of India prepare supply-plan of seeds for the State from the National Institutions. These National Institutions supply seeds to the State through their net work of dealers including the State Institutional Agency like West Bengal State Seeds Corporation.

The marketing of seeds in the State is solely dependent on the trade channels for there is little supply from the farm gate, owned by the State Government. During the Eighth Plan Period, the State Government had taken up a programme for increasing the production and productivity of rice under a centrally sponsored scheme, Integrated Cereal Development Programme in 125 selected blocks during the Plan Period. This programme has also been scheduled to be continued in such 128 selected block where productivity of rice is below the National/State average. During

1996-97 there was a programme for distribution of 1250 MTs of certified paddy seeds in the project blocks and also 1688 MTs in the non-project blocks of the State. Moreover, there was any programme for seed distribution on subsidy for 4.500 MTs of certified paddy seeds to the farmers of the areas which are not accessible and remote for the purpose to introduce cultivation of rice with the certified seeds under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Government of India, Integrated Seed Development Programme is not easily accessible and remote areas of the State. In the perspective of implementation of such schemes and projects in the State during the Ninth Plan Period, there will be necessity for production and distribution of such quantity of paddy seeds during each year of the Ninth Plan Period. Besides, there are certain other schemes and projects are normally dealt by the State Govt. where there is a necessity of large quantities of seeds of different crops to implement those schemes in the State during the Ninth Plan Period. The above demand of seed is the additional demand over the normal demand indicated above under different agro-climatic sub-zones of the State. The Institutional Agencies namely West Bengal State Seeds Corporation, National Agencies, the State Seed Corporation of other States and Private growers would be responsible for production and distribution of additional quantum of seeds for successful implementation of different schemes under the State Government.

With the inventions of hybrid variety of rice, vegetable and true potato seeds of potato there would be more and more demand for such seeds by the farmers of the State during ensuing Ninth Plan Period for replacement of the High Yielding Varieties of rice and other crops in the field of agriculture of the State. Since hybrid seeds of vegetables are yet to be produced in this State, the procurement price of the seeds is beyond the reach of the small and marginal farmers of the State. To overcome these difficulties the State Government have proposition to produce vegetable seed also like hybrid rice and TPS, for minimising the prices of seeds of such class in this State.

A comprehensive statement showing the production and distribution target and achievement of crop seeds during the terminal year of the Eighth Plan Period (1996-97) and the target for the Ninth Plan Period (Sub-regionwise) has been prepared and set out herewith.

Table 1.21

Target and Achievements During 1994-95 and 1995-96 and Target for 1996-97 for Seed Production and Distribution

(Unit in '000 Tonnes)

Zones/Sub-Regions	Items	Eighth Plan 1992-97		Annual Plan 1992-95		Annual Plan 1995-96		Annual Plan 1996-97		Ninth Plan 1997-2002		Annual Plan 1997-98	
				Achievement		Achievement		Anticipated Achievement		Target			
		P	D	P	D	P	D	P	D	P	D	P	D
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
A. Eastern Himalayan Region (Zone-II)													
a) Hill	Cereals	5.00	8.00	1.00	6.98	0.50	2.76	0.50	2.76			0.50	2.76
	Pulses	0.10	0.30	0.30	0.10	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.05			—	0.05
	Oilseeds	0.22	0.50	0.17	0.20	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.02			0.04	0.02
	Jute	—	—	—	0.50	—	0.06	—	0.06			—	0.06
b) Tarai	Cereals	10.00	18.60	5.00	12.00	2.50	4.00	2.50	4.00			4.50	4.40
	Pulses	0.41	0.75	1.00	0.40	0.09	0.05	0.09	0.11			0.15	0.14
	Oilseeds	1.27	1.00	0.70	0.80	0.60	0.06	0.06	0.06			0.09	0.08
	Jute	0.02	1.60	0.02	1.05	—	0.20	0.01	0.20			0.01	0.20
TOTAL Zone-II	Cereals	15.00	26.60	6.00	18.98	3.00	6.76	3.00	6.76			5.00	7.16
	Pulses	0.51	1.05	1.30	0.50	0.10	0.06	0.10	0.16			0.15	0.19
	Oilseeds	1.49	1.50	0.87	1.00	0.63	0.08	0.10	0.08			0.13	0.10
	Jute	0.02	1.60	0.02	1.55	—	0.26	0.01	0.26			0.01	0.26
	Cereals	20.60	27.90	12.25	12.00	3.00	5.00	3.00	5.00			4.50	5.00
	Pulses	1.00	1.10	1.00	0.98	0.20	0.60	0.30	0.21			0.25	0.21
	Oilseeds	1.60	1.70	1.20	1.20	0.25	0.60	0.60	0.65			0.60	0.70
	Jute	0.03	3.30	0.03	1.50	0.01	0.56	0.02	0.56			0.02	0.56

Table 1.21 (Contd.)

(Unit in '000 Tonnes)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
b) New	Cereals	25.05	35.00	13.00	13.00	3.50	5.00	3.60	5.00	35.50	20.26	6.50	5.00
Alluvium	Pulses	2.00	1.50	1.00	1.00	0.36	0.70	0.36	0.70	2.50	0.55	0.25	0.70
	Oilseeds	2.40	1.90	1.40	1.30	0.50	0.70	0.70	0.75	2.00	1.50	0.80	0.80
	Jute	0.16	3.50	0.03	2.00	0.01	0.58	0.02	0.58	0.11	3.75	0.02	0.58
c) Coastal	Cereal	12.00	14.00	9.00	12.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	20.53	33.00	4.16	3.00
Saline	Pulses	1.50	0.70	0.60	0.20	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	1.50	2.30	0.25	0.10
	Oilseeds	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.40	0.10	0.05	0.20	0.05	1.32	1.00	0.24	0.08
	Jute	—	0.65	—	0.20	—	0.19	—	0.19	—	0.75	—	0.19
d) Lateritic	Cereals	10.02	20.00	10.00	14.00	3.50	4.00	3.50	4.00	20.50	25.50	6.00	4.00
	Pulses	1.20	1.00	0.50	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.80	1.30	0.40	0.20
	Oilseeds	1.36	1.54	0.70	0.60	0.15	0.06	0.05	0.06	2.50	2.00	0.09	0.10
	Jute	—	0.20	0.01	0.30	0.01	0.26	—	0.26	0.11	—	—	0.26
TOTAL	Cereals	67.67	96.90	44.25	51.00	13.00	17.00	13.10	17.00	107.08	99.31	26.16	17.00
Zone-III	Pulses	5.70	4.30	3.10	2.28	0.86	1.60	0.96	1.61	5.80	5.15	1.15	1.21
	Oilseeds	6.36	6.14	3.80	3.50	1.00	1.41	1.55	1.51	7.82	6.50	1.73	1.68
	Jute	0.19	7.65	0.06	3.70	0.03	1.59	0.04	1.59	0.33	7.00	0.04	1.59
e) Eastern	Cereals	6.00	7.00	4.00	9.00	1.00	3.00	1.00	3.00	5.67	11.95	1.00	3.00
Plateau	Pulses	0.60	0.04	0.30	0.10	0.05	0.09	0.14	0.09	0.20	0.39	0.04	0.04
& Hill	Oilseeds	0.70	0.50	0.50	0.12	0.03	0.17	0.10	0.17	1.00	0.25	0.10	0.18
Region	Jute	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :	Cereals	88.69	130.50	54.57	76.98	17.00	26.76	17.10	26.76	143.26	143.26	27.16	27.16
WEST	Pulses	6.81	5.39	4.70	2.88	1.01	1.20	1.10	1.31	7.29	7.79	1.34	1.44
BENGAL	Oilseeds	8.55	8.14	5.17	4.62	1.63	1.66	1.75	1.76	12.82	3.08	1.96	1.96
	Jute	0.21	9.25	0.09	5.55	0.03	1.85	0.05	1.85	0.33	9.25	0.05	1.85

Programme Planning for Annual Plan 1997-98

Agricultural Extension

Extension work in the State is performed through Training and Visit System. The impact of the existing system of Extension is, however, not uniform throughout the State as quite a substantial portion of rural areas could not be covered under this system. With the existing strength of KPSs in the State barely 50% of the farmers could be covered under the said programme. The Extension work greatly hampered for want of sufficient strength of technical personnel. The National Agricultural Extension Programme (NAEP) would be launched during the Ninth Plan period. Under this programme infrastructural facilities would be developed in this State.

Agricultural Training

Training is a low-cost input in improving production and it is linked with the development of Agriculture. The following training programmes would be taken up during 1997-98:

1. Farmers' Training Centre

These training centres are in existence in 17 districts. The objective of the programme is to train the male and female farmers' including S.C. and S.T. on latest technological know-how including demonstration. It is proposed to strengthen the scheme in the Ninth Plan through adequate funding.

2. Farmers' Study Tours within and outside the State

The objective of the scheme is enrichment of the knowledge of farmers through arranged visits to developed areas within and outside the State and exchange of ideas with host farmers, institutions etc. It is proposed to enhance the budgetary allocation during 1997-98.

3. Specialised Higher Training in Agriculture

The objective of the scheme is improvement of the professional competence of departmental officers by providing them with specialised higher training. It is proposed to augment allocation of fund in the Ninth Plan period.

4. Training of farmers in the Maintenance of Power Tiller, Pumping Set and Other Agricultural Implements

Training of farmers in the Maintenance of Power Tiller, Pumping Set and Other Agricultural Implements would be continued during the Ninth Plan.

5. Agricultural Training Centre (A.T.C.)

Agricultural Training Centres are basically meant for imparting training to Krishi Prayukti Sahayaks (K.P.S.), both pre-service and in-service, while the Agricultural Training Centre, Kalyani is meant for imparting training to the Departmental Officers.

The A.T.Cs could not be utilised effectively for want of required infrastructure. It is proposed to establish a 3-stories training centre of national standard with provision of modern facilities during the Ninth Plan.

Meteorology

The following works will be undertaken during Ninth Plan period under three different sub-heads of schemes.

- (1) Modernisation & Strengthening of Agro-Met Network in the State;
- (2) Collection of rainfall data from all the Blocks of the State; and
- (3) Creation of a modern Agro-Meteorological data/analysis Centre.

Manures & Fertilizers

The programme set for 1997-98 is given below:

Physical Target for 1997-98:

1. Distribution of soil conditioner (for normal and S.C.P):

		<u>Nomral</u>	<u>S.C.P.</u>
(a) Terai sub-zone	—	800 tonnes	300 tonnes
(b) Old alluvium	—	800 "	500 "
(c) New alluvium	—	3000 "	2000 "
(d) Lateritic	—	400 "	300 "
(e) Plateau	—	200 "	180 "

2. Production and distribution of organic manure:

(a) Terai	—	200 tonnes
(b) Old Alluvium	—	300 "
(c) New Alluvium	—	800 "
(d) Lateritic	—	100 "
(e) Plateau	—	50 "

3. B.G.A. and Azolla:

(a) Old Alluvium	—	800 ha.
(b) New Alluvium	—	800 "
(c) Coastal Saline	—	1600 "
(d) Lateritic	—	800 "

4. Distribution of Fertilizer at subsidised rate:

		<u>Normal</u>	<u>S.C.P.</u>	<u>ha.</u>
(a) Terai	—	240	240	"
(b) Old Alluvium	—	240	240	"
(c) New Alluvium	—	1200	1200	"
(d) Coastal Saline	—	240	240	"
(e) Lateritic	—	240	240	"
(f) Plateau	—	120	120	"

5. Distribution of Chemical fertilizers (1997-98):

Sub-Zones	(In '000 tonnes of plant nutrients)			
	<u>N</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>Total</u>
Hill	17.0	7.0	5.0	29.0
Terai	45.0	23.0	18.0	86.0
Old Alluvium	65.0	30.0	25.0	120.0
Coastal Saline	90.0	42.0	30.0	-162.0
Lateritic	120.0	50.0	40.0	210.0
Plateau	25.0	15.0	8.0	48.0
TOTAL	642.0	298.0	201.0	1141.0

Plant Protection

The following programmes would be taken up:

- a) Popularisation of Bio-pesticides
- b) Popularisation of Botanical Pesticides (Neem based)
- c) IPM Field Demonstration
- d) Field Training of Extension workers & farmers
- e) Maintenance of new building for Bio-Control Laboratory
- f) Establishment of Plant Clinic & Diagnostic Laboratory
- g) Survey & Surveillance
- h) Quality Control of Plant Protection Chemicals
- i) Plant Protection Training meeting of Dealers/Manufacturers/Extension workers
- j) Subsidy distribution of pesticides for tackling emergent situation due to pest, disease & weeds

Physical Target for 1997-98

1. Consumption of pesticides:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity in Tonnes (AC)</u>
a) Insecticide	2,750
b) Fungicide	1,250
c) Rodenticide	100
d) Weedicide	750
e) Others	150
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>5,000</u>

2. Coverage under Plant Protection:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Area in lakh ha.</u>
a) Insect Control	33.00
b) Disease Control	15.00
c) Rat Control	1.20
d) Weed Control	9.00
e) Others	1.80
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>60.00</u>

3. Quality Control Programme in different Laboratories:

<u>Laboratory</u>	<u>Quantity (Nos.)</u>
a) SPTL, Midnapur	550
b) RPTL	250
c) CIL	200
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1,000</u>

4. a) Seminar for Extension Worker :		
i) One day duration	—	35 Nos.
ii) Two days' duration	—	18 Nos.
b) One day training for dealers/manufacturers	—	17 Nos.
	Total	70 Nos.

5. Distribution of Plant Protection Equipments:

a) Sprayer	—	4,500 Nos.
b) Duster	—	2,000 Nos.
	TOTAL	6,500 Nos.

Dryland/Rainfed Crop Demonstration

The Dryland/Rainfed Crop demonstration programme creates impact on the drought prone areas and the farmers adopt package of practices along with new varieties of crop. It is proposed to implement the scheme in the Ninth Plan period.

Distribution of Agricultural Implements

Mechanisation in agriculture in the State is still in the initial stage. The size of operational holdings of 90% of the farming family in West Bengal is either 2 ha. or less and that too in 10-24 fragmented plots scattered over a large areas limiting the use of modern power driven agricultural implements. Moreover, in West Bengal no single appliance can meet all types of farming situation in different agro-climatic and pedological conditions. Some such machinery and equipments have been developed to cope with varying situation and these are being distributed at subsidised rate to the small and marginal farmers of the State.

This programme is very popular amongst the farmers and would be continued during Ninth Five Year period.

Modernisation of Agricultural Seed Farms (New Scheme)

There are 221 numbers of agricultural farms out of which approximately 200 numbers are engaged entirely on production and multiplication of seeds.

The Agricultural Seed Farms established in Second and Third Plan periods badly need renovations and infrastructural upgradation. Since there are capital intensive programmes, it would be completed in phases during the Ninth Plan.

Strengthening of State Seed Certification Agency, West Bengal

The present set-up of seed Certification Agency of the State is not adequate enough to certify different classes of seeds under the Seed Certification Programme. Accordingly, the strengthening of Seed Certification Agency would be taken up.

It is proposed to create nine certification units besides strengthening the existing four seed certification units and the office network of the Chief Seed Certification Officer.

Infrastructure Development of Soil and Fertilizer Facility

Three fertilizer quality control laboratories in the State would be further strengthened during the Ninth Plan period. The spheres of strengthening are:

- a) Increase of working space in the existing laboratories.

- b) procurement of new instruments.
- c) purchase of reagents & chemicals.
- d) purchase of furnitures.

Subsidised Sale of Quality Seeds

This programme aims at popularisation as well as replacing the existing old varieties of seeds with newly notified quality seeds amongst the farmers by distribution of such quality seeds at a subsidised rate specially rice and wheat. During the 8th Plan period it could be made possible to distribute 20696 M.T. of certified seeds of rice and wheat. It is proposed to make provision of Rs. 159.30 lakhs for distribution of 4451 M.T. for 1997-98.

Seeds for Green Manuring

The main objective as well as aim of this scheme is to maintain soil health for sustaining agricultural production as well as increasing the fertiliser use efficiency.

During the 8th Plan period there was a budget of Rs. 72.00 lakhs this schemes. The entire amount was utilised for distribution of 2,28,331 numbers of green manuring seed kits to the farmers. It is proposed to make provision for Rs. 37.80 lakhs during the Annual Plan period, 1997-98 for distribution of 45394 green manuring seed kits.

Popularisation of New Varieties and Package of Practices through Distribution of Minikits

This programme aims at popularisation of seeds of improved varieties of different crops grown throughout the year and assists small and marginal farmers in their production efforts. Seed kits of different crop varieties are distributed for replacement of seeds, its multiplication and also to increase production and productivity of crops.

During the 8th Plan period the 30,94,000 Nos. of minikits of different crop varieties were distributed. It is proposed to make provision of Rs. 259.20 lakhs for 1997-98 under this programme.

Integrated Cereal Development Programme—Rice

The main objective is to increase production and productivity of rice in the areas where the productivity is below National/State average. In this programme there are 125 numbers of selected Blocks covering 17 Nos. agricultural districts of the State. This scheme is implemented on 25 : 75 sharing basis between the State and Central Government. During the 8th Plan period Rs. 168.75 lakhs being the State's share could be utilised.

In the Ninth Plan period it is proposed to make financial provision of Rs. 100.00 lakhs being the 25% State's Share for implementation of this Centrally Sponsored in this State.

Popularisation of New Varieties (Potato Minikit Demonstration)

The newly released varieties EG-376, M-75, Kufri Kanchan would be tested under the Minikit Demonstration Programme alongwith the existing varieties in different agro-climatic regions.

Agricultural Information-cum-Demonstration Camp

The object of the scheme is to educate farmers in modern and Improved Technology of cultivation of different crops and its subsequent adoption on different occasion and Festivals in

Rural areas. The amount of Rs. 6,500/- (Rupees Six thousand five hundred) only will be spent for such a Agricultural Training Camp for Rural Mass Education on Agriculture. During the year 1996-97, 34 Nos. of Agricultural Training Camps could be organised at different places of this State. It is planned to organise 100 Nos. of such agricultural Training Camps for Rural Mass Education during 1997-98 at an estimated expenditure to the tune of Rs. 6,50,000/- (Rupees Six lakhs fifty thousand) only.

Data Base Information and Management System

Massive data collected in the Evaluation wing needs to be properly stored and a system developed for its utilisation. Considering this importance the scheme would be taken up during Ninth Plan.

1.1.2 Programme of the Cottage and Small Scale Industries Department

Under Crop Husbandry the department has been implementing Lac Development Consolidation of Broodlac farms scheme. Under this Scheme assistance is provided to maintain the Broodlac farms located in the districts of Purulia, Bankura, Malda, Murshidabad and Midnapore. The establishment cost of the Broodlac farms are borne from the provisions made under the Scheme. During the Eighth Plan period an amount of Rs. 68.92 lakhs was incurred. The scheme would continue during year 1997-98.

1.1.3 Programme of the Food Processing Industries and Horticulture Department

Horticulture crops covers a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, mushroom, flowers, medicinal and aromatic plant, plantation crops, spices etc. Development of horticulture in this State is being considered presently as a priority area and out of 5.5 million ha. net cultivated area, horticulture crops (including potato) occupies 8-10%. Pressure on the land in the State is very high but since horticulture crops have inherent advantage of higher productivity per unit area resulting in higher income and employment generation, it has been decided to give stress on horticulture.

The State of West Bengal has six distinct agro-climatic regions which can support production of almost all kinds of horticulture crops. Pineapple is the main crop in the foot hills in Terai region. One of the finest quality mandarin orange grows in the Darjeeling hills. Coconut grows luxuriously in the Southern Coastal region. A part of the southern coastal region is also good for cashewnuts. Mango, banana, guava, lichi, papay etc. are the major fruit crops in alluvial plains and together contribute around 12 lakhs tonnes per year. Production of vegetables stands at about 54 lakh tonnes. High value horticulture crops like flowers, spices like ginger, chilli, large cardamom etc. are also produced in large areas. Medicinal plant are also coming up slowly. Nursery business with ornamental plants is very popular in some of the districts near Calcutta, Malda and Darjeeling etc. Orchards are a great assets in many areas.

This State has witnessed substantial progress in production of horticulture crops. Production of vegetables and potato has nearly doubled during the last decade. Production of fruit crops have also increased substantially. A number of new fruits and vegetables crops has been introduced and popularised. Cultivation of hybrid vegetables has spread through out the State. Pineapple is grown during 8 months in a year. Cavendish banana has also been popularised in the State.

The main objectives of the Horticulture Sector in the Annual Plan 1997-98 are:

- i) Increasing productivity of existing orchards by replacement of varieties and introduction of package of practices including rejuvenation programmes in a phased manner.
- ii) Promotion of plantation of fruit crops in unutilised and under-utilised land available especially in the Western Tract, Sundarbans and Hilly areas. Areas available as common properties like vested land, fellow areas, canal banks etc. may also be considered for plantation as far as practicable. Production from small units like home gardens, school gardens, kitchen gardens, odd plots, tank banks etc. may constitute an important source.
- iii) Increasing productivity of vegetables and fruits through supply of quality seeds, planting materials, demonstration/minikit programme etc.
- iv) Promotion of application of inputs like fertilizer, irrigation, plastics, tissue culture, improved implements etc. through special programmes.
- v) Development of nurseries and organising quality seed production.
- vi) Training and demonstration extension activities and for introduction of new varieties.
- vii) Selection of some crop for each identified area keeping in view, the agro-climatic conditions and giving priority to promotion of cultivation of these crops with a focus on production of processible varieties where appropriate.
- viii) Extension of services of soil testing, soil management, pest control etc. up to the village level through setting up of clinics to be run by the qualified private individuals (agriculture graduates) with some help from Government.
- ix) Arranging post harvest infrastructures for marketing facilities like cold storage for fruits and vegetables and cold chain transportation are important. The main initiative will have to come from private sector—some support from the Government may become necessary.
- x) Encouragement of private investment for setting up of horticulture units along with processing facilities. Provision for some incentive may be considered in line with incentives in setting up of new industrial units.
- xi) Proper dissemination of information in the field through booklets and other media.
- xii) Attending to problems in specific areas like commercial floriculture (Pest and diseases and marketing), cashewnut development (processing facilities), development of spices (introduction on improved varieties) betelvine (diseases and marketing), medicinal and aromatic plants (identification, cultivation, processing, marketing and co-ordination) mushroom (spawn production, cultivation and marketing).

A separate Directorate for Horticulture of this newly created department is under contemplation. Efforts will be made to fully involve the Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samities and the Gram Panchayat to ensure delivery of services to the remotest village. It is also intended to take help of the services of Comprehensive Area Development Corporation, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and other NGOs as well as suitable organisations in the private sector as and when necessary. For Horticulture research the arrangement with the State Agriculture University the National Horticulture Board, Spices Board, Coconut Development Board, Cashew Development

Board and other such organisation at the State and the national level would continue.

A modest target for production of fruits and vegetables have been fixed provisionally. It is expected that in the year 1997-98 the production of fruits will reach 13.39 lakhs t from the present (1996-97) productions of 10.35 lakhs t (provisional). Similarly, production of vegetables is expected to increase from 56.37 lakhs t (1996-97) to 60.26 lakhs t in 1997-98.

1.2 SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

1.2.1 Programme of the Agriculture Department

Soil and Water are the two major natural resources on which agricultural production mostly depends. A preliminary estimate reveals that an area of about 16 lakhs hectares of land is prone to soil degradation in different ways. Soil conservation measures taken up in this state relate to soil erosion/degradation due to water only which is 6.17 lakh hectares out of 16.0 lakh hectares degraded area. The different factors covering 6.17 lakh hectares is as below:

1) Ravine/Stream bank erosion	—	0.36	lakh	ha.
2) Land Slide/Land Slip	—	0.30	"	"
3) Sheet/Rill/Gully erosion	—	5.51	"	"
		<hr/>		
		6.17 lakh hectares		

The objectives of soil and water conservation schemes are:

- i) to intercept and reduce run-off and induce large and extensive absorption in situ of available rain water in soil profile;
- ii) to trap eroded materials and thus reduce sediment production either into the streams or the reservoirs;
- iii) to restore/reclaim degraded (Gullied) lands into productive ones;
- iv) to generate irrigation potential for mini-commands in both Kharif and Rabi seasons;
- v) to provide a remunerative single or double crop-based agriculture and also for generate regular and casual jobs to the people;
- vi) to increase total production and provide a stabilised environment.

The following schemes would be continued during 1997-98.

- a) Strengthening of Soil Conservation Organisation
- b) Establishment of Soil Conservation Research Station
- c) Extension of Soil Conservation Works in Wastelands and Agricultural Lands on Watershed Basis in Plains and Hills.
- d) Development of Soil Conservation Training Centre.
- e) Establishment of Soil Conservation-cum-Observation Centre
- f) NWDPR
- g) Land Shaping-cum-Sweet Water Reservoir in the Coastal Tract of West Bengal
- h) Door-to-Door Soil and Water Conservation Popularisation
- i) Development of Water Harvesting Structure with Anti-seepage Lining on Watershed Basis in the Western Districts of West Bengal
- j) Establishment of Central Remote Sensing Laboratory for Introducing Remote Sensing Technique in Soil Conservation

1.2.2. Programme of the Development and Planning Department

State Land Use Board

The State Government has set-up the State Land Use Board (SLUB) to study matters relating to Land Use, Soil and Water Conservation and flood control and to advise the Government on such issues. The objective of Land Use Planning is to ensure optimum conservation of soil fertility and moisture, reduction of flood hazards and sustainable utilisation of natural resources like forest and grazing land etc. The Board functions as a co-ordinating agency among relevant departments. The Board meets periodically to discuss all these issues. The Government of India has also sponsored the Central Sector Scheme of strengthening of State Land Use Boards, for which central assistance is available on 50% grant and 50% loan basis for conducting studies, holding seminars, workshops, publications, developing infrastructure etc. and for meeting the cost of salary of officers and staff up to a certain limit.

The Board has already conducted studies in two Blocks (one in drought prone laterite belt and the other in water surplus area of North 24 Parganas) to examine the present land use pattern. The Board is engaged in a study on "Cropping pattern" in West Bengal in collaboration with the West Bengal Comprehensive Area Development Corporation. SLUB has taken up Geographic information system which will be operational this year. Data Bank documentation and library have been strengthened. The perspective plan up to 2000 A.D. has been formulated by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta has been engaged by SLUB for preparation of perspective plan at Zilla parishad and Block level. The study on restoration of degraded lands in Purulia and Bankura Districts has been assigned to Agricultural Finance Corporation. A study on 'conversion of Agriculture Land to Acquaculture Along the Coast Line' is being carried out by I.I.T., Kharagpur. Three areas in the two agro-climatic zones have been selected for the study on micro-watershed basis.

In order to carry out these programmes and to strengthen the State Land Use Board an outlay of Rs. 28.37 lakhs was fixed for the Eighth Five Year Plan out of which a total amount of Rs. 22.56 lakhs could be spent.

Availability of Central Assistance during the Ninth Five Year Plan is estimated at Rs. 125 lakhs. On average basis Rs. 25 lakhs may be required for each of the Annual Plans. The fund for the Annual Plans will be utilised for:

- i) Strengthening of Geographic information system
- ii) Awareness programme at District Level
- iii) Two new study programme and for smooth running of the continuing studies
- iv) Demonstration of Watershed Development Schemes cum Studies, etc.

So long as the Central assistance in favour of this State is not released this Department has to incur expenditure on account of Salary and Staff of the Board and other organisational expenses. Moreover, the salary of the Chairman and another employee has to be borne fully by the State exchequer.

The estimate for Ninth Plan period is being worked out and for the Annual Plan 1997-98 Rs. 6.00 lakhs have been provided.

1.2.3 Programme of the Forest Department

a) Protective Afforestation

Very high rainfall and weak rock formation lead to frequent land slip, soil gully formation in mountains. The situation is aggravated by deforestation and faulty agricultural practices. In laterite zone mainly sheet erosion takes place due to absence of tree cover. Deep gulleys are formed which are aggravated by uncontrolled grazing and illicit hijacking and falling of trees. Rivers get silted by causing flash floods. In order to take care of the problems, 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 Districts.

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

1.3 ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

1.3.1 Programme of the Animal Resources Development Department

According to 1994 livestock census the State has got 351.7 lakhs of cattle, sheep, goat and pigs and 396.4 lakhs of ducks and fowls. They are mostly non-descript and poor producers of milk, meat and eggs. Most of them are reared in traditional system and generally pursued by small farmers as an occupation subsidiary to crop production. Commercialisation of such production has not taken place in a meaningful way.

In the context of low yields there is scope and urgency of exploiting the potential for improvement in several direction. With little effort and investment towards adoption of better management practices and breeding, livestock can play a very important role for:—

- i) Production of nutritious food like milk, meat and eggs at enhanced rate.
- ii) Alleviation of poverty by providing sole/additional income to farmers family.
- iii) Generation of full/part time employment.
- iv) Production of bio-mass and drought power.
- v) Addition of incremental value to gross domestic product.

With the above objectives in view, the Animal Resources Development Department identified the following thrust areas for development and drawn up suitable programmes during the Eighth Five Year Plan period:—

- a) Improvement of local cattle by cross breeding with semen from bulls of exotic origin through Artificial Insemination.
- b) Prevention and treatment of diseases, causing economic loss to the cattle owners.
- c) Trials for production of suitable varieties of grasses and legumes, fodder trees etc. for production of green fodder.

Agriculture and Allied Activities

- d) Production and supply of balanced livestock feed.
- e) Supply of superior breeding materials from the Government Livestock Farms.
- f) Training of farmers in different disciplines of livestock management.
- g) Formation of Co-operatives of livestock farmers for marketing of produce.

Facilities of Artificial Insemination has been extended to the remote rural areas from the Block Animal Health Centres and the Additional Block Animal Health Centres. This is a major shift to our earlier policies and provides a single window service to the farmers which was not available at an appreciable level before Eighth Plan Period. The total number of artificial inseminations registered a growth up to 7 lakhs (annual) from that of 6.34 lakhs at the end of Seventh Plan Period.

The impact was perceptible in case of milk production which recorded 34.4 lakhs MT (annual), increase of about 4 lakhs MT from the year 1991-92.

In case of poultry, emphasis had been given on introduction of superior types of birds and also for improvement of local birds as a family based programme. Total egg production of the State at the end of 1996-97 came to 2630 millions no. from that of 2327 millions no. at the end of 1991-92. The State has emerged as third largest egg producers in the country. Total production of meat which was 399 thousand MT in 1991-92 has now come up to 425 thousand MT at the end of 8th Plan Period.

In case of feeds and fodder, the department could achieve a remarkable improvement in fodder development activities and also some infrastructural development in this sector. This was possible due to involvement of World Bank though in a small way. Two stations have been established, one at Salboni in the district of Midnapur and another at Ramsai in the district of Jalpaiguri, where extensive research and trial on different indigenous and imported varieties of fodder species have been taken up. Infrastructure in training of farmers in fodder development have also come up in these two stations.

With the bilateral arrangement involving Forest Department, extensive areas in selected forest had been put under fodder cultivation with the involvement of the local people in formation of Forest Protection Committee (F.P.C).

The responsibility for production of balanced livestock feed now rests with West Bengal Diary & Poultry Development Corporation during the Eighth Plan period. The Corporation have installed new plants at Salboni and Gazole and the work for establishment of a new plant at Durgapur, with the assistance from D.R.D.A. is going on. As a result of this, the production capacity has been expanded by 45 MT per shift per day, during 8th Plan period.

Three more new Pig Breeding Stations have come up during the 8th Plan period for production of quality piglets for distribution amongst private farmers and also for supply of breeding materials for improvement of local pigs. With the assistance of the A.R.D. Department a good number of private farms have come up in the district of North and South 24-Parganas, Nadia, Midnapur, Bankura and Burdwan. The State has also exported pigs to the neighbouring States after meeting the local demand.

Rabbit for meat is a new venture in the activities of the Department during the Eighth Plan period. This has aroused lot of enthusiasm and interest amongst private farmers. Five districts have already started breeding of rabbits.

With adoption of suitable preventive Vaccination programmes there had not been any major outbreak of animal disease during Eighth Plan period. The State has successfully eradicated a menacing disease of cattle (Rinderpest). There had not been any report of particular disease from the endemic zones during this period.

Emphasis has been laid on taking the Animal Health Care Services to the farmers door by organising increased number of health camps in the village.

Much effort has been given on collection and dissemination on information from the Headquarters and diagnostic centres to the field level and vis-a-vis. Computerised data base and net work for information system have been created during the Eighth Plan period.

In the field of education and research a separate University for the Animal and Fishery Sciences has been set up and started functioning from the last plan.

In the Co-operative Sector, Seven Milk Unions have been registered with 1528 primary societies and 94,730 producer members. Apart from this 205 women societies having 15183 women members have also come up during the Eighth Plan period. These members are pouring 1.43 lakh litres and 1,19,000 litres of milk respectively per day to the dairies.

During 9th Plan period, the thrust areas, identified during the Eighth Plan period, will continue to operate during the 9th Plan period. The Department is keen to provide the essential inputs and services to the poor livestock owners of the rural areas for bringing in improvement in the productivities of the farmers' animals, thereby a better return to the farmer. With successful implementation of these programmes, the State will be in a position to become self-sufficient in essential items like milk, meat and egg. A large number of unemployed youth has self-employed themselves with assistance under these programmes and many others could find additional income out of livestock keeping.

A greater emphasis had been laid in expansion of existing facilities and creation of newer facilities for providing better services to the poor rural people.

Similarly, the department will encourage more family based programmes during the 9th Plan period. Both for production of milk, meat and eggs and also for creating employment opportunity/additional income to the farmers family in the rural areas.

The Scheduled Castes and Tribal people maintain livestock as a part of their life styles and also as a source of income for their livelihood. But due to their ignorance about scientific management and breeding practices, they do not get optimum return from the animals they keep. Often they are faced with great economic losses due to sudden death of animals since they do not adopt any preventive vaccination and also hygienic standard in maintenance of their animals.

In the animal husbandry sector, the Department had an outlay of Rs. 436.51 lakhs under Special Component Plan for the Schedule Caste people and Rs. 139.59 lakhs under Tribal Sub-Plan in the Eighth Plan. In the annual plan for the year 1997-98 an amount of Rs. 185.80 lakhs and Rs. 47.70 lakhs have been provided in the budget for programmes to be undertaken under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan respectively.

A sum of Rs. 1501.36 has been kept for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

1.4 DAIRY DEVELOPMENT

1.4.1 Programme of the Animal Resources Development Department

The Directorate of Dairy Development is rendering assured marketing for the producers of milk against reasonable and compatible price in one hand and distribution of hygienic processed milk to the consumers at a very reasonable price.

Per day capacity of milk procurement has raised from 60000 kgs. to 91,000 kgs. during the end of 8th Plan period. One more dairy having 4 lakhs litres of handling capacity per day has come up during the 8th Plan period under joint venture and the management of the Mother Dairy has also been taken over by the Government at the end of the Eighth Plan period.

About 2 lakhs litres of milk per day are being supplied from the Government Dairies at present. During the annual plan 1997-98 the Directorate would like to modernise—

- (i) Central Dairy and Haringhata Dairy with replacement of old equipment and purchase of new equipment by creating facilities of cold storage for better utilisation of products,
- (ii) Improvement of transportation facilities for transporting milk from rural areas,
- (iii) Diversification of the activities of dairies towards production of items like Chocolate, Ghee, Butter, Paneer etc.
- (iv) Village level primary societies in the district of Birbhum and Bankura (non-operation flood area) will be taken up.
- (v) Collection and chilling facilities will be extended in the rural areas.

An appropriate amount has been kept for the Annual Plan period (1997-98).

Under Dairy Development Programmes an amount equal to 24% of the budget allocations had been utilised for the programmes under Special Component Plan and about 6% of the budget allocations under Tribal Sub-Plan during the 8th Plan period. A similar portion of the budget under Dairy Development Sector is likely to be utilised during 1997-98.

A sum of Rs. 508.64 lakhs has been kept for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

1.5 FISHERIES

1.5.1 Programme of the Fisheries Department

Fisheries represent a very vital area in rural development which aims at improvement of socio-economic condition of fisher-folk with generation of rural employment. Improved pisciculture through infusion of scientific, technological, eco-friendly and pragmatic practices in the breeding rearing, harvesting, processing, storing and marketing operation has been the basic approach in this sector.

West Bengal is potent with rivers and their tributaries, creeks and canals, beels and baors with almost all types of fishery resources. These water bodies are highly rich in innumerable variety of fish, both sweet water and brackishwater. Pond fisheries of the State deserve a special

mention. Brackishwater culture fisheries potential along the coastal line is the largest in the country. Additionally, marine fishery resources of the State encompasses a large variety of commercially important species of the fish. In otherwards, starting from marine fisheries in the Bay of Bengal, West Bengal is endowed with wide range of fishery resources right up to the Himalayan foot hills.

Brief Review of Eighth Plan

With sustained efforts, the achievements of the earlier Plan period were consolidated during the Eighth Plan period. Fish production has increased from 4.02 lakh tonnes in 1984-85 to 8.93 lakh tonnes in 1995-96, registering an annual growth rate of 12.21%. The target of 9.30 lakh tonnes of fish production by the end of the Eighth Plan is about to have been met.

Fish Seed Production

The fish seed production has registered significant growth. It has already exceeded the target of 8.50 million seeds of 1995-96. The production level of fish seed at the end of fourth year of the plan was 8180 million which is almost 70 to 75% of the total production in the country.

Inland Fisheries

Under the Inland Fisheries Project, the F.F.D.A. has shown substantial progress in all the districts of the State. In the first four years of the plan, about 13,509 ha. area could be brought under IFP coverage and the same is expected to reach a level of 16,500 ha. by the end of the plan as against the total target of 35,000 ha.

Beel Fisheries and Co-operatives

The ox-bow lakes of the State is also another important source of production of quality table fish. The State has an area of around 41,000 ha. of ox-bow lakes distributed in different districts of the State. The ox-bow lakes are State owned and managed by the fishermen residing in the vicinity of the water bodies forming Primary Fishermen Co-operative Societies. Since most of the ox-bow lakes lost their connection with the mother river systems and became derelict/semi-derelict for reclamation of ox-bow lakes with the assistance of the National Co-operative Development Corporation was undertaken to boost up production in three most potential districts of the State.

Benfish, the apex body of Fishermen's Co-operative Societies, is self-supporting and fast expanding, both within and outside the State.

Jhora Fishery

The hill areas of Darjeeling district is ideal for running water fisheries. Under programme for construction of 'Jhora' in the hilly areas 2,437 number of such Jhoras have been set-up.

River Ranching

With an aim to augment fish stock in the rivers, a programme styled as "River Ranching Programme" was launched. About 60 lakh fingerlings were liberated into the rivers up to 1995-96.

Brackishwater Aquaculture

Brackishwater Fisheries Development Agencies (BFDA) which were set-up in the three coastal districts of the State have made considerable contribution to boost up the Brackishwater

Agriculture and Allied Activities

Aquaculture during Eighth Five Year Plan. The achievement in this area during the four years of the Eighth Five Year Plan is quite notable. In the first four years of the plan about 1,190 ha. area could be brought under BFDA coverage and the same is expected to reach 1,490 ha. by the end of the plan.

Social Fisheries

The social fisheries schemes for the upliftment of fishermen belonging to SC and ST have made substantial progress during the first four years of the Eighth Plan.

Marine Fisheries

During the Eighth Five Year Plan period, the exploitation of fish from the marine sector has increased considerably due to the introduction of high power mechanised crafts with the assistance of NDC. About 250 numbers of such boats have already been distributed to the sea-going fishermen with the formation of Primary Co-operative Societies to facilitate marine fishing. The Department has developed infrastructural facilities like construction of marine fishing harbours at Sankarpur and Fresergunj, fish landing centres, link roads, construction of ice plants and sinking of tubewells and provision of diesel pump station etc.

Welfare Measures

To improve the economic condition of the tribal fishermen a cluster programme to utilise all types of water bodies available in the tribal areas has been taken up. Special training programme to educate them in scientific pisciculture and integrated fish farming are also taken up. Moreover, to uplift the socio-economic condition of fishermen community programme for construction of model villages for fishermen in different parts of the State has also been taken up. Other infrastructural facilities, such as village roads, dwelling houses, tubewells, community centres etc. are provided to these socially backward communities who are 'directly' engaged for their livelihood in fishery activities.

Research Activities

Department of Fisheries has set-up Research Centre on Microbiology & Parasitology at Captain Bhery, Calcutta, to suggest better preventive and remedial measures regarding fin fish and shell fish diseases etc.

Moreover, Freshwater Research Centre at Kulea is now engaged in need based research activities on application of modern technology in production of quality fish seed, breeding, propagation, culture of magur, pearl culture, etc.

Training, Extension & Education

Besides these, significant achievement could be made towards training of fish farmers, fishermen and fisher-women in different disciplines. The number of beneficiaries trained during the first four years of the 8th Plan is around 23,000.

In order to cope with the needs on diversified approaches and to impart technical expertise in the fishery sector, a new university, viz. "West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences" was opened during 1995-96. Fishery Faculty started functioning and four year B.F.Sc. course commenced with effect from 1995-96 academic session.

Financial Achievement

Out of Rs. 7917.00 lakh outlay proposed during the Eighth Five Year Plan, the yearwise outlay/and expenditure are shown as follows:

Year	Outlay (Rs. in lakh)	Expenditure (Rs. in lakh)
1992-93	1155.00	364.71
1993-94	800.00	629.94
1994-95	991.00	1391.57
1995-96	1860.00	1763.81
1996-97	2800.00	2779.00

In the revised form of World Bank Aided Shrimp and Fish Culture Project, civil constructions in farm project sites viz. Canning and Dighirpar in South 24 Parganas and Digha and Dadanpatrabar in Midnapore districts are almost in completion stage. Some support service facilities, such as, Hatcheries, Ice Plants, Feed Mill, individual quick freezing are also to be provided. Out of four hatcheries, the construction of one is complete and the work for the remaining hatcheries has made considerable progress.

Ninth Five Year Plan Objectives

- Enhancement of fish production and the productivity of fishermen, fisher-women, fish farmers etc. with an aim of attaining self-sufficiency.
- Employment generation, poverty alleviation and rural economy through fisheries development programmes.
- Upliftment of socio-economic condition of the poor fisher-folk with special reference to SCs and STs etc.
- Provision of various welfare measures for the fishing communities.
- Establishment of more Minor Fishing Harbours, fish landing centres, fish landing jetties and strengthening of existing centres so that small crafts are also provided with much needed shore based facilities.
- Setting up of Remote Sensing Devices with wireless sets, guide lights etc. along coastal belt of the State.
- Development of infrastructural facilities like link roads, markets, processing centres, transportation, ice plants, etc.
- Strengthening of Research and Development Activities regarding fin-fish and shell-fish for diversification, maximisation of productivity and to mitigate losses due to diseases.
- To preserve eco-system and maintenance of ecological equilibrium.
- Development of eco-friendly brackishwater aquaculture in a scientific manner.
- Optimum exploitation of marine resources by introducing advanced crafts and gears by utilising the potential fisheries zones forecasting.
- Strengthening of administrative set up.
- Procurement of petrol boats and their operation for enforcement of M.F.R.A.
- Setting up of artificial reefs and fish aggregating devices.

Agriculture and Allied Activities

- To promote the development of Fishery Co-operatives so as to make them to reach the desired levels.
- Construction of marine aquaria at Fresergunj and Shankarpur.
- Strengthening of Training, Extension and Education.

STRATEGIES

The strategy during Ninth Five Year Plan will be augmentation of fish production by utilising the untapped potential resources of inland, brackishwater and marine aquaculture sectors. New waterbodies to the extent of 25,000 ha. is proposed to be developed on scientific lines in inland sector. It has also been proposed to introduce Aerator to increase the productivity per unit area by introducing intensive manuring and feed. With these measures the productivity would be increased from 3 tonnes (as in existing waterbodies) to 7 tonnes per ha.

Productivity of big waterbodies is rather low. 16,000 ha. would be taken up for augmenting productivity in a meaningful way to meet the demand of big size table fish in the State.

Small waterbodies owned by small and marginal farmers adopt traditional methods of culture and their productivity is also very poor. New schemes will be introduced through contract Farming system to yield high production waterbodies for the benefit of small and marginal farmers.

Active participation of fisher-folk, pandhayats, Zilla Parishad and co-operatives would be ensured to achieve growth rate of fish production of 0.42 lakh M.T/Yr. average.

Optimum exploitation of marine fishery resources, eco-friendly brackishwater aquaculture are also envisaged. Efforts will also be made for optimal utilisation of vast biological productivity of various waterbodies hitherto going unutilized.

In the beginning of Ninth Five Year Plan the demand for fish is estimated to be 10.70 lakh M.T. as against expected promotion of 9.5 lakh M.T. Projected demand for fish would be 11.58 lakhs M.T. as against anticipated production of 11.60 lakhs M.T. at the end of Ninth Five Year Plan attaining not only self-sufficiency in fish production but also surplus as well.

Table 23
Projection of Demand

Year	Estimate of Population	Estimated demand (Lakh tonnes)	Estimate of Production (lakh tonnes)	Surplus or Deficit
1997-1998	7.64	10.70	9.50	- 1.20
1998-1999	7.79	10.93	9.95	- 0.98
1999-2000	7.94	11.14	10.45	- 0.69
2000-2001	8.09	11.35	11.00	- 0.35
2001-2002	8.25	11.58	11.60	+ 0.02

N.B. I. Internal demand is calculated at 50 gms per head per day for 6 days a week and 52 weeks in a year for 90% of estimated population of the State as fish eater i.e., 1.404 lakhs tonne fish per 1 (one) crore population.

II. Population has been calculated with growth rate of 2.01% per year over census figure of 5.45 crores of 1980-81.

Table 24
Estimated Fish Production During Ninth Plan

Year	Culture Fisheries	Capture Fisheries	Marine including deep sea fishing	Grand Total
1997-1998	5.61	2.13	1.76	9.50
1998-1999	5.97	2.16	1.82	9.95
1999-2000	6.37	2.20	1.88	10.45
2000-2001	6.83	2.23	1.94	11.00
2001-2002	7.33	2.27	2.00	11.60

Table 25
Estimated Fish Seed Production During Ninth Plan

Year	No. of carp Fry (million)
1997-1998	— 8500
1998-1999	— 6810
1999-2000	— 8725
2000-2001	— 8850
2001-2002	— 9000

Welfare Measures

The existing schemes towards old age pension, creation of infrastructural facilities like sinking of tubewells, construction of net/boat making yard, community halls, development of village roads, model village development, group insurance, diesel subsidy, river ranching, social fishery would continue.

Beneficial programmes such as Saving-Cum-Relief Scheme for marine fishermen, distribution of walky-talky to marine fishermen for cyclone warning and locating fishing zone etc. are proposed to be taken up during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Fishing Harbours and Fish Landing Centres

To meet the demand towards landing and berthing facility for the existing and incoming fishing fleet it has been necessitated to build up new harbours and landing centres apart from development works to be taken up for existing Shankarpur Fishing Harbour under Digha Stage-II programme.

In preparing the Master Plan towards fisheries harbour development, potential sites for construction of minor fishing harbour at Khejuri in the District of Midnapur and Hard Wood Point (Lot-8) in South 24 Parganas district have been considered in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Out of 12 jetties/landing centres likely to be taken up, 6 places have already been identified as potential sites for inclusion under Ninth Five Year Plan as mentioned below:

Fish Landing Centre	Jetty	District
1. Petraghat, PS Contai	—	Midnapur
2. Masnadiala, PS Khejuri	—	-Do-
3. Raidighi, PS Mathurapur	—	South 24 Parganas
4. Ramganga, PS Patharpratima		
5.	Diamond Harbour, PS Diamond Harbour	
6.	Beguahali, PS Sagar	

Agriculture and Allied Activities

Marine Fisheries

As against potentiality of 321 thousand tonnes of marine resources 153 thousand tonnes could be tapped up with limited facility of existing fishing fleet comprising of 2584 no. of mechanised and 3494 no. traditional craft during 1995-96.

Programme of judicious mix of mechanised/non-mechanised vessels and other need based craft would be undertaken to reach the target of 176 thousand tonnes at the beginning of the Ninth Five Year Plan to 200 thousand tonnes by 2001-2002 at an annual growth rate of 3.3%.

Introduction of artificial Reefs

For the enforcement of West Bengal Marine Fishing Regulation Act & Rules, it was felt necessary to procure 4 patrol boats (B-Type) for the purpose and the work is in progress. The well equipped vessels will also have regular contact with the shore wireless communication systems at Shankarpur and Frasergunj to receive the cyclone warning, weather forecast as well as information regarding Potential Fishing Zone and transmit the same to the fishing fleet in the sea through walky-talkies provided by the Government.

Remote sensing and its application in marine fisheries

Fish stock is influenced and controlled by certain oceanographic parameters which can be measured by the on board sensors in the satellite. Sometimes fish shoals can be detected from direct spotting from low lying air crafts. Efforts would be made to use these techniques in the marine fisheries through data provided by National Remote Sensing Agency. Hyderabad and its subsequent dissemination process with the help of shore based wireless connection centres, patrol boats and walky-talkis. Other medias would be appropriately used.

Environmental Factors and Eco-System

Environmental factors and eco-system have been given uppermost considerations guidelines for strict compliance with eco-friendly brackishwater aquaculture have been issued. They will be monitored during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Fishery Co-operatives in West Bengal

Fishermen's Co-operative Societies are playing important roles in both marine and inland sectors with the assistance of NCDC. Such role would be continued and further extended during the Ninth Plan period.

Employment Generation

Fishery projects have very high level of employment generation potential. As against an estimated investment of Rs. 32.40 crores per annum the employment potential is extremely high. It has been estimated that 2,75,70,000 nos. of mandays will be created under different sectors.

Sectors	Mandays created in 1000 nos.
1. Direction and administration	290.00
2. Inland sector	22,537.00
3. Marine sector	661.00
4. Infrastructure	375.00
5. Extension & Training	343.50
6. Co-operatives	33.50
7. Fishermen Welfare Schemes	400.00
8. Tribal Sub-Plan	2,930.00
Total:	27,570.00

Strengthening The Fishery Set-up in the State

With increasing load on development of fisheries and ancillary activities, it would be rather difficult to meet the demand with the existing staff support. It would therefore be necessary to strengthening the fishery set-up in the State. For the said purpose, additional posts may have to be created during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Tribal Sub-Plan

Fisheries are now being accepted as earning avenues by tribals of our State. For their induction and also for awareness building, schemes are tailored to suit their needs. Rs. 170.82 lakhs were spent during 1992-96 and Rs. 59.00 lakhs are expected to be utilised during 1996-97 for the tribal fishermen. During 1997-98 three major schemes under TSP would be implemented:

- 1) Economic upliftment of tribal people through operation of pisciculture development schemes in tribal areas,
- 2) Scheme for development of aquaculture through FFDA in tribal areas and
- 3) Scheme for development of fisheries for the tribals outside ITDP areas.

Special Component Plan

Fishermen families by and large belong to the Scheduled Caste Community. Apart from general schemes applicable for all communities, fund is also provided exclusively for Scheduled Caste fishermen. During 1996-97 Rs. 800 lakhs flowed in this area.

- i) Development of shrimp farming in brackishwater areas with World Bank assistance and through B.F.D.
- ii) Introduction of Aerators in inland fisheries ponds.
- iii) Induction of scientific pisciculture technology to the fish farmers by appropriate training.
- iv) Strengthening of infrastructural facilities in fishing villages as well as fish landing centres.

Besides, old age pension for the aged fishermen, group personal accident insurance, savings-cum-relief etc. are in operation and will continue.

Schemes for Socio-economic upliftment

A bunch of schemes formulated for benefit of backward fisherman community would be continued during 1997-98. Additionally a special scheme for women designated as 'Imparting Training of Fisherwomen in net making repairing and ancillary skilled development in fishermen's families' would also be continued. This training programme increases their skill in net making, repairing and ancillary development and strengthened their economic status. During 1992-96, 1600 fisherwomen were trained and 460 fisherwomen are expected to be covered during 1996-97.

Externally Aided Projects

An Externally Aided Programme known as World Bank aided shrimp culture project with cost sharing of the project is at 85% : 15% (World Bank will bear 85% of the project cost and State Government will bear the remaining 15% cost) has been under implementation. The agreement of which was signed on 29.1.1992 and the work started in the month of January, 1995. Initially the estimated cost of the project was Rs. 10,266.66 lakhs and latter it was revised to the tune of Rs. 6,515.24 lakhs. The date of completion of project as per agreement is 30.6.1999 and it is expected that the programme will be completed in scheduled time.

1.6 PLANTATIONS

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 of 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 also include modernisation of its existing factories in phases. In respect of Darjeeling gardens of WBIDC Ltd., the market realisation was very favourable and encouraging as there was an increasing trend in the average price per kg. of tea.

In 1997-98, the Corporation aims to continue its efforts for overall development of the gardens under its control by further augmentation of its productivity and quality of made tea. The Corporation has, by this time, taken various development programmes for augmentation of production of tea.

An outlay of Rs. 310.00 Lakhs has been proposed in the Annual Plan 1997-98.

(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, ipecac, 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 programmes of the Corporation, a provision of Rs. 210.00 lakhs has been suggested during 1997-98.

1.7 FOOD, STORAGE AND WAREHOUSING

1.7.1 Programme of the Agriculture Department

Storage and Warehousing

The broad objective of this programme is to develop and strengthen marketing infrastructure and arrest wastage of fruit products and encourage consumption of processed fruits in order to protect the interest of the producers as well as consumers. The main thrust area is the processing of fruits and vegetables in order to create additional demand for fruits and vegetables and protect the interest of the fruits and vegetables growers particularly at a time when their prices fall during peak harvesting period due to the glut in the market because of the perishable nature of the produce. The Directorate also imparts training at the domestic level for processing and preservation of fruits and vegetables in the twenty-four fruit processing centres located in

Calcutta and the various districts of the State so that the domestic households can avail of the facility of consuming processed fruits at cheaper prices. In the Annual Plan of 1997-98 it has been proposed to step up some of the existing 24 centres to augment the production of the centre.

Directorate has also undertaken a scheme for extension of Community Canning Services through ex-trainees to spread the facilities in the areas uncovered by the existing centres. 8 (eight) such centres have already been sanctioned. More centres are proposed in the Annual Plan of 1997-98.

Another objective of the Directorate is to create godown facilities at market level to enable the storing of agricultural produce and sell them when their prices become remunerative. We also propose to create Warehouse facility at farm level in order to prevent storage loss from podent and pest attack. Creation of one more rural godown and 423 domestic level storage structures is our obojective during the Annual Plan of 1997-98 and thereby create additional 846 MT capacity of the storage facilities of agricultural prdouce at farm level.

Directorate has established 4 (four) processed Fruits Marketing Cell and Sales Counter in the districts in collaboration with Regulated Market Committee in order to augment the sale of the fruit products produced in different centres and attempt is to be made to increase creatings of such sale counters.

Directorate proposes to organise Workshops Seminars and undertake demonstration programme for better packaging of fruits vegetables in order to minimise damage of the produce and transport loss.

1.7.2 Programme of the Public Undertakings Department

West Bengal State Warehousing Corporation

In order to keep pace with the increasing demand for storage capacity, the ongoing programme for construction of further storage capacity of 56100 MT in different districts of the State at an estimated cost of Rs. 1580.00 lakhs to be financed by the State Government, Central Warehousing Corporation and the State Warehousing Corporation has been included in the Ninth Plan period. At the end of Eighth Plan period the Corporation has achieved the capacity to the tune of 20.464 MT. The target for the year 1997-98 has been to enhance the capacity to the tune of 15000 MT. For this purpose an amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs has been provided for the year 1997-98.

1.8 AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

1.8.1 Programme of the Agriculture Department

Agricultural Research

The agricultural research activities in the State are linked with increasing agricultural production and productivity in the laboratory and experimental farms as well as verification through demonstration in the farmers fields. The network of research activities are spread over the Research Stations located in all major agroclimatic zones of the State. Six Commodity Research Stations operate on multidisciplinary approach basis taking crop improvement research requirements and advocate suitable crop, variations and appropriate management practices including plant protection measures.

The Commodity Research Stations are located as follows:

- i) Rice Research Station at Chinsurah.
- ii) Pulses & Oilseeds Research Station, Berhampore.
- iii) The Field Crop Research Station at Burdwan.
- iv) The Horticultural Research Station located at Krishnanagore.
- v) The Sugarcane Research Station located at Bethuadahari.
- vi) The Water Management Research Station at Ranaghat.

The other research activities include the Dryland Research Station located at Bankura, three Zonal Adaptive Research Stations located at Kalimpong (Hill Zones), Majhian (old alluvium) and Kakdwip (coastal saline zone), Disciplinewise researchs by the Entomology Section at Burdwan, Economic Botanist-III Section at Midnapore and Singur are the Agricultural Chemistry Section. In order to explore the possibilities of biological N-fixation, farm facilities in five Government farms located at different agro-climatic soil conditions have been provided to Vivekananda Institute of Biotechnology, Ramakrishna Ashram, Nimpith (24-Parganas South)—for studies related to research work on BGA & Azolla, multiplications and demonstration.

Emphasis is laid to involve the farmers and their problems in research activities.

1.8.2 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, silvipasture and ecological studies.

1.9 AGRICULTURAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

1.9.1 Programme of the Finance (I.F.) Department

Regional Rural Banks

The schemes for establishment of Regional Rural Banks was introduced in 1976 with a view to developing the rural economy and other production activities in rural areas providing credit and other facilities particularly to the small and marginal farmers and agricultural labours, artisans and small entrepreneurs. So far nine Regional Rural Banks have been set up in West Bengal. No new RRB has been set up in 1996-97.

In the financial year (1996-97), the State Government sanctioned a total amount of Rs. 15.00 lakhs to the four RRBs viz (i) Gour (ii) UBKGB (iii) Mallabhum and (iv) Mayurakshi @ 3.75 lakhs each in order to raise their capital-base to Rs. one crore each. An amount of Rs. 406.049 lakhs was also provided to two RRBs viz. (i) Sagar Gramin Bank (Rs. 234.786 lakhs) and (ii) Nadia Gramin Bank (Rs. 171.263 lakhs) for equity contribution for revamping in compliance with a decision taken by the Government of India.

An amount of Rs. 7.50 lakhs has been fixed for raising the share capital base of two RRBs @ 3.75 lakhs each for the next financial year (1997-98).

1.10 OTHER AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMMES

1.10.1 Programme of the Agriculture Department

Marketing and Quality Control

Increasing agricultural production has put on the existing marketing system enormous pressure for efficient handling, transportation, storage, processing, preservation and disposal of the farm produce. The broad objective of the marketing sector is to keep pace with the trend of production and related infrastructural requirement to protect the divergent interests of the growers and the consumers.

The Directorate of Agricultural Marketing usually addresses the marketing issues from five angles by way of taking schemes as intervention strategy:

i) To take care the problems of economic transportation of the produce of the farmers, a scheme for Distribution of some Bullockcart and Cycle rickshaw has been in operation. About 1566 improved bullockcarts and 500 rickshaw vans have been distributed. The scheme will continue during 1997-98.

To facilitate movement of agricultural produce from farm to market, a scheme for Development of Farm to Market Link Road has been taken up. 476 market linked roads with total approximate coverage of 3000 KM have been developed including culverts for sewerages and bridges. The scheme will also continue during 1997-98.

ii) Storing of produce is an important component of Plan Schemes taken under this sector. A scheme for construction of farm level storing structure has been taken up to minimise storage loss sustained by growers at farm level. With the scheme, till 1996-97, 1722 farm premises in the State with total storage pace of 3444 MT (average capacity of each storage being 2 MT) could be created. The scheme would also continue during 1997-98.

The storage linked Pledge Finance Loan Scheme has also been taken up to arrest the fall of market prices of huge arrivals of the produce following peak harvesting period. Under the scheme small and marginal farmers are provided with cheap loan facilities on pledging of their agricultural produce, to enable them sell when the prices are remunerative. The scheme would also continue during 1997-98.

iii) Processing and preservation of produce are very acute for farmers specially poor farmers whose technical knowledge requires to be adequately built up over a period of time. With this in view two schemes have been taken up:

(a) Schemes for training, processing and preservations of fruits and vegetables;

(b) Facilities of Community Canning through ex-trainees. Apart from the above, for preservation of the produce, a scheme styled as promotion for construction of Cold Storage has also been in operation to add to Cold Storage space in our State. The scheme would also continue during 1997-98.

iv) For marketing of produce small and marginal farmer face problems of Grading and Quality Control. Under Quality Control Scheme, Commodity Grading Schemes Oil, Ghee & Honey Grading, Cereals, Pulses & Spices Grading Scheme are in operation in our State. This apart, Jute Grading Training Programme and inspection for issuing Jute license have also been running.

The schemes would continue during 1997-98.

v) The problem of reasonable return of various produce are taken care of through a variety of schemes under Agricultural Produce Market Regulation Schemes as per West Bengal Agricultural Produce Market Regulation Act, 1972.

The Department has also organised Market Extension Programme & Training of Marketing Officials and Employees to update their knowledge so that they can appropriately assist the farmers.

1.11 CO-OPERATION

1.11.1 Programme of the Co-operation Department

Co-operative Development in our State is a continuous process, one plan running into the other, unhindered and uninterrupted. There is hardly any scope for taking the different Five Year Plans, in so far as the Co-operative Sector is concerned, as water-tight compartments. Thus, the ongoing schemes during the Eighth Plan, whether in the short-term or long-term or consumers or marketing sectors, have been retained during the year 1997-98, a few new schemes having been allowed to make any impact on the over all situation in the Co-operative Sector. Special stress has been put on strengthening the existing infrastructure at the grass-roots level co-operatives through consolidation and revitalisation by way of providing financial support, both direct and indirect. The plan outlays proposed under various schemes seek to ensure development of the Primary Co-operative Societies in the Agricultural, Marketing and Consumers Sectors in order that the benefits might ultimately percolate to the poorer section of the people. Primary Agricultural Credit Societies including FSCSs and LAMPSs have been sought to be substantially strengthened not merely through greater participation of the rural poor within the Co-operation fold with the scheme of Universal Membership coming into operation in full swing, but also through the implementation of the Business Development Plan through these grass-root societies, by way of mobilisation of their own resources. Emphasis has been given on mobilisation of deposits in the Primary level Agricultural Credit Societies, enabling such societies to attain financial viability in order to be positively involved in self-sustaining and self-supporting business on their own.

The total financial outlay for the Annual Plan for 1997-98 has been fixed at Rs. 1400.00 lakhs, out of which an amount of Rs. 1103.00 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 Co-operation organisations which is also meant to be utilised towards implementation of schemes and programme at the district level.

The final objectives of the Annual Plan for 1997-98 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 Co-operatives 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 BDP.
- 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 porcessing 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.

The sub-sectorwise outlays proposed are as follows:

Short-term and Medium-term Agricultural Credit

Short-term and Medium-term credit which have so long catered to the needs of the farmers at the grass-root level through operation of Primary level Agricultural Credit Societies, have now been sought to assist diverse activities of the members of such societies in the field of small scale industries, consumer business, banking business and other non-farm activities. In order to enable the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies to stand on their own legs for carrying on business in diversified areas, for the benefit of the members, the scope of membership has been widened through operation of the Universal Membership Scheme in a big way. Societies at the primary level are to be encouraged to perform various economic activities through pursuing Business Development Plan for the benefit of the rural poor. Mobilisation of deposits by the PACS is another point of emphasis whereby such Primary Societies can attain economic viability and self-reliance through the process of mobilisation on their own resources. Major emphasis has been sought to be put on the following:

- a) Strengthening of infrastructures at different levels.
- b) Dispensation of credit for all categories of poor people at the grass-root level through the Primary Co-operatives.
- c) Much greater credit flow to the weaker section of the rural people.
- d) Rehabilitation of societies with long outstanding overdues, choking the normal flow of credit; and
- e) Special measures for writing-off bad and irrecoverable debts.

In the short-term sector, during the year 1995-96, an amount of Rs. 199.45 crores was invested by the Central Co-operative Banks against a target of Rs. 180.00 crores, while during the year 1996-97, such investment was to the tune of Rs. 200.00 crores. The investment for the year 1997-98 is likely to reach a target of Rs. 210.00 crores.

ii) Long-term Credit

The long-term Credit is advanced under the aegis of the West Bengal State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank Ltd. through its 2 branches and 24 Primary Agriculture and Rural Development Banks. The floatation of special and ordinary debentures under the monitoring of NABARD is the main sources of the fund of such banks.

Agriculture and Allied Activities

Long-term Credit catering to the financial requirement of the farmer-members at the village level through operation of Primary Co-operative Agricultural Rural Development Banks, is now being sought to widen its scope through diversification of lending business in the field of non-farm and housing sectors. Greater emphasis has been given on deposit mobilisation by such Primary banks in order to enable them to create its own fund for the purpose of expanding their business interms of the Development Action Plan. These Primary ARDBs have prepared DAP under the guidance of NABARD for strengthening their financial structure and attaining viability and self-reliance by way of improving their business position.

During the Annual Plan for 1997-98 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 WB State Co-operation Agricultural and Rural Development Bank Ltd. advanced an amount of Rs. 40.20 crores in the year 1995-96 against a target of Rs. 45.00 crores. During the year 1996-97, such investment was to the tune of Rs. 33.13 crores (till December, 1996) against a target of Rs. 36.00 crores. Investment for the year 1997-98 is likely to reach a target of Rs. 86.00 crores.

iii) **Marketing and Processing**

The Annual Plan for the Marketing and Processing Sector has been framed with a view to achieving 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 poor farmers;
- b) Procurement of agricultural 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 PAMS 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 NHB scheme;
- i) Revitalisation of the existing Co-operation Rice Mills; and
- j) Extension of a 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.

In the State there are 269 Primary Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Societies with the West Bengal State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd. at the State level. The Marketing

Societies and the PACS created storage capacity of 510.80 thousand MT till 1995-96. The target for 1996-97 was fixed at 600.00 thousand MT, of which the achievement till December 1996 has been 512.60 thousand MT. The target up to 1997-98 has been fixed at 520.00 thousand MT. The storage capacity of the Co-operation Cold Storages has gone up to 1.93 lakhs MT in 1995-96. The target for 1996-97 was 2.08 lakhs MT, against which there has been an achievement of 1.98 lakhs MT till December 1996. The PAMS distributed fertilisers worth Rs. 232.00 crores in the year 1995-96. Such target for the year 1996-97 was Rs. 250.00 crores, against which there has been an achievement of Rs. 225.00 crores till December 1996. The value of agricultural produces marketed by these societies during the year 1995-96 was Rs. 31.35 crores. There was a target of Rs. 70.00 crores for the year 1996-97 against which the achievement till December 1996 is Rs. 33.00 crores. The target for the year 1997-98 is around Rs. 41.00 crores.

iv) Consumers

During the Eighth Plan Period, the Consumers Co-operatives sector did not receive adequate financial assistance from the Government because of financial constraints. The Annual Plan for the year 1997-98, the first year of the Ninth Plan, 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 1997-98 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 provision has also been made for rehabilitation of weak/sick Wholesale Consumers Co-operative Societies and also the West Bengal State Co-operative Consumers Federation Ltd.

v) Others

In the Annual Plan for the year 1997-98 there is a proposal for organising a large number of Unemployed Engineers' Co-operatives in order that the weaker sections of the societies might derive direct benefit from them through joint endeavour.

CHAPTER II

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II-Rural Development

II. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

2.1 SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

2.1.1 Programme of the Rural Development Department

Intergrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)

Alleviation of poverty has been one of the primary objectives of the planned development in India specially in rural areas where the majority of the poor live. Despite decline in the incidence of rural poverty, lakhs of people continue to live in abject poverty. It was realised that sustainable strategy of poverty alleviation has to be based on increasing the productive employment opportunities in the process of growth itself. It was also realised that to the extent the process of growth bypasses some sections of the population it is necessary to formulate specific poverty alleviation programmes for generation of a certain minimum level of income for the rural poor.

The objective underlying the IRDP is to assist identified rural poor families to cross the poverty line. The target groups are given financial assistance for the acquisition of productive assets in the form of subsidy by the Government and term credit by the financial institutions. Centre and States share the costs of subsidy equally.

The target group consists of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans. The approach under IRDP is to cover the poorest of the poor in the first instance. The poverty line is now revised at Rs. 11,000.00 per year for a rural household without any cut-off line.

1. A fresh survey to identify the rural families below poverty line is under the active consideration of the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, Government of India. The exact date of undertaking survey and the modalities are yet to be finalised. It is likely that the fresh household survey as per revised poverty line (to be determined by the Government of India) will be computed at the beginning of the Ninth Five-Year Plan. Hence, the selection of beneficiaries under different poverty alleviation programmes for the year 1997-98 will be made on the basis of existing survey report. In the identified target group, at least 50 per cent of the assisted families should be from SC and ST families, with corresponding flow of resources to them. Further, to ensure better participation of women in the development process, at least 40 per cent of those assisted should be women and 3 per cent of the assisted families are to be from amongst the physically handicapped.

2. There have been some changes in the percentage as well as monetary ceiling of subsidy under IRDP in respect of the following categories of beneficiaries:

(i) For educated rural youths, that is, who have read up to Class-VIII, the percentage ceiling of subsidy will be 50% of the project cost subject to a monetary ceiling of Rs. 7,500.00.

(ii) For group financing under IRDP (of a group of 5 or more persons) the percentage ceiling of subsidy is 50% of the project cost subject to a monetary ceiling of Rs. 1.25 lakh.

There are two sub-programmes of IRDP viz. Training of Rural Youth for Self-employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA). Under

TRYSEM rural youths are imparted training for formation and/or upgradation of skill for taking up economic activities. Under DWCRA, groups of distressed rural women folk are assisted for social and economic uplift and improving the quality of life and status.

From February, 1997, a new sub-scheme under IRDP viz. Ganga Kalyan Yojana has been introduced by Government of India to provide minor irrigation facilities to Small & Marginal Farmers with Government subsidy and Bank Credit. From 1997-98, this will be an independent scheme and the sharing of fund between Centre and the State will be 80 : 20.

During the first four years of the Eighth Five-Year Plan, 5,66,959 families have been assisted with subsidy amounting to Rs. 18,302 lakh and matching Bank credit of Rs. 29,890 lakh. During the period up to December, 1996 in 1996-97, 70,468 families have been covered with a total subsidy amount of Rs. 2,825.43 lakh. Per family investment has improved from Rs. 7,996.00 in 1992-93 to Rs. 9,454.00 in 1995-96. For 1996-97 the corresponding figure up to December is Rs. 10,835.00.

Target for IRDP in 1995-96 was to cover 1,49,240 families. The actual number of families assisted was 1,61,724. As against the financial target of Rs. 7,472.20 lakh for 1995-96 the achievement stood at Rs. 6,693.99 lakh. The financial target for 1996-97 was Rs. 7,472.20 lakh. Physical target for 1996-97 has been dispensed with by the Government of India. Up to December, 1996, 70,468 families have been assisted with a total amount of subsidy of Rs. 2,825.43 lakh and Bank credit of Rs. 4,809.79 lakh. Out of these beneficiaries, 38.34% are SC & ST and 39.27% of them are women.

During 1996-97, 21,485 youths were trained. Against this, 13,493 Nos. of youths could be trained up to December, 1996. During the previous year (1995-96), 22,557 youths were trained against a target of 23,704.

DWCRA Programme has been introduced in all the districts from 1994-95. During 1996-97, against a target of forming 1,806 groups. 571 groups could be formed up to December 1996. During 1995-96, 888 groups were formed against a target of forming 1,806 groups.

Ninth Five-Year Plan

The outlay for the Ninth Five Year has yet to be firmed up and would be finalised on receipt of Central share.

Training of rural youth for self-employment (TRYSEM) is a complimentary programme of the IRDP. The purpose of this scheme is to impart new skills or to improve the existing skills of the beneficiaries under IRDP. During 1994-95, 20,711 rural youths were trained against a target of training 21,922 numbers. During 1995-96, 22,557 rural youths were trained against a target of training 23,704 Nos. During 1996-97, 19,445 rural youths could be trained (up to February '97) against a target of training 21,395 numbers. About 9,263 rural youths have been undergoing training in TRYSEM in different districts of the State. They will also complete their training within a very short time. The financial achievement up to the month of February, 1997 was Rs. 522.34 lakhs against a target of Rs. 613.84 lakhs.

DWCRA

The scheme for Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas has been extended to all the districts of the State since 1994-95 with a view to uplift the socio-economic status of rural women living below the poverty line. During 1994-95, 377 number of DWCRA groups were formed against a target of forming 756 groups. During 1995-96, 888 DWCRA groups have been formed against a target of forming 1806 groups. The process of formation of DWCRA groups has been a bit slow due to emphasis on quality. In order to improve the quality and solidarity of the DWCRA groups a few corrective steps like (i) Training of Pradhan and one women member of Gram Panchayat. (ii) Training Group Organiser and another member and (iii) compulsory thrift savings by women members of DWCRA groups have been insisted upon before formation and release of revolving fund respectively. Due to these preconditions, the physical target could not be achieved during 1994-95 and 1995-96. During 1996-97, however, the position improved. Up to the month of February 1997, 1265 DWCRA groups could be formed against a target of forming 1806 groups.

Ganga Kalyan Yojana

A new sub-scheme under IRDP has been introduced by Govt. of India from February '97 for exploitation of ground water for irrigation purpose by small and marginal farmers. The scheme envisages to create minor irrigation structures for small and marginal farmers living below the poverty line with Government subsidy and Bank credit. The resource sharing on subsidy will be 80 : 20 between the Centre and the State.

Supply of Improved Tool-Kits to Rural Artisans

The programme for distribution of improved Tool-Kits to Rural Artisans belonging to BPL families is a Central sector scheme with 100% assistance from Govt. of India. The scheme was introduced in 1992-93 in the districts of Howrah and Hooghly. Gradually all the districts of the State have been covered under the programme. Up to the month of January, 1997, 19,315 rural artisans could be provided with modern Tool-Kits since inception of the programme. The expenditure on this account is Rs. 353.27 lakhs (excluding 10% contribution by the beneficiaries).

Integrated Wasteland Development Programme

Land degradation has created a serious ecological and socio-economic crisis in many parts of the country. It has been estimated that about half the total land area of the country is suffering from some form of degradation. In some portion out of that fertility of the land has become very poor due to continuous soil erosion or change of soil characteristic. Some areas have even become unfit for agriculture. During 1992-93 Government of India introduced integrated Wasteland Development Programme with 100% Government of India assistance to tackle such problems. Three Districts viz. Midnapore, Purulia and Bankura have been identified by the Govt. of India as having concentration of wastelands.

In Bankura, Purulia and Darjeeling district five projects for wasteland development are under implementation. Progress of implementation of the same is shown below:

Table 2.1

Name of Project	Year of Sanction	Duration of the Project (originally fixed) (in yrs.)	Area under Treatment (Hect)	Total Sanctioned amt. for the project (in lakh)	Fund Released up to 31.3.97 (Rs. in lakh)	Expenditure up to 31.12.96 (Rs. in lakh)	Mandays Generated (in lakh) up to 31.12.96
Purulia Project-I	1992-93	3	1348	93.83	77.31	62.106	1.10
Purulia Project-II	1993-94	3	2759	137.75	93.50	100.191	2.09
Bankura Project-I	1992-93	5	3600	256.98	203.86	141.540	2.04
Bankura Project-II	1993-94	5	4000	256.52	196.32	101.490	1.35
Darjeeling Hill Area Project	1993-94	4	5400	469.74	236.50	150.190	1.23

2.2 RURAL WAGE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

2.2.1 Programme of the Panchayats & Rural Development Department

Jawhar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) First Stream

JRY has been initiated from 1st April, 1989. Two employment programmes namely NREP and RLEGP were merged into a single rural employment programme as JRY. The primary objective of the programme is to generate additional gainful employment for the unemployed and under employed persons both men and women in the rural areas while the secondary objective includes:

- i) Creation of sustained employment by strengthening rural economic infrastructure.
- ii) creation of community and social assets.
- iii) Creation of assets in favour of rural poor particularly SC/STs for their direct and continuing benefit.
- iv) Improvement in the overall quality of life in the rural areas.

Target of JRY is meant for people below the poverty line with special safeguards for SC/ST and free-bonded labourers including 30% of the employment opportunities for women. The Central assistance is available to the States on the basis of poverty estimate prepared by the Planning Commission based on latest available results of NSSO.

From the States to the districts the allocation of fund is made on the index of backwardness formulated on the basis of equal weightage to the proportion of rural SC and ST population in a district to total SC and ST population in the State and inverse of per capita production of the agricultural workers in the district. The work of formulation and implementation of JRY has been entrusted with the 3-tier Panchayat Bodies viz. Z.P., P.S. and G.P. with share of the allotted fund in the ratio of 20 : 15 : 65.

State Govt. ensures an effective and elaborate system of monitoring performance under JRY from State level to the Panchayat level. Total availability, expenditure and target for employment generation and actual employment generation under JRY since 1992-93 to February '97 is stated in Table No. 2.2 below:

JRY (1st Stream)

Table 2.2

(Rs. & Mandays in lakhs)

Year	Opening Balance	Release of Funds	Total Availability	Expenditure	Target of Employment Generation	Achievement
1992-93	4753.98	20545.76	25299.74	21412.74	557.24	525.55
1993-94	3815.35	24347.63	28162.98	24151.25	563.81	497.32
1994-95	4811.34	24416.78	29228.12	25085.46	498.80	489.37
1995-96	4133.66	30485.12	34618.78	26165.80	422.28	366.69
1996-97 (up to Feb '97)	507.91	12278.92	17350.83	10334.00 (up to Feb '97)	221.86	144.29

The mandays created for landless SC, ST and women in absolute and percentage term since 1992-93 to 1996-97 is given in Table No. 2.3.

Table 2.3
Mandays Generated under JRY

(Rs. & Mandays in lakhs)

Year	Target Mandays	Mandays Generated					
		SC (%)	ST (%)	Others (%)	Total	Landless (%)	Women (%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1992-93	557.24	181.71 (34.58)	78.75 (14.98)	265.09 (50.44)	525.55	313.93 (59.73)	157.68 (30.00)
1993-94	563.81	170.06 (34.20)	76.78 (15.44)	250.48 (50.36)	497.32	305.53 (61.44)	150.06 (30.17)
1994-95	498.98	173.02 (35.36)	67.43 (13.78)	248.92 (50.86)	489.37	311.80 (63.71)	127.50 (26.05)
1995-96	422.28	132.45 (36.12)	51.99 (14.18)	182.25 (49.70)	366.69	230.75 (62.93)	94.71 (25.83)
1996-97 (up to 2/97)	221.86	56.12 (38.89)	20.01 (13.87)	68.16 (47.24)	144.29	87.36 (60.54)	37.37 (25.90)

Figures in the brackets represent percentage to total mandays created.

Jawhar Rozgar Yojana (Second Stream)

Progress under second stream of JRY since 1993-94 to December '95 is shown below in Table No. 2.4. Since 1.1.96, second stream of JRY has been merged with EAS.

Table 2.4

Performance Under JRY Intensified Jawahar Rojgar Yojana

(Rs. & Mandays in lakhs)

Year	Allocation (Central + State)	Opening Balance	Allotment			Total Available Fund (3 + 6)	Expenditure	Generation of Mandays (in lakhs)	
			Central	State	Total (4 + 5)			Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1993-94	6125.01	—	4656.50	1164.13	5820.63	5820.63	2950.65	Not fixed	58.85
1994-95	6125.01	2869.98	3774.00	943.51	4717.51	7587.49	5076.29	114.41	91.45
1995-96	3832.50	2511.20	1839.00	459.75	2298.75	4809.95	4378.31	57.48	48.47

Jawhar Rozgar Yojana (Third Stream)

Third stream of JRY styled as 'Innovative and Special Employment Schemes' is in operation in North and South 24-pgs. Z.P. and the scheme is basically run under project basis. The objective and target group for the special and innovative projects would remain basically same under JRY but with a distinct emphasis on aspects like development of core infrastructure to provide long term employment opportunities through integration of on going development schemes, dovetailing non-generable resources for taking up special and economically relevant materials-intensive works under JRY. Such innovative projects aimed to benefit special group of people to the areas which are remote, inaccessible and extremely backward in social and economic infrastructure. The year-wise progress is stated below in Table No. 2.5.

Table 2.5
Innovative and Special Employment schemes

(Rs. & Mandays in lakhs)

Year	Allocation (Central + State)	Opening Balance	Allotment			Total Available Fund (3 + 6)	Expenditure	Generation of Mandays (in lakhs)	
			Central	State	Total (4 + 5)			Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1994-95	(Project value)	—	1400.00	350.00	1750.00	1750.00	809.85	Not fixed	19.58
1995-96	2500.00	940.15	600.00	150.00	750.00	1690.15	690.69	Not fixed	8.45
1996-97	(Central + State)	999.46	—	—	—	999.46	382.87	Not fixed	6.29
up to 2/97									

Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)

Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) was initiated since 1985-86 under RLEGP and continued under JRY. Around 10% of the outlay of JRY is earmarked for implementation of IAY. But IAY has been made a separate scheme since 1996-97. The objective of IAY is primarily to provide houses to members of SC/ST, free-bonded labourers in and also to non-SC/ST people below the poverty in rural areas free of cost. The benefit to the non-SC/ST poor should not exceed 40% of the total allocation under IAY.

Taking into account the price level, the cost of ceiling for each house has been revised since October, 96.

	Plain Area	Hill Area
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Construction of houses	15,500/-	17,500/-
2. Construction of sanitary latrine and smokeless chullah	2,000/-	2,000/-
3. Cost of providing common facilities.	2,500/-	2,500/-
Total :	20,000/-	22,000/-

The state Government revised the estimated cost considering the price-level and fixed Rs. 16,000/- and Rs. 18,000/- as unit cost in plain areas and Rs. 18,000/- and Rs. 20,000/- in hill areas. Rs. 18,000/- in plain areas meant only for the very poor and old persons who are unable to provide labour or materials for their house. Similarly, Rs. 20,000/- in the hill areas is meant for the same category of people. Year-wise progress for 1992-93 to 1996-97 Feb. of house construction under IAY with allotment and expenditure is shown in Table no. 2.6.

Year-wise Progress of House Construction under I. A. Y.**Table 2.6**

Year	Financial (Rs. in lakh)		Physical (in numbers)	
	Allocation	Expenditure	Target	House constructed
1992-93	1752.00	1695.00	11308	13300
1993-94	1916.55	1834.62	19860	13389
1994-95	2428.55	2180.61	17347	15526
1995-96	4574.43	4472.35	32674	34300
1996-97 (up to Feb '97)	9937.09	4584.63	70979 (up to Feb '97)	26640

Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)

In order to expand employment opportunities rural people below the poverty line are being covered under EAS scheme since 1993-94. People in the need of wage employment in the

lean agricultural season are provided with employment through implementation of various works under EAS. Implementing agency of the EAS is Block Dev. Office/Panchayat Samity. Till December '95 the schemes were implemented in 128 blocks in 14 districts. After merger of second stream of JRY from 1.1.96., the scheme was implemented in 213 blocks. Now, Government of India stated in October '96 that there is likelihood of covering of all the blocks of the State under programme in two years. At present, the programme has been running in 270 blocks. Now, all the blocks of Darjeeling, Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri, Dakshin Dinajpur, Uttar Dinajpur, Burdwan, Birbhum, Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia districts are covered under EAS. 11 blocks of Malda, 9 blocks of Murshidabad, 10 blocks of Nadia, 8 blocks of North 24-Pgs., 19 blocks of South 24-pgs., 2 blocks of Howrah and 11 blocks of Hooghly district are also covered. Earmarking of fund under EAS is following:

- i) water and soil conservation including afforestation, agro-horticulture, etc.—40%
- ii) minor irrigation work—20%
- iii) link roads—20%
- iv) primary school and Anganwadi building—20%.

The progress since 1993-94 to 1996-97 (February) in terms of availability of fund, (including opening balance) expenditure of mandays are shown in the table no. 2.7.

Table 2.7
Employment Assurance Schemes

Year	Opening Balance	Allotment		Total Available Fund	Expenditure	Mandays Generated	Remarks
		Central	State				
1993-94	—	4055.00	876.25	4931.25	1689.54	35.96	Fund Available from Dec.
1994-95	3241.71	7698.00	2027.00	12966.71	8739.08	179.48	
1995-96	4227.63	9240.00	2345.00	15812.63	9934.82	143.08	I-JRY merged EAS from 01
1996-97 (up to Feb '97)	6309.45	9810.00	2492.00	18611.45	10741.72 (Up to Feb '97)	143.26	

2.3 AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

2.3.1 Programme of the Agriculture Department

Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)

The Watershed Development Programme under DPAP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and is financed by Government of India and State Government on 50 : 50 basis.

In this State the Scheme is being executed in the districts of Purulia, Bankura, Midnapur and Birbhum. In the districts, the works are being implemented through DRDA. Panchayat Samities and Gram Panchayats. The number of Blocks covered and the Watersheds to be developed are as follows:—

Table 2.8

District	Blocks	No. of Watersheds to be developed under DPAP
1. Purulia	20	93
2. Bankura	7	33
3. Midnapur	7	27
4. Birbhum	2	8
	36	161

Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, Government of India has earmarked Rs. 2560.00 lakh for the Project cost for development of 161 Watersheds in four years with effect from 1/4/95.

Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 238,1425 lakhs up-to-date and State Government has also released the equal amount for development of the Scheme.

The objectives of each Watershed Development Project are as follows :—

i) Optimum utilisation of watershed's natural resources like land, water vegetation etc. That will mitigate the adverse effects of drought and prevent further ecological degradation.

ii) Development of package of practices suitable for the area for providing maximum employment to the local people.

iii) To ensure due share of benefit to the economically weaker sections.

iv) To generate awareness of the local people and to build up their capacity so that they participate fully in planning and implementation of the programme.

For the year of 1997-98 Plan Outlay proposed is Rs. 200.00 lakh for development of watershed under DPAP.

2.4 LAND REFORMS

2.4.1 Programme of the Land and Land Reforms Department

Land Reforms 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 features of the programme of land reforms in our States are :—

i) Drive to detect and vest ceiling surplus lands through quasi-judicial investigative machinery. Though the achievement in vesting of ceiling surplus land is significant by all India standard, there is still scope for further vesting particularly in view of the amendment of West Bengal Land Reforms Act bringing all classes of land within the purview of ceiling provisions in the Act. More than 12.80 lakh acres of agricultural land have so far vested in the State. More than 30,000 acres of land have vested during the last one year. As, under the provision of the

Act, a raiyat who does not hold land beyond ceiling limit on a particular date may come to acquire excess land at a later date, the process of vesting is a continuous one.

ii) Distribution of the ceiling surplus land among the landless and the landpoor rural workers: So far in the State 9.60 lakh acres of agricultural land has been distributed amongst about 2.2 lakh beneficiaries. The poorest section of the poor i.e. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries constitute more than 37% and 19% respectively of the total beneficiaries. The percentage is much more than the percentage of this population in the State.

iii) Quick recording of the names of the share-croppers through "Operation Barga" is another important programme. With the amendment of the West Bengal Land Reforms Act and introduction of the administrative measures of 'Operation Barga' till date 14.70 lakh Bargadars have been recorded. The number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Bargadars are 4.46 lakh and 1.62 lakh respectively. Total land under barga cultivation is 11 lakh acres.

iv) Large number of landless share-croppers and agricultural workers live on the land owned by others as permissive occupiers. Land-owners allow them to do so to have the services of such persons at their beck and call. Wherever Bargadars recorded their names or the agricultural workers wanted higher wages they faced the threat of eviction from their homestead plots. This affected their position adversely and put them to immense difficulties. To obviate this situation a programme of conferring titles on such permissive possessors in rural areas up to 0.08 acre of land was undertaken under West Bengal Acquisition of Homestead Land for Agricultural Labourers, Artisans and Fishermen Act. So far 2.80 lakh persons have been provided with title on their homestead plot.

v) Uptodate land records play an important role in the life of the rural people. Uptodate land records is an essential pre-requisite for any land reforms programme. Revisional Settlement under the provisions of the West Bengal Land Reforms Act has been taken up in the entire State with this object in view. Out of 42303 mouzas of the State records of rights in respect of about 36000 mouzas have so far been finally provided and the rest are at different stages of operation. Considering the volume of work and the time it takes and in keeping with the all India pattern it is proposed to modernise the method and gradually adopt latest technology for maintaining maps and records always uptodate.

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

For modernisation of survey and settlement work under Centrally sponsored scheme the State Government has to spend on 50 : 50 basis.

The summary proposals of the incomplete works started during the Eighth Five Year Plan Period are to be continued during Ninth Five Year Plan Period and the new schemes to be taken up during the Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997-2002) are as follows :

Construction of Record Rooms at Block, Gram Panchayat and District level

This is an ongoing scheme under the SRAULR schemes for the last few years. About 400 Record Rooms have been constructed and about 50 more are expected to be constructed at the Gram Panchayat and district level for safe preservation of the valuable land records and land related documents. The Scheme would continue during the Ninth Plan and fund has been provided for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

Strengthening of infrastructure of the departmental Training Institute:

This is also an ongoing scheme for development of infrastructure and purchase of equipment for the departmental training institute. A permanent institute, named, Analysis, Research and Training Institute has been set up in the district of Medinipur, to cater to need for imparting thorough training on the new entrants in Government service at various levels including those belonging to the IAS, IPS, IFS, West Bengal Civil Service (Executive), West Bengal Civil Service (Judicial), West Bengal Police Service and the various services under the Land and Land Reforms Department on Survey, Settlement and Management of land. This apart refresher's courses are also necessary for the existing officers and staff to motivate them on the new ideas arising out of amendment of the Acts and Rules and the change in policy of the Government for proper implementation of the Land Reforms measures on which the State Government attaches the highest priority. A part of the infrastructure of the buildings of its for the institute could be constructed so far and the remaining works would be taken up during the Ninth Plan. For the year 1997-98 outlay has been kept for the remaining programme.

Aerial Photography for generation of fresh set of cadastral maps

This is an ongoing scheme. Out of the total project cost of Rs. 106.00 lakh, Government of India is required to share 50% which have not been received fully. The project cost has also risen in view of price escalation. A provision of Rs. 50.00 lakh has been kept in the Plan Budget to ensure that the scheme does not get off the rails at its closing time.

Modernisation of Printing Presses at districts

The Land Reforms Administration in the State is having around 37 thousand employees and they need be supplied with thousands of forms and registers of different types for day to day work. Procurement of such huge number of forms from private presses is found not only to be difficult but also to be uneconomic. The existing departmental printing press is outdated. State Government has already replaced one old printing machine and the result is found to be encouraging. Replacement of all the machines together with other renovative actions to modernise the press is to be taken up with the financial assistance from the Government of India. This is also an ongoing project under the SRAULR scheme. Total expenditure would be Rs. 230.00 lakh of which the state Government will bear the 50% of the cost, the rest being financed by the Government of India. The Government of India has already released a sum of Rs. 15.00 lakh for the project.

Extension of NIC-NET facility to district and Sub-divisional Offices

This is a project proposed by the State Government during the year 1995. The proposal has been approved by the Government of India and the NIC officials at the Headquarter at Delhi have been instructed to extend the facility to the Directorate Office at Calcutta, at the office of the District Land & Land Reforms Officers and the sub-divisional officers and the cost for the project will be borne by the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment. However the implementation of the project has not made much progress. No fund, however, required for the State Annual Plan.

Extension of telephone connection to all the Block level offices

The Land Records in the State are maintained and updated at the block level offices. However communication networks have not been modernised. For better people and service

facilities, telephonic connection would be of great help for improved users facilities of land records. Out of 341 blocks, only in 41 offices are having telephone connection. It is proposed to extend telephone facilities to all the remaining 300 block level offices in phased manner.

Constitution of Land Reforms Tribunals (New Scheme)

Implementation of laws relating to land reforms is frequently impeded by protracted litigation. Adjudication of trial of disputes and applications arising out of matters relating to land reforms remain pending before courts and other authorities for years, and such delay frustrates to a great extent the very objective of land reforms. The poorer section of the community is the worst sufferer from such delay. The state Government, therefore, considered it necessary and expedient to enact a law under Article 323B of the Constitution of India providing for adjudication or trial by Tribunals of disputes and applications in respect to matters relating to land reforms and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Accordingly West Bengal Land Reforms Tribunal Act, 1991 was enacted. The Act provides for setting up of a Regional Land Reforms Tribunal for a district or any part of a district for adjudication or trial of all disputes and applications in respect to matters relating to land reforms. The Act also provides for setting up of Special Land Reforms Tribunal for adjudication of disputes and applications, and also of appeals etc. which may be pending before the High Court on the Date on which such Tribunal starts to exercise its jurisdiction, power and authority. Such Special Land Reforms Tribunal shall also adjudicate dispute on constitutional points referred to it by a Regional Land Reforms Tribunal. However Land Reforms Tribunals could not be set up by State Government as there were some adverse interim orders of Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta. Those orders have since been vacated. The State Government now proposes to implement the provision of the West Bengal Land Reforms Tribunal Act, 1991 during the Ninth plan period. To start with three Regional Land Reforms Tribunals will be set up at Calcutta, Durgapore and Siliguri. A Special Land Reforms Tribunal will also be set up at Calcutta.

Setting up of Land Corporation (New Scheme)

The West Bengal Land Reforms Act provides for setting up of a Land Corporation for providing soft term loans to Bargadars to purchase land under their cultivation in the event of distress sale by the landowner subject to the stipulation that the Bargadars should not be holding more than one standard hectare of land. The setting up of such Corporation is under the consideration of the State Government for the past few years.

In-Service Training Programmes

Till such time that the proposed State Training Institute is fully operational, it will be necessary to impart in-service and refresher training to existing manpower and new entrants for constant upgradation of their skills.

Construction of office Building and Circuit House

341 Block level, 51 Sub-divisional level and 18 District level offices were opened under the Integrated set up of Land Reforms Administration. Most of these offices are functioning in rented premises imposing a huge burden of rent liability on the exchequer. Besides additional ten more Circuit Houses are required to be constructed in different districts. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, construction of these Circuit Houses were started. Among them, one has been fully completed and construction works for the remaining two in the districts Barasat and Birbhum are going on.

2.5 OTHER RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

2.5.1 Programme of the Panchayat 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.

In the year 1997-98, Rs. 80.00 lakh have been proposed towards the cost of 26 vehicles.

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

Out of 34 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 Offices 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. However, for the Annual Plan (1997-98), Rs. 80 lakhs have been provided.

Million Wells Schemes (MWS)

MWS has been made independent schemes instead of sub-scheme of JRY since 1996-97. In Table No. 2.9, year-wise allotment and expenditure under MWS is shown:

Table 2.9

Year	Allocation (Rs. in lakh)	Expenditure (Rs. in lakh)	Physical Assets Created (Wells in No.)
1992-93	45.66	53.50	6718
1993-94	6245.22	5635.88	2579
1994-95	7285.00	6721.15	3845
1995-96	8014.10	7341.91	2402
1996-97 (up to Feb. '97)	3891.18	2782.49 (up to Feb. '97)	1401

Assets created under MWS has been mentioned in Table No. 2.10.

Table 2.10

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
(a) Excavation of Canal	1719 Km.	1536 Km.	2811 Km.
(b) Irrigation Tanks	1799 Nos.	2721 Nos.	2181 Nos.
(c) Field Channels	2162 Km.	2839 Km.	2288 Km.
(d) Jore Bundh	301 Nos.	432 Nos.	1084 Nos.
(e) Water harvesting	1573 Hec.	5475 Hect.	2164 hect.
(f) Sluice Gate	123 Nos.	16 Nos.	24 Nos.
(g) Other MS Works	2669 Nos.	2384 Nos.	1432 Nos.
(h) Land Development	257 Nos.	361 Nos.	750 Nos.

MWS scheme was launched with the objective of providing open irrigation wells free of cost to poor small and marginal farmers belonging to SC and ST and free bonded labourers. In view of the importance and significance of MWS in relation to the poor farmers, its coverage has been extended to poor, small and marginal farmers belonging to non-SC/ST category.

MWS allocation is primarily intended for open wells only and tubewells and bore wells are not to be taken up under this provision. Where wells are not feasible due to geological factors the amount allotted under MWS are allowed for utilisation under other schemes of minor irrigation like irrigation tanks. Water harvesting structures and also for the development of land belonging to small and marginal farmers. Target group under the scheme is small and marginal farmers who are below the poverty line. Financial assistance provided to non-SC/ST poor, small and marginal farmers under MWS are not to exceed 1/3 of the total fund utilised under MWS in any year. Government of India issued order recently to include bore wells and tube wells under this scheme subject to a maximum cost of Rs. 350000 or the actual cost whichever is less per project.

Private land belonging to small and marginal farmers who are below poverty line can be developed under JRY as well as MWS Schemes. Since February, '97, Ganga Kalyan Yojana a minor irrigation scheme has been initiated substituting a portion of MWS. Ganga Kalyan Yojana has been made bankable schemes while MWS remains 100% subsidised scheme:

Panchayat

i) Strengthening of implementation machinery for Panchayats

This schemes aims at providing infrastructural assistance to the Panchayat Bodies to strengthen their administrative machinery so that these Institutions can function smoothly and efficiently. With that end in view, a number of vernacular type-writers, cyclostyle machines, steel almirah and racks are provided to different Panchayat Bodies. In addition to these, 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 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 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 current Eighth Plan there will remain 661 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) Construction/Expansion of Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad Office Buildings

Under this scheme it has been proposed to construct composite buildings for Executive Officer of Panchayat Samitis and his staff which are now located in rental buildings and to extend Old Block Administrative buildings and Zilla Parishad buildings to provide accommodation for elected functionaries and personnel deputed by the State Govt.

vii) Programmes/Schemes of visit, visualisation including exhibition and evaluation of the working of Panchayats

Under this scheme various Panchayat functionaries and members of different committees undertake tours to assess the workings and achievement of the Panchayat institutions in this State as well as in other States, to exchange views with their counterparts and to initiate action programme. It is also proposed to take part in different exhibitions to high-light the activities of

Panchayats and to make evaluative studies of the working of Panchayats.

viii) Infrastructural Development of Panchayat Bodies and creation of Remuneration 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 increase 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.

CHAPTER III

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III-Special Area Programmes

III. SPECIAL AREA PROGRAMME

3.1 HILL AREAS

3.1.1 Programme of the Hill Affairs Department

The responsibilities entrusted upon the Hill Affairs Department include planning and overseeing development activities, in the hill areas in the district of Darjeeling and maintaining constant liaison with the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) and the transferred and non-transferred departments of the State Government.

During 1996-97 year Rs. 90.75 lakhs under the State Plan and Rs. 2273.70 lakhs under the Special Central Assistance (including second instalment of SCA for 1995-96), were released in favour of DGHC. The activities undertaken by the DGHC with Plan funds include infrastructure development, accommodation facilities and socio-cultural development of the hill people. A provision of Rs. 135 lakhs has been proposed for 1997-98 for taking up Infrastructure development work, upgradation of office/godowns/garage facilities, meeting critical gaps in development programmes in agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and education sectors including sports and cultural activities.

Apart from the Hill Affairs Department, 23 (Twenty-three) departments have curved out Hill Component of their plan schemes suitable for the hill regions of Darjeeling. Such schemes alongwith funds are implemented by Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council. These schemes are popularly known as transferred schemes. The other departments have also been implementing plan schemes in the hill areas with their own departmental officers in full cooperation with Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.

3.1.2 Programme of the Agriculture Department

Hill Area Development Programme:

Name of the Scheme	Amount (Rs.) proposed	
1. Scheme for popularisation of cultivation of Elephant Foot Crop in the foot hills of DGHC area of Kurseong and Mirik Blocks	(a) Normal	Rs. 50,000.00
	(b) SCP	Rs. 50,000.00
	Total	Rs.1,00,000.00

The cultivation of Elephant Foot in foot hills of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council areas is very much popular amongst the farmers. The programme would cover 200 farms or units supplying 20 kg. of seeds to each farm/units. By this way 200 farms in normal and 200 farms under SCP would be benefitted.

2. Potato Development Scheme including production of Certified potato seeds	(a) Normal	Rs. 15,00,000.00
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Special Area Programme

Potato is the main crop grown in hill areas. The variety grown is mostly of indigenous type and production and productivity are very low. To boost up the production and productivity of the crop, a programme would be taken up to distribute certified potato seeds @ 50% subsidy to small and marginal farmers of the hill areas. 100 kg. seeds can be given to each of the cultivators on 50% subsidy and will cover 3,000 cultivators/units. Certified seeds can be available from plains which can be cultivated in summer and winter in hill areas.

3. Distribution of quality seeds of
wheat, maize, pea and vegetables:

(a) Normal	Rs.	5,00,000.00
(b) SCP	Rs.	3,00,000.00

These crops are very popular in hill areas. The farmers are using indigeneous varieties for cultivation, resulting low production and productivity of the crops. To boost up the production and productivity, it is necessary to introduce and popularise the improved varieties of crops.

The small and marginal farmers would be supplied with certified improved varieties of seed at 50% subsidy.

4. Distribution of soyabean seeds as Minikits

(a) Normal	Rs.	1,00,000.00
(b) SCP	Rs.	50,000.00

Soyabean is an important crop grown in hill areas. The Soyabean cultivators would be supplied with 2 kg. of seed as Minikit free of costs covering 7,500 Nos. of units/ beneficiaries.

5. Distribution of Mustard Minikit
under Oil Seed Development Programme.

(a) Normal	Rs.	1,00,000.00
(b) SCP	Rs.	50,000.00

To popularise the Mustard cultivation in hill areas under DGHC, the farmers would be supplied with 1 kg. of certified Mustard Minikit packet at 50% subsidy covering 33 decimal of land of each cultivator.

6. Distribution of Plant Protection
Equipments on Subsidy.

Normal	Rs.	1,00,000.00
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In order to popularise, a programme would be taken to distribute different plant protection equipments at 50% subsidy Rs. 500.00 whichever be less to cover 200 beneficiaries.

7. Distribution of Soil conditioner
at 75% subsidy

(a) Normal	Rs.	2,00,000.00
(b) SCP	Rs.	1,00,000.00

Soil of hill areas are acidic in nature. For rectification of high acidity in the soil the process of soil amendments are required to be taken up, otherwise optimum crop cannot be achieved. Distribution of soil conditioner in the form of basic slag or dolomite would be taken up.

8. Agricultural training to the farmers
and visit of farmers to the different
agriculturally developed areas of the State

Normal	Rs.	1,50,000.00
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Farmers are required to be trained up with modern technology by means of trainings and visits to different agriculture developed areas within as well as outside the State. In this scheme, a programme would be taken up to organise 3 days camp with 25 number of cultivators. 16 Nos. of such camps would be arranged.

9. Distribution of Minikit of different crops in the event of Crop failure or damage by Natural calamities.

Normal Rs. 2,00,000.00

Natural calamities like heavy rainfall and land slide causes damages to different crops every year and farmers suffer for their economic losses. To assist the affected farmers a provision would be made for distribution of different crops minikits.

10. Different soil conservation schemes:

Normal Rs. 12,50,000.00

In hill areas special emphasis would be given for undertaking different soil conservation measures as soil are very much prone to such problems.

3.2 OTHER SPECIAL AREA PROGRAMME

3.2.1 Programme of the Development and Planning Department

A) Development of North Bengal

Sectoral programmes of different categories are being undertaken by different departments of the Government of West Bengal. Besides, Special provision has been made in the Annual plans of this 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 infrastructural facilities in North Bengal districts. These special provisions are meant specially for the rural areas of the backward districts of North Bengal viz. Malda, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar and Siliguri sub-division area of the Darjeeling district.

It may be mentioned here that the hill areas of the Darjeeling district area now covered under the Accelerated Hill Areas Development Programme. The outlay under North Bengal Development Programme is generally distributed among the above mentioned districts of North Bengal on population basis. The schemes under this programme are selected and implemented by the concerned district level authority.

The total outlay for this programme under the Eighth Five Year Plan was Rs. 226.72 lakhs and the Annual Plan outlay for the year 1996-97 was Rs. 1 lakh.

The fund was utilised for meeting critical gaps in development of the area.

The estimate for Ninth Plan Period is being worked out and for the Annual Plan 1997-98 Rs. 1.00 lakh have been provided.

b) Development of Jhargram Region

Jhargram, a prominent sub-division of Midnapore District is one of the most backward areas of the State. The undulations of the hilly surface of the Draught-prone sub-division have made it difficult to develop agriculture which is necessary for human habitation. Low population has discouraged development activity and establishment of necessary infrastructure for the

Special Area Programme

growth of the economy of the region. From the administrative point of view, Jhargram sub-division comprises of 8 Blocks/ 8 Panchayat Samities, 79 Gram Panchayats and 9 Police Stations. The sub-division covers a total area of 1185.29 sq miles. According to the census of 1991 it has a total population of 8,77,312 of which 30.56% are scheduled tribes and 18.10% are scheduled castes.

Special budget provision is being made by the State Government from year to year for integrated and accelerated development of the specially backward Jhargram sub-division by filling in the critical gaps in the sectoral allotments by other Departments. Such activities are formulated and implemented through the Jhargram Development Board which is headed by the Minister of State-in-charge of Special Tribal Areas Development including Jhargram Affairs Branch. Its objective is around socio-economic development of this specially backward area. The coverage of areas is likely to be increased to similar draught-prone semiarid areas of districts of Midnapore, Purulia and Bankura etc. Moreover, the undulations of hilly surface of the draught-prone area have made it difficult to develop agriculture necessary for human habitation and settlement. Scattered population discourages development activity and establishment of necessary infrastructure for the growth of the region as a whole.

Further, the tribals along with their indigenous neighbours have their problems of various types in their original habitats. One of such problems is their migratory habit. Of course due to adverse geo-physical and socio-economic problems qualitative and quantitative change to a considerable extent have not been possible. Soil in this area is of poor fertility and highly erodable. The rainfall pattern is such that most of the cultivated area grows only a single crop. Therefore income is low. The cost of production is also lower because of nature of land. In spite of that, agriculture is the main source of employment. Hence the employment position is dangerously acute. Number of marginal farmers and landless agri-labourers is increasing day by day. Therefore, special efforts are being made to undertake developmental activities in these areas. The schemes that are being implemented with the funds provided by the Government under this programme mostly aim at removal of infrastructural constraints and developmental activities.

The type of schemes will include:-

- (1) Repair, renovation and creation of minor irrigation sources, specially river lift schemes;
- (2) Completion of roads especially the link roads and culverts;
- (3) Construction of approach road to inaccessible areas which are not owned by any department;
- (4) Creation of drinking water sources like wells, tubewells, etc. in villages not covered, unfortunately, by the Public Health Engg. Dte. or the important paras/mahallas of the villages which have been fragmented due to growing population;
- (5) To adopt watershed development schemes with a view to increase the crop intensity and to use non-cultivable lands into agricultural lands;
- (6) To undertake pisciculture and sericulture schemes;
- (7) To assist the education institutions to complete their incomplete works;
- (8) To encourage rural industries by using local acumen through local panchayats or NGOs;

- (9) To undertake rural electrifications in the selected mouzas and also to promote non-conventional energy sources in the villages not electrified so far;
- (10) To arrange for new innovative crops/experiments in the field of agriculture, smallscale industries and horticulture;
- (11) To arrange training for promotion of animal husbandry among the villagers on new scientific lines;
- (12) To approach the remote areas and remote tribes like the Lodhas through NGOs to bring them at par with the main developmental activities;
- (13) To arrange for land reform measures including distribution of parcha or Identity Card to the tribal rayots and to arrange for restoration of their lost lands transferred illegally; also to give them legal protection, if required.
- (14) To promote cultural activities;
- (15) To promote aforestation schemes;
- (16) To promote energy saving devices like in case of animal energy etc.;
- (17) To promote health care.

The Plan outlay of Rs. 137.50 lakhs for 1996-97 included following sectoral schemes.

Table 3.1

Name of Sector	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1) Irrigation	53.60
2) Roads	44.00
3) Education/Culture	9.00
4) Health & Family Welfare	4.27
5) Rural Electrification	16.00
6) Urban Development	4.00
7) Miscellaneous	6.74
Total	137.61

Out of Rs. 137.50 lakhs, Rs. 69.00 lakhs and Rs. 34.00 lakhs were meant for TSP and SCP respectively. Rs. 170.00 lakhs have been provided for the Annual Plan, 1997-98 for the execution of the following development programmes:

Table 3.2

Nature of Development Programmes	(Rs. in lakh)
1) Irrigation water-shed development	55.00
2) Roads	50.00
3) Education & Culture	14.00
4) Rural electrification including non-Conventional energy sources	24.00
5) Lodha Development Programme	4.00
6) Municipal Development Area	4.00
7) Drinking water resources & other areas	16.00
8) Repair of road, culverts, bridges etc.	16.00
9) Miscellaneous	17.00

Special Area Programme

As Jhargram Sub-division have considerable number of tribal population, 50% of the Plan outlay will be utilised for schemes benefitting these people. Another 25% of outlay is proposed for utilisation on schemes benefitting scheduled castes population.

Nature of the Programmes	(Rs. in lakh)
1) Irrigation including watershed development	600.00
2) Roads	500.00
3) Education & Culture	100.00
4) Health	50.00
5) Cottage & Small Scale Industries	50.00
6) Drinking water resources	100.00
7) Construction of culverts & bridges	100.00
8) Extension of activities of the Board to Bankura, Midnapore and Purulia	200.00
9) Rural electrification including non-conventional energy sources	150.00
10) Land Reforms, Special Schemes for development of remote tribals	25.00
11) Afforestation & soil conservation work	15.00
12) United funds to fill in initial gaps	100.00
Total	<u>2000.00</u> lakhs

In the matter of implementation of development schemes in Jhargram Region during the first year of the Ninth Plan Period, the following objectives will be kept in view:

- a) The outlay on this programme will be spent mainly in the rural areas.
- b) One major thrust area of the 1st year of the Ninth Plan will be employment generation through extension of irrigation facilities in Agriculture and as such, labour-intensive schemes in reference to capital intensive schemes will be taken up. Care will also be taken to ensure greater participation by women and other disadvantaged groups of people in such employment oriented schemes.
- c) Jhargram region being a drought-prone area with low yield per acre, special attention will be given towards development of agriculture and improvement of irrigation facilities in the region. Ninth Plan aims to get 5000 acres of land under minor irrigation.
- d) Allocation will be proposed under education sector, keeping an eye especially on universalisation of elementary education to strengthen the existing educational institutions.
- e) Another major thrust area will be strengthening of infrastructural facilities including communication. Total target of the Ninth Plan is to build 100 k.m. of road.
- f) With a view to establishing cottage and small industry the 9th Plan targets will be to promote local industries.
- g) It is the target of the Ninth Plan to extend 40 Nos. of public utility services.
- h) 100 hacteres of land will be covered by the schemes of social forestry during the Ninth Plan Period.

- i) With the introduction of decentralised planning in the preparation of the development plan of Jhargram area as well as its implementation is being routed through the Block Planning Committees to ensure greater participation of the local people. This approach will also be followed during the 9th Plan.

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 programme. The Projects are run 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 to agriculture. By utilising the local resources and adopting latest technology, priority has been given to self-sustaining programmes along with new ventures in the specific inexplorable areas like seed multiplication, high breed horticulture, production of fingerlings and maximising irrigation potentiality by tapping underground and surface water resources in the command areas of this Corporation.

These activities are centered around two fields:

(a) Extension oriented development programme, (b) Revenue generating development programme with a commercial approach.

Under the extension oriented programme, the trials and demonstration in the field are analysed and findings are recommended to the farmers for betterment of production as well as the net return from the field. Already some new varieties of the main crops like Potato, Wheat, Mustard and Tomato have been recommended to the farmers.

A mushroom spawn production laboratory has been set up at KVK, Sonamukhi and production of spawn have already been stated, Improved technology has been adopted during 1996-97 to yield optimum production target in 1997-98. Black-pepper cultivation in the North Bengal region and turmeric and ginger cultivation with improved variety, both in North Bengal and South Bengal region, have been successfully done.

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. During 1997-98, 550 acres has been targeted for intensive Seed multiplication for various crops.

WBCADC made a successful experiment in production True Potato seed in Haringhta project of Nadia. This experiment has been well appreciated by the International Potato Centre. Yearwise Productions of True Potato seeds-1993-94: 1.29 kgs., 1994-95: 5.33 kgs., 1995-96: 9.3 kgs. During 1996-97, 18 kgs. TPS were target. For 1997-98 a target of 22 kgs. TPS has been fixed.

In order to ensure sustained, agricultural growth, this Corporation has been trying to maintain irrigation infrastructure with a fleet about 179 deep tubewells, 857 shallow tubewells,

Special Area Programme

601 mini deep tubewells, 4 RLI and 4 infiltration galleries. During 1997-98 installation energisation and revitalisation of 42 Nos of STW have been proposed to be undertaken for extension of low cost irrigation, additional 3 Nos. of RLI have been proposed to be installed during 1997-98, 12 Nos of STWs will be converted into MDTW apart from proposed redrilling of 3 No. of moribund DTWs.

In comparison to the year 1992-93 irrigated gross cropped have increased by about 5000 acres. Similarly water rate collections have also increased by about Rs. 8 lakhs and the present water rate collection is around Rs. 53 lakhs. In addition CADC on behalf of different Zilla Parishad and Tourism Development have been executing different types of constructional works in different projects like construction of roads, jorebundh, causeway, tourist cottage, hatcheries etc.

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

During the last three years 62000 of cases were treated, 160000 live-stock were immunised and 2124 cattles were artificially inseminated, as a result of which 662 cross-breed male and 587 female calves had been produced. 14.2 hec. of land was brought under fodder cultivation. Under production programme about 87767 poultry eggs, 189978 Nos. of day old broilar chicks, 11736 kg. of poultry meat, 26033 kgs. of milk and 352 Nos. of piglets were produced. During 1997-98 50000 livestock will be covered and 25 mt. livestock product has been targeted.

Under Fishery Programmes, at Kaliyaganj, Boinchee, Balarampore and Saharjore Projects, hatcheries have been established for fish production.

During 1996-97 efforts were made to produce quality fish seed for distribution to the farmers. The quality spawn of IMC & Exotic carp was produced. Attempts were made to Giant Prawn Juvenile in different project areas. The outcome proved to be encouraging. Considering the prospect of this culture, Corporation has already set up a *Mecrobrachium resenbergi* prawn hatchery at its Tamluk Project at Midnapore district with targetted capacity of 2.2 million post larvae during 1997-98.

Farmer's 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 banking facilities. Since inception total volume of business of FSCS registered upward trend despite various difficulties. Performance during the last three years were Rs. 750.37 lakhs during 1993-94, Rs. 867.63 lakhs during 1994-95, Rs. 998.24 lakhs during 1995-96. During 1997-98, total business of FSCS will be around 1500 lakhs.

WBCADC has stepped up its promotional role by taking up some small scale rural industrial activities in its project areas mainly to provide employment opportunities to the poor women artisans either unemployed or housewives in rural areas. Acrylic Yarn knitting tops the list in terms of employment potential. Anticipated production target for wool knitting programme will be 17.27 mt. Besides the hanks worth Rs. 1.50 lakhs, Rs. 2.22 lakhs and Rs. 2.62 lakhs were produced in the moslin charka spinning unit at Berhampore project during last three years. Under Khadi scheme new models charkas units are in operation in the Haringhata, Gaighata and in Nalhati Projects. Khadi cloth is also woven in Haringhata and Gaighata. During 1997-98, 5 lakhs hanks have been targeted to be produced in maslin and NMC units.

Along with economic programmes various social and human resource development programme like Health, Social Welfare, Women and Children Development, non formal Education, etc. were taken up, for all round development. During last three years construction of smokeless chullas, construction of low cost latrines for individual household, toilet, bio-gas plant etc. have been added.

The estimate for Ninth Plan Period is being worked out and for the Annual Plan 1997-98 Rs. 930.00 lakhs have been provided.

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 Government and the Plan proposals are being prepared for sustaining the development activities already initiated in Sundarbans.

Operational area consists only Sundarban region comprising 19 blocks- 6 of North 24-Parganas and 13 of South 24-Parganas districts. The schemes have so far been drafted with the view that the maximum benefits may trickle down to the lowest strata of the region.

Previously the activities of the Sundarban Development Board were confined to (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 B. P. Roads, culverts and small bridges and jetties, social forestry, agricultural input support services and wild type brackish water fish culture.

For Annual Plans of 1990-91 and onwards in addition to the activities indicated above, some new programme elements like rural water supply, animal husbandry and veterinary services, cottage and small scale industries and mushroom cultivation have also been initiated. The plan outlays for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 were Rs. 580 lakhs, Rs. 638 lakhs and Rs. 700 lakhs respectively. For 1996-97 the approved plan outlay was Rs. 700 lakhs and the whole of the amount could be utilised for the programme elements.

Apart from plan provision, Rs. 300 lakhs were available during 1995-96 as grant-in-aid from Government of India for the development of Sundarbans.

10th Finance Commission Grant

For 1996-2000, 10th Finance Commission has recommended the grant of Rs. 35 crores for the overall development of Sundarbans. Accordingly, Sundarban Development Board has prepared the Action Plan for utilisation of the recommended grant of Rs. 35 crores, As soon as the clearance of the Action Plan is received from Inter Ministerial Empowered Committee of the Govt. of India, the schemes as incorporated in the Action Plan will be undertaken for implementation.

The proposed Plan Outlay for 1997-98 is Rs. 2170 lakhs. Out of this fund, construction of brick paved/water bound mecadum roads, jetties, culverts and installations of tubewells for drinking water have been proposed. Apart from these, steps would be initiated to launch schemes like Haroa bridge, Power Sub-stations at Minakhan, Haroa, Hingalganj and Canning-II, metal road from Jamtala to Petkulchand etc.

Special Area Programme

It has been estimated that during 1996-97 in agriculture and allied programmes and in other civil works programme 67,000 mandays of direct employment and 736,000 mandays of indirect employment could be created.

Organisation

In pursuance of State Government's policy of entrusting planning and co-ordination of the developmental activities in the backward regions to specified agencies, Sundarban Development Board was set up in 1973 for social and economical development of the region. To ensure greater participation of the people through their elected representatives, the composition of the Board has since been made more broad based. This composition facilitates smooth execution and proper coordination of the activities undertaken by actively involving the Zilla Parishads, district administration and people's representatives in the affairs and activities of the Board.

Public participation in selecting locations and schemes is ensured through involvement of the people's representatives in such process. The selections have always been made on the basis of the identified needs and potentials.

At the initial stage the main function of the Sundarban Development Board was planning and coordinating the developmental activities of the Sundarban region. But apart from this, the Board was also involved in actual implementation of developmental projects involving infrastructural improvements under Food-for work programme and promoting Rabi season cultivation through supply of subsidised inputs and nominal extension advice. For implementation of IFAD Projects, Sundarban Development Board was strengthened by creating 1 (one) Engineering Circle, 3 (three) Engineering Divisions, Social Forestry Division, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Fishery Division and Administrative Division. Technical staff support for Engineering, Forestry and Fishery Division was given by the concerned State Government Departments. For decentralised project implementation, sub-divisional/zonal offices were created for Engineering and Forestry Divisions. There are 3 (three) Branch Offices with 27 (twenty-seven) Growth Centres located in the interior region for carrying out different support service programme in agriculture in collaboration with Panchayet Samities and the MLAS.

3.2.3 Programme of the Agriculture Department

a) Agricultural Development in Special Problem Areas

Areas like Knksa, Budbud, Ausgram of Burdwan district, Gopiballavpur and Nayagram of Midnapore (West) district and the Blocks of Purulia district are very under-developed from the agricultural point of view and have special problems of their own. The farming community of these areas mainly belongs to Scheduled Tribes. Agriculture in these areas is dependent on monsoon and therefore uncertain. Crops of these areas occasionally suffer from moisture stress for late monsoon or early withdrawn of monsoon. For sustained production of the crops irrigation arrangement is to be made to ensure crop production through supplementary irrigation in monsoon and wherever possible a second Crop may be raised.

In order to solve the above mentioned problems, the following works are undertaken in these areas:

- 1) Construction of RCC ring dug-wells.
- 2) Installation of hand operated water lifting devices.

- 3) Developing of land by levelling and setting of demonstration in the command areas of Dug-wells.
- 4) Improvement of Soil with basic slags and other amendments.
- 5) Multi-cropping demonstration.
- 6) Sinking of shallow Tubewells filled with pump-set.
- 7) Construction of Bunds, Jore Bunds, Cross-bundhs.
- 8) Re-excavation and construction of drainage and water transmission Channels.
- 9) Installation of RLIS.
- 10) Distribution of implements/equipments at subsidy etc.

During previous Plans additional areas have been brought under irrigation through different schemes under this programme. Besides land development activities followed by demonstration of multi-crop, distribution of improved agricultural implements are soil amendments with the application of basic slag were also taken up.

The programme has created impact amongst the farmers of the adopted areas during the past and the scheme would be continued in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

During the Ninth Five Year Plan period, 7 number of additional Blocks of Bankura and Midnapore (West) District having farming family belonging to S. T. Communities would be included under this special area programme.

b) North Bengal Terai Development Project

This project is being implemented with the financial assistance of the Netherlands Govt. in the Terai Region., viz., districts of Japaiguri, Cooch-Bihar and Siliguri Sub-division of Darjeeling district. This project consists of three phases I, II & III.

The Phase-I and Phase -II programme of this project have already been completed.

In 1993 an evaluation of Phase II of NBTDP was carried out. The Mission (Netherlands Govt.) concluded that the project performed well within the Netherlands Policy for development co-operation as well as within the overall socio-economic priorities of this department. In a nutshell, the Netherlands Govt. was highly satisfied with the achievements. Consequently they proposed for continuing this scheme as Phase III Programme.

The Phase III Programme is being implemented from January, 1995 with duration of 5 years, The total estimated, cost of phase-III is of Rs. 33 crores of which Rs. 30.45 crores (approx.) are the Netherlands contribution and Rs. 2.55 crores of the State Govt. The central objective of the project is to generate more income and better living standard of small and marginal farmers and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes through (i) increase of Agricultural production (ii) efficient and sustainable use of land and water resources; (iii) enhancement of the position/condition of the rural women and (iv) successful transfer of the irrigation system to the beneficiary farmers including cost recovery and involvement in operation and maintenance.

The physical and financial achievement of Phase-I, Phase-II and Phase-III:

Table 3.3**Phase-I**

Physical Achievement		Financial Achievement	
item	No.	Actual	Fund receive from Dutch Govt.
1) Hand Tubewell	1950		
2) Pump Dugwell	66		
3) Shallow Tubewell	203		
4) Deep Tubewell	4	Rs. 137.42 lakhs	Rs. 130.71 lakhs
5) River Lift Irrigation	10		
6) 4 Hec. Unit	126		
7) Soil Conservation			

Total area covered in Phase-I through different irrigation facilities is 2301.5 ha. and the Nos. of benefitted farmers are 4403.

Phase-II

Physical Achievement		Financial Achievement	
item	No.	Actual	Fund receive from Dutch Govt.
1) Hand Tubewell	28,029		
2) Pump Dugwell	300		
3) Shallow Tubewell	150		
4) Deep Tubewell	16	Rs.1203.72 lakhs	Rs.1099.42 lakhs
5) River Lift Irrigation	30		
6) 4 Hec. Unit	439		
7) Soil Conservation	5,845		
8) Training (Male & Female)	1,949		

Area covered in Phase-II through different irrigation facilities is 9305 ha. and the number of benefitted farmers are 53,102.

Phase-III			
Physical target for Phase-III	Target	Achievement 1995-96 and 1996-97	Target 1997-98
1. Hand Tubewell	15,000	7750 Nos.	5000
2. Pump Dugwell	290	108 „	82
3. Shallow Tubewell	400	276 „	24
4. River Lift Irrigation	22	12 Works are in progress	6
5. Deep Tubewell	9	2	3
6. 4 Hec. Unit	500	—	100
7. Soil Conservation	5,000 ha.	1000 ha.	600 ha.
8. Agro-forestry	200 ha.	90 ha.	50 ha.
9. Rural markets	20 Nos.	1 No.	5 Nos.
10. Market Line Roads	25 K. M.	2.5 K. M. Works are in progress	5 Km.
11. Training (Male & Female)	5,000	700	375

Financial Position of Phase-III

Achievement 1995-96	Budgeted Outlay 1996-97	Proposed Outlay 1997-98
Rs. 322.10 lakh	Rs. 430.00 lakh	Rs. 450.00 lakh

The area covered in 1995-96 and 1996-97 through different irrigation facilities is 2905 ha. and benefitted farmers are 8,715 numbers.

c) Coastal Area Development Project

The Coastal Area Development Project under the assistance from Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan has been included in the Ninth Plan Programme of this Government. The Scheme would be executed in the coastal areas of the district of Howrah, Midnapore and 24-Parganas. The proposed project cost of the said scheme is Rs. 30,052.323 lakh. The project is to be completed in five years.

In the year of 1997-98 a budgetary provision of Rs. 10.00 lakhs has been provided for execution of the scheme.

The main feature of the programme is development of agriculture including horticulture through Irrigation, development of marketing and storage facilities.

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IV-Irrigation and Flood Control

IV. IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL

4.1 MAJOR & MEDIUM IRRIGATION PROJECTS

4.1.1 Programme of the Irrigation and Waterways Department

Introduction:

For optimum agricultural production, the Major and Medium Irrigation sectors play key role in the form of extension of irrigation facilities through the network of Major and Medium Irrigation projects.

Despite excessive pressure on land due to population explosion during the last few decades, the net sown area of the State has remained almost steady. The scope for bringing more land under cultivation is rather difficult, as more than 60 per cent of the geographical area of the State has already been brought under cultivation and any further increase is likely to create serious ecological problem.

Agriculture in the State primarily depends on the south-west monsoon. The average annual rainfall in the Gangetic West Bengal would have been sufficient for maturity of kharif crops if its distribution in respect of time and space has been uniform. But precipitation, the prime source of water is confined to a period of 3 to 4 months in a year and varies widely from one part of the State to the other.

The cultivable area of the State remaining almost static and the uneven distribution of rainfall being inescapable natural phenomenon, the growing needs of food and fibre of the people can only be realised through multiple cropping system in the limited available culturable area. This can be achieved by the development of a comprehensive irrigation system by utilising both surface and ground-water, which would not only off-set the effect of irregular distribution of rainfall but also ensure cultivation during the non-monsoon period. In this backdrop, since ushering of 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.

Record of performance:

In the preplan 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 irrigation potential of only 139 thousand hectare in the preplan 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 in 1992-93 through the major and medium projects only. 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 been completed. The rest of the projects spilled over to the subsequent Eighth Plan (1992-97) 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 project borne under the Plan head of the Department during different plan periods., up to the end of the Annual Plan 1991-92 is furnished in Table-4.1.

Table 4.1

**Creation and Utilisation of Irrigation Potential through Completed
and Continuing Major and Medium Irrigation Projects
Under the Plan Head of I & W Department**

(In thousand hectares)

Plan period	Creation of Irrigation Potential		Utilisation of Irrigation Potential	
	During	Cumulative	During	Cumulative
Pre-Plan	–	139		139
I Plan (1951-1956)	45	184	40	179
II Plan (1956-1961)	298	482	266	445
III Plan (1961-1966)	144	626	109	554
Annual Plan (1966-1969)	56	682	78	632
IV Plan (1969-1974)	163	845	147	779
V Plan (1974-1978)	145	990	132	911
Annual Plan (1978-1980)	86	1076	60	971
VI Plan (1980-1985)	60	1136	99	1070
VII Plan (1985-1990)	100	1236	57	1127
Annual Plan (1990-1992)	20	1256	36	1163

During Eighth Plan

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

The total plan outlay, as approved by the Planning Commission, during the Eighth Plan period for the irrigation sector is Rs. 530 crores, which is inclusive of an Additional Central Assistance (ACA) of Rs. 150 crores for the Teesta Barrage Project (1st. Sub-stage). Total area under irrigation brought was 91 ha. (anticipated).

During the year 1996-97 RIDF programmes of 28.33 crores to be financed by the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are due to be taken up for the Medium Irrigation Projects in the State. Extension and Improvement of seventeen existing Medium Irrigation Schemes have been taken up during the year 1996-97 with the available loan assistance from the NABARD. A loan assistance of Rs. 5 crores is also expected under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) during the year. The projects which are due to receive loan assistance under the AIBP is as follows:

- 1) Subarnarekha Barrage Project are Rs. 5 crores.

The financial and physical achievements for the Major and Medium Irrigation Projects during the Eighth Plan have been indicated in Table-4.2.

Table 4.2
Major & Medium Irrigation Sector
Financial & Physical Achievements During
the Eighth Plan Period (1992-1997)

Plan period	Financial Achievement (Rs. in crores)		Physical Achievement (in '000 Ha.)	
	Approved outlay	Expenditure as per availability of fund.	Creation of Irrigation Potential During	Cumulative
Eighth Plan (Outlay)	530.00	449.57	91	
1992-93 (Actual)	78.50	49.38	9	1265
1993-94 (Actual)	82.00	77.15	29	1294
1994-95 (Actual)	84.00	84.08	13	1307
1995-96 (Actual)	105.00	105.25	8	1315
1996-97 (Antd.)	124.00	133.71	32	1347

The gap between the Eighth Plan target and anticipated achievement is mainly due to the shortfall in the targeted achievement for the Teesta Barrage project, the reasons for which have been mentioned separately.

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. 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 project in 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 safeguard the national interest associated with it. Government of India agreed to extend ACA to the extent of Rs. 150 crores as against the matching grant to the state's share of Rs. 165 crores, during the Eighth Plan period. Out of these allocations about Rs. 310 crores are likely to be utilised during the Eighth Plan period. Major constraints and bottlenecks standing in the way of smooth and speedy execution of the project have suitably been taken care of 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 a High Level Monitoring Committee with Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Irrigation & Waterways Department as the Chairman have been set up exclusively for this project to ensure the desired progress according to the plan and programme.

Irrigation and Flood Control

The target of creation of irrigation potential through this project during the Eighth Plan period was fixed as 506.74 thousand hectares but the anticipated development of irrigation potential during this period is expected to be in the order of 72.83 thousand hectares. The reasons for shortfall are as stated below:

- i) Non-availability of forest land for prolonged period
- ii) Delay in acquisition of land due to abolition of West Bengal Land (Requisition & Acquisition) Act, 1948 (Act-II of 1948) mid-way during the Eighth Plan period
- iii) Delay in construction of Railway Crossing Structures.

However, an irrigation potential of nearly 1 lakh hectare would be created through this Project up to the end of Eighth Plan period.

Subarnarekha Barrage Project

The Subarnarekha Barrage Project in West Bengal Estimated to cost Rs. 595 crores has been designed to develop an irrigation potential of 1.30 lakh hectares in the district of Midnapore. Execution of the Project could not achieve the desired pace due to problem of funding with the limited state resources. So far, the required infrastructure development works for the project could be taken up with the available fund. The project has been posed for loan assistance under the A I B P and pace of the work proper for the Projects expected to be stepped up with the probable loan assistance of Rs. 5 crores under AIBP.

Operational Objective During the Ninth Plan

The creation of irrigation potential through the major and medium irrigation projects up to the end of the Eighth Plan is expected to be of the order of 1347 thousand hectares. In order to bring more land under irrigation due stress has been provided for the completion of the continuing projects, specially the Teesta Barrage Project, during the Ninth Plan period. With the required clearance from the Government of India some new projects are also proposed to be undertaken during the later part of the Plan period. There is also a gap between the creation of irrigation potential and its utilisation. The reason for shortfall in the utilisation is mainly due to scarcity of water during the crop period and absence of improved water management. Some projects are also proposed to be taken up during the Ninth Plan period for modernisation of the existing irrigation projects aiming at reduction of transmission losses in the distribution system and adoption of improved water management technique. People's participation in the irrigation management has also become an important thrust area in respect of proper utilisation of irrigation water.

Implication of Physical Targets In Terms of Financial Outlays

All the continuing major projects of the Eighth Plan would spill over into the Ninth Plan. Completion of the Teesta Barrage Project (1st. Sub-stage) has been accorded top most priority in the Irrigation sector during the Ninth Plan period as major part of the development of additional irrigation potential during this period is expected to be achieved through this project.

Teesta Barrage Project

The third revised estimate of Teesta Barrage Project now stands at Rs. 1177 Crores and the likely expenditure up to the end of the Eighth Plan is anticipated to the order of Rs. 685

Crores. As a result, the spill over cost of the project during the Ninth Plan would be about Rs. 500 Crores. The Government of India is required to extend ACA towards the spill over cost of the project also during the Ninth Plan period on 50 : 50 basis. In order to achieve the completion of the project during the Ninth Plan period, the year-wise proposed allocation of fund is indicated in Table-4.3.

Table 4.3
Teesta Barrage Project
proposed Outlay and target of creation of Irrigation
Potential during the Ninth Plan Period

Year	Tentative Annual Outlay	Proposed ACA (In Rs. Crores)	Proposed State Allocation	Programme of Creation of Additional Irrigation Potential (in '000 ha.)
1997-98	80	40	40	50
1998-99	90	45	45	70
1999-2000	100	50	50	90
2000-2001	116	58	58	100
2001-2002	114	57	57	116
Total :	500	250	250	426

Subarnarekha Barrage Project

Execution of the construction works of the Project is required to be taken up with right earnest from the very beginning of the Ninth Plan. For this purpose an allocation to the tune of Rs. 300 Crores is proposed during the Ninth Plan which includes Additional Central assistance of Rs. 200 Crores in phases.

Other New Projects

Some new project namely, Modernisation of Kangsabati Reservoir Project, Siddheswari Noon Beel Reservoir Project and Darakeswar-Gandheswari Reservoir Project are under different stages of processing and are proposed to be taken up in the later part of the Ninth Plan.

Medium Irrigation Schemes

With additional funding in the form of loan assistance during the Ninth Plan period, most of the Medium Irrigation schemes, would be completed by this period.

Annual Plan 1997-98

Out of the proposed total outlay of Rs. 241.63 crores for the Irrigation and Waterways Department for the Annual Plan 1997-98 the Irrigation Sector is proposed to have an allocation of Rs. 165.00 crores. this proposed outlay is inclusive of AIBP loan assistance of Rs. 40 crores for the Teesta Barrage Project and a total loan assistance of Rs. 49.76 crores from the NABARD under RIDF-I, RIDF-II and RIDF-III. The details of the proposed outlay for the Irrigation sector during 1997-98 are given in Table-4.4. 74000 ha. of irrigation potential is likely to be created in the Major & Medium Irrigation Sector.

Table 4.4**Proposed Outlay for Irrigation sector during 1997-98**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of Project	Annual Plan 1997-98 Proposed Outlay
A. Earmarked Outlays.	
1. Externally Aided Project	100
a) Modernisation of Kangsabati	
2. Teesta Barrage Project	8000
	(A I B P Loan Assistance 4000)
3. Spill over cost of 15 Nos. continuing Medium Irrigation Schemes under RIDF-I	996
4. New Medium Schemes under RIDF-II	704
5. New Medium Schemes under RIDF-III	3500
	<u>Sub-total : 13300</u>
B. Core Sector Provision	
1. Kangsabati Reservoir Project	1050
2. Barrage & Irrigation System of DVC	400
3. Subarnarekha Barrage Project	600
	(Proposed A I B P Loan Assistance)
4. Special Repair to completed Major Projects	275
5. Liabilities of completed major Project	5
6. Capital Component of Tenughat Dam	50
7. Medium Irrigation Schemes	170
8. Water Development Services	650
	<u>Sub-total : 3200</u>
	<u>Total : 16500</u>

Decentralisation:

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

Special Component Plan**Tribal Sub-Plan****Women Programme**

Flow of fund to both Special Component Plan and Tribal sub-plan is determined on the basis of expenditure/outlay on the work proper leaving aside the cost of infrastructure developmental works. The flow pattern is shown in Table-4.5.

Table 4.5
Flow to Tribal Sub-Plan and Special Component Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

Programme	Eighth Plan (1992-97)		Annual Plan 1997-98 (Target)	
	Tribal Sub-Plan (T S P)			
Major & Medium Irrigation	Total Exptr. (Antd.)	Flow to T S P	Total Outlay (Proposed)	Flow to T S P
	33363.75	1851.69	16500	917.41
	Special Component Plan (S C P)			
	Total Exptr. (Antd.)	Flow to S C P	Total Outlay (Target)	Flow to S C P
Major & Medium Irrigation	33363.75	7570.23	16500	3824.69

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 and the targets for the same during the Annual Plan 1997-98 is furnished in Table-4.6.

Table 4.6
Employment Generation during Eighth Plan and Target
for the Annual Plan 1997-98

(In lakh Mandays)

Item	8th. Plan (on Anticipated Expenditure)	Annual Plan (1997-98) (on proposed Target Outlay)
1. On construction works		
A. Engineers		
i) Graduate	4.83	0.97
ii) Diploma	16.45	3.32
B. Skilled Labours	41.00	10.95
C. Unskilled Labours	289.75	77.56
2. Additional Employment Generation in the Command Areas	363.00	

4.2 MINOR IRRIGATION

4.2.1 Programme of the Water Investigation & Development Department

Introduction

According to criteria laid down by the Planning Commission all irrigation schemes having Culturable Command Area (CCA) of 2000 hectare (ha.) or less are classified as Minor Irrigation Schemes.

Irrigation and Flood Control

In this sector minor irrigation facilities are created mainly by Water Investigation & Development Department and Rural Development Department which mainly operate through District Level Panchayat Bodies, DRDA organisations etc. The activities of Water Investigation, and Development Department consist of investigation, assessment and development of both surface water and ground-water. The investigation and assessment functions are carried out by State Water Investigation Directorate whereas the development functions are carried out by Water Resources Development directorate and West Bengal State Minor Irrigation Corpn. Ltd. There is also a Tank Improvement Cell in the Department.

Record of performance

Ultimate gross minor irrigation potential in the State has been assessed to 44 lakh ha. out of which surface water component is 31 lakh ha. and ground-water component is 13 lakh ha. At the beginning of 8th Plan, 26.43 lakh ha. gross minor irrigation potential was created. The total gross minor irrigation potential at the end of 8th plan will be 31 lakh ha.

During the last 5 years State Water Investigation Directorate played a major role in monitoring and controlling indiscriminate use of ground water by private users. West Bengal State Electricity Board extended power connection to any ground-water structures of private users drawing water through submersible pumps only on clearance from State Water Investigation Directorate (SWID). SWID has also played a major role in conducting of census for ground water structures recently undertaken in the State. SWID has also reassessed the ground water potential in the State and the reconciled report in consultation with regional office of CGWB was published during Eighth. plan.

In the first half of the 8th Plan, West Bengal Minor Irrigation Project with IDA Assistance which was started during the 7th. Plan, was successfully completed. 95% of the available credit was utilised. More than 1.09 lakh ha. of gross minor irrigation potential was created through installation of 9750 tubewells of varying capacities, modernisation of 200 RLIs and installation of 7170 Open Dug Wells. During the later half of the the 8th plan, NABARD assisted project for completion of incomplete works has been undertaken and the current rate of loan drawal indicates fulfilment of its target in time. There may, however, remain some backlog in the matter of energisation of MI pumpsets by WBSEB. The approved outlay of Rs. 417.30 crores for Eighth Plan is likely to be achieved.

The concept of Participatory Irrigation Management was successfully introduced and implemented in minor irrigation installations from the beginning of 8th Plan whereby operation and maintenance of all low capacity tubewells and Shallow Tubewells clusters and some high capacity tubewells and RLIs are being undertaken by beneficiary committees/groups under the management and guidance of Panchayat Samities/Grampanchayat who realise water rates to cover the entire cost of operation and maintenance.

Operational objectives during Ninth Five Year Plan

- i) In execution of MI Schemes, emphasis has been given for benefiting the small & marginal farmers including SC & ST Communities. Locations are so selected that the farmers who do not have the access to the long term credit facilities under the existing terms and condition of institutional credit, get the benefit of the schemes and at the same time the criteria for technical feasibility as laid down by this Department are fulfilled.

- ii) Low gestation period in completing a project/scheme.
- iii) Priority in completion of on-going schemes.
- iv) Early energisation through better co-ordination with WBSEB.
- v) Resurrection of surface sources through desiltation such as desiltation of drainage channels etc.
- vi) Extension of existing Participatory Irrigation Management in more and more old and existing MI installations.

Basis of selection of continuing and new schemes

Out of 44 lakh. ha. of ultimate minor irrigation potential in the State, 31 lakh ha. are likely to be achieved at the end of Eighth Plan. During Ninth Plan a target of creation of 4.5 lakh ha. minor irrigation potential has been proposed. There is vast untapped ground-water resources in the North Bengal districts of the State which may get priority during 9th Plan.

Implication of the physical targets

1 ha. of minor irrigation potential can be created at an expenditure of Rs. 12,500/- in respect fo different minor irrigation installations undertaken by this Department which have high porportion of material components such as pipes, strainers, pumps etc. particularly in respect of tubewell structures and lift irrigation structures.

Decentralisation

There is high proportion of material component such as pipes, strainers, pumps etc. in respect of tubewell structures and lift irrigation installations as well as in the underground pipe water distribution systems attached to the schemes. Centralised procurement of such materials through open tender as well as departmental inspection are being undertaken in order to ensure procurement of quality equipment at the best interest of the Govt. The construction activities are however finalised and decided at the field level of the Engineering set-up. District segregation of the departmental plan activities are finalised in consultation with respective District Planning Committee (DPC) in preparing the NABARD assisted RIDF phase-II Project.

Selection of Minor Irrigation location following the Departmental guidelines are done at the District Level by the District Site Selection Committee (DSSC) under the Chairmanship of Sabhadhipati of Zila Parishad.

SCP/TSP

Each year proportionate allocation towards SCP and TSP are made in the Annual Plan provision. The Departmental guidelines for the site selection of new MI installations through District Site Selection Committee are the basis of selection of adequate nos. of installation in identified SCP and TSP mouzas in each District.

Employment Generation:

During the Ninth Plan/Annual Plan 1997-98

Employment opportunities for 1.5 lakh persons can be generated by creating 1 lakh ha. of irrigation potential. Addl. 300 mandays are generated for each addl. ha. of irrigation potential.

Programme for 1997-98

The approved outlay for the Annual Plan 1997-98 of Water Investigation & Development Department is Rs. 82 crores, which includes Rs. 71.50 crores for RIDF Project and Rs. 6.50 crores are from state budgetary sources.

In RIDF-I Project, NABARD sanctioned loan of Rs. 60.50 crores for the development of Minor Irrigation in the State. Disbursement made against the project amounts to Rs. 29.62 crores up to December, 1996. Works are in progress and are expected to be completed within 31.3.97. About Rs. 10.50 crores of the provision for 1997-98 will be utilised for clearing the liabilities against works completed by 31.3.97 of RIDF-I Project.

Proposals for new schemes amounting to Rs. 101.599 crores have been submitted to NABARD in three parts for sanction under RIDF-II Project. Sanction has been so far received for the first two parts amounting to Rs. 67.04 crores, comprising of the following structures :—(i) 159 nos. High capacity Deep Tubewells (HDTW), (ii) 83 nos. medium capacity Deep Tubewells (MDTW), (iii) 36 nos. Low capacity Deep Tubewells (LDTW), (iv) 1452 nos. Shallow Tubewells (STW), (v) 370 nos. Mini River Lift Irrigation (RLI) schemes and (vi) 85 nos. Major R.L.I. schemes. This would enable generation of irrigation potential to the tune of 58,896 ha and the number of Farm families to be benefited is estimated as 441172. The project has been prepared in consultation with different District Planning Committees (DPC) and it is to be completed within 31.3.99. All the installations may be handed over for management by the beneficiaries on realising water rates from the users.

Rs. 6.70 crores have been provided for works other than RIDF under Water Resources Development Directorate. The amount would be utilised for new surface drainage & irrigation schemes, redrilling of defunct D.T.Ws. pipeline works and energisation of M.I. installations, installation of new tubewells, construction of office buildings etc.

Rs. 2 crores have been kept as grant-in-aid for West Bengal State Minor Irrigation Corporation Ltd. for completion of incomplete schemes and to meet up the expenses for operation and maintenance of M. I. installations under its control. Rs. 60 lakhs has been provided for investigation activities of State Water Investigation Directorate (SWID).

Rs. 35 lakhs have been provided as grant-in-aid to Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council for surface flow and small irrigation schemes under the council.

Rs. 78 lakhs have been provided for construction of Boro Bundhs which are seasonal in character and laid across the rivers temporarily to harvest water for utilisation in Boro cultivation.

Rs. 5 lakhs have been provided for Tank Improvement schemes. Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities and Zilla Parishads are actively associated in the activities of Water Investigation & Development Department right from the selection of sites by the District Level Site Selection Committees. A large number of S.T.Ws., L.D.T.Ws. and some DTWs have been handed over to the Panchayat Samities after energisation of these tubewells for operation and maintenance through the beneficiaries themselves. Panchayat Samities are also authorised to realise water charges and to recover operation and maintenance cost of these tubewells in full.

During 1997-98, with increased assistance from RIDF, 1.50 lakh hectares of irrigation potential is likely to be created in the Minor Irrigation sector of the State, resulting in employment opportunities for 2.25 lakh persons and generation of 450 lakh mandays.

About 98% of the provision for 1997-98, except the outlay for investigation activities of SWID, will flow through District Plan for different Districts.

4.3 COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT

4.3.1 Programme of the Water Investigation & Development Department

Introduction

With a view to developing the command of three major River Valley Projects in West Bengal viz. (i) Damodar, (ii) Kangsabati, (iii) Mayurakshi as well as to cater even irrigation benefits within the entire command, three Command Area Development Authorities were set up under centrally sponsored schemes in the year 1974-75. The 3 Authorities are under the administrative control of this Department. The annual plan proposals for the 3 CADAs are reflected in this Department's annual plan.

Record of performance

Out of about 10 lakh ha. of CCA of the 3 river valley projects, ON FARM DEVELOPMENT through CAD activities are required in about 2.5 lakh ha. where the benefits of the project do not reach at the optimum level due to various inadequacies such as high outlet capacity, absence of lead channels between agricultural field and outlets, uneven land etc. At the end of 8th Plan 82 thousand ha. (cumulative) out of 2.5 lakh ha. would be achieved.

During the Eighth plan period, creation, of 0.22 lakh ha. of irrigation potential will be achieved by way of construction of field channels from projects outlets, land levelling and shaping soil survey etc. as well as setting up of four nos. of communities schemes by providing subsidy to SKUS. The Eighth plan target was 1.0 lakh ha.

During Eighth plan Rs. 9.86 crores could be spent by three CADSs against the Eighth plan Target of Rs. 18 crores.

Operational objectives

The main objectives of ON-FARM DEVELOPMENT as laid down by the Government of India guidelines will be pursued within the command area of the major 3 River Valley Projects.

Basis of selection of continuing and new schemes and the objective of target setting

Increased level of activities in the three CADAs will be undertaken in Ninth Five Year Plan so that the benefits of 3 projects reach the deprived cultivators.

Implication of the physical target

Lining of field channel is the most effective method of extending the benefit of the project to deprived cultivators. Presently about Rs. 20,000/- are spent per ha. This is to be shared by the Centre and the State Govt. equally under the project.

Decentralisation

The work of construction and lining of field channels are executed mostly through the Gram Panchayets.

SCP/TSP/Women Programme

Adequate provision in the annual plan provision is made for SCP & TSP components.

Employment generation

The scheme is wholly labour intensive.

Programme for 1997-98

In the Annual Plan for 1997-98, a provision of Rs. 3 crores has been kept as state share for the CAD programme of Damodar, Kangsabati and Mayurakshi Projects. This would help to create additional gross irrigation potential of 7700 hectares through construction of field channels and Community Irrigation schemes for conjunctive use of Surface Water and Ground-water at the tail-end of the command areas.

Almost 100% of the proposed outlay will flow through District Plan for different District.

4.4 FLOOD CONTROL SECTOR

4.4.1 Programme of the Irrigation and Waterways Department

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 per cent of the geographical area of the State. Due to its critical geographical location in these two river basins, the state is ravaged by destructive floods almost every year with widespread sufferings to its people. Along with floods various attendant 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 countryside. 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, landslides in the hills, bank spilling and changing of river courses. 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 embankments, as little progress could be achieved in building storage

reservoirs in the uppermost 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.

Up to the end of the year 1991-92, 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 up to the end of the year 1991-92 are shown in the Table below :

Plan period	Area reasonably protected from flood & Drainage Congestion in square Kilometer	Length of Embankment (KM)	Length of Drainage channel (KM)
Up to end of Annual Plan 1991-92	20170	16203	6969

During Eighth Plan

The total provision for the Flood Control Sector during the Eighth Plan, as approved by the Planning Commission is Rs. 280 crores. During the year 1996-97 Rs. 4 crores were awarded by the Tenth Finance Commission for undertaking anti-erosion schemes in Ganga-Padma System and a loan assisted programme of Rs. 14.87 crores was also sanctioned by the NABARD for the execution of Drainage Schemes. The financial and physical achievements in respect of Flood Control sector during the successive years of the Eighth Plan are furnished below:

Table 4.7
Financial & Physical Achievements during the Eighth Plan for the Flood Control Sector

Plan period	Financial Achievements (Rs. in crores)		Physical Achievements		
	Approved outlay	Expenditure as per availability of fund	Area reasonably protected from Flood & Drained congestion (In. ha)	Length of Embankment including remodelling/ strengthening etc. (In km)	Length of Drainage Channel including Resectioning/remodelling etc. (In km)
Eighth Plan (Outlay)	280.00		300	330	175
1992-93 (Actual)	40.50	25.37	27	25	26
1993-94 (Actual)	28.00	31.53	30	30	28
1994-95 (Actual)	37.00	30.86	27	25	24
1995-96 (Actual)	47.00	47.10	22	21	23
1996-97 (Anticipated)	66.75	62.92	27	23	34

Operational objectives during the Ninth Plan:

Up to the end of the Eighth Plan period an area of 21500 sq. km. has been expected to be reviewed with reasonable protection from flood and drainage congestion out of the total estimated flood prone area of 37660 sq. km. in the State. In order to provide more area with reasonable protection various flood protection, anti-erosion and drainage channels are being proposed to be undertaken during the Ninth Plan Period. With the available resources bank protection and anti-erosion schemes have also been proposed to control the devastating erosion of the river Ganga-padma and that of the other rivers in the State. Due stress has been provided for allocation of fund for the anti-sea-erosion schemes in order to prevent coastal erosion. Priority has been provided for the completion of the continuing schemes though it is not always practicable to avoid investment on new schemes at severely affected areas without completing the ongoing schemes.

Implication of Physical Targets in terms of Financial Outlays

In the backdrop of the severity of flood damages during the years of the Eighth Plan period, the need for higher allocation of fund for the Flood Control Sector has been constantly felt all along. The perennial bank erosion problems of Ganga-Padma System and erosion in the coastal reaches rendered the flood scenario of the State gloomy. Occurrence of flood in the northern district of the State and acute drainage congestion in the Southern part have almost become annual feature and prevention of which require increased financial investment. Over and above the normal works in the Flood Control Sector the special thrust areas during the Ninth Plan period are stated below:

Bank Erosion problem of river Ganga-Padma

The loss of territorial land mass due to erosion of the Ganga-padma System and 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 and 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 to about 1.4 km. If these two rivers are connected, 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 appear threatened and cannot be checked with the limited financial resources of the state alone.

Appreciating the State's concern for solving this problem of national importance, the Planning Commission constituted an Experts' Committee in September, 1996 to make an indepth study of bank erosion problem and suggest both short term and long term remedial measures including financial requirements, thereof. The Experts' Committee in its report submitted to the Planning Commission has recommended taking up of various works as short

term and long term measures, the cost of which, based on 1996 rates, works out to Rs. 927 crores. To implement the recommendation, the State Government would require Central assistance worth Rs. 1000 crores over a period of next ten years, in a suitably phased manner.

Bank-Erosion problem of other River

Severe bank erosions are being experienced in almost all the rivers in North Bengal, Bhagirathi-Hooghly, Rupnarayan and other rivers in the State. Though remedial measures are being undertaken at several places along these rivers flow of additional fund is required for undertaking long term sustainable measures.

Drainage Schemes

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

The kalighai-Kapaleswari-Baghai Basin Drainage Scheme (Phase-I) has been submitted to the Ganga Flood Control Commission for technical clearance and subsequent reference to the Planning Commission for investment clearance. The State Government imparts priority for execution of the schemes during the Ninth Plan period with adequate assistance.

In a one 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. But this has led to considerable straining of the drainage system requiring more fund for their proper upkeepment.

Anti-Sea-Erosion Works

The embankments along the sea and estuarine rivers in the deltaic sunderbans area and Midnapore district are mostly of inadequate section to withstand 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 measure. 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 schemes during the Ninth Plan period.

Annual Plan 1997-98

The flood control sector is proposed to have an allocation of Rs. 76.63 crores out of the total proposed outlay of Rs. 241.63 crores for the Irrigation and Waterways Department. The proposed outlay is inclusive of Tenth Finance Commission Award of Rs. 5.25 crores for the anti-erosion works on Ganga-Padma and a total loan assistance of Rs. 30.24 crores from the NABARD under RIDF-I, RIDF-II and RIDF-III. The details of the proposed outlay for the Flood control sector during 1997-98 are given below:

Table 4.8
Proposed outlay for flood control sector during 1997-98

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of Project	Annual Plan 1997-98
A. Specified outlay	
1. Tenth Finance Commission Award for Anti-Erosion on Ganga-Padma	525
2. Spill over cost of 6 nos. Drainage Schemes under R I D P-I	276
3. New Drainage and Flood Control Schemes under R I D F-II	1015
4. New Drainage and Flood Control Schemes under F I D F-III	1500
	Drainage-110 Flood Control-905
Sub-Total	3325
B. Core Sector Provision	
1. Flood Control Works	2700
2. Anti-Sea Erosion Works	135
3. Drainage Works	1453
4. Water Development	50
Sub-Total	4338
Total	7663

Employment Generation

The employment generation out of the irrigation projects during the Eighth Plan and the targets for the same during the Annual Plan 1997-98 is furnished in Table-4.9.

Table 4.9
Employment Generation during Eighth Plan and Target
for the Annual Plan 1997-98

(In lakh Mandays)

Item	8th. Plan (on Anticipated Expenditure)	Annual Plan (1997-'98) (on proposed Target Outlay)
1. On construction works		
A. Engineers		
i) Graduate	4.83	0.65
ii) Diploma	16.45	2.21
B. Skilled Labours	41.00	9.56
C. Unskilled Labours	289.75	67.75
2. Additional Employment Generation in the Command Areas	363.00	

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V-Energy

V. ENERGY

5.1 POWER

5.1.1 Programme of the Power Department

The energy status is a key indicator of 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 our State is built by works of the West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB), the West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC), the Durgapur Projects Limited (DPL) and the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation (CESC). The WBSEB generates, transmits and distributes power in the State 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 requirements its 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.

Installed power generation capacity in the State by the end of 1991-92 was 3105.39 MW (including Central and Private Sector Power Station). The 8th Plan programmed to add in the State Sector only a capacity of 537.5 MW (117.5 MW hydro and 420 MW thermal).

The major power projects taken up during the Eighth Five year are the following:

- 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 would however, slip 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.

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. The present installed capacity of the State sector power utilities (i.e. WBSEB, WBPDC & DPL) is 2840 MW (WBSEB—1190 MW, WBPDC—1260 MW, DPL—390 MW).

Table 5.1
Installed Capacity of Electricity in West Bengal
(Including DVC & NTPC in West Bengal)

At the end of the year	Installed Capacity (MW)
1993-94	4456.0
1994-95	4956.0
1995-96	5481.5
1996-97 (November '96)	5680.2*

(* present effective capacity source EREB)

Source : Department of Power,
Government of West Bengal.

There was no addition to the installed capacity of the State sector power stations in 1996-97. However, it was possible to generate more electricity than what could be generated during the same period of 1995-96. Table will indicate the comparative statement of generation of electricity during the last few years.

Table 5.2
Generation of Electricity in the State Power Stations (including
the CESC Ltd. & DPSC Ltd.

(in MU)

Agency	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (up to Jan.'97)	% of increase over the same period of last year
State Sector WBSEB	2865	3700	3750	3211 (2682) *	3068	(+) 14.3%
WBPDC	4280	5366	5793	6148 (5188)	5189	—
DPL	980	902	907	905 (698)	804	(+) 15%
Total State Sector	8125	9968	10450	10264 (8568)	9061	(+) 5.8%
Private Sector CESC Ltd.	3444	3505	3724	3833 (3210)	3070	(-) 4%
Dishergarh Power Supply Co. Ltd.	248	238	219	229 (179)	180	—

Table 5.2 (Contd.)

(in MU)

Agency	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (up to Jan.'97)	% of increase over the same period of last year.
Total (Private Sector)	3692	3743	3943	4062 (3389)	3250	(-) 4%
Total	11817	13711	14393	14326 (11957)	12311	(+) 3%

*Figures in bracket up to January 1996.

The above table reveals that while CESC's generation fell in 1996-97 a little below 1995-96 performance, the WBSEB improved its generation by about 14% and the DPL by about 15%. Apparently the WBPDCCL does not show an improvement but the same is not due to any fault of its own. The WBPDCCL had to restrict its generation under the dictat of the EREB in the interest of the stability of the grid system of the State. The WBPDCCL could improve its PLF by about 8.6% had there been no restriction on its generation. Time availability factor of the KTPS is about 79% which also speaks for its efficiency.

Plant Load Factor

In terms of the efficiency of the power plants, the WBSEB stands below the All India average PLF. However, sustained efforts for improving the efficiency of the old power stations have been made during Eighth Plan period.

Apart from routine maintenance work of the power plants, renovation works particularly for the old power stations were undertaken for maintaining the plants both in terms of productivity and cost of generation. During the last couple of years, another dimension to this activity has been added and that is environment upgradation. Renovation and Modernisation programmes of the power utilities are briefly described below:

WBSEB: First phase of Renovation & Modernisation programme has been completed at both Santaldih and Bandel Thermal Power Stations. Second Phase of the programme has been prepared which aims at life extension programme. For Bandel TPS a Life Extension Programme has been chalked out which will enable the plant to run efficiently for another 15 years. The scheme with an anticipated cost of Rs. 237.00 crores has been posed to Ministry of Power, Government of India, for obtaining foreign loan. The same has since been posed to OECF for financing by the Government of India. At Santaldih TPS, Rs. 45 crores scheme for erection of electro-static precipitators is being implemented. Here also a Life Extension Scheme has been prepared but the same is now under revision, which will be taken up for financing during the next year.

WBPDCCL: Renovation programme of the WBPDCCL mainly involves the units of the stage I of Kolaghat TPS particularly in the areas of coal handling plant, electro-static precipitators, control valves, common rotor heating system etc.

DPL: A comprehensive Renovation, Modernisation and Life Extension Programme for old units (I-V) of the DPL Power Station has been prepared,

As a result, positive achievements have reflected in the increased PLF of the WBSEB. The PLF of KTPS has, also, been encouraging despite occasional restrictions imposed on its generation. In the case of DPL, however, the picture is not that encouraging. The following table indicates the PLF percentage of three utilities:

Table 5.3

	WBSEB	WBPDCL	DPL
1992-93	31.10	58.1	21.7
1993-94	40.5	68.2	26.3
1994-95	41.2	60.4	26.6
1995-96	34.5	56.3	26.4

Transmission & Distribution

With the increase of generation of electricity, it has been possible to overcome the chronic shortage of power in the State. However, there are constraints in T & D system for which supply of power in all parts of the State is still not efficient. During Eighth Five Year plan following targets were set-up for improvement of T & D systems.

Table 5.4

I. i) Transmission Line

Description	Target	Achievement up to '95-96	Achievement during '96-97 up to Nov.'96
a) 400 KV	200 ckm	171 ckm	—
b) 220 KV	704 ckm	31 ckm	—
c) 132 KV	930 ckm	438.6 ckm	76.43 ckm

ii) Sub-stations

Description	Target	Achievement up to '95-96	Achievement during '96-97 upto Nov.'96
a) 400 KV	945 MVA	Work in progress	166 MVA
b) 220 KV	1600 MVA	160 MVA	—
c) 132 KV & } 132/33 KV }	916 MVA	635.5 MVA	268.2 MVA

iii) Capacitor

Description	Target	Achievement up to '95-96	Achievement during '96-97 up to Nov.'96
Installation of capacitor	—	25.2 MVAR	30 MVAR

II. Distribution

Physical achievements are as follows:

Particulars	Target	Achievement up to '95-96	Achievement during '96-97 up to Nov.'96
Normal Development:			
a) 33 KV line	2200 ckm	599.5 ckm	131 ckm
b) 11 KV line	1660 ckm	639.2 ckm	51.800 ckm
c) M & LV	2200 ckm	675.3 ckm	75.500 ckm
d) 33/11 KV Sub-stn.	1000 MVA	426.4 MVA	33.35 MVA
e) 11/0.4 KV Sub-stn.	500 MVA	128.6 MVA	19.250 MVA

System Improvement/upgradation:

a) 33 KV line	1200 km	213.14 ckm	} 151.080 km
b) 11 KV line	2645 km	359.1 ckm	
c) M & LV	3000 km	249.6 ckm	36.780 km
d) 33/11 KV Sub-stn.	620 MVA	317.7 MVA	80.6 MVA
e) 11/0.4 KV Sub-stn.	215 MVA	87.7 MVA	20.630 MVA

E. Transmission & Distribution Loss

Loss of electricity during its transmission & distribution in West Bengal is higher than the All India Average. In the first year of Eighth Plan 1992-93 transmission & distribution loss of the WBSEB was about 23.7% against the All India Average of 20.54%. Both technical and non-technical reasons are responsible for this. Corrective measures for reducing technical losses call for investment of huge capital over a period of time. Prevention of losses for non-technical reasons (e.g. theft and pilferage of power etc.) are not entirely within the SEB's control. However, efforts have been taken to reduce transmission & distribution loss at least by 1% every year. That some results have been achieved can be seen from the following statement:

Transmission & Distribution loss in 1992-93—23.7%

Transmission & Distribution loss in 1993-94—22.28%

Transmission & Distribution loss in 1994-95—21.60%

Transmission & Distribution loss in 1995-96—20.4%

Energy

Out of 20.4% transmission and distribution loss, about 4.70% is due to non-technical reasons.

Rural Electrification

The WBSEB has a command area which does not include State's major industrial and commercial establishment and it is rather difficult for WBSEB to set aside sufficient fund for rural electrification from its revenue collection after meeting its obligations, such as debt, servicing, purchase of power from other utilities, system augmentation etc. But for the norms of rural electrification of REC Ltd. achievements under rural electrification were rather modest. With financial assistance extended by the State Government through the Zilla Parishad efforts are being made to cover as many villages as possible under Rural electrification Programme.

Table below, shows the achievements in this sphere:

Rural Electrification in West Bengal

Table 5.5

At the end of the year	No. of virgin Mouzas Electrified	Percentage of Virgin Mouzas	No. of Pump-sets Energised
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1986-87	21881	57.47	52398
1987-88	23485	61.68	60401
1988-89	24858	65.37	69401
1989-90	26392	69.41	79901
1990-91	27854	72.64	89176
1991-92	28020	73.69	92394
1992-93	28455	74.83	94710
1993-94	28806	75.75	96988
1994-95	29116	76.57	99254
1995-96	29205	76.81	101232
1996-97	29264	76.96	102773

Source : Department of Power,
Government of West Bengal.

Under 20 Point Programme there are two items which concern rural electrification v.z. Villages Electrified and Energisation of Pump-sets. Targets and achievements for these two items are indicated below:

Table 5.6

Year	Villages Electrified		Pump-set Energised	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1992-93	430	435	6752	2316
1993-94	350	351	4700	2278
1994-95	462	310	1000	2266
1995-96	520	89	3640	1978
1996-97	370	59	1200	1541

The Kutiriyoti-Lokdeep scheme meant for providing electricity to the poor people belonging to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and economically weaker sections is being implemented by the WBSEB. During 1995-96, it provided power connections to 9021 beneficiaries making the total number of beneficiaries to 77,298. In 1996-97 the WBSEB has given 10,118 new connections under this scheme.

The West Bengal State Electricity Board is contemplating in 1997-98, to electrify 600 virgin Mouzas, intensification of 180 mouzas and energise 1000 pump-sets.

Power Projects under Implementation

The present status of implementation of different major power projects are discussed below:

A. West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB) :

(i) Teesta Canal Falls Hydro-electric Project: (3 × 3 × 7.5 MW)

The slippage of target for commissioning this project has been due to land acquisition problem, delay in finalisation of drawings and designs by the CWC besides other issues. Steps have been taken to commission the first unit of this power station within a very short time. The progress of work at different power-stations have been shown below:

Table 5.7

Present status	Civil construction	Electro-mechanical fitting
Power station-I	95%	55%
Power Station-II	70%	20%
Power station-III	60%	—

The latest revised expenditure for the project is about Rs. 527 crores. The expenditure incurred up to December, 1996 is Rs. 388 crores.

(ii) Purulia Pumped Storage Scheme (4 × 225 MW)

This scheme is being implemented with the loan assistance from the OECF, Japan. An amount of Rs. 611 crores has already been sanctioned for the project for meeting the cost up to

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1998-99. The works for acquisition of land, construction of offices, roads etc. have progressed considerably. The tenders for pre-qualification for main project work of civil, hydro-mechanical and electro-mechanical jobs under international competitive bidding have been completed and evaluation is under process. The tender notices for main project work are about to be issued. The Letter of Intent (LOI) for construction of access tunnel to the proposed underground power house has since been placed. Cumulative expenditure incurred for this project so far is about Rs. 9.20 crores. The Project is expected to be commissioned by 2003 A.D.

(iii) *Mangpoo-Kalikhola (3 × 1 MW) and Mangpoo-Rambhikhola (2 × 1 MW) Hydrel Projects*: With an estimated cost of Rs. 24 crores the projects have been taken up by the WBSEB in collaboration with the State nodal agency—the West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Government of India, will contribute about 2/5th of the cost for this project, excluding the cost of infrastructure.

(iv) With the assistance of the WBREDA, the WBSEB has constructed the Rangmook Cedar Mini-hydel Project (4 × 125 KW) on behalf of the West Bengal Tea Development Corporation. The work has been completed within the target date and estimated cost, and the same is being handed over for operation.

(v) *Rammam Hydro-electric Project, Stage-1 (3 × 12 MW)*: Preliminary study for the project has been entrusted with M/s. Indo-Canadian Power Consortium.

(vi) *Gouripore Thermal Power Project (1 × 150 MW)*: This project will be implemented by M/s. Gouripore Power Company Ltd. This is a joint venture Company and the participants are Birla Technical Services and Thermo-Eco-Tek Corporation of the USA. WBSEB will have its participation in terms of the land cost. Steps have been initiated for acquisition of land for ash disposal for the projects and for obtaining the techno-economic clearance from the Central Electricity Authority. The estimated project cost with FBC boiler is Rs. 689.00 crores.

B. West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd. (WBPDCCL):

(i) *Bakreswar Thermal Power Project (5 × 210 MW)*: First three units of this project are being financed by the OECF, Japan. Work orders for the main Power Plant Package for units 1 & 2, Coal Handling Package and Transmission Package have already been placed and the contractors have mobilised their resources at site and the works have started. Main Power Plant Package for unit 3 and water package clearances are under consideration of the Ministry of Power and OECF.

For construction of units 4 & 5, a joint venture company has been formed in which the WBPDCCL is having 26% share. While the boilers of both the units are being manufactured and erected by M/s. ABL, steps for obtaining the fresh techno-economic clearance from the Central Electricity Authority have been duly initiated by M/s. Bakreswar Power Generation Co. Ltd. DPR will be submitted to the CEA shortly. The policy of Build, Operate and Transfer has been adopted in its projects. The cumulative expenditure for the project is Rs. 321 crores up to January, 1997.

(ii) *Sagardighi Thermal Power Project (4 × 500 MW)*: This has a total capacity of 2000 MW of which 2 × 500 MW units will be set-up in the first phase. The joint venture company will implement this project in which the WBPDCCL has 26% share. The other participants in the

joint venture are the Development Consultants Ltd. and their Associates. This will be built on Build-Operate-Transfer Basis. The joint venture company has taken steps for obtaining required statutory clearance from the various authorities.

C. *CESC Ltd:*

(i) *Budge Budge Thermal Power Project (2 × 250 MW):* The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1638 crores inclusive of evacuation programme, IDC etc. There has been considerable slippage in commissioning the units of this power station. However, commercial operation will commence in 1997-98.

(ii) *Balagarh Thermal Power Project (2 × 250 MW):* This project will be implemented by the Balagarh Power Company Limited which has been promoted by the CESC Limited. The firm project completion cost is Rs. 2059 crores. The Government already transferred some land for the project in favour of the Company. Proposals for acquisition of further land have been under consideration of the Government. The Company is now working on other details and finalisation of power evacuation scheme.

Table 5.8

Year	Power		Non-Conventional Energy Sources		Total	
	Approved Outlay	Expenditure	Approved Outlay	Expenditure	Approved Outlay	Expenditure
Eighth Plan 1992-96	301600.00	213461.13	488.00	286.45	302088.00	273625.70
Annual Plan 1992-93	45211.00	27249.34	60.00	12.58	45271.00	27261.92
1993-94	33115.56	35798.37	65.00	43.94	33180.00	35842.31
1994-95	34000.00	57249.77	71.50	57.56	34071.50	57307.33
1995-96	61425.00	93032.00	87.00	50.37	61512.00	93082.37
1996-97	121525.00	131.645	102.00	122.00	121627.00	131.767

Ninth Plan proposals

Tentative proposals for schemes to be taken up during the Ninth Plan are given below:

A. **Power Projects:**

- 1) Teesta Canal Falls Project (67.5 MW) (Under implementation)
- 2) Purulia Pumped Storage Project (900 MW)
- 3) Bakreswar Thermal Power Project (3 × 210 MW)

These projects will be implemented under the State-sector. Besides this, the following projects are also expected to be taken up in the Joint-sector.

- a) Bakreswar Thermal Power Project (2 × 210 MW)
- b) Gouripore Thermal Power Project (150 MW)
- c) Sagardighi Thermal Project (2 × 500 MW)

B. Transmission & Distribution System:

1. Transmission Wing:

For improvement of Transmission system a comprehensive scheme has been taken with the loan assistance from OECF, Japan, at a total cost of Rs. 861 crores. The tentative programme under this are:

a) Sub-stations:

- i) 400 KV one sub-station with 790 MVA
- ii) 220 KV six sub-stations with 2046 MVA
- iii) 132 KV sixteen sub-stations with 901 MVA

b) Line Bays:

- i) 400 KV—2 Nos.
- ii) 220 KV—20 Nos.
- iii) 132 KV—24 Nos.

c) New Lines:

- i) 400 KV—24 ckm
- ii) 220 KV—88 ckm
- iii) 132 KV—1408 ckm

Capacity of two 220 KV sub-stations and seven 132 KV sub-stations will also be augmented.

2. Distribution Wing

Tentative programme for the Ninth Plan and Annual Plan, 1997-98 are shown below:

Table 5.9

Programme for improvement of Distribution System during Ninth Plan				
Item of Work	Development Programme (New work)	System augmentation	Proposal for 1997-98	
			New work	System augmentation
A. Distribution Lines:				
i) 33 KV	3000 km	1000 km	414 km	} 200 km
ii) 11/6.16 KV	1640 km	2450 km	400 km	
iii) M + LV	1960 km	1850 km	600 km	
B. Sub-stations:				
i) 33/11 KV, 33/6KV	1060 MVA	530 MVA	} 149 MVA	178 MVA
ii) 11/0.4 KV, 6.6/0.4 KV	450 MVA	200 MVA		

Besides the above other activities are:

a) Installation of Energy meters	—	1000		
b) Installation of line sectionaliser 11 KV	—	60		
c) Installation of plant capacitors	—	172	MVAR	30 MVAR
d) New electric connections	—	14,50,000		2,50,000

C. Rural Electrification:**9th Plan Target (tentative)****a) Village electrification:**

				Annual Plan
State Plan	—	100		20
REC (Normal)	—	750		130
MNP/BMS	—	2000		450
		2850		600

b) Intensification of hamlets	800		180	
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c) Pump-set energisation:

State Plan	—	400		50
REC (Normal)	—	3800		750
MNP/BMS	—	1500		200
		5700		1000
Others	—	18250	23,950	4400
				5400

D. Plan under SCP & TSP:

	SCP	TSP	SCP	TSP
a) Village electrification	700	175	130	35
b) Intensification	250	75	50	12
c) Flow Fund	Rs. 60 crores	Rs. 15 crores		
% of fund flow for RE activities	24%	6%		

The proposed outlay for power sector is of Rs. 131645 lakhs details of which have been given in vol. II.

5.2. NON-CONVENTIONAL SOURCES OF ENERGY**5.2.1 Programme of the Science & Technology and Non-Conventional Energy Sources Department**

It is now increasingly realised that the exploitation of renewable energy source would not only supplement the generation of power through conventional energy sources but would also provide a viable option for wide application. Economic Development has to be sustainable and

that sustainable energy option will have to be found. Despite the fact the oil and gas will remain the main energy sources for the world during the next 20 years, a transition to more sustainable mix is unavoidable in consideration of the depleting nature of those fuels and the serious environmental effect of their use. Energy for sustainable development has been the central theme of the deliberation in the UN Committee on New & Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development. The Committee recommended that national plan will have to be drawn up for promoting the use of renewable energy sources. The Annual Plan proposals for the year 1997-98 has kept in view the above concern.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR THE YEAR 1997-98

Solar Energy

Solar energy can be harnessed in two ways:

- (1) Solar Thermal route
- (2) Solar Photovoltaic route

(1) Solar Thermal route

Energy in the form of heat is one of the main requirements in domestic, agricultural, industrial and commercial centres of the Indian economy. A variety of thermal energy needs of all these sectors can be met by using solar energy. In West Bengal, WBREDA has mainly concentrated its activities in low grade solar thermal energy. Solar water heating system and solar desalination systems have been installed in the State of West Bengal in large numbers. Already about 4 lacs litres of hot water per day through solar water heating systems have been installed in the State of West Bengal during the first four years of the 8th Five Year Plan. The industries, hospitals and hotels are saving substantial amount of electrical energy through installation of solar water heating system.

Solar Cooker has also been introduced by WBREDA during the 8th Five Year Plan. Already more than 2000 Nos. of Solar Cookers have been sold in the State during the first four years of the 8th Plan. Few solar distillation plants also were installed in the State during the first four years of the 8th Plan.

(2) Solar Photovoltaic route

Converting sunlight into electricity without the complications of gathering the solar heat and passing it through a thermo-mix cycle has great appeal for its simplicity. A physical phenomenon known as the photovoltaic effects "allows light energy to interact with electrons present in suitably arranged semi-conductor combination, and to produce a voltage across two burning areas." Devices that produce these effects are called photocells and a variety of different materials have been found to be active in this respect.

The most commonly produced type of photocell is based on silicon. The photovoltaic technology has emerged not only as a power source for small application such as lighting, water pumping etc. but also as a medium size power source for centralised application at village level. In West Bengal a large number of solar photovoltaic systems have been installed and commissioned by WBREDA during the Eighth Plan period. Two major photovoltaic programmes being implemented in the State of West Bengal are:

- (i) Photovoltaic programme for individual families
- (ii) Photovoltaic programme for communities.

Solar lanterns and domestic solar lighting systems are being distributed at subsidised rates under the first category programme. During the Eighth Five Year Plan period (up to August, 1996) more than 2000 solar lanterns and about 1600 domestic solar lighting systems have been installed in the State.

Under the second category the major programmes completed during the Eighth Plan are below:

- (a) Setting up of a 26 KW Solar PV Power Plant at Sagar Island, South 24-Parganas District.
- (b) Setting up of a 12.5 KW Solar PV Power Plant at Bongopalpur village of Bankura District.
- (c) Setting up of about 50 KW Solar PV Power Plant at various forest offices of Sundarbans.
- (d) Setting up of small Micro Level Power Plant at a composite capacity of 50 KW in various areas of West Bengal.

The WBREDA is operating the Bongopalpur Power Plant and the Sagar Island Power Plant through community participation. Other Power Plants are run by the users' organisations. The electricity generated from the Solar Power Plant is now being used on commercial basis.

WBREDA propose to take up the following Solar Thermal Energy Programme and Solar PV Programme during the financial year 1997-98:

- (1) Solar Water Heating System to be installed : 1 lac ltr per day
- (2) Solar Cooker to be sold : 1000 Nos.
- (3) Solar Distillation Plant to be installed : 50 Nos.
- (4) Solar Domestic Lighting System to be Installed : 2000 Nos.
- (5) Solar Lanterns to be sold : 1000 Nos.
- (6) Solar Street Lighting system to be installed. : 250 Nos.
- (7) Solar Power Plant to be installed. : 50 KW

A sum of Rs. 100 lacs have been kept under state plan budget for the year 1997-98 as matching grant for the abovementioned programmes.

WIND ENERGY PROGRAMMES:

During the financial year 1997-98 the following wind energy systems are proposed to be installed:

- (1) Stand-alone battery charger
(each of capacity 5 KW) : 10 Nos.
- (2) Wind farm programme for Frazerganj
- (3) Setting up of Wind Monitoring Station in Himalayan belt

BIOMASS PROGRAMME:

In West Bengal, Biomass utilisation programme was initiated by WBREDA in the year 1995. The Agency has started the installation of 500 KW Biomass Based Power Plant in Gosaba

Island of Sundarban areas of West Bengal. It is proposed to install 500 KW more Biomass Based Power Plant in the State of West Bengal during the year 1997-98.

BIOGAS PROGRAMME:

The WBREDA is implementing the National Project on Biogas development. Under this programme WBREDA is implementing the programmes like installation of family-size Biogas plants and installation of institutional/community type Biogas plants. During the annual plan period of 1997-98, WBREDA propose to install 10,000 Nos. of family size biogas plants and 15 Nos. institutional/community type Biogas plants.

IMPROVED CHULHA PROGRAMME:

WBREDA is implementing the National Programme on Improved Chulha in the State of West Bengal. WBREDA has already installed about 60,000 Nos. of Improved Chulhas in the last three years. It is proposed to install 40,000 Nos. of improved Chulhas during the plan period 1997-98.

MINI, MICRO HYDEL PROJECT:

WBREDA initiated implementation of Mini, Micro Hydel plants in the State of West Bengal in the year 1994-95. Mini, Micro Hydel plants of composite capacity 550 KW has been installed in the State. During the financial year 1997-98, WBREDA propose to install 150 KW of Mini, Micro Hydel plants.

OTHER PROGRAMMES OF WBREDA:

WBREDA implements the following other programmes in the state of West Bengal:

- (1) Conducting of exhibition for promotion of renewable energy sources
- (2) Popularisation of non-conventional energy sources through mass awareness programme
- (3) Introduction and popularisation of Battery driven vehicle
- (4) Introduction of solar passive Architectural concept in the State.

In order to implement the above mentioned programme relating to non-conventional Energy Sources, Rs. 122.0 lakhs will be spent in the financial year 1997-98.

5.3. INTEGRATED RURAL ENERGY PROGRAMME (IREP)

5.3.1 Programme of the Development & Planning Deptt.

The Integrated Rural Energy Programme started in the State during the 7th Plan period. The Development & Planning Department is the nodal department for this programme which encompasses implementation of both conventional energy inputs and non-conventional energy system in identified blocks to evolve an integrated energy demand and consumption model. The programme was initiated in seven selected blocks in the 7th Plan. The minimum target for the 8th Five Year Plan was to cover at least one block in each district. The main components of the programme in the 8th Five Year Plan were as follows:

- 1) Developing institutional mechanism;
- 2) Training, demonstration and extension;

- 3) Project preparation for the new blocks to be covered and finalisation of the Block Energy Plans and Project Documents where preliminary survey has already been taken up;
- 4) Provision of financial incentives for installation of energy devices with special emphasis on conventional and non-conventional energy, energy conservation and environment protection.

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 systems, 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 30 IREP Blocks in the State of which IREP programmes have been taken up with reasonable success in 6 Blocks. Solar Thermal Heating systems are also under commission in rural hospitals and Primary Health Centres in 26 Blocks by Saxby Farmer Limited. The National Pilot Project at Labpur has been completed and is awaiting in auguration any day. It will be 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. Rs. 25 lakhs have already been spent as Government of India's share for the project. The Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur which is our technical back-up unit has also been imparting training to different field level functionaries in the arena of installation and maintenance of devices.

The cost of extension of salary for the IREP staff and the grant-in-aid for undertaking survey and organising training to STBU and DTBU is generally allotted by Government of India as grant-in-aid.

Out of the approved outlay of Rs. 384.00 lakhs in the Eighth Five Year Plan a total of Rs. 15.61 lakhs was spent during the first two years (1992-93 and 1993-94) and against revised budgetted outlay of Rs. 50.00 lakhs, Rs. 61.265 were spent during 1995-96. For the financial year (1996-97) Rs. 50.00 lakh were provided as budgetary support and Rs. 65.00 lakhs could be spent.

During 1995-96, a total of 30(thirty) blocks have been taken up for IREP Programme with the approval of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES), Government of India. Till date, one State Level and six Block Level Cells have been created. For the remaining 24 (twenty four) blocks works are in progress. Incidentally, setting up of State and Block Level IREP Cells are 100% financed by Government of India in the MNES.

In the 9th Five Year Plan period it is intended to extend in new areas in a dedicated spirit to bring out a perceptable change in the energy scenario in rural Bengal. Attempts are also being made to dovetail the programme with other on-going poverty ameliorating schemes to bring about an aggregate impact in the lifestyle as well as energy use scenario in the areas. Efforts are being made to introduce the concept of Urga gram as a role model and a particular village as a model for IREP with focus on maximum harnessing on solar and wind power. Plants for generation of electricity will be set-up in Sundarban areas with the help of wind and solar energy.

The estimate for Ninth Plan period is being worked out and for the Annual Plan 1997-98 Rs. 65 lakhs have been provided.

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VI—Industry and Minerals

VI. INDUSTRY AND MINERALS

6.1 VILLAGE AND SMALL INDUSTRIES

6.1.1 Programme of the Cottage and Small Scale Industries Department

The growth of Small Scale and Cottage Industries in the State has been significant over the last decade and a half. The rapid expansion of this sector is related to the various promotional measures of the State Government and, perhaps more importantly, to the rising agricultural production and rural income which has generated considerable off-the-farm activities in the State.

Activities of the Cottage & Small Scale Industries Department are mainly confined to three broad sectors Viz. : Cottage & Small Scale Industries Sector (SSI, Handicrafts, Coir, Lac & Khadi), Handloom Sector and Sericulture Sector. Various Schemes in all the Sectors are being implemented by this Department and have been included in Annual Plan Proposals for 1997-98. The Scheme-wise details are briefly described below:

(A) Cottage & Small Scale Industries Sector:

Strengthening of Cottage & Small Scale Industries Directorate

This scheme is intended to provide technical and promotional support to the SSI entrepreneurs towards development of electronic industry and ancillarisation of SSI undertakings in the State in general and in Durgapur, Assansol & Haldia region in particular. Provision under the scheme has been made to meet the establishment cost for the bifurcated blocks covering districts of Hooghly, North 24 Parganas Midnapore, Nadia and Coochbehar besides the establishment costs of the on-going scheme of Inspection room of Durgapur Ancillary Development, Electronic Cell, and Planning & Evaluation Cell.

District Industries Centres

Originally this was Centrally Sponsored Scheme intended to provide escort one window services to C&SSI entrepreneurs and artisans for promotion of industries extending linkages and financial support in the field of SSI, KVI, Lac, Coir and Handicrafts sectors. As on date 16, DICs (excepting Calcutta) have been functioning. Besides, at it two sub-DICs have been set up one at Durgapur and another at Siliguri with the industrial demands of the entrepreneurs in that area. Though Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur have been separated—a separate DIC at Balurghat could not be opened up as yet owing to non-grant or sanction from Government of India. However, a skeleton form of sub-DIC at Balurghat has been functioning. The provisions are mainly made for establishment costs of all DICs and sub-DICs (excepting Calcutta). From 1994-95 Government of India completely stopped funding towards 50% establishment charges.

During 1995-96 as many as 5434 new units were set up creating additional employment opportunities of 15524 persons. During 1995-96 16522 units were registered.

District Industries Centre, Calcutta

The entire establishment expenses in being borne by the State Government since this scheme was sanctioned by State Government in 1983-84. The DIC, Calcutta takes care of development of Calcutta Municipality region for promoting SSI, Handicrafts Sectors.

Census of SSI Units

Under the scheme the registered SSI Units are being surveyed in respect of their capital content, employment, product range, materials used etc. in order to form the basic for capacity assessment and future promotional assistance programmes.

The entire budgeted provision is utilised for establishment cost and the miscellaneous expenses for surveying the units and computerisation of the data.

Small Industries Development Agency (SIDA)

SIDA was formed in 1984-85. The scheme is to take intensive care for promotion of SSI units with involvement of more than Rs. 2 lakhs in plant & machinery in districts of Calcutta, 24 Parganas (South), 24 Parganas (North), Burdwan, Howrah & Hooghly with concurrent liaison with all promotional, technical and financial agencies. The provision is to meet the establishment cost of SIDA.

Research Development and Quality Control

The scheme is intended to render support to ETDC at Calcutta for carrying out work under the scheme for Household Domestic Electrical Appliances order. The scheme moreover undertakes R&D activities through ETDC by rendering assistances for the celebration of equipments & installation of personal computer. The quality marking scheme of the C&SSI Directorate has been offering services for marking the standardisation norms to SSI Units in specific trades only. This is an important scheme which meets the basic requirement of quality control of domestic electrical appliances and also schematic requirement of quality marking scheme.

Training of Officers of C&SSI Directorate & Executive of Registered SSI Units

The proposed outlay under the scheme is intended for conducting the training programmes/seminars at the SIRD, Kalyani, NSCTS, Kalyani, and the costs of training fees at National Training Institutes like NIRD, NISIET, NITIE, MDI, RETC, etc.

Financial Assistance to (a) WBSIC Ltd., (b) WBSLIDC Ltd. (c) WBCDC Ltd.

Equity support to attract institutional finance by the respective corporations in order to run their projects/programme/schematic activities. The marketing programmes of WBSIC Ltd. and WBSLIDC Ltd., WBCDC Ltd. are mainly taken up with the loan sanctioned by financial institutions which is supplemented by the equity of the Government sanctioned in favour of the corporations under the Department of C&SSI, West Bengal.

The grants and loans are provided for taking up schematic activities of WBSLIDC Ltd.

Entrepreneurship Development Programme

The existing scheme recorded a total estimated expenditure of Rs. 37.03 lacs against an outlay of Rs. 120 lacs in the Eighth Plan Period. The scheme is widely needed to bring up entrepreneurs to cope with the various self-employment oriented programmes.

During the Ninth Plan Period various NGOs like Ram Krishna Mission, WEBCON etc. would be provided with greater exposure to industrial activities under the Training Programmes.

Special Training Programme for Women, Physically Handicapped and Backward Classes

In the Ninth Plan Period a greater number of participants from women, physically

handicapped and backward classes are envisaged to be covered under these programme for offering self-employment opportunities for these otherwise deprived people.

State Level Institute for Entrepreneurship Development

The need of a State Level Institute is felt for overall development of entrepreneurship through various programmes of development. It is therefore proposed that the infrastructure necessary for creation of such an institute would be provided by the Government, which may be utilized and run by the professional NGOs to bring up a various levels of entrepreneurship.

Orientation Programme for Existing Entrepreneurship:

The scheme could not make much progress for want of adequate representation of entrepreneurs. During the Ninth Plan Period a greater coverage of prospective entrepreneurs down to the level of Blocks, Gram Panchayat etc. is to be envisaged. This orientation programmes are expected to generate a greater perception of people in Rural/Cottage/Household and modernised industries in the State.

Research, Development & Quality Control:

A. Upgradation of Quality Control Schemes

B. State Level Research and Technology Development Centre (Strengthening of ETDC):

The scheme has a wider coverage in the changed prospective of industrialisation of the State and so the above noted break-up of the main scheme in the two parts has been envisaged in the Ninth Plan Period.

Upgradation of Quality Marking Scheme will see improvement of testing and service facilities with appropriate State of the Art equipments for rendering Quality Marking facilities to SSI Units of the State for various groups of industrial activities.

The State Level Research & Technology Development Centre is proposed to be set up at ETDC by way of upgradation of the existing specialised facilities of testing standardisation, calibration, etc. with addition of appropriate instruments, machineries, etc.

Marketing Research & Survey for Promotion of SSI Units

The scheme envisages to cover continuous compilation of information of changing demands of various products for different groups of consumers and so various agencies, corporate bodies, etc. are required to be engaged for collection and continuous upgradation of the information.

The outlay for 1997-98 will provide various agencies and corporate bodies with professional background to provide market information for the benefit of SSI Units and prospective entrepreneurs.

Market Development

The scheme envisages to undertake all programmes of publicity, demonstration and such other measures to enable SSI products, under Common Brand WEBSI. The publicity demonstration would be made through different general and electronic mass media.

Modernisation of SSI Units:

The scheme is being implemented by West Bengal Financial Corporation which acts as nodal agency with direct funding from Finance Department.

Loans to Village & Small Industries Under BSAI Act, 1931

This is a continuing scheme for soft loan in single case up to Rs. 10,000/- to be given to individual entrepreneurs specially in rural areas.

Loans for Margin Money for Industrial Development and Modernisation

The scheme for margin money assistance to V & SI is proposed to cover sick units towards their revival. This scheme supplements the institutional finance which is normally granted by the Bank in their favour.

Common Service Facilities Centre

Under the scheme assistances are being rendered for Infrastructural and Technology Development in rural areas in collaboration with GCRI, CSIR, MERADO etc.

In the Ninth Plan Period such facilities are proposed to be created at North 24-Parganas District, Durgapur, Siliguri, Howrah etc. for a total number of five such new centres. The centre should provide appropriate tool rooms facilities, various services etc. as may be required by Ceramic, Engineering etc. groups of industries.

Assistance Under BSAI Act, 1931—Grants Incentives

In the Eighth Plan Period an estimated total expenditure of Rs. 2245 lakhs was incurred.

With a view to accommodating a large number of new SSI Units and units coming for substantial expansion a larger provision of Rs. 5500 lakhs is envisaged in the Ninth Plan Period. In 1997-98 the requirement may shoot up for 600 lakhs.

Interest Free Sales Tax Loan to Innovative SSI Units

In the Eighth Plan Period, an estimated expenditure of Rs. 220 lakhs was incurred.

For the Annual Plan 1997-98, Outlay has been kept to provide Interest Free Sales Tax Loan to SSI units.

Soft Loan To Sick SSI Units for Payment of Sales Tax

A sum of Rs. 14.40 lakhs was spent in 1995-96 under the scheme. Under the scheme a greater coverage of Sick SSI Units falling defaulter in pay of sales tax will be provided with fund a soft loan.

Publicity and Promotional Activities including Seminars Campaigns

An estimated total expenditure of Rs. 224 lakhs was made.

The increasing demand for publicity in-terms of Fairs and Exhibitions, Seminars, etc. for creating various opportunity to existing as well as prospective SSI Units, larger outlay would be required. In 1997-98, Rs. 80 lakhs are proposed.

Central Foot Wear Training Centre

An estimated total of Rs. 47.35 lakhs was spent against a provision of Rs. 38 lakhs during

the Eighth Plan Period. This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 50% expenditure of which is borne by the State. The provision, being made, is being for State share.

29. Creation of Entrepreneurship Development Centre (Construction of Office Building in Districts)

Under the scheme construction of office buildings at districts are taken up. About Rs. 41.44 lakhs could be spent during the Eighth Plan Period.

To meet the growing demands of entrepreneurs for various facilities, information services at DIC, the scheme has been renamed as Entrepreneurship Development Centre to be housed in the DIC. The proposed Centre will have additional facilities for Auditorium, Training Centre, Inspection Room, etc., in all DICs with own buildings and new accommodation for 17 DICs/ Sub-DICs.

30. Export Promotion Board

This new scheme envisages to provide facilities of information and necessary supports and services to SSI Units intending to be exporters.

31. Assistance to Industrial Co-operatives

During 1996-97 Plan Period, an estimated total expenditure of Rs. 120.74 lakhs was made.

With a view to provide financial assistance to a greater number of deserving industrial Co-op. Societies, a larger provisions of Rs. 500 lakhs for the entire plan period is required.

32. Establishment of Bio-Gas Development

This is a supplementary State Scheme to the Centrally Sponsored National Project on Bio-Gas Development Provision is made to meet the partial expenditure of salary of staff and officers borne under this scheme.

33. Award of Prizes and Celebration of Handicrafts Week etc.

The existing scheme has recorded an estimated expenditure of Rs. 13.64 lakhs during the Eighth Plan Period. On every year District Level and State Level competitions for awarding prizes are held.

The provision is meant for meeting the cost of prize money. Larger amount is required to ensure publications on handicrafts.

34. Financial Assistance Programmes to Handicraft Artisans Co-operatives, NGOs, Etc. for Market Development under BAST Act, 1931

The existing scheme incurred total estimated expenditure of Rs. 10.42 lakhs during the Eighth Plan Period.

In the Ninth Plan, such assistance would be considered for Artisans, Co-operatives and even other NGOs promoting the market of handicrafts subject to attaining minimum sales targets by such promoting units.

35. Handicrafts Promotional Training Programme

The existing scheme recorded a total estimated expenditure of Rs. 29.13 lakhs during the Eighth Plan Period.

36. Design Centre for Handicraft Industries at Baruipur

To promote design on handicrafts items Baruipur Experimental-cum-Research Institute of C&SSI Dte. has been taking important role. For Design & Development trainees are being trained. The reputed Organisation working for rural upliftment are rendered financial assistance for preservation and maintenance of handicrafts items.

To popularise handicraft items, exhibitions/fairs in rural areas are being held. The provision is meant for holding various fairs in rural areas.

A large amount is required to continue the programme of training being conducted by the master crafts persons in their respective craft centres.

37. Financial Assistance Programme to WBHDC Limited

Under the scheme WBHDC is given equity support and grants to enable them (i) to open emporia in/outside the State, (ii) to procure and sell State Handicrafts items in Emporial/Exhibition, (iii) to undertake skill development programmes and (iv) supply of raw materials i.e. conch shell to artisans.

38. Financial Assistance to West Bengal State Handicrafts Co-operative Society Limited

The scheme envisages to render equity/grants to the Society to enable it to undertake viable business in handicrafts by procurement from actual artisans/primary Co-operatives. For this purpose the Society has Emporia in/outside the State.

The provisions for grants and equity are kept for the Society keeping in view its scope to grow.

39. Rebate on Sales of Handicrafts Products

During the Eighth Plan Period, an estimated expenditure of Rs. 93.61 lakhs was incurred against a total provision of Rs. 28 lakhs.

20% subsidy on sale of handicraft products is usually given to all handicrafts items. A larger amount is required to meet the outstanding claims of the institutions as well as the artisans. By adopting suitable methods of ascertaining the quantum of rebate, individual artisans will derive the benefits of the scheme at par with the institutions.

40. Pension of Handicraft Artisans

This social benefit scheme for old-aged handicraft artisans will require greater amount to accommodate a larger number of deserving craftsmen.

41. Strengthening and Administrative Infrastructure of Khadi & Village Industries Board

The Scheme involves provisions for salaries and allowances of the establishment of State Khadi & Village Industries Board for administration of various Khadi & Village Industries Schemes in the State with the assistance of Khadi & Village Industries Corporation.

42. Marketing Assistance Programme to Khadi & Village Industries Products

In the Eighth Plan Period, an estimated expenditure of Rs. 600 lakhs was incurred. The scheme involves rebate to sale of Khadi & Village Industries products, during the specified period of the year.

In the Eighth Plan Period, a greater marketing support by rendering rebate to the tune of Rs. 1000 lakhs has been envisaged.

43. Renovation of Khadi & Village Industries Board, Buildings and Hand-Made Paper Mills

In the Eighth Plan Period, an estimated expenditure of Rs. 4 lakhs only was incurred.

For the Ninth Plan Period, a appropriate provision on 'Capital' account would be kept. For 1997-98, the provision is for Rs. 2 lakhs Capital Account.

44. Training for Manufacturing of Coir Industries

In the Eighth Plan Period, an estimated expenditure of Rs. 45.22 lakhs was incurred under this scheme. The scheme provides costs of training to prospective coir entrepreneurs.

In the Ninth Plan Period, efforts would be made for extending training to about 40 people p.a. or say 200 people during the plan period. The training will be offered in districts with potential for coir industries.

45. Financial Assistance Programme for Coir Industries

(A) Loan, (B) Grant/Rebate

The scheme aims at providing financial support in the form of grants/loan to about 4 units p. a. i.e. 20 units for the plan period. Besides, a matching rebate of 10% with Government of India's same share is also being proposed for sale of coir products, fibres etc. This programme will boost up coir industries to a great extent.

46. Co-operativisation of Coir Co-operatives

During Eighth Plan period, an estimated expenditure of Rs. 2.28 lakhs was incurred.

In the Ninth Plan Period, an outlay of Rs. 50 lakhs is proposed for promoting 5-coir co-operatives in the districts of Howrah, South 24 Parganas, Midnapore etc.

47. State Participation in Share Capital of Coir Co-operatives

The expenditure during Eighth Five Year Plan is a nominal—Rs. 1 lakh.

In the Ninth Plan Period, the provision is proposed for Rs. 5 lakhs for enhancing the share capital strength of coir co-operatives.

48. Industrial Centre for Manufacturing of Lac Products

During the Eighth Plan Period, an estimated expenditure of Rs. 17 lakhs was incurred.

In the Ninth Plan Period, a higher provision would be required to provide necessary training in marketable Lac products to concerned artisans.

49. Financial Assistance to Lac Assistance and Formation of Lac Marketing Federation

During the Eighth Plan Period, higher estimated expenditure of Rs. 3.78 lakhs was incurred.

In the Ninth Plan Period, a provision would be required to give financial support to Lac Co-operative Societies and also to the Lac Marketing Federation.

50. Lac Development (R & D Unit)

In the Eighth Five Year Plan period, an estimated expenditure of Rs. 13.37 lakhs was incurred to meet the establishment expenditure of Lac schemes.

In the Ninth plan period, a higher provision would be required for a Research Development Unit to be set up under the scheme. R & D Unit will undertake with the technical assistance of Central Lac Research Institute, Government of India, products development and such other programmes for marketing support to Lac SSI units and co-operatives.

51. Consolidation of Brood Lac Firms

In the Eighth Five Year Plan, an estimated expenditure of Rs. 68.92 lakhs was incurred. The scheme intends to provide supplementary assistance to maintain the Broodlac Farms located in the districts of Purulia, Bankura, Malda, Murshidabad and Midnapore.

52. Price Support Scheme

In the Eighth plan period, an estimated expenditure of Rs. 25.24 lakhs was incurred.

The scheme aims at solving marketing problems of Lac-growers and assists in implementation of price support.

53. Modernisation of Lac Manufacturing Units

In the Eighth Plan Period, an estimated expenditure of Rs. 6.4 lakhs was incurred.

Most of the processing units located in Purulia require improvements in process. Fund will be provided to such units for introduction of infrastructural and process modification under technical supervision.

Handloom

The Directorate of Handloom & 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 3,38,499 looms in the State giving full-time and part-time employment to 3,66,545 handloom weavers and also to 3,45,318 persons in preparatory works.

The various Plan Schemes of the Directorate of Handloom and Textiles mainly aim at liberating the poor weavers from the clutches of rural Mahajans by bringing them under the fold of co-operative and thereby to ensure sustained employment to them. As such, the schemes are for co-operativisation of the poor weavers and development of infrastructural facilities of the handloom co-operatives. In addition, there are some welfare schemes for the weavers. Broadly speaking, the objectives of the Plan Schemes are as below:

1. To organise co-operatives with the poor weavers in order to create avenue of sustained employment for them;
2. To improve productivity, quality and cost competitiveness of the handloom products;
3. To diversify products and to strengthen marketing avenues;
4. To extend different welfare schemes to the poor weavers;
5. To improve the socio-economic status of the poor weavers of the State, up to January '97. as many as 1,50,594 weavers have been brought under co-operative fold.

The proposed schemes for Acrylic Dyeing/Spinning/Texturising units will help diversification of production in Handloom, Powerloom and Knitting Units of West Bengal. The integrated Hosiery complex will also help extension and modernisation of the existing hosiery units in the State.

A Brief Outline of Important Handloom Schemes is annexed below:

1. Scheme: Share Capital Loan for Weavers of Primary Co-operative Societies.

The purpose of the scheme is to assist the members of the Primary Weavers' Co-operative Societies to purchase shares of the societies. According to existing norms, the members contribute 10% of the value of share and remaining 90% is advanced by the Government as loan. The Government of India and the State Government will provide their share of assistance on 50:50 basis.

2. Common Workshed-cum-Warehouse for Primary Weavers' Co-operative Societies (Loomless)

There are large number of loomless weavers in different parts of the state who have no loom of their own and are working in the loom owned by Master weavers/Mahajans. In order to bring such weavers under co-operative fold and to relieve them from the clutches of Master weavers/Mahajans, the scheme of Industrial Type of Weaver's Co-operative Societies, Factory Types of Co-operative Societies has been formulated. The scheme is being implemented in West Bengal under the name of Common Workshed-cum-Warehouse for Primary Weavers' Co-operative Societies (Loomless).

3. Scheme: State Participation in the Share Capital of Primary Weaver's Co-operative Societies

The object of the scheme is to strengthen the share capital base of the Primary Weaver's Co-operative Societies so that they may get adequate working capital loan in the form of cash-credit from the State/Central Co-operative Banks under NABARD Schemes. According to the scheme Government contributes in the Share Capital of Primary Weavers' Co-operative Societies.

4. Modernisation Scheme

(a) *Supply of Improved Appliances* : For improvement of quality and texture of the products as well as for increasing production of cloth, various kinds of improved looms and appliance according to requirement of different areas are usually provided to the Weavers' Co-operative Societies under the scheme's supply of improved appliances. The objective of the scheme is to replace the old and obsolete looms and accessories by new and modern looms and accessories for augmenting power loom production and evolution of new design.

(b) **Supply of Looms to Loomless Weavers** : Under the scheme looms and accessories are provided to loomless weavers' cooperative societies.

5. Market Development Assistance Scheme for Marketing of Handloom Products

In 1989-'90, the M.D.A. scheme has been introduced by the Government of India in replacement of certain Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. (1) Subsidy on sales of handloom cloth (Rebate) (2) Managerial Assistance (3) State participation in the share capital of Handloom Apex Societies/Corporation (4) Share Capital Assistance to Primary Weavers' Co-operative Societies other than for loan to weavers to become member of primary societies. The M.D.A.

scheme has been adopted by the State Government with effect from 1.4.89 for providing assistance to handloom sector. As per revised scheme which came into effect from 1.4.'95 the Primary Weavers' Co-operative Societies will be eligible for the assistance on the basis of turnover only. However, the State level organisations will continue to avail the assistance as per norms fixed at the time of introduction of the scheme. The Government of India and the State Government will provide their share of assistance on 50 : 50 basis.

6. Scheme : Scheme for Thrift Fund/Provident Fund for Weavers

The scheme envisages the welfare of the weaving community under co-operative sector. Under the scheme the fund shall consists of:

- (i) Subscription by the members 04 paise per rupee of their wages earned in a month.
- (ii) Subscription by the society 04 paise per rupee of the wages earned by the member in a month.
- (iii) Contribution by the Government 08 paise per rupee of the wages earned by the member in a month of which Government of India's share will be 4 paise and State Government's share will be 4 paise.

7. Working Capital Loan

The object of the scheme is to help the weavers of the newly organised or revitalised Handloom Co-operative Societies with working capital assistance at the rate of power loom scale of finance fixed under the NABARD scheme for financing handloom to enable the societies to start production at the initial stage (as Bank takes sometime to sanction finance to such societies).

8. Scheme: Relief on Interest Charges on Working Capital Loan

As per guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India, the Weavers' Co-operative Societies both primary and apex societies, are entitled to get working capital loan from co-operative banks at a concessional rate of interest (9½% at present) provided the State Government agrees to sanction an interest subsidy of 3% to the concerned banks, under the scheme subsidy on interest 3% is provided to the State Co-operative Bank and District Central Co-operative Banks against their loan provided under NABARD scheme. Interest subsidy is also provided to Nationalised Banks which sanction loan at a concessional rate as noted above.

9. Award of Prizes

District and States Level Competition in respect of handloom products is held every year. This competition offers the artisans to exhibit their work for recognition of merit. As incentive to the weavers and designers on different items of competition, prizes in the shape of cash money and certificating rest are awarded under the scheme on district and State level competition every year. The scheme has been in operation for a long time.

10. Group Savings Linked Insurance Scheme for Weavers

The scheme envisages the welfare of weavers' community. The scheme will provide insurance benefit to weavers under co-operative fold to the extent of Rs. 10,000/- per weaver. The required annual premium Rs. 120/- per weaver is to be equally shared among the state Government, the Central Government and concerned weaver 40/- per year.

11. Project Package Schemes

This is a Centrally sponsored scheme announced by Government of India in the year 1992-'93. Projects based on the specific requirement of the weavers are considered for sanction of assistance under the scheme, cost of the project is borne by the State and the Central Government on the basis of 50:50.

12. Integrated Handloom Village Development Schemes

This is a Centrally sponsored scheme announced by Government of India in the year 1992-'93. This scheme envisages selection of a project district every year in consideration of certain criteria like traditionality of craft, motivational level of weaver and incidence of poverty. A project village under the project district is subsequently identified by a District Level Committee for implementation of the scheme. The scheme aims at integrated development of the village so selected by not only helping the weavers to increase their average wage earning but also improving their quality of life.

13. Scheme for Extension of Pension Facilities to Weavers under Co-operative Fold

Pension scheme for the old and the incapacitated weavers has been adopted in West Bengal for implementation with effect from 1.12.1990. The sole objective of the scheme is to help the weavers who have lost working ability due to old age or otherwise after rendering considerable service to handloom industry under Co-operative sector. Weavers who are above sixty years of age or permanently incapacitated prior to that age would be eligible to come under the purview of the scheme. The amount admissible as pension shall be Rs.100/- per month per weaver.

14. Promotional Activities Including of Exhibition and Seminars

The object of the scheme is to organise campaigns and seminars in the districts for promotion of handloom schemes and the NABARD scheme for financing handloom co-operatives and to popularise handloom products.

Sericulture Sector

Sericulture, an agro-based rural indirectly having grant potentiality in development of rural economy as well as the country's economy has been developing steadily not only in the traditional districts but in almost all the districts of the State excepting Howrah and Hooghly. Sericulture activities have also started on experimental basis in Goghat of Hooghly district.

The sericulture activities in the State include both horizontal and vertical growth and covers 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 technology along with development of non-mulberry sericulture. The following programmes are being implemented under Plan Scheme.

Development of Mulberry Production

It envisages increase in mulberry acreage in different districts of West Bengal through two on-going schemes:

(a) Supply of planting materials to prospective sericulturists at 30 per cent cost in case of cuttings and 15 per cent cost in case of mulberry saplings.

(b) Maintenance of Mulberry Multiplication farm.

Minor Irrigation for Development of Sericulture

Irrigation alone can yield 25% more mulberry leaves besides improving leaf quality. This project is designed to assist the small and marginal farmers as well as farmers belonging to SC & ST to develop irrigation facilities by providing institutional finance towards installation of irrigation system with matching subsidy.

Institutional Finance for Development of Sericulture

A farmer would need various investment in the field as well as in construction of rearing house, purchase of rearing implements etc. Major portion of the sericulturists being small and marginal farmers as well as from those of SC & ST communities are not in a position to make initial investment unless supported by Government subsidy and institutional finance. For that bankable schemes as approved by NABARD are open for mulberry plantation in 0.20, 0.33 and 0.50 acre.

Development of Seed Organisation

It envisages production of quality cocoons with higher productivity. This largely depends on rearing of improved variety of DFLs. Efforts are being made to ensure availability of such DFLs to the maximum possible extent.

Development of Quality Raw Silk and Fabric Production

Reeling, one of the vital post-cocoon activities has not yet developed to the desired extent. For this the schemes for setting up different reeling units have been included in the project.

Development of Field Training and Experiment

Sericulture is a highly technical process and existing technology and package of practices being constantly upgraded periodical training of the field officials is of utmost importance. Fund is accordingly provided.

Development of Sericulture Co-operatives

Though co-operative societies can play significant role in the development of sericulture both in the rearing and reeling sectors, this remained undeveloped in the past. During Ninth Plan a major thrust is proposed to be given for organising co-operative societies in all sectors of sericulture.

Publicity and Publication

It is essential to transmit the latest improvement and techniques development in different aspects of sericulture industry to the farmers and reelers besides motivating new farmers to take up sericulture. This is to be taken up through distribution of informative materials like booklets, posters etc. holding of seminars, workshops etc.

Welfare of Sericulturists

It has been observed that the sericulturists, mostly the reeler and grainages are exposed to various kinds of health hazards and suffer from various diseases. Various committees have also impressed upon Government for taking measures to reduce health hazards. Fund is accordingly provided.

Development of Bi-voltine Cocoon Production

Though bi-voltine cocoon produces the highest grade of silk the production of this is very little, a major thrust will be given to increase bi-voltine production by disseminating information, training farmers in the improved technique of bi-voltine rearing, setting up CRCs and providing intensive supervision through extension services.

Re-organisation and Modernisation

A large number of farms, grainages etc. maintained by the Government to multiply high-yielding mulberry varieties for producing cuttings and saplings, and improved variety of seeds, are to be constantly improved upon and modern facilities provided in order to improve the condition and adopt the latest techniques meant for improvement of quality and quantity of seed cocoons and silk. The re-organisation and modernisation of Government units will be taken up under this project.

Development of Marketing of Cocoons and Silk Yarn

The scheme is basically meant to provide marketing support to new sericulturists in the non-traditional areas in the initial stages and prevent distress sale of the produce.

Block Adoption for Economic Development of the People Belonging to S.C. Community

Under this project, demonstration farms will be set up in areas inhabited by Scheduled Castes in order to motivate them to begin career in sericulture.

Development of Non-mulberry Sericulture

Non-mulberry sericulture includes tassar, muga and eri. Those are mostly practised by people belonging to ST & SC.

a) *Tassar*: Tassar host plants would be raised in parts of the districts of Bankura, Purulia, Midnapore and Birbhum where soil condition is not quite fit for agriculture. Resources from DPAP are also being utilised for this to some extent. About 1 ha. of such plantation would be leased out to local ST/SC people for rearing of tassar silk-worm thereon. Besides, improvement of tassar grainage would be taken up to ensure supply of tassar seeds to the farmers.

b) *Muga*: Construction of grainage, rearing house and extension of cultivation of muga host plant will be undertaken in Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar districts which have potentialities for the same.

c) *Eri*: Construction of grainage, rearing house of extension of eri host plant has been contemplated under this project. This is taken up in parts of Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar districts by poor farmers belonging to S.C. communities.

Area Development for Tribal for Self-employment in Seri

This project is meant for development of people belonging to S.T. communities and the scheme will cover setting up of demonstration Farms in the tribal areas providing rearing implements free of cost to poor tribal farmers and also providing disinfectants for disinfecting their rearing houses.

6.2 INDUSTRY (Other Than Village and Small Industries)

6.2.1 Programme of the Commerce and Industries Department

Engineering Industries

Setting up of Export Promotion Industrial Park at Durgapur

The scheme for setting up of an Export Promotion Industrial Park at Durgapur has been taken at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.00 crore. The Government of India will contribute Rs. 10.00 crore with the State Government meeting the balance. The State Government has also given about 140 acres of land for the Park free of cost. About 90 acres of the Park will be allotted for industrial plots and flatted factories. The Master Plan has already been prepared and the construction work has started.

To meet the share of the State Government a provision for Rs. 150.00 lakh has been proposed in the Annual Plan 1997-98 for the purpose.

Telecommunication and Electronics Industries

West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Ltd.

The West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Ltd., was set-up with the main objective of developing electronics and allied industries in the State through establishment of manufacturing units, research and development activities and development of infrastructure for growth of electronics industry. For the field of electronics the Corporation has decided to lay special emphasis on "Infrastructure and Institution" (I & I) with private and Government enterprise. At the same time the Corporation has been concentrating its efforts on technology upgradation/expansion/diversification for the existing WEBEL companies. A number of companies of industrial standing in the field of electronics have already come to West Bengal. Siemens—Mitsusita, Siemens Ltd. India, Philips, Dun and Brads Street (Cojnizent), Sema, Telequort are some of them. Besides, some important Indian companies like ACC, Price-Waterhouse, Pertech Computer Ltd., Relience, Videst Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) have set-up their Units in West Bengal. In the electronics sector there are a large number of proposals which necessitate availability of more land at the Salt Lake Electronics Complex. To cope with the situation every necessary and emergent steps are being taken for expansion of existing Salt Lake Electronics Complex.

An outlay of Rs. 2300.00 lakhs has been suggested for the Corporation during 1997-98 to enable it to carry out its development activities.

Consumer Industries

West Bengal Pharmaceutical and Hydro-chemical Development Corporation Ltd.

The Corporation was set-up with the objective for development of Pharmaceutical and Phytochemical Industries and for production of Drug and Drug Intermediates etc. within the State. The Corporation has production units located at Kalyani (Nadia), Behala (South 24-Parganas) and at Torolpara (Jalpaiguri). At its phytochemical Complex at Jalpaiguri the Corporation has started production of different varieties of plant growth stimulants for use in tea plantation of North Bengal as well as in vegetable crops in the State. The programme for extending improved drug testing facilities at the R & D-Cum-Drug Testing Laboratory at Behala

is being continued. By installation of additional equipment in the household utility unit of the Corporation at Behala attempts are being made to increase the production of phyto-fresh and phyto-spray so as to meet the additional demand of these items. Moreover, a new unit for production of Phyto-fresh and Phyto-spray to meet the consumer demand in North Bengal, Assam and North Eastern States of India has also started functioning in the Phyto-chemical Complex at Torolpara, Jalpaiguri. The production of 8-hydroxy-Quinoline in the Kalyani Factory of the Corporation is expected to be picked up now with the imposition of Anti Dumping Duty by Government of India on the same material of Chinese Organisation.

A provision of Rs. 175.00 lakhs is proposed for the Corporation in the Annual Plan 1997-98 to carry out its development activities.

West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.

West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. is the principal promotional agency of the State Government which is responsible for catalizing investments in the medium and large scale industries sector. The Core competencies of the Corporation are—financing medium scale enterprises, providing escort services and facilitation of investment proposals, promotion of joint sector and asisted sector units in important segments of industry, development of business, trade and industrial links with foreign institutions and companies dissemination of information to highlight the brighting prospects of industrialisation in the State. Recently the Corporation has diversified its activities to areas such as Merchant banking, Venture Capital, Infrastructure development in select areas and exports. The “Silpa Bandhu”—single window agency of the State—is managed by the Corporation. The “Silpa Bandhu” is a facelilation agency which was ‘resource personnel’ drawn from different departments and agencies of the State Government which are required to deal with industrial development. The objective is to provide the entrepreneure effective support in various fields from one identified place of work.

Having regard to the fund requirement of the Corporation for carrying out its activities, the following outlay is suggested for the Corporation, in the Annual Plan, 1997-98.

i) Investment	—	Rs.	2000.00	lakhs
ii) Loan in lieu of market borrowing	—	Rs.	460.00	lakhs
iii) Incentive	—	Rs.	2200.00	lakhs
iv) Grant for servicing of Non-SLR Bond	—	Rs.	300.00	lakhs
v) Loan through Non-SLR Bond	—	Rs.	3000.00	lakhs
Total	—	Rs.	7960.00	lakhs

West Bengal Sugar Industries Development Corporation Ltd.

The West Bengal Sugar Industries Development Corporation Ltd. has been set-up by the Government of West Bengal for promoting and developing sugar industries in the State of West Bengal. The Corporation is carrying out a phased programme for replacement of old and worn-out machinery. The Corporation also has taken certain technical measure towards introducing innovate devices for Bailing house operation on the basis of the recommendation of the Department of Electronic, Government of India. The Corporation has targetted crshing of 20,000 mt. sugar-cane at its Ahmedpur Sugar Mill in 1996-97 season. For the purpose the Corporation has taken up comprehensive programme for sugar-cane development.

An outlay of Rs. 200.00 lakhs has been suggested for the Corporation during 1997-98 for its development activities.

Consumer Industries

Setting up of Leather Complex

In order to relocate the tanneries in Calcutta in compliance with the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court steps for setting up a leather Complex off EM Bypass, under the Commerce and Industries Department are being taken. In the proposed complex, apart from relocated units, there will also be provision for setting up new leather and leather related units. The infrastructural development work under the scheme are expected to be implemented on BOT basis. For this purpose a provision of Rs. 80.00 lakhs has been suggested in the Annual Plan for 1997-98.

West Bengal Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation

The Corporation has set-up a number of Growth Centres in different districts of the State providing basic infrastructural facilities like developed land, road network, power, water, drainage etc. to attract industrial investors. The Corporation has so far acquired land measuring about 1998 acres in different Growth Centres and out of allotable land of 1460 acres almost all land has been allotted to different industrial units. Till pressure on land is so high in the state, that making land available at the proper time for industrial growth is posing problem. However, in order to cope with the growing demand for land for setting up industries, the West Bengal Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation has proposed to set-up new Growth Centres. Additional land is being acquired in Falta and Uluberia—about 289 acres in Falta and 269 acres in Uluberia. Steps are also being taken to acquire about 225 acres of land at Khanyan in the district of Hooghly where a new Growth Centre will come up. Government of India very recently have approved the setting up of three Mega Growth Centres in the district of Malda, Birbhum and Jalpaiguri, project cost being about Rs. 43.00 crores, Rs. 64.00 crores and Rs. 112.00 crores respectively.

In order to enable the corporation to complete its ongoing projects an outlay of Rs. 1500.00 lakhs has been suggested during 1997-98.

Export Processing Zone at Falta

The Falta Export Processing Zone has been set-up by the Government of India to boost exports and to bring about balanced regional development in the country. The State Government is providing support services through infrastructural development measures like construction of roads network around the zone to make the scheme successful. The Zone provides “State-of-the-Art” infrastructure facilities for quality and value added export production and services. The number of operational export units are 36 with a cumulative investment of about Rs. 155 crore. The total exports from this Zone is expected to be of the order of about Rs. 219.00 crore at the end of March '97.

An outlay of Rs. 220.00 lakhs has been suggested during 1997-98 for completion of its ongoing works.

Directorate of Industries, West Bengal

The Directorate of Industries continues to play an important role in planning and developing of industries in the medium and large scale sector. The Director has set-up a special

NRI Cell for guiding and assesting NRIs and foreign investors by coordinating with various industrial development agencies. A programme for computerisation of the different wings of the Directorate has been planned to stimulate and speed up its various industry promotion activities. The Directorate of Industries has a functioning Export Promotion Cell. A directory on export "Exporters of West Bengal" has been published by the Directorate of Industries which will be of considerable use to the exporters.

To carry out its activities a provision of Rs. 70.00 lakhs has been suggested during 1997-98.

Schemes of the Greater Calcutta Gas Supply Corporation

The project for developing distribution and marketing of Coal gas from Dankuni Coal Complex to domestic and industrial consumers in the Greater Calcutta area, being implemented by the Greater Calcutta Gas Supply Corporation Ltd. is nearing completion. The two gas holders at Rajabazar, which were damaged during commissioning stage in early 1995, have now been set right and likely to be ready for commissioning very shortly. The High Pressure Main from Dankuni to NH-2/NH-6 junction is ready for commissioning. As on date the average drawal of gas from Dankuni Coal Complex is of the order of 4 mcf. which will gradually increase to 6-7 mcf. with the development of consumers. Continuous efforts are being made by the State Government and also by the Corporation to develope the market for gas to industrial and commercial consumers. As the Coal gas supplied by the Corporation is free from pollution, a number of re-rolling mills are showing interest and about 40 such industries in Howrah belt have signed agreement with the Corporation for supply of gas.

A provision of Rs. 800.00 lakhs has been suggested during 1997-98 for completion of the work.

Setting up of Haldia Petro-Chemical Complex

Construction work has already started in respect of Rs. 5170.00 crore Haldia Petro-Chemicals Project. M/s. Toyos Engineering Corporation of Japan has already started the construction of Naptha Cracker Complex. With the crossing of this major mile-stone, commercial completion of the entire complex is scheduled for the third quarter of 1999. Selection of contractors for construction of the three polymer plants viz. HDPE, LLDPE and PP will be finalised very shortly. Steps have also been taken to select the operators for the Captive Power Plant and Nitrogen Plant. M/s. Bachtel Corporation of USA are providing project management services along with Engineers India Ltd. and are responsible for overall project management proposals for setting up of downstream chemical units and plastics processing industries are being actively pursued. The promoters of the project have already contributed Rs. 505.00 crore, towards equity of the company. State Government has already initiated necessary steps for acquiring land and arranging other infrastructual support to facilitate the setting up of downstream projects of Chemical industries and plastics processing industries.

An outlay of Rs. 75.00 crores is suggested for this project during 1997-98. The suggested provision will however stand open ended and the State Government is committed to meet any additional fund requirement for the project during 1997-98 by way of internal adjustment of the sectoral plan allocations within the overall plan ceiling for 1997-98.

Other Various Schemes

Since infrastructure has been identified as a major factor for attracting investment the State Government is laying emphasis on development of physical, social and visual infrastructure in the State. The State Government is closely interacting the different Chambers of Commerce of the State for their active participation in such ventures. In this process the State Government have been able to garner spontaneous support of various Chambers of Commerce and Industry. A substantial provision may be necessary to meet the demand for such major factor i.e. development of infrastructure. Besides the State Government proposes a number of miscellaneous promotional schemes like contribution of State Government towards setting up of the proposed extension centre of the Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Tools (CIPET), preparation of various survey reports, State Government's participation in trade fairs, assistance to Polytechnology Clinic of the CSIR etc.

A lump provision of Rs. 302.00 lakhs is proposed in the Annual Plan 1997-98 for the aforementioned promotional schemes.

6.2.2 Programme of the Public Undertakings Department

The Department of Public Undertakings has at present under its administrative control the following 8 (eight) Undertakings in the Industry and Minerals Sector during the Ninth Plan period and also the Annual Plan period 1997-98.

- (1) Durgapur Chemicals Ltd.;
- (2) Westinghouse Saxby Farmer Ltd.;
- (3) Electro-Medical & Allied Industries Ltd.;
- (4) Saraswati Press Ltd.;
- (5) Shalimar Works (1980) Ltd.;
- (6) Eastern Distilleries & Chemicals Ltd.;
- (7) Gluconate Health Ltd.;
- (8) West Bengal Chemical Industries Ltd.

These Undertakings have been engaged in manufacturing and trading activities.

Undertaking-wise details of Plan Outlay are given hereunder:

Durgapur Chemicals Limited

Apart from expansion/modification/rectification of the existing plants and diversification of its product-range, the Company has proposed Phthalic Anhydride Plant and stable Bleaching Powder Project for inclusion in the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) and the Annual Plan (1997-1998). The total project cost for the purpose would be around Rs. 3309.00 lakhs out of which the Company is likely to generate internal funds to the tune of around Rs. 1133.00 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 400.00 lakhs has been provided for the Annual Plan (1997-98).

Actions will be taken for the following items in course of the Ninth Five Year Plan:

- a) Increase of capacity of Caustic Chlorine Plant from 35 TPD to 45 TPD.
- b) Renovation/replacement of vital equipments of Caustic Chlorine Plant and NCB Plants.
- c) Renovation of utilities, installation of new modern boiler, renovation of sewerage system, etc.

- d) Conversion of Phthalic Anhydride Plant from 3300 MT per annum to 6600 MT per annum by re-commissioning.
- e) Diversification in Bleaching Powder Project.

West Bengal Chemical Industries Limited

Apart from modernisation/rectification and upgradation of technology, the Company has proposed to undertake Schemes for diversification in the Ninth Five Year Plan. They are: (1) Mineral Water Project, (2) Bakery Product-Mix project, (3) Marjarine, in phases during the Ninth Plan. A sum of Rs. 25.00 lakhs has been provided for the Annual Plan, 1997-98.

Saraswaty Press Limited

The Company has the Security Printing project as the continuing scheme of Eighth Plan period. The Phase-II of the Project will be implemented during the Ninth Plan period. The Company has proposed following items of work:

1. Plan Loan/Equity participation by the Government of West Bengal
2. Term Loan/Foreign Currency Loan/DPG by Foreign Currency/Bank
3. Internal generation

An outlay of Rs. 300.00 lakhs has been provided for 1997-98.

Westinghouse Saxby Farmer Limited

The Company has a scheme viz., Rehabilitation-cum-modernisation as a continuing scheme from the Eighth Plan period. A sum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs has been provided for the Annual Plan, 1997-98.

Eastern Distilleries & Chemicals Limited

The Company has its Modernisation/Rehabilitation/Expansion Scheme as the continuing scheme from the Eighth Plan period. The Company is also going to take a project for installation of a new Distillation Plant during 1997-98 as a part of the modernisation programme.

An outlay of Rs. 200.00 lakhs has been provided for the Annual Plan, 1997-98.

The Shalimar Works (1980) Limited

The Company has the Scheme of Rehabilitation/Modernisation/Upgradation of its technology as the continuing scheme from Eighth Plan period. The Company has proposed to take up a new project for construction of a Dry Dock in the Ninth Five Year Plan. After the construction of the proposed Dry Dock, the Company has execute repairing job of about 4.00 crores per annum and it will give net cash inflow of Rs. 1.50 crores (approx.) per annum.

An outlay of Rs. 100.00 lakhs has been provided for the Annual Plan, 1997-98.

The Electro-Medical & Allied Industries Limited

The Company has the project for manufacture of disposable PVC Blood Bags as the continuing scheme from the Eighth Plan period. The Company has also proposed to take up Project for manufacturing of (1) Pace-Maker (Internal & External), (2) Electric Blood Analyser and (3) Ultra-Sound Scanner as new schemes in the Ninth Plan period.

An outlay of Rs. 300.00 lakhs has been provided for the Annual Plan, 1997-98.

Gluconate Health Limited

The Company has the Scheme of Renovation/Modernisation/Expansion of its existing

plants and machinery as the continuing scheme from the Eighth Plan period.

A sum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs has been provided for the Annual Plan, 1997-98.

6.2.3 Programme of the Industrial Reconstruction Department

Industrial Reconstruction Department has been functioning in tune with the Industrial policy of the State Government. The basic thrust of the policy is on the revival and rehabilitation of the sick and closed units—both in the private and public sectors. It is the endeavour of the State Government to ensure viable functioning of such units either through the rejuvenated management structure or through induction of new promoters.

There are 13 industrial units under the administrative control of the State Government—viz. (1) National Iron & Steel Co. (1984) Ltd., (2) Britannia Engineering Co. Ltd., (3) Neo Pipes & Tubes Co. Ltd., (4) Carter Pooler Engineering Co. Ltd., (5) Engel India Machines & Tools (1987) Ltd., (6) Undertaking of the Apollo Zipper Co. Pvt. Ltd., (7) West Bengal Agro Textile Corporation Ltd. (running BJM), (8) Krishna Silicate & Glass Works (1987) Ltd., (9) Undertaking of Lily Biscuit Co. Pvt. Ltd., (10) India Belting & Cotton Mills Ltd., (11) IPP Ltd., (12) West Bengal Plywood & Allied Products Ltd., (13) Undertaking of the Darjeeling Ropeway Co. Ltd. (Departmental Undertaking). The Eighth Plan available allocation and expenditure were as follows :

(Rs. in lakhs)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Outlay</u>	<u>Actual Expenditure</u>
1992-93	218.40	176.06
1993-94	432.14	265.35
1994-95	374.83	481.38
1995-96	600.00	124.96
1996-97	660.00	178.02 (Up to Feb. '97)
	<u>2285.37</u>	<u>1225.77</u>

The expenditure as shown above year-wise was solely made for:

- i) Overhauling/replacement of old machines of the units under control of the I. R. Department to enable them to maintain at least a satisfactory level of production;
- ii) Partial modernisation in deserving cases;
- iii) Purchase of assets of units from the liquidation proceedings (National Tannery Ltd., Bharat Electrical Industries Ltd. have been purchased in this way);
- iv) Participation in the equity capital of the units under the I. R. Department/assisted units like Mackintosh Burn Ltd./Workers' Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd. like ALCOND Employees Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd.

Since this Department deals with sick units, emphasis was mainly on allocation of available funds among the units under the administrative control of this Department. The exercise on preparation of a growth chart which is usually done in a Development Sector, could not be indulged in. It was expected that with the injection of funds the units would start looking up, not in the sense that most of them could be elevated to the position of wiping out their cash losses and earning a profit, but their dependence on the State Exchequer for non-plan assistance

could be reduced gradually, and in the process, some of them might even do better. This has, however, not taken shape, although a few units are exhibiting signs of improvement.

In this background, plan proposals for the Ninth Five Year Plan will proceed under two major groups (A) Industrial units taken over or Nationalised by the Department of Industrial Reconstruction and (B) Private Sector units which require nursing by the Department.

(A) Objective for the units under the administrative control of this Department would be to assist them suitably so that their dependence on non-plan assistance is reduced. These units can be derived into three sub-groups:

- i) Units which are doing reasonably well in the sense that on their current account they are not incurring any Cash Loss.
- ii) Units which are still incurring loss but can be taken to the break-even point, with financial, technical and managerial assistance.
- iii) The units which are inherently sick so far as the viability is concerned.

The department attaches highest priority to (i) above. These companies can be made viable under a good management provided they are allowed some replacement of their old plant and machinery and also some scope for modernisation. We are undertaking fresh studies on these units in the context of the changing industrial scenario. For the companies at (ii) above we are also examining the causes of their weakness. Intra-Sectoral competition and managerial weakness have been identified to be two points which we shall have to take care of. They also require some amount of expansion/diversification. Our priorities for the group at (iii) above is the lowest because within the foreseeable future nothing short of a very ambitious programme can salvage them. With better management support and a positive attitude of the work-force in general, one can minimise their agony to a limited extent. They will have to be fed by the Government for some time more. The experiment with Workers' Co-operative will continue. In all liquidation proceedings, when no settlement can be made in the forum of BIFR, we shall try to assist the intending buyers who are willing to run the units.

Provisions have also been made to cover pre-takeover dues and also for Nationalisation of the three Companies already taken over under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act.

A brief Statement of the Works-programme for the Annual Plan 1997-98 is indicated below :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	Amount provided for the Annual Plan for the year 1997-98	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	National Iron & Steel Co. (1984) Ltd.	50.00	i) Modernisation of Rolling Mill and Foundry. ii) Construction of Roof and Sheds. iii) Completion of Melting Unit & Rotary Shot Blasting Unit.

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
2. Engel India Machines & Tools (1987) Ltd.	25.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Repair/Renovation/Reconstruction of factory building. ii) Repairing/Reconditioning of Plant & Machineries. iii) Procure & installation of new plant and machineries.
3. Carter Pooler Engg. Co. Ltd.	50.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Intensive overhauling and maintenance of existing Plant & Machineries. ii) Repair and Construction of Sheds and building. iii) Launching of a new project viz. Hydraulic Cylinder Project.
4. Neo Pipes & Tubes Co. Ltd.	50.00		Revamping/repair of Billet Heating Furnace and Horizontal Extrusion Press.
5. Britannia Engg. Ltd.	150.00		<p>Replacement/addition of Plant & Machineries with a view of diversification as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Industrial Gear Mfg., Power Tiller. ii) Modernisation of existing products.
6. Krishna Silicate & Glass (1987) Ltd.	200.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Repairing of Plant & Machineries. ii) Installation of new plant & machineries in the event of a new project under preparation by the expert for the two units of the Company.
7. West Bengal Plywood & Allied Products Ltd.	10.00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Purchase of new machineries for diversification and augmentation of production capacity. ii) Installation of fire-fighting equipments and impregnation machines, Fork Lift etc.
8. IPP Ltd.	05.00		Renovation of Turbo Generators, Boilers, Paper Machine, Cutter etc. and measures for pollution control.
9. Apollo Zipper Co.	03.00		Repair/Renovation of old Plant & Machineries and also purchase of additional machineries for improvement in the quality of products.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
10. WBATC Ltd. (running Bharat Jute Mills)		100.00	i) New Plant & Machineries construction of godown/building repairing. ii) Two new project viz., Caplon Blanket Project & Export Yarn Project.
11. India Belting & Cotton Mills Ltd.		20.00	Diversification of the unit through: i) Blended Yarn Project and ii) Drop Stamp Belting Project.
12. Undertaking of Lily Biscuit Co. & Lily Barley Mills		50.00	Modification/Special repairing/ Replacement of age old plant and machinery for improvement of quality and development of products. Also renovation of factory sheds and building and construction of stores.
		713.00	

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 the coke oven plant, however, improved substantially from 1995-96 with an agreement with Bokaro Steel Plant for conversion of coke on their behalf. The water works, 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 will be taken up during 1997-98.

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 the next financial year. 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.

An appropriate amount has been kept in the Annual Plan Period 1997-98.

6.2.5 Programme of the Food Processing Industries Department

Food Processing Industries has been identified as one of the thrust areas in the Eighth Five Year Plan. Recently, development of horticulture has also been entrusted to this Department and it has been renamed as the Department of Food Processing Industries and Horticulture. Although fruits and vegetables constitute the core sector there is enough potentiality for cereal, fish, milk and spices processing also.

In the course of the last few years the Department has taken several steps to help the existing units in the food processing industries. A preliminary sample survey indicated increase in production by 62%, in sales turnover by more than 100% and in number of employees by 183% during the year 1993 to 1996. During the course of last four years more than 700 new food processing units have been set-up in the Cottage and Small Scale Sector.

Larger and medium industrial units have also started taking interest in food industry. All India figures indicated that over a last few years capacity augmentation in this sector has taken place at an accelerated rate. This Department act as Model agency and provides technical clearance as well as escort services for promotion of food industry in the State while West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation provides financial assistance. A Food Processing Industrial Estate named Modular Food Park is being developed at Dankuni in the district of Hooghly with an intention to accomodate about 215 units.

Efforts services are provided to contribute in the areas of creation of basic infrastructure for food processing industries. Four mushroom spawn production laboratory have been set-up in different places. Process-cum-product development centres has been set-up at Behala for product development and quality control. A quality control laboratory is being set-up through Calcutta Municipal Corporation. Four existing training centres have been up-graded and six new centres are being established. Teesta Fruit & Vegetable Processing Ltd., a Government of West Bengal undertaking has set-up a food and vegetable processing unit and a training centre. Three mode Food Processing Centre have been established. During last few years the department received about 280 proposals. Further attention is to be given to this area of work in future. A small beginning has been made and in view of the immense possibilities of this sector, it will be necessary to intensity our efforts.

The obejctives of the Annual Plan in 1997-98. In the Food Processing Industries programme would be:

- i) to provide support services for growth of all types food processing industries;
- ii) to invite investment in food processing by improving infrastructural facilities;
- iii) assistance to small scale investors in acquiring essential requirements;
- iv) to create strong data-base;
- v) to create raw material base.

An amount of Rs. 700.00 lakhs has been kept for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

6.2.6 Programme of the Finance (IF) Department

West Bengal Financial Corporation: The West Bengal Financial Corporation under the administrative control of State Government is only term lending institution for small and medium scale industrial units in West Bengal. The paid-up share capital of the corporation which amounts to Rs. 40.45 crores as on 31st March, 1996 mainly consists of the contribution from the Government of West Bengal and Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI).

During 1996-97 State Governments guarantees was provided towards payments of principal and payment of interest on (1) Floating of bonds by the corporation for an amount of Rs. 1000.00 lakhs in the First tranche for a period of 10 years and (2) Adhoc borrowing made by the corporation from Reserve Bank of India for an amount of Rs. 455.00 lakhs for a period of 2 years.

There is a provision of Rs. 425.00 lakhs for State share contribution in WBFC in the current financial year (1996-97) in the Revised Budget. Out of which a sum of Rs. 200.00 lakhs has been sanctioned so far in the shape of ordinary share capital. A further amount of Rs. 200.00 lakhs will be sanctioned as special share capital during 1996-97.

An amount of Rs. 375.00 lakhs has been fixed for State share contribution in WBFC for the Budget year 1997-98.

Entrepreneurs' Assistance Cell for West Bengal Financial Corporation

As directed by Government of West Bengal, the West Bengal Financial Corporation constituted a special cell viz. Entrepreneurs' Assistance Cell at Calcutta for assisting them with necessary information/assistance for establishment and running their industrial ventures. A similar cell has been opened by WBFC at Siliguri during 1988-89.

There is a provision of Rs. 2.50 lakhs in the current financial year (1996-97) for two EACs viz. Calcutta & Siliguri @ Rs. 1.25 lakhs each. Only Rs. 1.25 lakhs has been sanctioned so far towards EAC of Calcutta.

An amount of Rs. 2.50 lakhs has been fixed for two EAC's (Calcutta & Siliguri) @ Rs. 1.25 lakhs for the next financial year (1997-98).

6.3 MINING

6.3.1 Programme of the Commerce and Industries Department

Mining, Non-ferrous Mining and Metallurgical Industries

Assistance to Public Sector and Other Undertakings for Mineral Explorations

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; quarrying 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

Industry and Minerals

Sillimanite and Coriandrum in Purulia district and miscellaneous prospecting and R & D activities.

The Corporation has received substantial order for 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 Bangaldesh 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.

An outlay of Rs. 250.00 lakhs has been suggested in the Annual Plan 1997-98 to anable the Corporation to carry out its activities.

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 apporoved 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, Barrite, 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 China 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 Graphite exploitation in the district of Bankura and Purulia and in assessment of Sillimanite deposit reserve in Paharpur area of Purulia district.

A provision of Rs. 63.00 lakhs has been suggested for the Directorate during 1997-98.

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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 the Public Works Department

Public Works (Roads) Department is entrusted with construction of new roads and bridges and maintenance of existing ones. Following roads networks are being maintained by the Public Works/Roads Department in the State.

(A) Primary System	
(i) National Highways including Expressways	1865.00 Km (Approx.)
(B) Secondary System	
(i) State Highways	1287.60 Km (Approx.)
(ii) Major District Roads	1114.60 Km (Approx.)
(C) Tertiary System	
(i) Other District Roads	2950.53 Km (Approx.)
(ii) Village Roads	4532.14 Km (Approx.)
(iii) Ongoing Plan and other Scheme	2000.00 Km (Approx.)

Over and above PWD also maintains about 6000 Km of road of various categories. The total road length in the State thus stands at 18,000 Km under maintenance head of the Public Works and Public Works (Roads) Departments.

The road network is maintained with the objective of ensuring and improving:

- (i) Connectivity,
- (ii) Fast and safe movement of traffic,
- (iii) Observance of environmental and energy conservation standards,
- (iv) Ensuring public interest, and
- (v) To promote scope for faster industrialisation, besides many other direct or indirect socio-economic objectives.

Transport

The department completed about 45 Km of road connecting about 200 more villages in West Bengal in 1996-97. The following bridges have since been completed or on the verge of completion in 1996-97.

1. Bridge over river Jamuna at Mallikpurghat in the district of 24-Parganas (North);
2. Bridge over Habashpur Khal on Taki-Murarisha-Bhebia-Chaital Road in the district of 24-Parganas (North);
3. Bridge over Ajoy in Birbhum district;
4. Bridge over river Dwaraka in the district of Birbhum;
5. Bridge over river Maratorsa in the district of Coochbehar;
6. Bridge over Bidyadhari Canal in the district of 24-Parganas (North);
7. Bridge over river Saraswati on Domjur-Boluhati Road in the district of Howrah;
8. Besides, the following bridges are under construction and significant progress has been made in respect of many of the following bridges in 1996-97.

Sl. No.	District	Name of the Bridge
1	24-Parganas (N)	Bridge over Bagjola Canal of Lowhati-Bhangar Road.
2.	„	Bridge over Bagjola Canal at Bediagara.
3.	„	Bridge over Goureswar on Hingalganj-Dulduli Hemnagar.
4.	„	Bridge over Ichhamati at Sangrampur.
5.	24-Parganas (S)	Bridge over Charial Khal at Mohisgot.
6.	„	Bridge over river Hogol on Calcutta-Basanti Road.
7.	„	Bridges over SWF, DWF and Bhangar Kata Khal at Bhojerhat.
8.	„	Bridge over Kalnagini Khal at Kakdwip.
9.	„	Bridge over Sangrampur Khal on Lakshmikantapur-Mandirbazar Chakdah Road.
10.	„	Bridge over Diamond Harbour Khal at Usthi.

Sl. No.	District	Name of the Bridge
11.	24-Parganas (S)	Jetties at Kakdwip and Kachuberia.
12.	„	R. O. B. at lake Gardens.
13.	„	R. O. B. at Bondel Gate.
14.	Nadia	Bridge over Arang Sarisha on Chapra-Hridaypur Road.
15.	Hooghly	Bridge over river Saraswati at Tribeni.
16.	„	Bridge over river Saraswati on link connecting NH-2 with Western Approach of Ishwar Gupta Setu.
17.	Murshidabad	Bridge over River Pagla (Pagla-I) on Kanupur Bahuhati Road.
18.	„	Bridge over river Gobranala at Kumradahaghat.
19.	„	Bridge over river Pagla (Pagla-II) on Kanupur Bahuhati Road.
20.	„	Bridge over Vandardah Khal on Kalitala-Beldanga Amtala Road.
21.	Malda	Bridge over Tangon on Gazole-Bamungola Road.
22.	„	Bridge over Mara Mahananda at Pukuria Ferrighat.
23.	Birbhum	Bridge over Bansloi on Kanupur-Bahutali Road.
24.	Jalpaiguri	Bridge over Gillandi on Dhupguri-Falakata Road.
25.	„	Bridge over river Basra on Kalchini-Joygaon Road.

Transport

Sl. No.	District	Name of the Bridge
26.	Jalpaiguri	Bridge over Siltosa on NH-31 (Left out alignment)
27.	Coochbehar	Bridge over Torsa near Coochbehar Town.
28.	„	Bridge over Khuttimari Channel on Coochbehar Mathabhanga Road.
29.	„	Bridge over Ghargharia on link road to Kaldijani HC.
30.	Dakshin Dinajpur	Bridge over Tangon at Bansihari.
31.	„	Bridge over Punarbhava at Amtolighat.
32.	Uttar Dinajpur	Bridge over Mahananda on Churaman-Itahar-Kharba Road.
33.	Darjeeling	Bridge over river Bon on Kharibari-Debiganj Road.
34.	Burdwan	Bridge ove Ajay at Natunhat.
35.	„	Bridge over Damodar at Dishergarh.
36.	Bankura	Rail-cum-Road Bridge over Damodar at Mejia.
37.	Purulia	Bridge over Salda Khal.
38.	Midnapore	Bridge over Dulang on HKRR Road.
39.	„	Bridge over Kansai on Tamluk-Moina Road.
40.	„	Bridge over Talpatti Khal on Nandigram-Malda Road.
41.	„	Bridge over Itaberia Canal on Gobardhanpur-Itaberia Road.
42.	Coochbehar	Bridge over Dharala on Mathabhanga-Sitalkuchi Road.
43.	Uttar Dinajpur	Bridge over Sudani at Chakulia.
44.	Malda	Bridge over Punarbhava on Vikahar-Nalagola Road.
45.	Bankura	Bridge over Silabati on Bankura-Khatra Road.

The achievement in the improvement of Panagarh-More gram Road project, an externally aided project (EAP) with assistance of ADB is about 47%, so far as physical progress is concerned, up to February, 1997.

14 schemes for construction of roads and bridges under Border Area Development Programme (BADP) with financial assistance of Government of India are being executed for improvement of infrastructure in areas near Bangladesh Border. These schemes are progressing well. The construction of road of 57.5 Km from Domohana on NH-34 to Dhantola on NH-31 Via Rudel, Tajpur, Biprit i. e. the Bengal to Bengal route has been taken up under BAD Programme as an alternative route of National Highway i.e. the North and South Dinajpur districts. The work is progressing satisfactorily.

Record of performance

A comparative statement of achievements of the Eighth Five Year Plan, 1992-97 with the National Targets is noted below:—

Category of Roads	Target as per All India Average (1960-81) (In Kms.)	Achievement of this Deptt. at the end of 8th Five Year Plan, 1992-97 (in Kms.)
State Highway	2121	3455
Major District Roads	6850	2846
Rural Roads	19832	8839
	28803	15140

The relative figures on the connectivity of villages so far achieved with the setting up of the roadways infrastructure are also shown below:

Population Groups	Total No. of Villages	No. of villages connected up to 8th Five Year Plan
1500 and above	4928	4179
Between 1000 & 1500	5500	3739
Below 1000	27646	11613
	38074	19531

In terms of physical achievement, the achievements of the need of the Five Year Plan is rather modest. However, efforts are being made to step up activities in the Annual Plan 1997-98 and during the Ninth Plan period the operational objectives of which are noted below:

Operational Objectives

- (a) To minimise the backlog in achievements.
- (b) To generate capability to cater to the existing increased traffic intensity

- (c) To generate employment facilities for increasing socio-economic standard of the locality.
- (d) To provide facilities to the weaker sections of the people with wide spread roadway communication.

Quantification of objectives for target set for 1997-98

In the Annual Plan 1997-98 the Department has fixed targets of constructing 60 Kms. of roads, connectivity of 260 villages and 12 ongoing bridge projects.

A sum of Rs. 14033 lacs have been provided for the Annual Plan 1996-97.

Social Schemes/Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

- (a) **CRF Schemes:** Such schemes are executed out of the CRF allocations made by the Government of India based on the extent of price of petroleum consumed by the State. A poor sum of money is generally allocated by the authority and in course of utilising this fund against any project this Deptt. has to shoulder lot of liabilities in each case.
- (b) **Scheme under E & I:** These schemes are executed out of the loan assistance from the Government of India.
- (c) **R. S. W. F. Schemes:** The Road over Bridges are generally taken up in this schemes under the cost sharing basis of the Railway authority. The LA cost and the part of project cost are borne by this Deptt.
- (d) **Externally Aided Project:** The Department has already taken up an improvement scheme of an important road (Panagarh-Moregram) with the Loan Assistance of the Asian Development Bank at an estimated cost of Rs. 228.00 crores. Some important roads are also being taken up during the Ninth Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 900.00 crores with loan assistance from the World Bank.

Organisational Set up:

In the context of decentralisation of planning set up the engineer officers posted in the districts formulate plan proposals and get them approved by the DPC. The approved schemes thereafter receive final shape in the department in due course.

District Component Part for the Road Sector Plan:

60% of the plan outlay meant for the core plan works in the department is earmarked for the works in the district under divisible pool for which the DPC fix priority for execution. The works under this component part includes the provisions for MNP Schemes, SCP Schemes and TASP Schemes in the District.

7.2.2 Programme of the Public Works Department

The Public Works Department is entrusted with widening and strengthening of roads and construction of bridges.

Considering the fund available to the PW Department in road sector, it is proposed in the Ninth Plan outlay to complete those bridges, work of which have already been taken up. In addition construction of a few new bridges to cover up the important unbridged gaps have been proposed to provide communication link to the remote areas. The Department is also entrusted with the maintenance of major State High Ways of the State. Most of these roads were constructed in pre-independent period and in earlier Plan periods which have now become totally unable to cater the present axle load. In view of above it has been proposed to widen and

strengthen at least 160 KMs to State High Ways during this plan period out of total length of 6,000 KM of roads maintained by this Deptt.

With the fund available to the PW Deptt. in the road sector, it is proposed in Annual Plan outlay that works on ongoing bridges are to be completed and to take up a few new bridges to cover up the important unbridged gaps and to replace some old, weak and narrow bridges as well as some damaged bridges in order to provide improved communication-link in the remote areas. The Deptt. is also entrusted with strengthening and widening of some major roads through-out the State of West Bengal. In view of above it is proposed that 20 Km vulnerable road stretches during 1997-98 will be taken up for improvement.

Roads maintained by the PWD are too weak to cope with the requirement of the Present traffic intensity and axle load. So the roads are needed to be widened and strengthened. It is done in stretches as a part of long-term programme. Similarly, the bridges are constructed for negotiating two ends of unbridged gaps and also to replace the existing weak and narrow bridges.

The basis of selection of new schemes and continuing the ongoing schemes and the objective of target setting is usually determined at the level of District Planning Committee or State Planning Board, etc. It is done on the basis of necessity of the scheme in the socio-economic development of the State vis-a-vis availability of fund.

7.2.3 Programme of the Commerce & Industries Department

The State Government attaches significant importance on the succes of Export Processing Zone at Falta.

The State Government is, therefore, making sincere efforts for betterment of infrastructures in and outside the zone. To facilitate movement of transport vehicles in the area, roads approaching the zone as also roads connecting all the sectors in the Export Processing Zone and the Growth Centres set-up by the Government are being improved.

A provision of considerable amount has been kept in the budget for 1997-98 for the purpose.

7.2.4 Programme of the Transport Department

Hooghly River Bridge Commission

HRBC is in charge of construction and management of the Vidyasagar Setu.

The Vidyasagar Setu was commissioned in October, 1992.

Remaining works relating to the bridge and the supplementary road works are in progress.

This year's budget provision for HRBC is Rs. 1440 lakhs from Non-plan and Rs. 800 lakhs from plan head. HRBC collects toll under the Hooghly River Bridge Act, 1969. Toll-collection, though increasing day by day, has not reached the projected level due to the fast that the approach roads to the bridge are not yet completed.

The figures of toll-collection are given below:

12.10.92 to 31.1.97

Rs. 24221.73 lakhs

7.3 ROAD TRANSPORT

7.3.1 Programme of the Transport Department

Sharp rise in vehicle population has diminished available road space for movement of vehicles resulting in low circulation speed. To improve the condition a project with the assistance of OECF has been taken up for construction of 6 flyovers and for improvement of road intersections at 3 places in Calcutta. Also a number of schemes like construction of truck terminals, parking spaces, improvement of road conditions and widening of roads wherever possible will be taken up. Inadequate maintenance and development of National Highways in the State due to inadequate availability of fund from Government of India is a hindrance to the improvement of road transport system through the State.

In this State only about 25% of the passenger transport system is in the hand of the Public Sector. Since full privatisation of the transport sector will leave computers at the mercy of the private operators and Government will lose control over the transport system, such position is not acceptable to the State Government. In order to provide economic as well as better mode of transport to the people, State Government is actively pursuing the expansion of STUs and greater areas are being brought under the State Transport Services.

In order to improve operating standards, regular and adequate flow of fund to the STUs is necessary. Till December, 1996 CSTC, NBSTC, SBSTC, CTC and WBSTC have received Rs. 3537.89 lakh, Rs. 3478.75 lakh, Rs. 2883.32 lakh, Rs. 2363.37 lakh and Rs. 1010.18 lakh respectively under Eighth Plan. This is roughly 54% of the 8th Plan outlay for the STUs taken together. Flow of plan fund being inadequate the STUs, whose financial conditions are not good, had to procure fund through commercial borrowing to improve their physical performance. In 1996-97 CSTC, SBSTC and WBSTC will be acquiring 144, 100 and 37 nos. of buses respectively.

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/terminous are also being set-up. The immediate goals of the STUs are to improve age profile of fleet, increase of fleet strength, provide better facilities to the passengers and economise operating cost by modernising the maintenance and operations.

The traffic engineering and traffic control schemes have led to better flow of traffic and therefore are persisted with performance of the STUs are indicated in the Table below:

Table 7.1

	CSTC	CTC Tram	CTC Bus	NBSTC	SBSTC	WBSTC
Fleet Held						
1992-93	1229	376	40	940	571	8

	CSTC	CTC Tram	Bus	NBSTC	SBSTC	WBSTC
1993-94	1222	351	115	940	571	12
1994-95	1222	319	215	940	633	19
1995-96	1222	319	300	940	633	48
1996-97	1222	319	300	940	673	85
Man-Bus Ratio						
1992-93	1 : 12.94	1 : 39	1 : 3.00	1 : 8.93	1 : 7.19	1 : 5.50
1993-94	1 : 13.13	1 : 40	1 : 8.00	1 : 9.05	1 : 5.14	1 : 4.90
1994-95	1 : 13.08	1 : 30	1 : 7.61	1 : 8.93	1 : 4.95	1 : 4.68
1995-96	1 : 13.49	1 : 27	1 : 7.37	1 : 10.08	1 : 4.53	1 : 4.70
1996-97	1 : 12.00	1 : 30	1 : 8.00	1 : 9.60	1 : 4.25	1 : 4.80
Vehicle Productivity						
1992-93	136	54	181	217	188	152.05
1993-94	130	39	230	211	187	171.78
1994-95	134	44	210	217	235	215.00
1995-96	140	47	237	192	242	202.00
1996-97	145	50	240	193	250	184.57
Fleet Utilisation						
1992-93	77	51	90	81	72	70
1993-94	76	47	80	80	42	75
1994-95	75	57	85	82	41	58
1995-96	73	56	80	72	41	71
1996-97	75	60	80	72	60	75
Traffic Earning (in lakhs)						
1992-93	3747	894	75	3329	1170	100.52
1993-94	3894	731	338	3812	1009	146.23
1994-95	4201	780	877	4311	1132	209.96
1995-96	4467	720	1381	4056	1291	274.34
1996-97	4669	887	1720	4500	2033	344.65
Operating Cost (in lakhs)						
1992-93	7040	3639	45	4594	1687	118.86
1993-94	7574	3651	239	4853	1867	176.85
1994-95	8803	3517	637	5328	2152	243.18
1995-96	9789	3933	1096	5691	2451	341.04
1996-97	9331	6485		6362	3111	409.00

Transport

	CSTC	CTC Tram	CTC Bus	NBSTC	SBSTC	WBSTC
KMPL/KMRT						
1992-93	3.41	153	4.50	3.79	3.57	3.00
1993-94	3.42	124	4.05	3.80	3.20	3.00
1994-95	3.40	118	3.57	3.83	3.20	3.00
1995-96	3.40	120	3.50	3.91	3.91	3.00
1996-97	3.45	120	3.60	3.93	3.65	3.00
Plan Fund Released (in lakhs)						
1992-93	425.00	350.00	0.0	400.00	318.00	142.00
1993-94	573.30	470.00		732.50	673.50	264.30
1994-95	1074.59	699.62		922.75	787.25	277.13
1995-96	800.00	506.25		750.00	633.87	233.75
1996-97 (A)	990.00	550.00		1000.00	770.00	30.00
No. of buses acquired						
1992-93	100	×	40	80	×	8
1993-94	84	×	75	85	×	4
1994-95	117	×	100	35	115	7
1995-96	181	×	85	35	×	29
1996-97	144	×	×	×	100	37
No. of buses scrapped						
1992-93	106	10	—	40	6	—
1993-94	84	25	—	85	—	—
1994-95	117	32	—	35	53	—
1995-96	117	—	—	90	71	—
1996-97	144	20	—	—	60	—
Average Weighted fare (in paise)						
1992-93	9.75	NA	11.00	15.01	16.00	NA
1993-94	10.66	NA	11.00	15.01	16.00	NA
1994-95	11.13	NA	13.00	17.34	16.00	NA
1995-96	11.13	NA	13.00	17.50	17.50	NA
1996-97	11.13	NA	NA	17.34	17.50	NA

PLAN PROGRAMMES OF STUs

Plan Programme of CSTC for 1996-97	Rs. in lakhs
(as per budgeted outlay)	
(1) Renovation of old Vehicles	240
(2) Purchase of Float Units	100
(3) Purchase of equipment for Divisional Workshop	60
(4) Computerisation of Depots	—
(5) Computerisation of pay rolls for different Depots.	—
(6) Installation and commissioning of Tyre Retreading Plant	12
(7) Installation and commissioning of Automatic Washing Machine	12
(8) Repayment of Bank loan	510
(9) Computerisation of Finance, Law and Management, Information Services	16
	950

Plan Programme of SBSTC for 1996-97	Rs. in lakhs
(as per budgeted outlay)	
(1) Acquisition of buses	120 (Margin money)
(2) Re-building of buses	230
(3) Purchase of Float Units and Plant & Machineries	-170
(4) Development of Wrokshops	250
	770

Plan Programme of CTC for 1996-97	
(as per budgeted outlay)	
(1) Acquisition of Fleet (buses)	50
(2) Renovation of Old Term Cars	250
(3) Renewal of Tram Tracks & Civil Construction	150
(4) Development of Bus Depots etc.	50
(5) Acquisition of Float Units (Bus)/Plant & Machineries	50
	550

Transport

Plan Programme of NBSTC for 1996-97 (as per budgeted outlay)	Rs. in lakhs
(1) Acquisition of buses	250
(2) Renovation of buses	525
(3) Cost of Computer Software Development and HN	15
(4) Upgradation of existing Depots and terminal facilities	} 150
(5) Construction of new depots/terminus	
(6) Other Developmental Requirements	10
	<u>950</u>

Plan Programme of WBSTC for 1996-97 (as per budgeted outlay)

(1) Acquisition of buses	188.00
(2) Acquisition of vessels/L.C.T.	—
(3) Construction of jetties at different places	—
(4) Consultancy Service/Study for projects	—
(5) Repair/Installation of jetties/pantoon/gungway etc.	57.00
(6) Construction of bus depots/terminus/workshop	50.00
(7) Purchase of machineries including float units	—
(8) Construction of jetties under Central Sponsored Scheme	80.00
(9) Extension of network in the area of Computerisation	—
	<u>375.00</u>

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 1997-98.

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VIII-Communications

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

The Government of West Bengal has no proposal in this Sector for the Annual Plan, 1997-98.

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IX—Science, Technology & Environment

IX. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

9.1 SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (INCLUDING S & T)

9.1.1 Programme of the Science & Technology and Non-conventional Energy Sources Department

Science & Technology (S &T) has made a phenomenal impact the world over in shaping the life style of the common man. It has played a pivotal role to forge us ahead in all important tasks. It is being used as an effective instrument of growth and as a major intervention strategy to derive maximum output from meagre resources. The S & T and the associated areas of its technology play a key role in the theme of economic planning in the agriculture, industrial and service sectors.

The Deptt. of Science & Technology has been promoting various facets of Science & Technology in the State of West Bengal. With the commencing of Ninth Five-Year Plan and the Annual Plan 1997-98 fresh ventures in the fields of Science & Technology are being taken.

The proposed outlay for the year 1997-98 is Rs. 221.00 lakhs for expenditure on the activities in the fields of Science & Technology and would include the following schemes.

- a) Science Promotion.
- b) Science Popularisation.
- c) Entrepreneurship Development Programme.
- d) Socio-economic Development Programmes.
- e) Remote Sensing Activities including Ocean Development.
- f) Natural Resources Management.
- g) Inland Water Mangement and Ecological Design.
- h) Activities of the West Bengal State Council of Science & Technology.
- i) Activities relating to the Advance Centre of Cryogenic Research.
- j) Direction and Administration.

The department proposes to spend Rs. 155.00 lakhs on the new schemes under these two heads being Rs. 221.00 lakhs which reflects and increase of 20 percentage over the last year's figure under the corresponding heads.

Science Promotion :— In the coming year the department proposes to start some new projects which are of great relevance in the present context in the country. Survival of indigenou manufactures necessarily involves their successful competition with foreign goods in respect of quality, quantity and cost. In this context the manufacturers in this country are showing increasing keenness to interact with the R & D Institutions of our country and this department will play a role of catalyst in making it a success.

Science popularisation :— The Department of Science & Technology and Non-conventional Energy sources encourages the programmes undertaken by various voluntary organisations, clubs, schools, colleges etc. to generate awariness among the common masses in various fields

of science such as health and sanitation and also to eradicate superstition etc. The programmes relating to establishment of new Science Centre are also basically aimed at popularisation of science and Technology among the common people. Scientific and technological education is also spread among the people through films.

Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) :—The primary object of this programme is to encourage entrepreneurship amongst people with scientific and technological background. This also aims at reducing unemployment in this State. It is basically a job generation programme through Science & Technology. A number of organisations have been helped in the past and the effort will continue for this purpose in the annual plan.

Socio-economic Development Programme :—This consists of Technology Demonstration Centre, Programme for disaster management, S & T requirement for water resources, programme for medicinal plants.

Remote sensing including Ocean Development :— The department has a wing called the State Remote Sensing Centre. Its activities relate to preparation of thematic maps through satellite for various parts of the State and to make the same available for planning development activities in this State. Its activities are expanding and the SRSC is undertaking projects in very important fields e. g. updating of River Courses in West Bengal, natural Disaster Management activities, Satellite Monitoring of Command Areas, Spatial Planning and Management of Land and Water Resources in the Ajoy Basin, West Bengal.

Natural Resources Data Management System : This is a multi disciplinary programme of the DST, Govt. of India. It aims at rational and optimal management of natural resources and to minimise the effects of the natural hazards, at local specific developmental planning to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the common people through decentralised planning. At present the NRDMS programmes aim at collecting information about the natural resources in districts of Bankura, Birbhum and Purulia. The programme is being sponsored and financed by the DST, Govt. of India. But there is the likelihood of this programme being transferred to the State Government in the next financial year. Accordingly some provision is made in this department's budget for the next financial year in order to carry on the programme in an efficient manner.,

Institute of Wetland Management & Ecological Design:—This autonomous body under the administrative control of Deptt. of Science & Technology and NES has been established to ensure optimum use of wetlands in State through scientific and technological planning. The department extends support to the institute through grant-in-aid for its manpower and infrastructural facilities. This institute will take up a number of projects in the ensuing financial year, such as—

- (1) Water Testing Laboratory including analysis of pollutant;
- (2) Service charge for map preparation;
- (3) Short term course like
 - (i) Map preparation using satellite data by the people of the grass root level;
 - (ii) Generation of awareness among the **common** people about the wetland in this State and the techniques of making optimum use of the land. The institute has a quite number of ongoing projects such as coastal status of Wetland Mapping (West Bengal);

- (iii) Wetland Mapping (Tripura);
- (iv) Crop acres and production estimation (in collaboration with the department of Agriculture);
- (v) Coastal regulation zone demarcation;
- (vi) Status of water resources in West Bengal;
- (vii) Panchayat level resources survey and mapping;
- (viii) Status of the sewage of Calcutta as a carrier of pollutants, nutrients sediments etc.;
- (ix) Status on water bodies in Burdwan district;
- (x) Special status of wetland in West Bengal.

Programmes for Districts:—This relates to subject like programmes for Medicinal and Aromatic plants and also to specific programmes for which facilities exist in the Districts.

West Bengal State Council of Science & Technology:

The Council became autonomous during the 93-94. It is working as an advisory body to the Department of Science & Technology and NES, Govt. of West Bengal. It has also undertaken a number of projects with the assistance of the Govt. of India and other organisations, a very important of which relates to plant Tissue Culture sanctioned by Govt. of India. It is a joint venture of the department of Bio-Technology, Govt. of India and the Deptt. of Science & Technology and NES. The Govt. of India has also released Rs. 50.00 lakhs as its first year's contribution for the project and the Govt. of West Bengal has released Rs. 30.00 lakhs as its maintain contribution for the same period.

Advance Centre for Cryogenic Research (ACCR):—This institution is engaged in research work in low temperature technology. It has recently been transferred from administrative control of the Commerce & Industries Department to the Deptt. of Science & Technology and NES and this department has started extending infrastructural support to the centre through grant-in-aid. A technical committee has been formed in the department to oversee its activities.

Direction and Administration:—For promotion of Scientific and Technical activities of the department briefly mentioned above the department maintains and establishment, the expenditure whereof is drawn under the Head 'Direction and Administration.' As a good number of posts has been created in the current year, both technical and non-technical, the expenditure on this head will substantially go up in the next year. It would appear that the next year's (1997-98) budget provision will go up by 20 percent in respect of the budget provision of the current financial year so far as the scientific and technological activities other than activities relating to non-conventional energy sources are concerned.

Continuing Schemes :—This Deptt. proposes to spend in the next year Rs. 66.00 lakhs on its continuing scheme.

9.2 ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

9.2.1 Programme of the Environment Department

The protection of the environmental and of natural resources is an essential part of development. Without adequate environmental capital, development is undermined and this in

turn may reduce the resources available for investing, in maintaining and enhancing the environmental resource base. With this central theme in mind, the Environment Deptt. proposes to consider the following programmes during the Annual Plan 1997-98.

Awariness Programmes:

The concern over the future habitability and a deep urge towards a sustainable future in the face of redline of resources and a fragile ecosystem necessities awareness build-up in the cross-section of our population, specially those living in the grassroot level, with close co-operation of the Panchayats, local bodies and various youth Forums.

Keeping this in view, appropriate provisioning of fund has been made in the Annual Plan for the Panchayats, Youth forum, Student Organisations, NGOS and CBOS. The Department would also directly take up usual campaigns, publications, exhibition and other mass media items through fund kept under this head.

Research & Technology Development & Creation of R & D Wing of the Environment Department:

The Deptt. has no research wing. The Deptt. feels that much of the problems of pollution may be controlled through application of modern improved technology. As such, necessity of an Institution for field level research and monitoring application has been thought of. There exists some institutions having in built infrastructure and act as the Core institution which may be developed into a full fledged R & D wing of the Deptt.

Status of Environment in the State:

In order to achieve the goal of sustainable development it is felt necessary to monitor the entire environmental perspective of the State. The effect of implementation of development plans on the surroundings and local environment in the context of carrying capacity of urban or the rural areas and also within the hydrosphere as well as general geosphere, is relevant. The add-on effect of pollutants of various industries, automobiles, fertilisers and pesticides, effluent discharge on the water bodies, gaseous discharges over the atmosphere, levels of noise pollution, the dwindling ground water reserves are items that call for urgent scrutiny and monitoring.

Accordingly it is proposed to undertake a thorough study of the environmental health of the State and follow it up through appropriate monitoring and intervention strategy. The expenditure for collection, processing, analysis of basic data, its updating and periodic publication of the same have been included under the above programme.

Local Level Participatory Environment Management

With the growing environmental consciousness amongst people it has become essential to take recourse to peoples participation. In fact, proper micro level planning is necessary with the peoples' participation at all the stages as described through Environmental Protection Committees. A sum of Rs. 7.00 lakhs will be required for the first year for 341 Panchayat Samities.

Coastal Zonal Management Development Plan

Coastal Zonal being the transition area of land and sea is the most productive zone from human resources utilisation point of view. A new Notification for coastal Regulation zone in the year 1991 has been promulgated under Environmental Protection Act 1986. Supreme Court of

India has directed to form Coastal Zone Management Authority, prepare Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Coastal States and follow up the implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Plan. The Coastal Zone Management Plan of West Bengal has been prepared and a conditional approval has been obtained. A sum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs have been earmarked for the purpose.

Bio-diversity Conservation Plan:

As a follow-up and action-taken measure of the Agenda 21 of the RIO Summit, a bio-diversity conservation Plan is intended to be prepared to ensure its appropriate protection and conservation in an ordered manner. In the Annual Plan a provision has been made for existing as well as fresh collection of primary data to ensure Bio-diversity in the State.

Bio-diversity in the State :

Project Development with the limited financial resources of the State level it is not possible for proper implementation of environmental development plan in certain spheres. In fact, the technology as well as usually accepted methods of formulation of the project is lacking, which ultimately result in non-availability of fund. In order to counteract such failures to draw fund from other sources (other than State sources), the experts in the line may be funded to prepare acceptable project documents for various funding agencies.

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X—General Economic Services

X. GENERAL ECONOMIC SERVICES

10.1 SECRETARIAT ECONOMIC SERVICES

10.1.1 Programme of the Development & Planning Department

10.1.1 (a) State Planning Board (SPB)

Plan budget administered by the State Planning Board is primarily intended to meet organisational expenses of the State Planning Organisation. Under the scheme a number of Group 'A' posts and one post of consultant have been created. State Planning Board is financing a Research Project, "An Evaluation of the Infrastructural Status of the Family Planning Programme in West Bengal", at an estimated cost of Rs. 15,49,200/-. This project will also continue during 1997-98. There is a proposal for construction of office Complex of the State Planning Board at Salt Lake, Calcutta. Besides different workshops, Seminars under the aegis of State Planning Board are likely to held. State Planning Board publishes Economic Review every year. An outlay amounting to Rs. 30.00 lakhs has been provided for the year 1997-98.

10.1.1 (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 seen an expansion in variety and scope of services being provided by the NIC network in the State. An apex committee, 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 Centres 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 the existing strength of four terminals. Terminals have been installed at Sabhadhipati's Chamber, DM'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 Centres 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 Silliguri 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 in the Ninth Five Year Plan period for meeting the needs of Government functionaries for terminal connections at their end. Besides this, action is

General Economic Services

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/Deptt. 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 Govt. Deptts. with the facility 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.

10.1.1 (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 Deptt. 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 has 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 31.3.97. Thereafter it will be taken over by the State Government.

In the 9th 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. Appropriate outlay for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) would be kept Rs. 8.00 lakhs have been provided for the Annual Plan of 1997-98.

10.1.1 (d) Evaluation Monitoring and Manpower (EM & M)

The Directorate of Evaluation, Monitoring and Manpower is the apex organisation for monitoring of plan activities in the State of West Bengal under Development and Planning Department. In view of implementation of decentralisation of planning under West Bengal District Planning Committee Act, 1994, this organisation will need to be strengthened further.

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 of 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 1997-98, it is proposed that the 1st phase of upgradation & computerisation be undertaken at Headquarters and for this a capital expenditure of Rs. 1 lakh approximately is anticipated.

10.2 TOURISM

10.2.1 Programme of the Tourism Department

Tourism has emerged as a major segment of our economy over the years in terms of gross revenue as well as foreign exchange earnings. With rapid developments in the field of transport and communications the global tourism industry is likely to double in the next decade. Tourism products in the form of hotels, motels and resorts provide the basic infrastructure for big industries and has therefore, a great multiplier effect on other industries. Tourism is also highly employment-intensive. For every million rupees of investment in 1986-87 prices 13 jobs are created in manufacturing industries, 45 jobs in agriculture and 89 jobs in hotels and restaurants. Tourism is, therefore, now considered to be an important sector for intensive development by all Governments. Since the neighbouring countries as well as all the States in the country are now competing with one another for increasing share of tourist arrivals, this sector has become extremely vital and competitive.

Current annual foreign tourist arrival in India which is about 2 million only is rather poor. But India has an astounding figure of 100 million domestic tourists per annum and has a strong foundation for development of tourism in general. In spite of having great locational advantage as the gateway to not only Eastern and North-Eastern States of the country but also to South East Asia and in spite of having tourist destinations like Darjeeling with a magnificent view of the Himalayas, dense forests and wildlife sanctuaries in the hills and the Dooars of North Bengal, sea beaches and Sunderbans of South Bengal, rolling rivers, places of heritage and pilgrimage dotting the State, West Bengal's share in all India tourism is less than 5%. The nominal plan outlay on tourism has so far prevented the State Tourism Department from taking any major initiative in building up and upgrading tourist infrastructure in the State. The great potential of West Bengal as a tourist destination has, therefore, largely remained untapped. West Bengal's target for tourist arrival should be at least 10% of the total tourist arrival in the country.

In September, 1996 the State Government announced the West Bengal Tourism Policy and conferred the status of industry on certain tourism-related activities. The strategies for tourism development as outlined in the Tourism Policy are as follows:

- i) Improvement/standardisation/diversification of the existing tourism products and creation of new tourism products by opening up new tourist locations and by adding attractive tourist items.
- ii) Efficient marketing and publicity of such products.
- iii) Perfecting the delivery systems through world-class human resource development and application of modern information technology in tourism industry.
- iv) Drawing up and implementing tourism plans, policies and incentive schemes to facilitate vastly increased flow of investment to tourism projects in the State from private sector, both domestic and foreign.

The resources of the State Government being limited, the Department of Tourism and the State Tourism Development Corporation will concentrate mainly on expanding the network of tourist facilities and other tourism-related activities all over the State and even outside primarily for the benefit of the middle class and budget tourists. But it will play the role of a facilitator or catalyst in respect of investment in tourism projects by the private sector for top-end tourists and strive for infrastructure development, publicity, dissemination of information and co-ordination of sectoral activities to create conditions conducive to private sector investment in tourism.

In tune with the conferment of status of industry on tourism the West Bengal Incentive Scheme, 1993 (for medium and large-scale industries) has been suitably amended to extend the benefits, incentives and concessions under the scheme to the following tourism projects:

(a) Hotels, (b) Motels, (c) Heritage Hotels, (d) Yatriniwas, (e) Yatrika, (f) Railway Travel Projects on the pattern of "Palace-on-wheels" and (h) Aerial Ropeways.

Considering the untapped tourism potential of West Bengal and also considering the potential of tourism as generator of employment and revenue. Tourism Department proposes that the outlay in the tourism sector during the Ninth Plan should be substantially increased to enable

the State Tourism Department to make a quantum leap in tourism and to win the inter-State competition in this sector.

In order to increase the tourist influx in the State a substantial provision has been kept in the Annual Plan Proposal for the year 1997-98 for execution of the ongoing schemes viz.—

- i) Acquisition and renovation of tourist coaches and cruising vessels;
- ii) Renovation, expansion and upgradation of Tourist Lodges of West Bengal, Tourism Development Corporation as well as the Tourist Lodges under the Tourism Department;
- iii) Continuous review and upgradation of Tourism Development Plan and Investment Plan;
- iv) Re-organisation of existing Tourist Information Centres and Offices with modern computerised booking facilities as well as for opening new tourist offices within and outside the State;
- v) Development of new sites, construction of new tourist lodges and motels, ancillary works, purchase of land, acquisition of land for new sites, purchase of crockeries, curtleries, bed linens, equipment, furnitures wayside facilities, cafeteria etc.;
- vi) Training of Officers and Staff of Tourism Department and West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation at regular intervals;
- vii) Tourist publicity including fairs, festivals and advertisement.

Besides, a portion of the Plan outlay for the year 1997-98 has been earmarked for strengthening the Tourism activities of Local Authorities and Voluntary organisations and educational institutions, for enhancement of Share Capital of the West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited and for implementation of Tourism Development Scheme in the three hill sub-divisions of Darjeeling district by the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.

For better promotion of tourism in the State the following new schemes have been proposed to be undertaken during the Annual Plan period of 1997-98:—

- i) Construction of new Tourist Lodges in the districts of Coochbehar, Jalpaiguri, Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, South 24-Parganas, Midnapore, Purulia, Burdwan and Birbhum;
- ii) Construction of Food Craft Institute at Digha, Berhampore, Durgapur and Hotel Management Institute at Siliguri and Calcutta;
- iii) Construction of wayside facilities or Day Centres on all the National and State Highways in the State; and
- iv) Attraction of Private Sector in the field of Tourism Industry by granting them incentives.

10.3 SURVEYS AND STATICS

10.3.1 Programme of the Development & Planning Department

Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics

Presently Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) to prepare estimates of yield rate of insured crop are being conducted at block/district level for insured crops under the Comprehensive crop Insurance Scheme. Demands were being made since last few years from different quarters to

reduce the notified areas from Block Level to Village Level or at least Gram Panchayat (GP) Level to safe guard the interest of the farmers from their losses due to natural calamities.

With above in view a scheme for strengthening the DSO of the Bureau has been prepared on the assumption that a minimum of 8 (eight) CCE at the GP level will be sufficient for crop insurance purpose. However, minimum number of CCEs at the GP level is raised to 16 (sixteen), there will be a corresponding hike in total cost of the survey. The scheme may be considered for Ninth Five Year Plan period.

The need has particularly been felt in the context of Agriculture and rural development as indicated in the Ninth Five Year Plan proposal (1997-2002).

Apart from preparing the estimates for yield rate of insured crop under the comprehensive crop Insurance Scheme, District Statistical offices will be entrusted with the task of preparing the thematic maps showing the basic indicators of development of rural infrastructure to undertake the policies of poverty alleviation programme. Under the scheme, the map will indicate the concentration of poverty stricken areas, poor and backward class dominated areas, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes concentrated areas. This will help to formulate the strategies and policies for Agricultural and Rural Development. A system of concurrent evaluation and monitoring may be devised jointly with the District Planning Committee and the District Statistical Office of the Bureau in order to regularly assess the efficacy of the antipoverty programmes in tackling the problem of poverty and backwardness. Under the scheme collection of data and publication of the same at GP level will also be undertaken.

842 officers and staff will be required under the scheme generating 11 lakh mandays with an expenditure of Rs. 25.16 crores during the entire plan period if PCs are not provided to DSO and ASO HQ Calcutta. If PCs are provided 782 officers and staff will be required generating 9.4 lakh mandays with an expenditure of Rs. 23.39 crores during the entire plan period. At District level, staff will be associated with NRDMS centre for data management. About 50 addl. staff will be required Rs 2.00 lakhs is earmarked for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

10.4 CIVIL SUPPLIES

10.4.1 Programme of the Food & Supplies Department

Modernisation of Inspection & Quality Control Laboratory

The Department of Food & 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. For this purpose the outlay as indicated in volume II has been provided for the year 1997-98.

Implementation of Consumer Protection Act, 1986—Setting up of District Forum/State Commission (Revenue Expenditure)

For the purpose of implementation of the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the State Commission and nineteen (19) other District Consumer Dispute-Redressal Forum including two District Forums in Calcutta district were proposed to be set up in the State. Out of the said Fora, nine district Fora are already working as full time one. It is expected that the other Fora which are working as part time ones will also start working as full time one from this financial year.

In case all the district Fora start working as full time one, the total assistance required will be Rs. 163.16 lakhs.

Purchase of Mobile vans

It is also a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Government of India sanctioned Rs. 72.00 lakhs (Rs. 36.00 lakhs as loan and Rs. 36.00 lakhs as subsidy) and Rs. 28.00 lakhs (Rs. 14.00 lakhs as loan and Rs. 14.00 lakhs as subsidy) to the State Government. In two instalments for purchasing 25 (18+7) vehicles for operation of mobile fair price shops in the State. The total loan amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs will have to be repaid in five instalments together with interest @ 11.75%. An amount of Rs. 54.22 lakhs was repaid in the financial year 1996-97. To quash away the loan in full an amount as indicated in Volume II has been provided in the year 1997-98.

Setting up of new rice-mills with a capacity of 4 to 8 M through modernisation subsidy thereof

Despite remarkable growth in production of paddy, the Rice-milling industry in the State continues to remain most backward as 85% of the paddy produced in the State is milled by conventional Huller type Husking mills which are responsible for lowering of extraction ratio of rice by 2 to 3% and which are also incapable of retrieving oil-rich rice-bran. In an estimate the State in loosing 1.5 lakhs M. T. of Rice-bran oil of edible quality valued at about Rs. 450 crores. Additional of about 4 lakhs M. T. worth about 300 crores can also be salvag if the entire quantity of Paddy is processed and milled in modernised mills. Thus resources worth about Rs. 750 crores are squandered because of the failure to moernise the rice-mill industry in the State.

In this context the Government introduced an incentive scheme to encourage setting up of small capacity (40 to 80 quintals per diem) modern rice mills in large number (nearly 2000) in the State. According to the scheme, the entrepreneurs setting up of such rice-mills with modern machinaries within an investment of Rs. 10.00 lakhs on plant and machinaries are entitled to an incentive of Rs. 1.00 lakh per unit at the minimum. For this purpose a total sum of Rs. 220 lakhs has been provided in the Annual Plan outlay. The sum is being placed with the West Bengal Financial Corporation, the nodal agency for Financing the project. Till date more than 238 applications have been received out of which permits to set up 63 such units have in the meanwhile been issued and these are at different stages of implementation. Among the said applicants 12 units have already got the approval of the West Bengal Financial Corporation and 5 such units are awaiting receipt of financial help from the State Government. In order to materialise the project in question another 500 lakhs will be required during the next five years

General Economic Services

@ Rs. 100.00 lakhs per year. The amount may, therefore, be provided in the Ninth Five Year Plan Outlay (1997-2002).

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 off Rs. 15,000/- and below).

The programme, however, could not take effect all over the State in fullfledged manner due to the problems related to identification of the targetted poor. The process of identification of the beneficiaries under this programme is in progress with the help of the different authorities of the State Government. It is expected that the identification works will be completed within the targetted time.

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.

An amount of Rs. 70 lakhs may be provided in the Annual Plan budget during 1997-98.

10.5 OTHER GENERAL ECONOMIC SERVICE

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 Committee were issued and the District Planning Committee have since started functioning.

Apart from the flow of disaggregated budgeted outlay of various sectoral 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 fund 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.

The yearwise allotment and expenditure from the separate head of Account "District Plan Scheme Fund" (DPS) is given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Allotment	Expenditure
1985-90	15573.86	14,676.34
1990-91	5294.38	5,277.62
1991-92	873.29	858.33
1992-93	596.86	469.94
1993-94	907.90	688.12
1994-95	6153.72	5,149.82
1995-96	6424.16	6,423.97
1996-97	6786.26	6,636.00

A sum of Rs. 3755.00 lakhs (including BMS) has been proposed to be spent on District Plan Scheme during 1997-98.

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.

A provision of Rs. 30.00 lakhs has been suggested for the organisation during 1997-98 for improvement in the working efficiency of the Organisation.

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XI-Social Services

XI. SOCIAL SERVICES

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 District Primary Education Programme with the assistance of the Overseas Development Administration, U.K. for the 5 Districts of Cooch Behar, Bankura, Birbhum, Murshidabad and South 24-Parganas has progressed considerably. The total size of assistance has been tentatively fixed at about Rs. 200 crores and spread over 5 years.

Several schemes with financial assistance from the UNICEF, the Government of India and the State Government have been taken up to improve the quality of teaching and learning at the Primary level.

Nationalised Text-books

This Department is continuing with the scheme of supply of free text-books to all Primary School Children studying in class I to V. The text-books are published in 5 regional languages, viz. Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, Nepali and Santali (Alchiki Script).

School Dress

This Department has been continuing with the scheme of supplying of School dress to all SC & ST girls students and 20% of other categories of girls students studying in Primary Classes. Because of rising prices, the per capita expenditure for the purpose has been raised from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 50/-.

Secondary & Higher Secondary Education

In the upper primary and secondary areas, sufficient provision of fund has been proposed for establishment of new Junior High Schools and upgradation of Junior High Schools to High Schools and also for similar upgradation of Madrasahs. 82 High Schools have been upgraded to Higher Secondary Schools in 1995-96 academic session and 52 High Schools have been upgraded to Higher Secondary Schools in 1996-97 academic session with creation of necessary posts. Provisions have also been made for providing support to these schools in the areas of Science Education and for improvement of libraries and laboratories of those institutions.

The progress in respect of the work relating to setting up of the School Service Commission for recruitment of teachers has been considerable. The aim is to attract more competent and well qualified persons to the teaching profession and improve quality of teaching at the Secondary School level. There will be 4 Regional Commissions at Malda, Bankura,

Burdwan and Calcutta working under the supervision and control of one Central Commission to be located in Calcutta.

The Computer Literacy Project (CLASS) is being carried out in 232 Schools of the State. Computer studies as an elective subject has also been included in Higher Secondary curriculum.

The department has also taken up construction of office building for the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education at Salt Lake, construction of an educational complex in Hooghly, construction of the District Primary School Council Building of Uttar Dinajpur at Raigunge and a 100-bedded dormitory in Purulia Sainik School.

This Department has also decided to launch State Open School from 1997-98 session. The open school system, if properly implemented, will go a long way to bring the drop-outs of the formal system into the fold of general as well as vocational education up to plus 2-level. Necessary fund has been proposed in the budget.

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 have 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 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 Institute for Asian Studies, Calcutta.

Government College

With a view to emphasising on progress and development of Government Colleges of the State new courses have been introduced on various subjects in some Government Colleges. Creation of more teaching posts in the existing departments is also under active consideration. It has also been proposed to introduce Post-graduate course in Government Colleges of Arts and Crafts. In Krishnanagar Government College which has celebrated its 150th year during 1996-97, four major works including renovation of the existing buildings at a total cost of Rs. 150 lakhs have been taken up. Construction of an Auditorium at Bethune College at an approved estimated cost of Rs. 80 lakhs is in progress. In Presidency College some new projects like vertical extension of new Science Block and Netaji Subhas Building and improvement of Derozeo Hall have been under implementation. Administrative approval for construction of staff-quarters of Darjeeling Government College have also been accorded. Construction works of Bidhannagar Government College are going on in full swing. Besides, there are some Government Training Colleges and Physical Education Colleges where some developmental projects are likely to be taken up during the year 1997-98.

Non-Government College

With a view to extending facilities of Higher Education in pre-dominantly Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, minority community areas 7 (seven) non-Government Colleges have been established during 1996-97 at Rajarhat (North 24-Parganas), Hatgobindapur, Durgapur (both in Burdwan), Magrahat, Baghajatin (both in South 24-Parganas), Kamakhyaguri (Jalpaiguri) and Panchthupi (Murshidabad). Extension of affiliation to various new subjects including Honours courses and two vocational subjects has been accorded in 87 (eighty-seven) colleges in remote and backward areas. For development of non-Government Colleges of the State especially in remote and backward areas, enhanced budget provision will be made during 1997-98.

Additional Central assistance received towards development of South Calcutta Girls' College, Calcutta, Kaliagunge College, North Dinajpur and Raja Birendra Chandra College of Commerce, Kandi, Murshidabad would also be spent during 1997-98. A sum of Rs. 46 lakhs has been approved for the colleges situated in the remote areas of Toofangunge in Cooch Behar, Tarai in Darjeeling, Barjora in Bankura, Hatempur in Birbhum and Chandrapur in Burdwan.

College Service Commission which have already organised two SLET (State Level Eligibility Test), and made recommendation for filling up of more than 600 posts in colleges would be strengthened by providing suitable fund during 1997-98.

West Bengal State Council of Higher Education

For West Bengal State Council of Higher Education which was set up in the Eighth Plan period, a provision of Rs. 50 lakhs has been made during 1997-98. This Council has been playing a vital role in formulating and consolidating policy plans and other guidelines for upgrading and promoting higher education in the State.

District Gazetteers

District Gazetteers are undertaking the works relating to re-print of the previously published District Gazetteers of the State for different districts. For this purpose an amount of Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided for 1997-98.

Direction and Administration

With a view to providing adequate space for housing the different departments and directorates of the four wings of the Education Department, their offices were shifted to Bikash Bhavan at Salt Lake. The Higher Education Department has been entrusted to look after the maintenance of this office building and to extend various infrastructural facilities. Accordingly an automatic telephone exchange is being set up in this building alongwith conference room, information centres, etc. Besides, in order to ensure proper security of the building, the Higher Education Department has entrusted the PWD with the construction work of the boundary wall of the Bikash Bhavan campus. All such works have started and will continue in 1997-98. Besides, it has been proposed to install a computer system in the Secretariat of the Higher Education Department in order to modernise office management and ensure systemisation of office records.

11.1.3 Programme of the Mass Education Extension Department

Literacy Campaign

With the objective of making lakhs of poor and oppressed people of this State functionally literate, a comprehensive Literacy Programme was launched during the International Literacy

Year 1990. The programme aims at making the illiterate adults of 15-50 year age group and the children of the age group 9-14 years, who could not attend schools or who are school drops-outs, literate and achieving functional literacy in accordance with the norms fixed by the National Literacy Mission. The approach is based on the principle of mass mobilisation and community participation at all levels i.e. from the village to state. The leadership of the campaign remains with the Zilla Saksharata Samities in which there is a joint participation in the management by the District Administration and Panchayati-Raj bodies with the active support, guidance and supervision from the department. During the Eighth Five-Year Plan, the programme was adopted in 18 districts of this State covering a target population of 138.63 lakhs except the hill areas of Darjeeling. External Evaluation of TLC indicates that 78.03 lakh people of 13 districts have been made literate. The Post Literacy Campaign is presently on in 12 districts, viz. Midnapore, Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Hooghly, Howrah, Cooch Behar, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Murshidabad, Nadia and Jalpaiguri. For furtherance of literacy campaign the Central Government had drawn up the scheme of Continuing Education for the neo-literates. In the first phase steps are being taken to implement the scheme in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, Midnapore and North 24 Parganas.

During the Ninth Five Year Plan the Total Literacy Campaign will be taken to an all-comprehensive level by continuous achievement of literacy. Special drive and initiative will be taken in different districts to complete the unfinished work with expedition. The Continuing Education projects of 4 districts are likely to be implemented during 1997-98. During the first year of Ninth Plan the Total Literacy Campaign will be started in the hill areas of Darjeeling. By organising sports and cultural competition regularly among the neo-literates and learners the sense of self-confidence and self-respect as well as sense of unity will be kindled.

The Audio Visual Section under the Department of Mass Education Extension plays an important role. During the year 1996-97 a new mobile van was purchased. For the Audio-Visual Section of the State Mass Education Extension Department 7 short feature films relating to literacy and social values, prepared by the Film Division of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry of the Central Government have been purchased. Steps will be taken during the Ninth Five Year Plan by the Audio-Visual Section. (i) to establish an Audio Visual Section in the Jalpaiguri District to cater to the six (6) North Bengal Districts.

(ii) to revamp the Audio Visual Units at Bangabani in the Nadia district and Sriniketan in Birbhum and give a new lease of life to those units.

Adult Education:

Thirty-three Adult High Schools have been functioning in the State to meet the demand for education of the less educated section of the society. Some difficulties cropped up in the functioning of the schools due to various reasons. To solve this problems the rates of honorarium for the teachers and the running cost of the schools have been increased during the year 1996-97. Steps will be taken for setting up of more adult high schools during the coming years.

Education for the Handicapped:

There are 17 sponsored, 15 aided and 12 recognised special educational institutions in the state for the education for the visually impaired, hearing impaired and the mentally retarded

children. During the year 1996-97 the State Government have recognised 4 institutions. Of these 4 institutions 2 are for Deaf & Dumb, 1 is for Visual Impaired and 1 is for Mentally Retarded children. During the year 1996-97 funds have been sanctioned for purchase of furniture and special educational instruments for the Handicapped Institutions. A joint project for a technical institute solely for the Handicapped in collaboration with the Department of Technical Education and Training is under contemplation. The Department would consider proposals for recognition of some institutions for the handicapped during the 1997-98 and also for sanction of grants for the repairs of schools and hostel buildings of some institutions.

Library Services:

Library Services has a very important role to play in this sphere of Mass Education. By providing valuable reading materials on various subjects libraries open up a new world of knowledge and ideas to readers. Presently, there are 10 Government Libraries, 22 Sponsored District Libraries, 232 Sponsored Town/Sub-divisional libraries and 2172 Sponsored Rural Libraries in this State. During the Financial Year 1996-97 the Department took steps to implement the policy of consolidating the vast public network throughout the State. A total amount of Rs. 1,06,72,000/- was sanctioned as additional recurring grant for purchase of books and periodicals by the Government Sponsored Libraries at the scale of Rs. 4,300/- for each of the Rural Libraries, Rs. 4,700/- for each of the 232 Town/Sub-divisional libraries and Rs. 11,000/- each of to District Libraries. Similarly, a total amount of Rs. 1,08,000/- was sanctioned as additional recurring grant for 9 Government Libraries for purchase of books and periodicals during the year 1996-97. For preservation of old and rare collection of books, manuscripts of the libraries and extension of the library buildings an amount of Rs. 21,00,500/- was sanctioned for the North Bengal State Library, Cooch Behar. Renovation work of the newly acquired building of the Uttarpara Jaikrishna Public Library has been completed and a sum of Rs. 5,00,000/- has been sanctioned for its electrification and Rs. 80,000/- has been sanctioned for repair of the basement of the old building of the library. Financial assistance is provided to different government as well as government sponsored libraries for construction and repair of their library buildings, purchase of books and furniture. District Book Fairs are also organised by the Directorate of Library Services.

11.2 TECHNICAL EDUCATION

11.2.1 Programme of the Technical Education and Training Department

Polytechnic Education

Keeping in tune with the trends in industrial development, steps have been taken to introduce diploma Courses in modern disciplines and branches relevant to the present context, additions of further streams to the existing Polytechnic Institutions and setting up of new Polytechnics in the State. In fact four new Polytechnics have started functioning in the State either in rented buildings or in the premises of existing Polytechnics, pending shift to the permanent sites on completion of civil works.

Achievements during the year 1996-97 and Future Programmes

The construction works in the nature of extension work taken up in existing 28 Polytechnics have almost been completed under the above Project. Construction of new

Social Services

Polytechnic Buildings at Haldia, Siliguri and Chandannagore (Women's Polytechnic) has already been started. The Civil work at Rupnarayanpur Polytechnic is progressing satisfactorily and it is expected that the Polytechnic will start its functioning in the new campus from the academic session, 1997-98.

New Diploma and Post-Diploma Courses in Pharmacy, Instrumentation, Technology, Photography and Cinematography, Mine Surveying, Automobile Engineering, Architecture, Computer Science and Technology, Production Engineering, Chemical Engineering and Computer Application have been introduced in 16 existing Polytechnics from the Academic Session 1996-97. Teaching Programme in the new 2 Polytechnics—one at Haldia and another at Rupnarayanpur has been started.

Diploma Course in Office Management and Post-Diploma Course(s) in Medical Electronics, Foundry Technology, Petro-Chemical Engineering and Mining Electronics will be introduced in 5 existing Polytechnics from the Academic Session, 1997-98.

A total number of 470 posts (teaching, non-teaching including some technical staff) has been created for introduction of new Diploma and Post-diploma Courses in different streams in Polytechnics of this State under the Project.

Curriculum and syllabus of all the existing courses have been revised after taking suggestions and views from industries. Computer Literacy, safety and environment have been included as compulsory components in the revised curricula. Revised curricula and syllabi for the 1st and 2nd year classes for all Diploma courses have been introduced in the Polytechnics.

For Closer Industry Institute interaction the newly set-up Central Training and Placement Cell at the Directorate of Technical Education, West Bengal and also the Training and Placement Cells in all the Polytechnics have already started functioning.

Staff Development Training Programme has been achieved to the extent of 90% of the target by providing training to Polytechnic teachers both within the country and abroad with the objective of upgrading the quality of teaching.

The works of the World Bank Assisted Project actually commenced from January, 1992. The original cost of the Project was Rs. 86.16 crores and later revised to Rs. 88.30 crores. The Project is progressing satisfactorily. A total sum of Rs. 41,51,43,000/- has been spent under the Project till 31st January, 1997.

A provision of Rs. 25,60,00,000/- has been proposed to be made for Polytechnic Education under the said Project under State Plan for 1997-98.

Community Polytechnic

The scheme of Community Polytechnics is under implementation in 25 Polytechnic Institutions. A proposal for introduction of short term Vocational Courses in the Polytechnics (Community), Industrial Training Institutes/Junior Technical Schools is under active consideration of the Government. Guidelines for introduction of the said courses have been prepared and the District Magistrates have been requested to submit specific proposals to the Government in consultation with the Zilla Parishads, indicating requirement of fund for the purpose.

Other Development Schemes

Various Programmes have been undertaken for special repairs, renovation etc. of the existing Polytechnic buildings and also for improvement of Laboratories and Workshops of the

Institutions under the State Plan (other than World Bank Assisted Project). A sum of Rs. 1,50,00,000/- was provided for the Annual Plan 1996-97. A provision of Rs. 2 crores has been proposed to be made under the State Plan for 1997-98 for the purpose.

Junior Technical School

Effective measures have been taken to upgrade the activities of the Junior Technical Schools at par with the course of NCVT.

An Expert Committee has been constituted by the Government for assessing the present state of affairs of the Junior Technical Schools in the State and exploring the possibilities and prospects of the said schools.

State Council of Technical Education

The newly constituted West Bengal State Council of Technical Education has been functioning as a Statutory Body with effect from 12.06.1996 in terms of the West Bengal State Council Act, 1995 (West Bengal Act XXI of 1995). Vice-Chairman of the newly constituted Council has been appointed for its smooth running.

Holding of Examination and publication of results over the year have become regular. The Council has been entrusted with the task of bringing the standard at par with that of prevailing at All-India level, strengthening of technical education and monitoring performance of affiliated Polytechnics.

Industrial Training Institutes

At the Craftsman Training level NCVT (National Council for Vocational Training) recognised courses are imparted through 23 Industrial Training Institutes/Industrial Training Centres to meet the demand for skilled personnel or Supervisors at the Shop floor level both in the organised and un-organised sectors. A Skill Development Programme as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented for improvement of the existing Industrial Training Institutes. Government of India has approved a total outlay of Rs. 1376.80 lakhs out of which Rs. 1212.72 lakhs were utilised up to December, 1996. A fund of Rs. 361.6005 lakhs was incurred out of State Plan, during the year 1995-96. A provision of Rs. 5,40,00,000 has been proposed under the State Plan for 1997-98 for development of ITI. This includes a provision of Rs 230 lakhs for purchase of modern equipment under the Centrally Sponsored Project whose lifetime has been extended till December, 1997.

During the year 1996-97, 6527 trainees successfully completed their training courses in the different ITIs, of which 3000 students completed their Apprenticeship Training during 1996. 4 Women's ITIs are functioning with 300 Women trainees in the State. New Modern Trades namely, Data Preparation and Computer Software, Electronic Mechanic, Mechanic Radio and T.V. and Secretarial Practice have been introduced in th ITIs.

Construction work at Amtala in the District of South 24-Parganas and Alipurduar in the District of Jalpaiguri is progressing satisfactorily. Steps have been taken to start the Teaching Programme of Alipurduar in hired building on temporary basis from the next session 1997-98. One ITI at Balurghat in the District of Dakshin Dinajpur is planned to be started from the next academic session.

11.2.2 Programme of the Higher Education Department

Apart from upgrading and expanding Government Engineering Colleges, the Department would also try to provide support for setting up and growth of Engineering Colleges in the non-Government sector.

For establishment of a new Engineering College in Kalyani a provision of Rs 505 lakhs has been proposed during the year 1997-98. For development including introduction of Post-graduate Courses in College of Leather Technology, Calcutta an amount of Rs. 50 lakhs has been earmarked in 1997-98. A provision of Rs. 65 lakhs has been made for development of College of Textile Technology at Berhampore and Serampore. Also a provision of Rs. 210 lakhs has been made for B. E. College (D. U.), Howrah in 1997-98. Haldia Institute of Technology has started its functioning during this financial year as a new non-Government Engineering College. New disciplines have been proposed to be introduced in Jalpaiguri Engineering College during 1997-98. Some Management Institutes are also likely to be set up during 1997-98.

11.3 SPORTS AND YOUTH SERVICES

11.3.1 Programme of the School Education Department

Games & Sports

Under this Programme the State level Primary Sports Meet is arranged every year. The National School Games in Gymnastics, Table Tennis and Badminton are also arranged when scheduled. Expenditure relating to participation in National School Games are booked from this head.

Moreover, expenditure relating to State Sports Meet for Secondary School Students are also covered from this head.

11.3.2 Programme of the Higher Education Department

Physical Education

Keeping in tune with the concept of giving more stress on providing physical education facilities in the Educational Institutions for the purpose of all-round development of the students, more facilities for physical education and training have been proposed to be extended both in Government and Non-Government Colleges. Construction works for Physical Education Colleges at Hooghly and Dinhata, Cooch Behar have been taken up. Sufficient fund has been provided for extension of physical education activities in Government Colleges. In order to step up the activities relating to physical education in Non-Government Colleges throughout the State adequate fund has been proposed during the year 1997-98. Improvement and development of Physical Education College at Banipur, where Post-graduate Course in physical education has been introduced recently, is also being considered actively.

N.C.C.

In order to provide adequate accommodation for the offices of different N.C.C. Units in the city, a proposal for construction of an office complex for N.C.C. at South Calcutta is under consideration. There is also a proposal to set up a Naval Unit of N.C.C. at Subhas Sarobar,

Calcutta. Besides, construction of a suitable permanent camp site for N.C.C. in Air Force Complex at Campa, Kanchrapara is also under consideration.

Fund has been kept for the above programme in the Annual Plan 1997-98.

11.3.3 Programme of the Sports and Youth Services (Sports) Department

The endeavour of the Sports Department is to promote sports and games and try to create sports infrastructures throughout the State especially in the district and sub-divisional towns so that youth of the State from the very remote corners of the districts can take part in various sports activities. With this object in view outlay for the Annual Plan (1997-98) has been proposed for the following existing schemes:

a) Improvement of Sports & Games

A major part of the outlay of the department is spent by way of providing grants to West Bengal State Council of Sports, different Sports Organisations for organising various Coaching Camps, tournaments, State, Inter-State level and National level Championships and also for running the Long-Term Non-Residential Coaching Scheme (LTNRCS).

b) Campus works, Stadium, Play-Grounds Etc.

On the recommendation of the Subject Committee for speedy completion of ongoing projects, fund is accordingly proposed along with stress on construction of a few stadia.

c) Stadium Complex at Bidhannagar

For the maintenance of the vast stadium, both Civil and Electrical, a large sum of recurring expenditure is met-from this head. For this, outlay for 1997-98 against this scheme has slightly been increased.

d) Expansion of Games and Sports for women

On the recommendation of the Subject Committee, this Department has laid emphasis on the development of Sports & Games for women in this State. Financial allocation has accordingly been proposed.

e) Development and maintenance of Netaji Indoor Stadium

Provision has been made for payment of electricity charges and light maintenance of the stadium.

f) District Sports Councils

Activities in Sports & Games in the rural areas are mainly executed through the District Sports Councils for which grants are provided to the District Sports Councils. Provision has been made accordingly.

g) Other Schemes

These include (i) Development and maintenance of Kshudiram and Ranji Stadium and (ii) Subhas Sarobar Swimming Pool and Rabindra Sarobar Stadium.

11.3.4. Programme of the Sports and Youth Services (Youth Services) Department

Organisation

For the promotion and regulation of Youth Welfare, the Department of Youth Services with a Directorate of Youth Services was created in August, 1972. At present, there are 17

District Youth Offices, 335 Block Youth Offices, 40 Municipal Youth Offices, 1 State Youth Centre and 21 Youth Hostels including 2 outside the State under the administrative control of this Department. Another Youth Hostel at Puri is to be opened shortly.

Objectives

With a view to securing active participation of the youth and students in cultural and sports activities, to open forum for fruitful contributions to national life and uphold Indian values and cultural heritage and create opportunity to play a great role for achieving peace, development, friendship as well as national integration, manifold activities of this Department are being implemented every year.

Students & Youth Festival

The Student youth festival has turned out to be the greatest culture festival of West Bengal. The festival is organised in a three tier systems i.e. (i) Block/Municipal/Corporation/Notified Area level (ii) District level, (iii) State level. As many as 50000-participants join in the various activities of the youth festival throughout the State. The activities ranged from debate, seminar, sports etc. to holding of folk songs, dance, drama and music etc. It is needless to point out that each level of activities successfully involves a good audience and hence the multiplier effect ultimately brought forth the total impact on about 50 lakhs people in this State. This single scheme of the Department ensures popular participation and meets the social and cultural need of the students and youths of the State. This scheme would be executed with importance and gravity during 1997-98.

Development of Rural Sports

This programme consists of four parts:

i) Development of play field: This Department has been emphasising the importance of providing facilities for sports and development of play fields particularly in rural areas, 100 play fields are proposed to be developed during 1997-98. The play fields belong both to the educational institutions and Youth Organisations.

ii) Supply of sports equipments: Lack of sports equipments stands in the way of large scale participation of Youth in sports activities. Keeping this in view, the Department has been implementing the scheme of purchasing sports equipments and supplying them to rural clubs. 25,000 footballs and volleyballs would be distributed among clubs, organisations and schools/colleges etc.

iii) Organising Sports Coaching Camps

The rural youth badly need coaching in different sports disciplines. Non-residential sports coaching camps at Block/Municipal level and residential sports coaching camps at District level would be organised during 1997-98.

iv) Construction of Gymnasium and supply of Gymnastic Equipments

This Department has been implementing the scheme of purchase of gymnastic equipments and developing gymnasium on a moderate scale. 100 organisations are proposed to be helped by supplying gymnastic equipments.

Promotion of Mountaineering

Mountaineering is a very popular activity of the clubs of this State. There is a large number of Mountaineering Clubs in West Bengal. These clubs undertake mountaineering

expeditions each year in different parts of the Himalayas and other hills of India. Financial assistance is given to these Mountaineering Clubs. Lack of sufficient mountaineering equipments stands in the way of organising expedition each year. Keeping this in view the Department has set-up a mountaineering store in Calcutta and different clubs are given mountaineering equipments from this store.

During 1997-98, purchase of equipments and asistances to the different clubs for expeditions would be made.

The other schemes that would be implemented during 1997-98 include running of career information centre repair/renovation of youth hostels, tour grant to educaitional institutions, financial help to the ailing youths, construction of open air stage, organising vocational training camp. Grant-in-aid to different clubs/organisations, running of coaching centre for Civil Services Examination and seminar on national integration etc.

11.4 ART & CULTURE

11.4.1 Programme of the Higher Education Department

State Archives

As a part of programme for computerisation of basic archival data a Computer Unit has been installed by the State Archives, West Bengal in 1996-97. A provision of Rs. 17 lakhs has been made for 1997-98 for the building of the State Archives which is nearing completion.

Social Education and Development of Language:

Higher Education Department is obliged to provide grants every year to various institutes of higher learning like the Indian Association for Cultivation of Science, the Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management, the Ramkrishna Mission Institute of Culture, the Jagadish Bose National Talent Search, the Netaji Institute for Asian Studies, the Institute of Historical Studies and other organisations devoted to cultural, asthetic and educational activities for which a provision of Rs. 121 lakhs has been made during 1997-98. In addition, Higher Education Department takes up projects for acquisition and renovation of important heritage buildings which at one time or other were associated with the activities and memories of great personalities of the country. An outlay of Rs. 25 lakhs has been proposed for Netaji Institute for Asian Studies during 1997-98.

11.4.2 Programme of the Information and Cultural Affairs Department

Archaeology

(a) Exploration and Excavation

During 1997-98 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.

Social Services

Beside, 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 ... Rs. 1.50 lakhs
- ii) Annotated Archaeological Atlas of West Bengal ... Rs. 1.00 lakh
- iii) Excavation at Jagjivanpur ... Rs. 2.50 lakhs

So, a total sum as indicated in Volume II will be required to continue the work undertaken in the previous years.

(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 & picture post-cards will be undertaken. For all these works a sum as indicated in Volume II may be provided during the Annual Plan 1997-98.

(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. There is also a move to bring these museums under an umbrella organisation. In order to maintain these institutions, a sum as indicated in Volume II will be needed during 1997-98.

(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 needs immediate repair & conservation. To meet the cost of a sum of rupees as indicated in Volume II may be provided during 1997-98.

(e) Setting up of a Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training

A new sub-head has been introduced in 1996-97 in order to meet the expenditure in connection with the newly established Studies & Training "The Centre for Archaeological Eastern India". A sum of rupees as indicated in Volume II is required towards expenditure for (i) Research Project, (ii) Organising Seminar, Training & Workshop, (iii) Documentation of Archaeological Objects and Monuments, (iv) Publications, (v) Purchase of furniture, stationery & contingency materials etc. during 1997-98.

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. With this in view, the Directorate of Archaeology has been redesignated Directorate of Archaeology and Museum. Of the five proposed district 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. So, in order to execute the works regarding the setting up of the aforesaid museums an amount as indicated in Volume II may be earmarked for 1997-98.

(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. The Administrative Department has already approved the total plan of the new museum building amounting approximately to Rs. 425.00 lakhs. The initial work has already been started.

A total sum of rupees as indicated in Volume II is required for this purpose during 1997-98.

(c) Setting up of Bhaskar Bhavan

A museum devoted to the works of Chintamani Kar, renowned artist of our time. The entire collection including the building has come as gift from the artist. In order to convert the residence into a museum a sum of Rs. 11 lakhs will be required at the initial stage. A sum of rupees as indicated in Volume II is required for this purposes during 1997-98.

Culture Wing—107-Song and Drama Services—State Plan (Annual Plan & Eighth Plan) S.P.

01. Song and Drama Services

a) Setting up of Folk Entertainment Unit at Siliguri

This scheme is proposed to be continued in the next plan period for expansion of the existing activities of the unit. During 1997-98 an amount of Rs. 13 lakhs may be provided.

02. Setting up of a Song Unit and Jatra Unit

With a view to strengthening the existing song unit and jatra unit this scheme is proposed to be continued in the next plan and a total sum of Rs. 9 lakh may be provided during 1997-98.

Culture: 2205-Art and Culture—00—800—Other Expenditure—State Plan (Annual Plan & Eighth Plan) S.P.

03. Construction and 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. An amount of Rs. 6.00 lakhs may be provided for this purpose during 1997-98.

04. Setting up a Nepali Academy of Culture at Darjeeling

Nepali language has since been included in the 8th schedule through an amendment of the Constitution. The State Government implements programmes for promotion of Nepali language through this Academy. No provision has been provided during 1997-98.

05. 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, art and culture and folk art. This grant is meant for distressed artistes outside the purview

of pension scheme implemented by the Education Department. A provision of Rs. 5.00 lakhs has been made for this purpose during 1997-98.

06. Financial assistance to Cultural Institutions for promotion of drama, music and other cultural activities

The nomenclature of the scheme is self-explanatory. An amount of Rs. 5.00 lakhs may be provided for implementation of this scheme during 1997-98.

07. Awards

This is an annual feature for giving awards for excellence in the field of drama, music, folk art and fine arts and culture. An amount of Rs. 1.5 lakhs may be provided for this purpose during 1997-98.

08. Setting up of an Institute of Folk Culture

An autonomous body viz. Folk & Tribal Cultural Centre has been set-up to give shape to the Government's scheme in this field. The Centre shall fulfil the long need for an Institute of Folk Culture and shall be engaged to develop and disseminate the folk and tribal art forms. Government will provide financial support from time to time. An amount of Rs. 6.00 lakhs has been provided for this purpose during 1997-98.

09. Printing of Publications

One of the main activities of the cultural wing of the department is promotion of literature by way of grants-in-aid to individual writers for publication of deserving books and also printing out departmental publications in the field of literature, art, music and folk culture. These activities will be at shown Bangla Akademy. So no provision has been made for 1997-98.

10. Setting up of Tribal Cultural Centre at Suri and Jhargram

The Folk & Tribal Cultural Centre, set-up by the Government as an autonomous body, will henceforth do all the activities relating to Tribal Culture. Government will provide necessary fund to the Centre. An amount of Rs. 2.40 lakhs has been made for this purpose during 1997-98.

11. Folk and Tribal Cultural Centre

In the name of Folk and Tribal Cultural Centre, an amount of Rs. 30.00 lakhs has been provided during 1997-98.

12. Setting up of an Art Gallery and Exhibition Hall

A permanent Art Gallery under the name and style of Gaganendra Pradarshanshala has been set up at Calcutta Information Centre Complex for the public. An amount of Rs. 12.70 lakhs is required to be provided for augmenting of infrastructural facilities of the art gallery as also for acquisition of new exhibits during 1997-98.

13. Popular Theatre

The Department runs the administration of Girish Mancha, besides Madhusudan Mancha and University Institute Hall. An amount of Rs. 45.60 lakhs may be provided for payment of salaries and meeting other expenses incidental to running of the halls in the Annual Plan for 1997-98.

14. Construction and Development of Rabindra Cultural Institutions

An wide network of Rabindra Bhavans in the districts and subdivisions throughout the State. It is the responsibility of the State Government to ensure proper maintenance and renovation of these halls. An amount of Rs. 20.00 lakhs may be provided for this purpose during 1997-98.

15. State Academy of Music

An Academy set-up in the year 1981 has been carrying in on various activities relating to research, training, workshops, competition, seminars, publication, etc. for promotion of music in the State. That apart a plot of land has been obtained at Salt Lake for construction of a building for Music Academy. The construction is likely to begin in 1997-98. An outlay of Rs. 26.60 lakhs may be made for the Academy in 1997-98.

16. 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. Provision has been made in another sub-head. This sub-head has been omitted.

16(a). Paschim Banga Bangla Academy

A sum of Rs. 40.00 lakhs has been provided for Paschim Banga Bangla Academy during the Annual Plan 1997-98.

17. Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre

No provision has been made in this sub-head during 1997-98.

18. Natya Academy

Natya Academy is entrusted with activities relating to plan development and promotion of drama in the State through holding of workshops, drama festivals, publications, etc. At present Natya Academy is housed at Calcutta Information Centre. An amount of Rs. 21.00 lakhs may be provided for the Academy during 1997-98.

19. Sanskriti Bhavan

A plot of land has been purchased in New Delhi jointly with Bengal Association for construction of a Cultural Complex under the name and style of Sanskriti Bhavan. Negotiation are on with the representatives of Bengal Association regarding the mode of financing the project. No provision has been made during 1997-98.

20. Dissemination and Working of Performing Folk Art

No provision has been made during 1997-98.

21. Promotion of Folk Cultural Activities at Panchayat Samity Level

It has been decided that Folk Cultural Activities will be done through three tire Panchayet System. So a provision of Rs. 17.00 lakhs has been made for 1997-98.

22. Group Insurance Scheme for Folk Artists

The scheme is "Savings Linked Group Insurance" Scheme. It was started during 1991-92. No provision has been made during 1997-98.

23. Strengthening of Cultural Wing of Information & Cultural Affairs Department

The activities of the cultural wing have been expanding during the last three years without corresponding strengthening of the set-up. One of the main constraints was embargo on creation of new post. It is becoming increasingly difficult to manage the affairs without strengthening the cultural wing during the next year. However, no provision has been made during 1997-98 under this head.

24. Construction of Phani Bhusan Vidya Binode Jatra Mancha

Construction work of a Jatra Mancha named and styled Phani Bhusan Jatra Mancha has already started with MP's fund. But to complete the construction a further sum of Rs. 15.00 lakhs will be required. Hence, it has been proposed to open this Sub-head and a provision for Rs. 15.00 lakhs have been made during 1997-98.

25. Calcutta Cultural Centre

No provision has been made during the financial year of 1997-98 although the construction will commence during the current financial year 1996-97, as it is expected.

26. Promotion of Culture other than Folk Culture at Panchayet Samity Level

With the latest amendment of Panchayet Act Cultural activities have been included in the list of activities of Panchayets. Considering major thrust on folk cultural activities at Panchayet Samity level a separate head has been opened and necessary fund has also been provided thereunder. But considering the importance of other formats of culture viz. Sangeet, Natak etc. it is proposed to implement programmes through Panchayets. A provision of Rs. 5.00 lakhs has been made in the 1997-98.

27. Setting up of Theatre Institute on the occasion of Bi-Centenary of Bengali Theatre

To mark the occasion of two hundred years of Bengali Theatre a building will be constructed at 85, AJC Bose Road, Calcutta-16 under the name 'Banga Natya Bhavan Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony has already been performed. An amount of Rs. 25.00 lakhs has been provided in the Budget of 1997-98.

11.5 MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH

11.5.1 Programme of the Health & Family Welfare Department

Health is a state of physical, mental, environmental and social well-being which cannot be viewed in isolation from the total human condition the social and the cultural situation. In the Health Sector, during post independence period the thrust of curative medical care was balanced by development of a good net-work of preventive and promotive health care delivery system mainly in the rural areas of the State. In a poor country like ours ill-health is more a result of mal-nutrition, sub-human living conditions, want of safe drinking water and lack of education rather than absence of medical institutions and most of the diseases are due to preventable factors which do not really call for institutional treatment. This is the core approach of Medical Public Health in the State.

Performance during Eighth Five Year Plan

a) Financial performance—Approved Eighth Plan outlay for Health Sector was Rs. 278,84.75 lakhs against which total expenditure incurred during last four years is Rs. 88,60.52 lakhs.

b) Physical performances— i) The massive infrastructure build up in West Bengal over years from a wide spread network of 8126 Sub-centres, 1248 Primary Health Centres, 95 Rural Hospitals and 60 other hospitals caters mainly to rural population. As per health strategy followed by the Department preference was given in upgrading and consolidating the existing units, and rather than creating of new units. The IPP IV Project, terminated as on 31.3.94, achieved its target of construction/upgradation/improvement/reconstruction of 1132 units and 668 vacancies of medical officers in rural areas were filled up.

ii) The State Government has already opened a separate Directorate of Medical Education with the sole aim of elevating the standard of Medical Education in the State for which the West Bengal Medical Education. Services has been introduced. Thirteen hospitals of the State have been included in the category of teaching institutions. The Medical Council of India has agreed to introduction of few post-graduate courses in Burdwan Medical College and North Bengal Medical College. The Dental Hospital at the campus of North Bengal Medical College received recognition of the Dental Council of India. Emphasis has been laid on upgradation of hospitals attached to all the teaching institutions. Sophisticated medical appliances and modern diagnostic facilities have been provided to such hospitals.

With the approval of the Planning Commission the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Science and Research at Kalyani has been set-up. The State Government proposes to form a joint sector company for setting up the said institute with an attached superspeciality hospital in certain disciplines.

iii) Considering importance attached to Nursing Education as an integral part of medical services, the training set-up of Nurses at two levels (Graduate Nursing and General Nursing Midwifery Training) has been stepped up. Almost 90% of Nursing personnel and Health Supervisors (Male and Female) have been trained under IPP IV Project. Institute of Health and Family Welfare at Salt Lake has been established which has started imparting training to various categories of officials and staff of this department.

iv) Special importance has been given to implementation of population and family welfare programmes.

The country has a demographic goal of achieving birth rate of 21, death rate of 9 and infant mortality rate of 60 by 2000 AD. The goal of death rate and infant mortality rate has already been achieved (death rate—7.7 as against All India figure of 9 and infant mortality rate—59 as against all India figure of 74). Birth rate for the country as a whole was 28.3 in 1995 while it was 23.6 in 1995 in this State.

The IPP IV duly sanctioned by Government of India at an estimated cost of Rs. 107.74 crores and partly financed by ODA credit was taken up and completed with a major objective of reduction in fertility and infant and maternal mortality. The said project resulted in an increase in number of family planning acceptors and significantly higher immunisation coverage.

The World Bank aided project of IPP VIII is continuing in CMDA area covering a population of 3.8 million belonging to economically weaker section. Universal programme of immunisation for mother and child has been continuing.

30 PHCs have been selected in Malda and Murshidabad district under social safety network scheme of Government of India. The maternal and child care facilities are being augmented in these PHCs through construction and provision of additional facilities, training of staff and special IEC efforts. As a part of countrywide programme for eradication of Polio, a special drive of Pulse Polio immunisation for all children in the age group of 0-5 years were taken up on 7th December, 1996 and 18th January, 1997. Nearly 90% of the children of the said age group has been covered on those days.

v) Public Health Programme—Regarding preventive and promotional health care system a number of public health programmes are being implemented in collaboration with Government of India to prevent and control diseases like Malaria, Kalazar, Japanese Encephalities, Fileria, Leprosy, Blindness and Iodine deficiency disorder. Regular rounds of spray operations are carried out particularly in the vulnerable areas to prevent Malaria. As a result number of Malaria cases is showing a downward trend as against 16541 P. F. Malaria cases and 89 deaths in 1995. 4261 P. F. Malaria cases were detected and 15 deaths occurred up to July, 1996. The declining trend has continued in Kalazar incidents. Arrangement for vaccination is made for Japanese Encephalities in the endemic Blocks. The programme of vaccination of Leprosy is continuing effectively and 96,838 persons have been discharged during 1995-96. There has been an appreciable increase in the number of cataract operation. National Filaria Control Programme is being implemented through 4 survey units, 10 control units and 3 clinics. In order to prevent goitre, sale of non-iodised salt for human consumption has been banned and mass awareness programme has been launched to popularise iodised salt. In order to combat the health hazard arisen out of arsenic contamination through drinking water, an arsenic clinic with indoor facilities has been opened at SSKM Hospital in addition to the existing centre at School of Tropical Medicine.

vi) I. S. M. H.: Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy has got popularity in the field of servicing to the ailing people as a complementary to the modern system of medicine. Four degree homoepathic colleges have been taken over by Government. Two diploma colleges have been upgraded to Degree Colleges. There are 305 State Homeopathic Dispensary in the State. In 105 BPHCs and 135 PHCs, Homoeopathic Medical Officers are posted. In addition 470 Gram Panchayat Homoeopathic Dispensaries are functioning in the villages.

Three additional disciplines have been sanctioned by Government of India in the Institute of Post Graduate Ayurved Education and Research at Shyamadas Baidya Shastra Pith. Moreover an Ayurvedic Pharmacy Course is being conducted at Biswanath Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya. In addition, there is an undergraduate institute. J. B. Roy State Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital. There are 178 Ayurvedic dispensaries at Block level. Besides, Ayurvedic Medical Officers, in 92 PHCs and 15 SHCs have been posted. A piece of land in Salt Lake measuring 1.2 acres has been handed over to the Institute of Post Graduate Ayurvedic Education and

Research for use as a herbal garden as well as herbarium of the said Institute. Steps have been taken for plantation of Medicinal plants at Integrated Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Drug Production Centre, Research and Drug Production Unit at Kalyani, Nadia so that Ayurvedic medicine can be manufactured for catering the needs of Ayurvedic Dispensaries run by the State.

In order to develop the Unani System of Medicine, a mobile unit has been launched in the slum area of Calcutta to provide free medical treatment and medicines. Another Unani Dispensary has been opened at Howrah. Unani Tibbi Conference has launched the first Unani Medical College and Hospital at Calcutta.

vii) The State Health System Development Project II with the assistance of the World Bank has been taken up in 1996 at a project cost of Rs. 701 crore which is spread over a period of 5 years. Its main objective is to upgrade Secondary Level Health Care covering the following components:

- a) Management, development and institutional strengthening.
- b) Improving the service, quality, access and effectiveness at the first referral level.
- c) Improving the Primary Health Care in Sundarbans.

The Project covers 170 District, Sub-divisional, State General and Rural Hospitals and 36 Primary Health Centres in the Sundarban area.

In order to ensure peoples participation through decentralisation of the process of decision making and implementation, District Level Health Committees under the Chairmanship of Sabhadhipati of Zilla Parishad have been constituted with adequate powers to implement the project at the District Level subject to overall guidelines and directions issued by this Department.

viii) As recommended in the CM's conference in July, 1996 Primary Health Services, one of 7 Basic Minimum Services, has been given highest priority. In 1996-97 a sum of Rs. 712.92 lakhs has been allotted to different districts for implementation of Primary Health Care through the District Planning Committees. Necessary guidelines were issued for implementing Primary Health Care relating to Basic Minimum Service.

ix) Procurement and distribution of medicines, decentralised up to district level in 1992-93 have started showing expected results. In cases of purchase by central Medical Store for centralised units of Calcutta and for special programmes, a system of compulsory testing of drugs has been introduced. For district level purchases, Dir. Drugs Control has been assigned the task of effective drug testing through the State Drugs Control and Research Laboratory.

x) In order to equip all the Medical College Hospitals and Bankura Medical College with one Cobalt Therapy Unit for effective treatment of Cancer patients, installation of one such unit at North Bengal College Hospital and Calcutta Medical College Hospital (2nd unit) has been made. In Burdwan Medical College Hospital and Bankura Medical College Hospital installation of Cobalt Therapy unit will take place shortly.

xi) In implementing National AIDS Control Programme aided by the World Bank, necessary activities for dissemination of the proper messages among the high risk group of people have been undertaken by way of group discussions, circulation of all kinds of communication

materials and involvement of all fronts of media. Regular training programmes for Doctors and Para Medicals have been taken up under the Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Control Programme. A Regional STD Training Centre has started functioning in the Calcutta Medical College Hospital and a special OPD for AIDS patients has been functioning there. The West Bengal Sex Health Project has been taken up in the red light areas of Calcutta with the assistance from British Government and STD clinics have been opened in those areas.

xii) In order to develop and effectively managing the Mayo Hospital and the Niramoy Group of Institutions which were lying in moribund condition even after their acquisition, joint sector venture was taken up by the State Government by formation of joint sector company with the Advanced Medicare and Research Institute Limited and Eastern India Institute of Medical Science and Research Hospital. OPD diagnostic facilities have already been provided by the AMRIL. Even indoor facilities are also available at the said institution. In place of Old Mayo Hospital, new constructions will be made for which necessary steps are being taken by the concerned company.

xiii) In order to meet the price rise and increase in the cost of maintenance of service, enhancement of bed-rent, Cabin rent, charge for investigations of different nature and various other fees for hospital services was made w.e.f. 1.11.92 (excluding some common investigations and those covered under national programme for OPD patients).

Objectives of Ninth Five year Plan

Considering the constraint of fund for improvement of massive infrastructure of Health Sector, the Department has short listed a few priorities in the Ninth Plan. The thrust areas of its proposals for this plan are as follows:

i) Implementation of schemes to provide Primary Health Care—Rebuilding/strengthening of existing infrastructure at Primary level. Strengthening of the BPHCs and extending out-reach of Sub-Centres. Urban Primary Health Care System will be revamped.

ii) Devolution of responsibility and resources to the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Local bodies to have participation at grass root level in order to improve the efficiency and sustainability of health services. Active partnership with voluntary sector will further be explored.

iii) Improvement of service, quality and effectiveness at Secondary Health Care Units (first referral level).

iv) Implementation of schemes for the benefit of SCs/STs under SCP and TSP.

v) Implementation of schemes to reduce population growth through intensified Family Welfare Programme and improvement in the quality and access of Reproductive and Child Health components through participative planning at the grass root level.

vi) Improvement of Medical Education—strengthening of institutions of different disciplines including Dental Colleges.

vii) Removing the shortfall of Medical Officers, Teaching Staff, Nurses, Pharmacists and Medical Technicians.

viii) Improvement of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

Education, training, quality improvement and standardisation of ISM & H medicine. Integration of ISM and H with decentralised Public Health and curative programme. Training of ISM & H paramedics.

- ix) Implementation of schemes for development of Health services in Darjeeling hill areas.
- x) Implementation of schemes for control of communicable diseases.
- xi) Encourage Rational use of Drug, Improvement of Drug Control and food adulteration control measures.
- xii) Steps for resource mobilisation by enhancement of user Charges to be explored.

Basis of fixation of priorities

i) The department is keen on improving the qualitative standard of existing infrastructure rather than taking up further unplanned expansion of units. In coming years, it is intended to lay more stress on completion of continuing schemes sanctioned earlier, opening of health centres which are lying completed or likely be completed and renovation and repairing of the Health Centres which stand in a deplorable condition. In addition to it, special emphasis will be given for strengthening man power position of these units, specially BPHCs, maintenance of equipments, steady supply of medicines particularly life saving drugs to meet emergent situations and meeting other essential infrastructural requirement of each unit. People's participation including NGOs/ Mass Organisation in implementing schemes for Primary Health Care through District Committees is expected to yield good result in near future.

ii) Decentralisation of both planning and implementation process for developmental of schemes is being done by handing over authority and fund to the elected panchayat bodies/local bodies in rural and urban areas. In order to ensure it, a District Health Committee has been set-up in each District under the Chairmanship of Sabhadhipati of the Zilla Parishad. The DM, CMOH, Chairman, Municipal Bodies, Supdt. of Hospitals, Engineers, representatives of NGOs etc. are the members of the said Committee. Adequate financial power has been delegated to the said Committee. Similarly District Planning Committee has been authorised by the State Government for implementation of the Schemes relating to Basic Minimum Services which includes Primary Health Services. The State Government is also considering on an experimental measure the idea of handing over some of the health units to the panchayats. Some other activities like civil registration system are also to be handed over to the Panchayats. The State Government is also involving the Panchayats in Sub-Block Tier Health Programmes.

In near future, in the area of tertiary level specialised Health Care, the State Government will consider formation of more joint sector companies on the experience of joint sector venture taken up/proposed to be taken up in respect of Mayo Hospital, Niramoy Group of Institutions and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Science and Research (at Kalyani).

iii) The thrust area of World Bank assisted SHSDP II is secondary level health care which can set-up quick essential linkage with the tertiary level and provide the effective curative support to the entire Primary Health Care network. The said project which started in 1996 will continue up to 2000 AD. In order to keep space for completion to the project within the Scheduled time frame, substantial allocation of fund is made in the Annual Plan 1997-98.

iv) Stress will be given to implementation of TSP and SCP in areas predominantly inhabited by the people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Tribes. 28% of the total plan outlay (22% for SCP and 6% for TSP) is proposed to be allocated for the above noted scheme.

v) The special efforts to improve the reach and quality of family planning and universal programme of immunization for mother and child care programme and ensuring safe motherhood will continue to receive priority attention in the state. In keeping with the new strategy of FW programme through out the country, the programme will be implemented as part of the Reproductive and Child Health Care Programme, Contraceptive target-oriented approach is replaced by a quality base approach incorporating preparation of need based work plan at the grass root level. Besides child survival, safe motherhood and family planning, the Reproductive and Child Health Strategy will now be directed towards reduction of (a) maternal and under five mortality and morbidity (b) Reproductive Tract infections (c) sexually transmitted disease and AIDS.

The World Bank aided project of IPP VIII is continuing in CMDA area covering people belonging to economically weaker section. With the support of overseas Development Administration of British Government a special project on improvement of Reproductive and Child Health is going to be launched in the districts of Malda, Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur. A Special Sub-project on Reproductive and Child Health is proposed to be taken up in the district of Murshidabad with special fund for infrastructure involving construction of sub-centres, supply of equipments and drugs, training, improving communication facilities and facilities for better Maternal and Child Health Care. The city of Asansol is also proposed to be covered under this project.

vi) As in the past, emphasis is laid on upgradation of hospitals attached to teaching hospitals by providing more sophisticated appliances and modern diagnostic facilities. Steps will be taken to augment manpower position in teaching institutions as well as Library and Research facilities. The Government is considering introduction of post doctoral courses in some other subjects keeping in pace with the modern technology. Most of the teaching institutions are situated in old buildings which need immediate renovation work. In some places construction of new buildings may also be required and accordingly necessary fund is provided in the annual plan, In view of necessity to construct residential quarters for the Medical Officers attached to the teaching Institutions, provision has been made in the plan. Transport of Medical teachers, their library and research facility has to be provided according to availability of funds.

vii) There is adequate shortfall of Medical Officers in hospitals for which, besides recruitment of MOs through PSC, the system adopted for appointment of Doctors on contractual basis will continue if situation so demands. In order to achieve the ideal ratio of bed to number i.e., 3:1, more nurses will be required to meet the requirement of Government hospitals. Regarding pharmacist, shortage in Government hospital still continues and in the private sector also, there is shortage. There is dearth of all categories of Medical Technicians. The Government intends to raise annual out-turn of nurses, pharmacists and Medical Technicians by establishing Training Institutes in the coming years.

viii) Hospital services are to be better integrated in the light of the Supreme Court decision on admitting emergency patients, other serious patients and their treatments. Hospitals should be strengthened to be on the alert to help each other in case of emergency.

ix) In the field of ISM and Homoeopathy, efforts will continue for expansion of more dispensaries and upgradation of education and health care facilities. Besides upgradation of the existing degree Homoeopathic Colleges taken over by the Government, there is programme for

setting up more Homoeopathic Dispensaries as well as Gram Panchayat Homoeopathic Dispensaries in the coming years. In urban and rural areas, 100 State Homoeopathic Dispensaries are proposed to be created and under SCP, there is a proposal for creation of another 50 Homoeopathic Dispensaries. Independent Homoeo Hospitals to serve as referral centres are to be gradually developed at the State level and district level. Strengthening of Administrative set-up of Homoeopathic Directorate will be taken up and there is proposal for introduction of pharmacy training course.

In the field of Ayurveda besides strengthening the manpower position of J.B Roy State Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital, there is a proposal for improvement of the said hospital and enhancement of number of seats for admission in BMS course. Besides expansion of Directorate of Ayurveda, the proposal for introduction of further two disciplines in the Institute of Post-graduate Ayurvedic Education and Research will be considered. There is proposal for establishment of 166 State Ayurvedic Dispensaries (12 under SCP and 4 under TSP). In respect of Unani System of Medicine, the need to set-up a separate Directorate will be considered and there is proposal for setting up more Unani Dispensaries in rural areas on selective basis.

x) As the previous year, fund will be allocated to DGHC under State Plan and centrally sponsored (New Schemes) schemes for development of Health Services in Darjeeling Hill Areas for which necessary fund has been provided in the Plan proposal.

xi) Like previous years network of a series of National Programmes taken up in this State regarding preventive health care service system will continue in the coming years. Besides National T.B. Programme running since 1962, success has been achieved in the Pilot Project under revised National T.B. Control Programme in Sagardighi Block of Murshidabad and Chandannagar Sub-division of Hooghly District. With the assistance of the World Bank, the said RNTC Project is likely to be finalised soon for phasewise implementation.

xii) In order to achieve increase in resource mobilisation, further enhancement of usual charge and/or better recovery of cost is under consideration of Government.

xiii) In the decentralised Health Programme the Panchayat and other local bodies may be encouraged to mobilise local resources.

xiv) Legislative provisions will be made to encourage Health habits and control unhealthy activities.

Externally Programme

1) Revised National T.B. Control Programme

The RNTC Project with the World Bank assistance is likely to be finalised soon for an estimated amount of Rs. 67.61 crores over a three years period for implementation in a phasewise manner.

2) National Leprosy Eradication Programme

The World Bank assisted programme started in 1994 for 5 year period and funds flowed from Government of India through District Leprosy Society.

3) National Programme for Control of Blindness

It is a partly DANIDA assisted programme. So far considerable assistance in kind and fund

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amounting to Rs. 59.36 lakhs was received from DANIDA since 1985-86. Government of India also provides fund at the rate of Rs. 3 lakhs per District Society.

4) Malaria Eradication Programme

Proposal submitted by the State government for World Bank assisted programme for Calcutta, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar and Purulia is yet to be cleared by the Government of India.

5) State Health Development Project II

It is a World Bank assisted project which is under implementation from June, 1996 for a period of five years at a project cost of Rs. 701 crore.

6) West Bengal Sexual Health Project

It is a ODA assisted project, fund flowing directly to the project unit from ODA. It is a 5-year project ending on 31.3.1999 having total cost of 5 million pounds.

7) National AIDS Control Programme

It was started by Government of India in 1992-93 with World Bank assistance. So far an amount of Rs. 5.58 crore has been released by Government of India. This year Government of India approved an Action Plan to the tune of Rs. 8 crores which is likely to continue beyond 1997. This programme needs continuance during Ninth Plan period.

8) Strengthening of School of Tropical Medicine

The project at a base cost of Rs. 25.10 crores over a 5-year period with assistance from the World Bank has been submitted to the Government of India which is under consideration.

9) Reproductive and Child Health Project

This project assisted by ODA with an outlay of 1,138.027 pound sterling is being launched in 1997-98 in the districts of Malda, Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur.

10) India Population Project VIII

The project assisted by World Bank is under implementation in CMDA area through CMDA to extend preventive and promotive health care services in the urban slum areas.

11) Improvement of Primary Health Care Project

The project is intended to cover seven Tribal and Backward districts (Bankura, Birbhum, Purulia, Midnapore, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar and Darjeeling) at an approximate outlay of Rs. 70 crore over a 5-year period from 1997-98 (approximately). Negotiations with CTZ-KVW are in progress.

Externally Aided Projects

(1) State Health Development Project II

An amount of Rs. 139.41 crore has been set apart in the annual plan budget for the West Bengal Health Sector Development Programme as part of the World Bank Aided State Health Systems Development Project II.

The following major items of activity are covered by this provision.

- i) Salary and Travelling expenses and office expenses for Project Management Cell as

wellas for officials working in 17 districts and one Sub-divisional Health Committee Project Office of the Chief Project Managers.

ii) On information, Education and Communication as well as Health MIS activities covering large number of training programmes as well as supply of hardware and software.

iii) Machinery and equipment for 206 hospitals and Primary Health Centres.

iv) Civil works covering 42 hospitals of Phase-I and 54 hospitals of Phase-II and Project Office building will be started.

(2) Improvement of Primary Health Care

An amount of Rs. 30 crores has been specified in the annual plan for the German Primary Health Sector Improvement Project in 7 districts (Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar, Darjeeling, Midnapore, Bankura, Birbhum & Purulia) of which Jalpaiguri, Purulia and Coochbehar are to be taken up in the year 1997-98. Tentatively an amount of Rs. 10 crore per district has been earmarked. The project may be in terms of Grant instead of Aid. Negotiations are not yet finalised.

(3) Reproductive and Child Health Project

With the assistance from ODA, a Project Preparation Phase of 18 months to prepare a substantive Reproductive and Child Health Project for the districts of Malda, Dakshin Dinajpur and Uttar Dinajpur has been taken up which aims at improving quality and accessibility of Reproductive and Child Health Services and developing new approaches to policy, programme planning and management in respect of these services. The Project cost is £ 1,138.027. The project commenced formally on 4.11.96 after formal exchange of letters between the Government of U. K. and Government of India.

11.5.2 Programme of the Labour Department

Directorate of State Employees' Insurance (Medical Benefit) Schemes.

The ESI (MB) Scheme was introduced in West Bengal in the year 1955. The Scheme is applicable to factories employing 20 or more persons without power and to those employing 10 or more persons with power. Hotels, Restaurants, Newspaper Establishments, Cinemas including Theaters, Road Motor Transport Establishments and shops employing 20 or more persons have been brought under the purview of the scheme. The ceiling on wages for coverage under the scheme has been raised to Rs. 6500/- p.m.

The ESI (MB) Directorate is responsible for proper and efficient implementation of the scheme.

The following plan schemes have been proposed to be continued during the Annual Plan period of 1997-98:

i) Improvement of ESI (MB) Scheme:

During the Eighth Plan Period Civil construction of Durgapur Hospital has been completed, land for Haldia Hospital has been selected. Building for Siliguri Sub-division and an office of Additional CMO at North Bengal have also been selected. Three Service Dispensaries at Baruipur, Khidirpur and Chandni Chawk have been opened. For this purpose an expenditure of Rs. 14.82 lakhs were incurred during the plan period 1996-97. An outlay of Rs. 19.13 lakhs has been kept for the year 1997-98.

ii) Hospital cost for the Insured workers and their families:

During the Annual Plan period 1996-97 an amount of Rs. 36.10 lakhs was provided for opening of ICC Unit at Manicktala, commissioning of 75 beds at Kamarhati ESI Hospital, opening of Central Blood Bank at Manicktala and installation of modern equipments at ESI Hospitals in West Bengal. An outlay of Rs. 38.62 lakhs has been kept for the year 1997-98.

iii) Strengthening of Fleet Vehicles under ESI (MB) Scheme:

For ambulance etc. an amount of Rs. 1.50 lakhs was provided for the Annual Plan period 1996-97. An outlay of Rs. 6.00 lakhs has been provided for the year 1997-98.

iv) Improvement of Nurses' Training Centre at Manicktala:

To ensure continuous availability of qualified Nurses and to cope up with the growing need for their services and also to increase the capacity of Trainees from 30 to 50 per batch, an amount of Rs. 1.66 lakhs was incurred up to 1995-96 and amount of Rs. 2.00 lakhs was kept during 1996-97.

An outlay of Rs. 5.50 lakhs has been provided for the year 1997-98.

v) Opening of Family Welfare Centre and implementation of Immunisation Programme and

vi) Opening of Occupational Diseases and Rehabilitation Centres:

A total outlay of Rs. 7.75 lakhs has been kept for execution of the schemes at SL No. v & vi above during the Annual Plan period 1997-98.

All the Schemes above are mostly staff-oriented.

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:

i) 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.

ii) 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.

Development strategy in the Rural Water Supply Sectors during Fifth Plan period laid stress on coverage of problem villages. For effecting accelerated coverage. Accelerated Rural

Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) was introduced during State plan period to supplement State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). With sustained efforts through these two rural water supply programmes, it was possible to provide at least one source in each village of the State by 31-3-88. However, the concept of problem village continued up to 31-3-94. Then came the concept of coverage of each of the 50377 habitation in the state with potable water supply. A validation survey conducted by Government of India indicated that as on 1-4-95, there were 6178 habitations remaining uncovered. Gradual progress of coverage of habitations is indicated below.

	As on 1-4-95	As on 1-4-96	As on 1-4-97 (Target)
NC	6178	2993	—
PC	31221	29840	30833
FC	42978	47544	49544
Total	<u>80377</u>	<u>80377</u>	<u>80377</u>

[NC = Not Covered, PC= Partially Covered, FC = Fully Covered]

The Partial Covered habitations (PC) are having different service levels depending on the number of sources in existing habitation. While 40 lpcd is the desired service level, the service level in the partially covered habitations ranges from over 0 lpcd to below 40 lpcd. Government of India has set a target of covering all PC Habitation (0-10) lpcd during 1997-98 and also of covering all other Habitations with full service level (40 lpcd) by March 2000. These National targets have been kept in mind while formulating the 9th Plan and Annual Plan 1997-98 proposals for Rural Water Supply Sector. During 1997-98 the National target of covering 2152 PC Habitations (0-10 lpcd) would be ensured. Besides 1896 Habitations (10-40 lpcd) would also be covered. Rural Water Supply Coverage would be raised to 81.2% by March 98 and piped Water Supply Coverage would be 22.5%. Proposed outlay during 1997-98 under MNP is for Rs. 95 crores including Rs. 45 crores earmarked for externally Aided Projects. The State Government has undertaken a survey to recheck the drinking water supply status in the Habitations-quantity and quality wise at the instance of Government of India.

Urban Water Supply

In Non-CMD part of the State there are 81 Municipal towns, 59 Non-Municipal towns and 22 urban Out Growths. Water Supply arrangements for these urban areas are done by PHE Department. The plan outlay for urban Water Supply is utilised for the Municipal towns. With an agreed outlay of Rs. 68 crores in the Urban Water Supply Sector during Eighth Plan period a target was set to cover 75% of Non-CMD Municipal population by organised piped Water Supply System by end of the 8th Plan from 64% as at by beginning of the Eighth Plan. With consistent efforts on part of the State Government to draw institutional finance from LIC and HUDCO and positive financial participation by Municipalities in implementation of Municipal Water Supply Schemes, it would be possible to achieve coverage of 81.17% of Non-CMD 1991 population (Against targeted 75%) by end of the Eighth Plan period. By end of the Eighth Plan period piped Water Supply will be introduced in all the SI Non-CMD Municipal towns. As LIC loan assistance is not forthcoming for last few years in this State institutional financing from HUDCO only along with Municipal contribution will supplement State Plan resources and Central Assistance under AUWSP during the Ninth Plan period for augmenting service level for

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the existing Water Supply Schemes in the Non-CMD Municipal towns. Proposed outlay during 1997-98 is Rs. 6.92 crores. The following table indicates Non CMD Municipal Water Supply Coverage:

Total in Non-CMD Area		Cumulative Coverage as on 3/96		Expected Cumulative Coverage as on 3/97 (at beginning of Ninth Plan)		Cumulative Target Coverage as on	
Number of Towns	91 Pop (000)	Number of Towns	91 Pop (000)	Number of Towns	91 Pop (000)	3/2002 (at end of 9th Plan) (000)	3/98 91 Pop (000)
81	5496	75	4127 (75.09%)	81	4461 (81.17%)	5073 (92.30%)	4516 (82.17%)

Arsenic Sub-Mission

Arsenic Contamination of ground water in eight districts of the State has posed a great problem in the matter of supplying safe drinking water to the population. In 61 Blocks and Municipal towns, the population at risk is about 48 lakh. Based on recommendation of the Expert Committees set up by the State Government, following measures are being taken by the PHE Department:

- Tapping Deeper Aquifer for Tubewells either 'Spot' or 'Big dia' for Piped Water Supply Schemes.
- Implementation of Surface Water Supply Schemes.
- Installation of Arsenic removal Plants for Big dia Tubewells for piped Water Supply Schemes.
- Installation of Arsenic Removal Plants for Hand operated Tubewells.
- Development of domestic Arsenic Removal Kits.
- Continuous water quality Monitoring in affected districts.

A High level Task Force with representatives from Government of India in the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, AIHH & PH Calcutta, SWID, Jadavpur University and PHE Directorate has been set up under the Chairmanship of Director, Central Ground-water Board (Eastern Region) to Co-ordinate and monitor the different activities in the matter of control of arsenic pollution in Ground-water, draw up a master Plan, to suggest for further research and to recommend measures for removal of arsenic contamination in ground-water. So far Government of India has introduced an 'Arsenic Sub-mission' under the Technology Mission to tackle Arsenic problem in this State. Under Arsenic Sub-mission three Schemes have so far been sanctioned with 75 :25 financial participation by Government of India and the State Government. These are first phase Action Plan (Estd. cost Rs. 858.13 lakh). Malda surface water project (Estd. cost Rs. 88.45 crores) and surface water Project for south 24-Parganas (Estd. cost Rs. 232.84 crores). Besides the State Government has sanctioned a Pilot Plans for existing Sujapur Water

Supply Scheme in Malda District and Gobardanga Water Supply Scheme in North 24-Parganas district, 14 Sanitary Protected ring wells, 98 Explore-cum-production wells, 126 spot Sources as a part of its own programme to tackle, arsenic contamination of ground-water apart from continuing Provision of safe water supply out of normal MNP/ARWSP in Arsenic affected areas. While benefits from bigger projects like Malda surface water project and south 24-Parganas surface water project will accrue after the Schemes are Commissioned the already Commissioned Scheme in the arsenic effected areas are benefiting a population of about 9.5 lakh.

A total provision of Rs. 15.05 crores as a part of MNP has been proposed during 1997-98 for the ongoing Surface Water Project for Malda and for any other project taken up under Arsenic Submission.

Externally Aided Project (EAP)

A composite water supply & Sanitation Project for Bolpur area in Birbhum district and Raghunathpur area in Purulia district has been accepted for DM 50 Million grants by Kfw Germany. Provision has been made for this scheme for an amount of Rs. 40.00 crores during 1997-98.

Negotiations are in progress with JICWELs Japan for bilateral assistance for a Water Supply Project for a part of Arsenic affected areas of North 24-Parganas district. For this scheme also a provision of Rs. 5.00 crores has been made during 1997-98.

Another project for drinking Water Supply to some parts of Arsenic affected areas of Nadia and Murshidabad district is being proposed to Government of India for Bilateral Assistance.

Plan outlay during 1997-98 has been kept for Rs. 45.00 crores.

Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) and Special Component Plan (SCP)

Due emphaasis has been given for utilisation of the earmarked fund of 10% of outlays under Rural Water Supply & Sanitation (MNP) and also under Centrally Sponsored ARWSP and CRSP for the benefits of population belonging to S/T. The special component plan for S/C extends also to other Sectors of the State Plan and 25% of outlays under all the Sectors of the State Plan and Centrally Sponsored ARWSP and CRSP has been earmarked for this purpose.

Rural Water Supply Coverage target of S/C and S/T population are indicated below:

	Rural 1991 Population (000)	Cumulative Coverage as on 3/96 Rural 1991 pop (000)	Cumulative Coverage Target as on 3/97 Rural 1991 pop (000)	Cumulative Coverage Target as on 3/02 Rural 1991 pop (000)	Cumulative Coverage Target as on 3/98 Rural 1991 pop (000)
Total	49370	37948 (76.86%)	38992 (79.00%)	49370 (100%)	40087 (81.20%)
SC	13605	10066 (73.98%)	10350 (76.07%)	13605 (100%)	10700 (78.65%)
ST	3612	2842 (78.64%)	2947 (81.60%)	3612 (100%)	3029 (83.86%)

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 PHE Directorate out of the Plan Budget for DGHC Area. Fund provided to DGHC both under State Plan and Centrally Sponsored ARWSP for carrying out Water Supply & Sanitation activities in hill areas of Darjeeling district is a part of the Five-Year/Annual Plan of PHE Department. The following table indicates proposed outlay/expenditure for DGHC during Eighth Plan and also for 1997-98:

(Rs. in lakh)

	State Plan	ARWSP
1992-93 (Actual)	103.36	—
1993-94 (Actual)	216.06	109.87
1994-95 (Actual)	85.06	100.00
1995-96 (DE)	380.20	100.00
1996-97 (Anti)	160.39	100.00
Total of 8th Plan Period	945.07	409.87
1997-98 (Proposed)	105.00	100.00

11.6.2 Programme of the Panchayat and Rural Development (RD) Department**Rural Sanitation**

Rural Sanitation is one of the less focussed areas where Government's intervention through packages of programme is needed. According to 1991 census, only 12.31 percent of Rural Households have latrines for use (all are not sanitary). In the Ninth Five-year Plan, it has been envisaged to achieve coverage of about 25 percent of rural population (cumulative with their full involvement) with sanitary facilities by the end of Ninth Plan. In this end, priority has been placed on Information, Education and Communication. In order to achieve total sanitation practices, efforts are being made to educate rural population through appropriate programme in the matter of disposal of refuse, garbage and waste water through the forum of Panchayats and other Community organisations and by way of constructing low cost sanitary latrines.

Rural Sanitation programme based on Central Rural Sanitation Programme is under implementation in the State. Government of India and the State Government have been financing the programme in the ratio 1:1. The programme that is being implemented in our State since 1993-94 is structured on experiences of a pilot project in Midnapore District since 1990. The main thrust of the programme is to create felt-need through awareness generation which is extremely necessary to change the age-old habit of open air defecation and other unhealthy habits and also to provide low cost sanitary latrines to the rural people. The cost depends upon the model of the latrine and generally ranges between Rs. 350/- to Rs. 3,000/-. People living below poverty line are entitled to subsidy of two-third of the construction cost subject to maximum of Rs. 200/- per latrine. Mainly to produce/supply low cost sanitary latrine components and other sanitary goods on the one hand and to create felt need among rural people on the other sanitary marts @ one mart per Block for the present are being established. Non-Government organisation, like Ram Krishna Mission, Lok Siksha Parishad and Semi-Government organisations like West

Bengal Comprehensive Area Dev. Corporation and the Panchayat bodies are associated and financial assistance are being extended to them for the purpose.

Till March, 1996 more than 1,50,000 household sanitary latrines have been constructed and another 1,00,000 sanitary latrines were added in 1996-97. 179 Blocks have been covered with sanitary marts till 1996-1997. This programme is expected to spread to all the Blocks of the State within Ninth Five-year Plan.

During 1993-94, Rs. 76.61 lakh each from CRSP and MNP fund, during 1994-95, Rs. 105.00 lakh under CRSP and Rs. 100.00 lakh under MNP and during 1995-96, Rs. 154.336 lakh under CRSP and Rs. 50.00 lakh under MNP were spent. During 1996-97, Rs. 104.994 lakh under CRSP and Rs. 100.00 lakh under MNP were released.

During 1997-98, Rs. 300.00 lakh have been kept under Rural Sanitation and the same amount is expected under CRSP.

(b) Urban Sanitation

Municipal Affairs Department is the Nodal Department for these services. A modest provision of Rs. 1.00 lakh has been made for 1997-98.

11.7 HOUSING (INCLUDING POLICE HOUSING)

11.7.1 Programme of the Housing Department

Housing is a basic need as well as the base for human development. The National Housing Policy aims at assisting all people to secure affordable shelter, create an enabling environment for housing and expand infrastructure and access to basic services. The State Government also meets the housing requirements of the people of different income groups including those belonging to economically weaker classes. The scheme of allotment of rural house sites-cum-construction assistance has been in operation. Under Indira Awas Yojana construction of dwelling units for the poorest of the poor belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have also been undertaken. This benefit has now been expanded to non SC/STs also.

With growing urbanisation, the Housing problem has assumed an alarming dimension. The Housing Department has been trying its best to mitigate the problem within its constraints. The various Social Housing Schemes for State Government Employees, LIG Housing and MIG Schemes for common people, Rental Schemes for working Women. Rental Housing Schemes for Socio-economically deprived aged persons and Ownership Flats for State Government Employees have been under implementation in the State.

LIG Housing Scheme

Total allocation during the 8th Plan period under this item was Rs. 240 lakh and a physical target of 300 numbers (units). Expenditure under this head up to 1995-96 was Rs. 146.99 lakh and 253 numbers of dwelling units could be constructed during the period. However, during 1997-98 further 50 numbers of dwelling units are due for completion.

MIG Housing Scheme

In the 8th Plan period Rs. 65 lakh were allocated under this head and Rs. 10 lakh could be spent on continuing schemes. Target was fixed for 200 numbers of dwelling units. No new project could be taken up due to non availability of suitable land.

Cash Loan Scheme

In Eighth Plan period there was an allocation of Rs. 200 lakh under this head with a target of 400 numbers. This scheme was intended for gradual replacement of LIG/MIG loan schemes. However, khas land was not available for the purpose and the modalities for implementation of the scheme have not been firmed up. It is due to be finalised shortly.

Rental Housing Scheme for State Government Employees

Against an allocation of Rs. 1525 lakh and a target of 1000 units for the Eighth Plan period expenditure on this account up to 1995-96 was Rs. 817.74 lakh and number of flats was 764. Further 248 numbers of flats were due for completion in 1996-97 with additional expenditure of Rs. 607.02 lakh.

Rental Housing Scheme for Working Women

During the Eighth Plan period allocation of Rs. 347 lakh has been made against a target of 300 units. Expenditure up to 1995-96 was Rs. 257.26 lakh and 245 units have been constructed. Further fifteen dwelling units were due for completion during 1996-97.

Rental Housing Schemes for Aged Persons

Total allocation under this head during the Eighth Plan period was Rs. 82 lakh against a target of 100 units. No scheme could be taken up due to non-availability of suitable land. However, very recently land has been made available and the project will start during 1997-98.

Land Acquisition & Development Schemes

Total allocation under this head during the Eighth plan period was Rs. 600 lakh and the target was fixed for acquisition and development of 100 acres of land.

Expenditure up to 1995-96 was Rs. 81.96 lakh and 35.54 acres of land could be acquired. Due to delay in acquisition process like involvement of Court cases and other local problems relating to encroachments the target could not be achieved. However, further 25 acres of land were due to be acquired during the year 1996-97.

Ownership Flats for State Government Employees

During the Eighth Plan period total allocation under this head was Rs. 675 lakh against a target of 300 units. Actual expenditure up to 1995-96 was Rs. 262.79 lakh and 101 numbers of dwelling units could be constructed. Owing to initial problems of availability of land, procurement of materials, etc. progress during the initial years was not up to the mark. However, since 1993-94, the scheme picked it up. Further 140 numbers of dwelling units were due to be constructed during 1996-97.

Administrative Improvement Office-cum-Residential Building & Purchase of Machineries

During Eighth Plan period allocation of Rs. 164 lakh was made against a target of 30 units. But only Rs. 4.62 lakh of the allocation could be utilised and only 7 Administrative office-cum-Residential Buildings could be constructed. Progress was less than desirable because of some problems like materials movements, paucity of suitable land etc.

However, 2 more Administrative office-cum-Building was due to be completed in 1996-97 with an expenditure will around Rs. 6 lakh.

Subsidiary Housing Scheme for Plantation Workers

Total allocation during the Eighth Plan period was Rs. 107 lakh against the target of 1700 units.

It was initially a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Central Government has discontinued sponsoring the scheme since 1986. The State Government has decided to continue and complete 161 schemes involving expenditure of Rs. 1.930 crores which have already been started and agreement in respect of which already executed. Upto 1995-96 Rs. 14.48 lakh have been utilised. Eight dwelling units have been constructed so far.

Renovation and Replacement of Existing Housing Estates

Against 8th Plan allocation of Rs. 684 lakh expenditure up to 1995-96 was Rs. 16.60 lakh. Some old Housing Estates need immediate renovation and overall replacement. About Rs. 116.00 lakh were due in 1996-97.

Housing Assistance Cell

During the Eighth Plan period allocation under this head was Rs. 93 lakh. As the modalities could not be fixed no amount could be utilised till date.

Shelter upgradation, Interest Subsidy & Night Shelter

Shelter upgradation and Night Shelter Schemes were to be implemented through Non-Government Voluntary organisation, but appropriate response was not received from these organisation/bodies. For this reason no amount could be utilised during the Eighth Plan period. This department has since identified land for Night Shelter and the scheme is likely to be taken up soon.

Operational Objective & Basis of Selection of Schemes etc.

During Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) the total budgetary outlay was Rs. 6251.00 lakh and it is expected that the total anticipated expenditure will be around Rs. 4875.43 lakh. In the context of financial constraints, the Housing Department have shown a noticeable performance in the areas of LIG Schemes, RHE for State Government Employees, Ownership Flats for State Government Employees, Rental Hostel for Working Women etc. and details in the said fields are as follows:—

Item	Unit	Eighth Plan (92-97) Target	Actual Achievement 92-93 to 1995-96	Anticipated Achievement 1996-97	Total
RHS for State Government Employees	DU	1000	764	248	1012
LIG Housing Schemes	DU	300	253	50	303
RHS for Working Women	DU	300	245	15	260
Ownership Flats for State Government Employees	DU	300	101	140	241

Objectives under the different heads are stated below:—

EWS Housing Scheme

Housing Department is well aware of housing needs of these poor classes of people in society. Considering their housing problem a sum of Rs. 40 lakh has been provided for 1997-98 for construction of dwelling units/flats.

LIG Housing Scheme

This housing scheme caters to people in lower income group. An allocation of Rs. 200 lakh (new scheme 195 lakh and continuing Rs. 5.00 lakh) has been provided in the coming year to solve their housing problem for construction of dwelling units/flats.

MIG Housing Scheme

In order to provide suitable housing accommodation to these classes of people an allocation of Rs. 100 lakh (new Rs. 90 lakh and continuing Rs. 10 lakh) has been allocated in 1997-98. This allocation will be utilised to take construction of MIG flats.

Cash Loan Scheme

This scheme is essential to provide HB loan to the beneficiaries in LIG/MIG category who have suitable lands for construction of their houses. An allocation of Rs. 40 lakh has been provided in 1997-98.

RHS Flat for State Government Employees

Housing is a colossal problem for serving State Government employees. Over years huge gap between the demand and supply of flats for Government employees has created a great deal of frustration.

Rental Housing Scheme is being implemented with a view to accommodating State Government employees who are in service in Calcutta and in the District on payment of monthly rent.

Accordingly a sum of Rs. 8 crore has been proposed for construction of 100 numbers in 1997-98.

RHS for Working Women

In Calcutta, in districts and subdivisional towns there is acute scarcity for residential accommodation for single working women. Married women are also sometimes forced to remain alone at the working places. Similarly divorce, widows and unmarried working women have to remain alone at their working places. For this purpose, the Housing Department has proposed to construct 48 on-roomed apartments at an estimated cost of Rs. 100 lakh in 1997-98 (Rs. 80 lakhs for new scheme and 20 lakh for continuing scheme).

RHS for Aged Persons

Under the present socio-economic condition some aged persons cannot live with their family members and find themselves helpless without having suitable accommodation. The Housing Department has taken up schemes for the aged so that they can live peacefully and with dignity. Accordingly, an outlay of Rs. 50 lakh has been proposed for construction of 50 numbers single independent units for aged persons in 1997-98.

Land Acquisition & Development

In the context of the National Housing Policy the development agencies are required to develop house sites for members of the public who intend to construct dwelling units with institutional finance. The Home Loan Account scheme of the National Housing Bank envisages that the subscribers to such accounts shall on expiry of five years avail of the loans from the concerned nationalised bank to construct dwelling house on the plot either in possession of the subscriber or on the plot to be made available by development agency. Besides, land is also essential to take up other Housing schemes by this department. Accordingly an outlay of Rs. 200 lakh has been proposed for Land Improvement and Development scheme in 1997-98 for acquisition of 10 acres of land.

Ownership Flat for State Government Employees

It has been the experience of the Housing Department that a good number of Government employees occupying Rental Housing Flats do not voluntarily vacate such flats on their superannuation simply because they do not have any dwelling units for residential accommodation. The Housing Department has, therefore, proposed to construct dwelling units for being transferred to only the State Government employees on ownership basis. This department has proposed to construct 50 flats/dwelling units at an estimated cost of Rs. 100 lakhs during 1997-98 (Rs. 70 lakh for new scheme and Rs. 30 lakh for continuing scheme).

Administrative Improvement & Purchase of Machineries

The Housing Department needs some office buildings in the districts and some machineries, tools and equipment during the Ninth plan period. This apart, with the change of time, the necessity of installation of computer system is felt. Accordingly, a sum of Rs. 50 lakh has been proposed for administrative improvements in 1997-98.

S.H. Scheme for Plantation Workers

This was Centrally sponsored scheme under which Government used to pay a matching subsidy for construction of dwelling units for plantation workers of Tea Gardens. The scheme has been discontinued since 1986. But the Department has decided to complete 161 units which was already started and agreements in respect of which were also executed. Out of 161, 8 units have already been completed. An allocation of Rs. 10 lakh has been placed in 1997-98.

Renovation and Replacement of Existing Buildings

For Housing Estates which need immediate upgradation, replacement and renovation, a sum of Rs. 2 crore has been proposed for 1997-98.

xiii) Shelter Upgradation

This scheme has a built on arrangement for subsidy to be provided by Government of India channelled through HUDCO. The Housing Department proposes equal amount to subsidy to reduce the burden of loan in each case.

A total sum of Rs. 20 lakh has been allocated in 1997-98.

xiv) Housing Assistance Cell

Housing Department proposes to set up a Housing Assistance Cell at Calcutta as well as in the district headquarters. An amount of Rs. 10 lakh has been kept for 1997-98.

Night Shelter

People who occasionally visit Calcutta/nearby towns from remote places or for treatment or other purposes are required to stay at night in the city or towns, at a cheaper rate. For construction of Night Shelters an allocation of Rs. 84 lakh has been made in 1997-98.

West Bengal Housing Board

West Bengal Housing Board is a Government Agency under the administrative control of this Department and is engaged in the promotion of Housing Activities in the State.

During the Eighth Five Year Plan, 4665 numbers of different categories of flats were constructed by the Board for direct sale to the general public. Besides, West Bengal Housing Board has been implementing District Housing Scheme for Economically Weaker Section and Cash Loan Scheme for LIG, MIG through HUDCO Finance. 7751 numbers of Economically Weaker Section people have been benefited under the District Housing Scheme up to 1996-97. West Bengal Housing Board is also involved in the LAD Schemes in the proposed New Township at Rajarhat.

With the increase of activities, the WBHB cannot function with its own resource or loan from HUDCO. A proposal for Government loan amounting to Rs 300 lakh has therefore been kept in the plan outlay in 1997-98.

Implication of the Physical Targets in Terms of Financial Outlay

Implication of physical targets in the important schemes in 1997-98 are shown as below.

	Annual Plan (1997-98)	
	Physical Target	Financial Target (Rs. in lakh)
1. EWS Housing Scheme	50 D.U.	40
2. LIG Housing Scheme	100 D.U.	200
3. MIG Housing Scheme	50 D.U.	100
4. Cash Loan Scheme	75 D.U.	40
5. RHS for State Government Employees	100 D.U.	800
6. RHS for Working Women	48 D.U.	100
7. RHS for Aged Person	50 D.U.	50
8. Land Acquisition & Development	10 Acres	200
9. Ownership for State Government Employees	50 D.U.	100
10. Administrative Improvement	5	30
11. SH Scheme for Plantation Workers	200 D.U.	10
12. Renovation & Replacement of Existing Building	—	200
13. Shelter Upgradation	—	20

Annual Plan (1997-98)		
	Physical Target	Financial Target (Rs. in lakh)
14. Housing Assistance Cell	—	10
15. Interest Subsidy	—	10
16. Purchase of Machineries	—	20
17. Night Shelter	50 D.U.	84
18. Wages	—	700
		2714
19. Loans Brick Production Directorate		300
20. West Bengal Housing Board		300
		3314

Decentralisation:

Housing Schemes are implemented departmentally after obtaining approval of the State Planning Board. Suggestions from the District Planning Committee are considered.

Employment Generation

Taking into consideration of the wages of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labourer as Rs. 120/-, Rs. 70/- and Rs. 50/-p.d. respectively average labour cost comes to the tune of Rs. 80/- p.d. Considering the average labour cost as 30% of the project cost, labour cost will be Rs. 994 lakhs in 1997-98 during the entire plan period. Therefore, by utilising the entire proposed plan outlay about 12 lakh of Mandays are expected to be generated in 1997-98.

11.7.2 Programme of the Home (Police) Department

Police Housing: According to the provisions of the Police Regulations, Police Officers and men are entitled to rent-free accommodation. But the number of the departmental quarters is far too short to meet the requirements. The situation can be remedied only by large scale construction of residential buildings for Police Officers and men.

There are 3922 spill over housing schemes taken up before the commencement of Eighth Plan an amount of Rs. 1352.30 lakh (including the Tenth Finance Commission Award) were expended and 2697 housing schemes were completed. The Home (Police) Department proposes to complete the remaining units in all respects (both Civil & Electrical works) first and thereafter new housing schemes would be taken up during the Ninth Plan period.

Appropriate amount has been kept in the Housing Sector for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

11.7.3 Programme of the Judicial Department

The judicial Department is concerned with the scheme for construction of residential quarters for Judicial Officers including High Court Judges under Housing Sector of the Plan Outlay.

In addition to plan outlay, fund is also provided under a Centrally sponsored scheme for providing infrastructural facilities to the Judiciary on 50 : 50 share basis.

The Annual Plan Outlay for the year 1996-97 was Rs. 355.00 lakh. Half of this amount was provided for matching assistance as State's share. A considerable amount was provided for construction of quarters for Judicial Officers. Besides, for continuing the construction works of the quarters of the High Court Judges at Salt Lake about Rs. 90 lakh have been spent.

As regards achievements during the Eighth Plan period, it is stated that the construction works of quarters for Judicial Officers at Alipurduar, Raghunathpur, Coochbehar, Raiganj, Kandi have been completed. Besides, construction of some quarters for Judicial Officers are nearing completion.

An amount of Rs. 350.00 lakh has been kept for the Annual Plan period 1997-98.

11.7.4 Programme of the Public Works Department

Public Works Department is entrusted with construction works of residential accommodation for the employees of the Public Works Department. The residential buildings are being constructed at different places throughout the State. During the Eighth Plan period, the Department have constructed about 2000 sq. m. of residential buildings. The construction of residential buildings of about 1300 sq. m. has been targeted for the year 1997-98. An amount of Rs. 65.00 lakh has been kept in the Housing Sector for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

11.7.5 Programme of the Home (P&AR) Department

Although Housing Estates have come up in Calcutta and in a few districts to take care of accommodation of Government officers and staff, the housing problem is very acute in outlying sub-divisions, where the number of officers posted do not justify setting up of such Estates. To find out solution of the problem of accommodation of district and sub-division level officers and staff, the Department takes up schemes for construction of bungalows and flats for different categories of officers and staff so that they can serve the Government more efficiently. During the year 1997-98, such schemes are being continued. The details have been indicated in Volume-II.

11.7.6 Programme of the Finance (Taxation) Department

Most of the Checkposts of the Commercial Taxes Directorate, the largest revenue collecting Directorate of this Government, are situated in the border area to monitor the movement of notified goods and commodities in and across the State. The personnel of those checkposts and officers have to work round the clock. For the residential accommodation of these personnel an amount of Rs. 30 lakh has been kept in the Housing sector for Annual Plan 1997-98 of this Department.

11.7.7 Programme of the Excise Department

Excise Directorate have been expanding very fast. The officials of the Excise Administration have to work at odd hours. To ensure effective control on collection of revenue through decentralised administration, schemes for construction of accommodation for Excise officers throughout the State have been taken up.

Details of schemes to be taken up during 1997-98 have been shown in Volume-II.

11.7.8 Programme of the Panchayats & Rural Development (Community Development) Department

Rural Housing: The scheme relating to the provision of House Sites and Construction Assistance has become less important after the introduction of 'Indira Awaas Yojana' which is more attractive.

An amount of Rs. 2.00 lakh has been kept in the Annual Plan period 1997-98.

11.7.9 Programme of the Parliamentary Affairs Department

The Parliamentary Affairs Department will take up the construction work of an MLA Hostel in a suitable place in Calcutta. As the existing accommodation is insufficient for the MLAs the construction work has been so designed that all the members of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly may be accommodated. An outlay of Rs. 5.00 lakhs has been kept for the year 1997-98 for execution of the said construction work.

11.7.10 Programme of the Home (Defence) Department

The Home (Defence) Department will take up the construction of residential buildings for the accommodation of the whole-time regular staff of the West Bengal National Volunteer Force in different districts of the State as well as for the accommodation of the staff of four Training Centres. All such construction works of this Department are executed by the Public Works Department.

An outlay of Rs. 30.00 lakhs has been kept for the Annual Plan period 1997-98 for this purpose.

11.7.11 Programme of the Co-operation Department

Housing Co-operatives: 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 LIC on the Houses and Buildings constructed out of the loan. In order to borrow sufficient fund from LIC a substantial amount is given to the Federation out of the State Plan Budget for strengthening its share base.

11.7.12 Programme of the Home (Civil Defence) Department

Home (Civil Defence) Department has a scheme for construction of Barracks for Home Guards in the different districts of West Bengal who are called for duty by the Superintendents of Police. At present the Home Guards do not get any Barrack facility and as a result they face difficulties when they are asked to stay overnight.

Proposed total outlay for the year 1997-98 is Rs. 10.00 lakh.

11.8 URBAN DEVELOPMENT

11.8.1 Programme of the Municipal Affairs Department

The principle of getting the development of the urban areas formulated by the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) themselves and involving the people in the process of their execution to

Social Services

the maximum possible extent is being followed in the State since the last two decades. In the context of the Seventy Fourth Amendment of the Constitution streamlining of the infrastructure as well as the provisioning of finance to the ULBs have assumed importance. A number of effective steps have been taken in this context and further actions for strengthening of civic services and ameliorating the standard of living of the people living below the poverty line are being taken.

At present there are 122 urban local bodies in the State, of which 41 are within Calcutta Metropolitan Area (CMA). A few more urban local bodies are likely to be constituted within the Ninth Five Year Plan period.

For raising the standard of living and improving the environment the following programmes have been taken up.

- i) Integrated Low Cost Sanitation (ILCS),
- ii) Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT),
- iii) Development of Municipal Areas,
- iv) Development of Municipal Corporations outside Calcutta Metropolitan area,
- v) Bustee Improvement Scheme in Municipal Area outside CMDA,
- vi) National Slum Development Programme (NSDP),
- vii) Neheru Rozgar Yojana (NRY),
- viii) Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP),
- ix) Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP),
- x) Basic Minimum Services (BMS).

Integrated Low Cost Sanitation (ILCS)

The ILCS Programme introduced for removal of all service privies in urban areas and replacing them by low cost hygienic sanitary privies has been progressing satisfactorily. This is a centrally sponsored programme aimed at liberating the scavengers from carrying night soils headload by converting existing service privies into low cost sanitary latrines as well as constructing new low cost sanitary latrines where there are no latrines at all. Around 2.76 lakh households were due to be covered under this programme by 31st March, 1997. Owing to various unavoidable reasons, this was not possible and further timing has been extended up to March, 1999. The programme has been taken up in right earnest and about 32,000 number of latrines have already been constructed. The cost of the scheme is shared by HUDCO with provision for repayment to them from the budgetary sources. There are elements of grant of Rs. 400/- per beneficiary for construction of superstructure. For meeting this expenditure an amount of Rs. 3.5 crores were provided during 1996-97. For the Annual Plan 1997-98 Rs. 4 crores have been kept.

Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns

This is a Centrally Sponsored Programme. It was introduced in the 6th Plan period. The programme has undergone major changes during the last few years on its objectives as well as on financing pattern. Its main objective now is to arrest influx of people from hinterlands to Calcutta Metropolis by developing infrastructures in the urban local bodies. In all 60 towns were covered outside CMD area up to 1995-96. In 1996-97, six more towns have been included. It is proposed to cover the remaining non-CMD towns during the Ninth Five Year Plan. Notable

permanent assets could be created, like, 57 market/commercial complexes, 35 roads, one bridge, 8 industrial estates, 15 bus/track terminals, 10 developed residential areas, 15 tourist dormitories and one cattle shed etc. Besides 22500 service latrines have also been converted into low cost sanitary latrines under this programme. This programme has already been completed in 21 towns. It is nearing completion in 15 other towns. Works in 18 towns are also under way. An amount of Rs. 3 crore was provided for the year 1996-97. It has been proposed to provide an amount of Rs. 3.5 crore for this programme during the year 1997-98.

Bustee Improvement Scheme in Municipal Area outside CMDA

Included under the 20 point programme and also under the Minimum Needs Programme an amount of Rs. 24.64 crore could be spent till December, 1996-97 under this programme and 5.70 lakh slum dwellers covered. This programme is exclusively meant for the environmental improvement of urban slum areas and to benefit the slum dwellers, especially, those living below the poverty line. An amount of Rs. 1,70,50,000/- was provided for the Annual Plan 1996-97 and an amount of Rs. 1 crore has been proposed for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

Development of Municipal Areas

This is a multi-purpose developmental programme for the urban local bodies outside the CMD area, to be utilised in creating new assets as well as maintaining old assets. An amount of Rs. 2 crore was provided for in the Annual Plan 1996-97. It is proposed to provide Rs. 2 crore for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

Nehru Rojgar Yojana

This is a centrally sponsored scheme meant for the people living below the poverty line in urban areas. It has various components such as SUME, SUWE, SHASU and Training. The performance under SUME however, is not very good because of inappropriate response from the Nationalised Banks. Repayment position under SHASU is not satisfactory, while the same under SUWE and Training is good. An amount of Rs. 6.10 crore could be utilised under SUME out of the total amount of Rs. 12.84 crore released so far to the ULBs. Banks have so far sanctioned 43841 cases out of 79000 cases sponsored to them. An amount of Rs. 6.74 crore is now lying with the various branches of the banks as subsidy. Under SUWE so far 26.35 lakh mandays could be created. Under SHASU 32390 units were constructed creating 21.43 lakh mandays (approximately). It is proposed to provide an amount of Rs. 4.10 crore for the year 1997-98.

Urban Basic Services for the Poor

This is a centrally sponsored programme aimed at ameliorating the quality of life in the urban slums through various participatory processes. 27 towns have been covered under this programme so far. The implementation of this programme took larger gestation period owing to its innate intricate features. The programme however has taken off recently and is expected to gain further momentum in the coming years. It will benefit 9 lakh people living below the poverty line in the urban slums as well as their adjoining areas.

So far 470 Neighbourhood Committees could be constituted in the 27 towns covered under this programme. The number of Community Development Societies formed stands at 55. Out of this, 52 Community Development Societies have already prepared plan of actions which will cover roughly 5.5 lakh urban population in the State. An amount of Rs. 90 lakhs was provided in the revised budget proposals for the year 1996-97. It is proposed to provide an amount of Rs. 1 crore for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

Development of Municipal Corporations outside Calcutta Metropolitan Area

This head of account is meant for providing fund to the newly created Municipal Corporations outside CMD area. This is a multipurpose grant and the Municipal Corporations are authorised to utilise this amount on creation of new assets as well as maintenance of old assets. An amount of Rs. 1.50 crore was provided under this head in the revised budget for the year 1996-97. It is proposed to provide 1.63 crores for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP)—grant-in-aid

This is a centrally sponsored programme introduced during the year 1995-96. It aims at eradicating poverty and improving the quality of life in the urban slums of the towns having population between 50000 and 1 lakh. Accordingly, 16 towns of this State have been taken under this programme. Preliminary surveys etc. for preparation of action plans have been taken up. The scheme will take off in the beginning of 1997-98. Arrangement for intensive training to the municipal functionaries for successful implementation of this programme has been made. Assistance of Loksiksa Parisad of Ramkrishna Mission is also being taken in imparting training to the RCVs of this programme at the field level. Meanwhile at the end of 1996-97, 702 cases could be referred to the bank for Self-Employment generation, 115 beneficiaries imparted training for Self-Employment, while 400 are undergoing training for various skill development. Proposals for 1000 units for Shelter Upgradation have also been sanctioned by HUDCO. Five Community Kendras have been completed and 16 are in progress.

An amount of Rs. 5 crore was provided in the revised plan budget for the year 1996-97. It is proposed to provide an amount of Rs. 4 crore as State's share for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

The National Slum Development Programme

Schemes with funds received on the recommendations of Tenth Finance Commission and the Basic Minimum Needs Programme have been introduced during the Annual Plan 1996-97. Around Rs. 30 crores were also spent for implementation of National Slum Development Programme. 80% of this fund came from the Government of India as loan and grant, the remaining 20% as grant from the State Government. This fund was utilised exclusively for the slums of the urban areas. Various infrastructure, services and environmental improvement were undertaken under this programme. The improvement of the socio-economic life of the slum dwellers is also its target.

This would continue during the Annual Plan 1997-98 and appropriate provision has been kept.

Basic Minimum Services:

The Basic Minimum Services funds are released by the District Planning Committees by way of transfer to the urban local bodies. This programme includes construction and extension of roads, supply of drinking water and construction of dwelling houses for people living below the poverty line. The Housing Complex of the urban local bodies allotted to their scavengers for dwelling purpose can also be upgraded under this programme. General annual maintenance of urban properties is excluded from this programme.

The responsibility of preparing plans and implementation thereof under the three programmes lies with the urban local bodies themselves. The urban local bodies will discharge this responsibility in consultation with the Community Development Societies or the Ward Committees within them. Technical advice and assistance will be rendered by the officials of the Municipal Engineering Directorate.

11.8.2 Programme of the Urban Development Department

The Urban Development Department is entrusted with the task of creating Legal, Institutional and Engineering infrastructure for evolving a comprehensive plan and implementation thereof for an all round development of the Calcutta Metropolis and the Urban Centres falling within the jurisdiction of various development and planning authorities within the State. Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) is the apex planning and development agency in respect of the CMA.

Major achievements during the Eighth Plan Period

Among the important achievements of the Department during the last five years of the Eighth Five Year Plan were (1) Preparation of Land Use & Development Control Plan on massive scale in the CMA and areas under the jurisdiction of the Development and Planning Authorities; (2) Implementation of the schemes under (i) Megacity Programme, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 1993-94; (ii) Ganga Action Plan—Phase I (GAP) commenced in 1985-86 in the identified areas within CMD through CMDA with the fund obtained from the Government of India, and (iii) Calcutta Slum Improvement Programme with the financial assistance from Overseas Development Administration (ODA) of U.K. Government; (iv) Bustee Improvement with the fund made available under the Minimum Needs Programme by the State Government; (v) Infrastructural work pertaining to surface water supply to Salt Lake, Dum Dum and South Dum Dum Municipalities; (vi) Integration of Municipal Water Supply systems with Baranagar-Kamarhati and Serampore Water Treatment Plants, and (vii) Improvement of Infrastructure in Local Bodies under Municipal Development Programme.

Decentralisation and Comparative Study

In the formulation and implementation of the schemes, the common local people have been involved through the Panchayats and Municipalities down to the Municipal Wards in the development process. Such direct involvement has often resulted in significant economy and efficiency in execution of schemes. More and more participation of voluntary organisation at ward level in the working process of the CMDA has boost-up the success of the programme. The Metropolitan Planning Committee Act recently legislated would further integrate the planning and development activities of all the implementing agencies working within the CMA. Infrastructure development in the peripheral areas of the core city of Calcutta and setting up of satellite townships at Kalyani, Patipukur and Salt Lake has significantly brought down the migration of people from the adjoining areas to the core city of Calcutta. The per capita allotment of Government grant to the Urban Local Bodies for creating basic civic amenities for the common people whose affordability to take the advantage of Metropolitan civic amenities was in the past admittedly very limited has also been significantly augmented in as much as the per capita figure thereof has been increased from less than Re. 1/- in 1976-77 to about Rs. 58/- in 1995-96.

Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority

Since its inception in early 1970 Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) has been engaged in planning, implementing and funding different projects aimed at mitigating the deficiencies in critical infrastructure facilities in the Calcutta Metropolitan Area (CMA). While CMDA itself is engaged in executing central level projects, small ward level infrastructure development projects are being planned, programmed and executed by 41 elected Local Bodies within CMA. During the course of last five years a number of important projects like Serampore and Baranagar-Kamarhati Water Treatment Plants, Durgapore and Zeerat Bridges, part of EM Bypass widening, strengthening of Barrakpur-Kalyani Expressway, Tollygunge panchannagram Drainage Cannal Improvement etc. had been executed. During 1996, important projects like widening of Bridge No. 4 on P.C. Connector, a number of Fringe Area Water Supply (FAWS) Schemes, several public convenience units have also been completed and commissioned. The Salt Lake Water Supply Scheme has also been completed and is now under trial run.

The Megacity Programme has made substantial head-way; projects amounting to Rs. 335 crores have already been sanctioned by the Megacity Sanctioning Committee. Major projects within this package are augmentation of 60 mgd Garden Reach Water Treatment Plant, a number of FAWS Schemes, Jadavpur Behala Water Supply Scheme, Railway Underpasses at Ultadanga and Konnagar, Widening of different stretches of EM Bypass, Drainage projects at Ward Nos. 3, 8 & 50 in Howrah Municipal Corporation. Bustee Improvement project, 3 housing projects at Barrackpur, Golfgreen and Baishnabghata-Patuli and Area Development Schemes at Kasba. Other major projects outside Megacity Programme are water supply to Khardah added area, Kona Expressway and Truck Terminal, Drainage and Solid Waste Management work within HMC.

CMDA has also been executing other major projects like ODA assisted Calcutta Slum Improvement Programme (CSIP) and Ganga Action Plan (GAP) programme. While first-phase GAP works comprising of 110 schemes at an approved cost of Rs. 182 crores has been mostly completed, second-phase work covering 23 towns on Ganga and 4 towns on Damodar have just been initiated. The likely project cost will be to the tune of Rs. 235 crores. The ODA assisted CSIP was launched during the year 1989-90 with a target budget cost of Rs. 39.17 crores which was subsequently revised to the tune of Rs. 46.19 crores for undertaking infrastructural development schemes in 15 wards of Calcutta Municipal Corporation with a target beneficiary population of about 2,50,000. The project was due to be completed by 31.3.1997 but subsequently with an extension of one year the project is scheduled to be completed by 31.3.1998. Up to 31.3.1996 a sum of Rs. 33.358 crores was expended under this project. As regards physical achievement, the project created 8 units of HAU, 55 units of Health Sub-Centre, 2 units of ESOPD, upgradation of once Maternity Home, 8 units of Nutrition Programme Centre, 8 units of Environmental Sanitation Programme under health programme, 2456 street lights, 1146 stand posts, 7993 latrines, 18 deep-tubewells, 60,000 mtr. water main, 3,10,000 sq.mtr. paving, 1,02,00 mtr. drain etc. under engineering programme. Besides, under the community development programme of the said project, schemes like free schooling, cultural and recreational programme, awareness programme, renovation of educational premises of local organisation, matching assistance to community library and sports units, vocational training and entrepreneurship development training were executed.

For the Calcutta Megacity Programme, during 1995-96, an amount of Rs. 18.08 crores was received from Government of India as Central share against which the State's matching

share was to the tune of Rs. 20.00 crores as grant and Rs. 13.90 crores as loan. During 1996-97 the State Government released a sum of Rs. 10.00 crores in the shape of grant and Rs. 22.50 crores as loan up to 31.1.1997 towards the said Megacity Programme. The amount expected to be received from the Government of India during this year is likely to be at the level of 1995-96.

The Ninth Plan period, starting from 1997-98 is expected to have some more meetings of the Sanctioning Committee under Megacity Programme when major projects like Augmentation of Howrah Water Treatment Plant, Fly-overs at Bondelgate and Lake Gardens, Water Supply Schemes at Maheshtala, Baruipur and number of FAWS Schemes, refurbishment of old water and sewer mains and underground reservoirs within CMC area are likely to be considered and cleared. These projects are on the shelves and may take off as soon as the clearance is received.

Kalyani Township

A Plan outlay of Rs. 226.17 lakhs was earmarked for Kalyani Township during the 8th Five Year Plan period. During the period 1992-95, a sum of Rs. 59.38 lakhs was expended for infrastructural development in Kalyani Township while during the year 1995-96 expenditure under the same head was to the tune of Rs. 12.00 lakhs. During the current financial year, a sum of Rs. 123 lakhs is likely to be expended for this purpose. Among the major schemes executed by this project out of the aforesaid plan fund were construction of Vidyasagar Manch and the improvement of the basic infrastructural facilities, viz. water supply, sewerage and sanitation, roads, etc. To provide further basic infrastructural facilities within the township, schemes namely extension of capacity of auditorium at Administrative Building at Kalyani and 'Majher Char' will be taken up during the 9th Plan period over and above the spill-over schemes initiated during the 8th Plan period.

Reclamation and Development of Salt Lake Area

With the setting up of Bidhannagar Notified Area Authority in the year 1989 which was subsequently converted into Bidhannagar Municipality in the year 1995 the nature of the developmental activities of Salt Lake, so far as they concern the Salt Lake Project under the control of this Department, has got significant changes. There was a Eighth Plan Outlay of Rs. 246.00 lakhs for creating the infrastructural facilities of the township which included extension of school buildings, widening of roads, resuscitation of eastern drainage canal and construction of rental flats. Among the important schemes executed by the project during the period from 1994-95 to 1995-96 were extension and renovation of Salt Lake School (CA) and Bidhannagar Rastriya Vidyalaya (BD) for which a sum of Rs. 22.00 lakhs was expended. A further sum of Rs. 187.10 lakhs is expected to be expended by the project during the current financial year.

Calcutta Improvement Trust

Calcutta Improvement Trust executes two types of schemes—remunerative and non-remunerative. The remunerative schemes executed by the CIT during the Eighth Plan period includes Spot Development at Gariahat, Civic Centre at Manicktala and Manicktala Area Development Schemes. During the Ninth Plan period, the CIT will take up various remunerative schemes such as Housing and Commercial Projects and Area Development Project in Old South Suburban Municipal area, CMC's added area etc. which will create additional commercial and cultural facilities for the population residing in these areas besides creating more employment

opportunities for them. Under the non-remunerative schemes, CIT gave main concentration on road widening projects. During the Eighth Plan period, the important non-remunerative schemes taken up by CIT were Improvement of Deshapran Sasmal Road, widening and extension of various roads viz. Bentinck Street, Amherst Street, Beliaghata Main Road, Manicktala Main Road and Dhakuria Station Road. A sum of Rs. 128.70 lakhs was expended during the period 1992-96 under the remunerative schemes and an amount of Rs. 122 lakhs has been proposed to be the expenditure under the same schemes during the year 1996-97. Under non-remunerative schemes, a sum of Rs. 27.29 lakhs was expended during the period 1992-96 while a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs is likely to be expended during the year 1996-97.

Howrah Improvement Trust

Howrah Improvement Trust is an old organisation which was in the past entrusted with the infrastructural development within the Howrah Municipal area only. By a recent amendment of the Howrah Improvement Act, the jurisdiction of HIT has been extended and made coterminous with the district. Among the schemes executed by HIT during the first four years of the Eighth Plan period are water supply, development of sewerage, drainage, roads, area development and other civic facilities particularly in the under-developed and fringe areas of HIT. Like CIT, HIT's schemes also comprise of both the remunerative and non-remunerative schemes. Out of 8th Plan Outlay, HIT took up various general development schemes and park schemes for which a sum of Rs. 8.40 lakhs was expended under the non-remunerative schemes. During the 1996-97, the expenditure of 8th Plan Outlay by HIT was to the tune of Rs. 40.00 lakhs under the non-remunerative schemes and Rs. 40.00 lakhs under the remunerative schemes. During the Ninth Plan period also, the HIT contemplates to take up various infrastructural development schemes of which the schemes viz. commercial complex at Kadamtala, bus terminus behind Fire Service Station, construction of road from Belgachia to Lillua, Housing project at Dumrajola and second phase of Howrah, Drainage Canal Road worth mentioning.

11.8.3 Programme of the Urban Development (Town & Country Planning) Department

In pursuance of the provision laid down under the West Bengal Town and Country (Planning and Development) Act, 1979, six Development Authorities have been set-up so far. Among them Asansol Durgapur Development Authority, Haldia Development Authority and Siliguri-Jalpaiguri Development Authority were set-up in April, 1980 and the other three, namely, Sriniketan Santiniketan Development Authority, the Jaigaon Development Authority and Digha Development Authority were set-up in the year 1989, 1990 and 1993 respectively. Besides, there are 8 (eight) Planning Authorities within the State, namely, South 24-Parganas Planning Authority, Mirik Planning Authority, Barjora Gangajalghati Planning Authority, Burdwan Planning Authority, Bakreswar Planning Authority, Midnapur Kharagpur Planning Authority, Farakka Planning Authority and Sonarpur-Bhangar Baruipur Planning Authority.

The main objective of these development authorities is to arrest unplanned and haphazard growth in towns and villages within their jurisdiction and develop the area in a planned and comprehensive manner so as to provide basic civic amenities like housing/market complex, sewerage/drainage facilities, water supply, roads, electricity, truck and bus terminal, commercial complex, sports complex etc. in co-ordination with all the departments and agencies of the State Government and local authorities operating within the Planning Areas along with the preparation and enforcement of Land Use and Development Control Plan.

Performance of the Development Authorities & Planning Authority during the Eighth Plan Period

Siliguri Jalpaiguri Development Authority

Siliguri Jalpaiguri Development Authority has already enforced the LUDCP approved by Government. The said Authority has completed a good number of projects, among which are Central Bus Terminus-cum-Office Complex at Siliguri, Market Complex at Jalpaiguri, Eastern Bypass (Ph. I) at Siliguri. The Authority has further undertaken the projects, viz. Link Road to North Bengal Medical College Area which has been given top priority. Town Drainage Scheme, Siliguri, extended Vivekananda Road, Siliguri and Auditorium-cum-Art Gallery, Jalpaiguri. Besides these major projects, a few more schemes as Parivahan Nagar, Eastern Bypass (Ph. II), Jalpaiguri Bus Terminus (Ph. I), Phulbari Ghoshpukur Bypass etc. are under different stages of implementation. For execution of development schemes out of the Eighth Plan Outlay of Rs. 1420.00 lakhs, a sum of Rs. 1038.097 lakhs was expended during the period from 1992-93 to 1995-96 which includes a sum of Rs. 250 lakhs as Additional Central Assistance. A sum of Rs. 200.00 lakhs was also spent in the year 1996-97.

Sriniketan Santiniketan Development Authority

Sriniketan Santiniketan Development Authority has achieved sufficient progress in the preparation of LUDCP. Among the major projects undertaken by the Development Authority, construction of Rabindra Bhawan and the Auditorium Complex at Santiniketan have been taken up on priority basis. Total estimated cost for these two projects is Rs. 3.00 lakhs. Among other projects which deserve special mention are construction of Bypass road at Bolpur and construction of Environment Park at Lahabandh near Santiniketan. During the Ninth Plan period schemes, viz. improvement of Palli Roads, sewerage and drainage system, development of Urja Gram (Solar Village), construction of parks, play ground, construction of primary schools, construction of Low Cost House, construction of wells and tubewells for drinking water supply, construction of Office-cum-Commercial Complex are going to be taken up. For execution of development schemes, out of the total Eighth Plan Outlay of Rs. 200.00 lakhs a sum of Rs. 228.30 lakhs was spent during the period from 1992-93 to 1995-96 and a sum of Rs. 100.00 lakhs was also expended during the financial year 1996-97.

Asansol-Durgapur Development Authority

LUDCM in respect of ADDA is expected to be finalised soon. Among the schemes which are either executed or in the different stages of execution are Area Development in Mangalpore and Kalyanpore, acquisition of land, construction of arterial road, construction of road from Chittaranjan Road Colony including culverts to Sitarampur Station Road, construction of road from Jamuria to Churulia and setting up of a Export Promotion Industrial Park at Durgapur. For execution of development schemes out of the total Eighth Plan Outlay of Rs. 1915.00 lakhs, a sum of Rs. 343.18 lakhs was spent during the period from 1992-93 to 1995-96 and a sum of Rs. 120.00 lakhs was expended during the financial year 1996-97.

Haldia Development Authority

The LUDCP for Haldia Development Authority has already been operative with the approval of the Government. Among the schemes either executed or at the different stages of execution are construction of link road, acquisition of land and construction of road from

NH-41 to Haldi River, acquisition of land and construction of road for vehicular ferry service from Roychak to Kukrahati, renovation of WBIIDC Road, construction of metalled road from Barda Railway Station at Chaitanyapur to Geonkhali Water Works Site. For execution of development schemes out of the total Eighth Plan Outlay of Rs. 3040.00 lakhs, a sum of Rs. 1081.353 lakhs was spent during the period from 1992-93 to 1995-96 and a sum of Rs. 300.00 lakhs was expended during the financial year 1996-97.

Jaigaon Development Authority

LUDCP for JDA is under preparation. Out of the major projects undertaken by the Authority. Bus Terminus (Ph. I), water supply and street lighting have already been completed. Second Phase of Bus Terminus and Street lighting scheme are in progress. A number of new schemes such as Improvement of Hansimara Jaigaon Road (10 kms.), Drainage scheme along both side of Main Road at Jaigaon, creation of drinking water source and desiltation of Hansimara Jhora & Soil Conservation Scheme are under contemplation. For execution of development schemes and preparation of LUDCM out of the total Eighth Plan Outlay of Rs. 200.00 lakhs a sum of Rs. 12.00 lakhs was expended during the period from 1992-93 to 1995-96 and a sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs was expended during the financial year 1996-97.

Digha Development Authority

The LUDCP for DDA is expected to be finalised very soon.

The DDA has undertaken a number of remunerative schemes with the aim of generating income for the authority as also to render better civic amenities to the tourists. The most important schemes taken up by DDA are—development of permanent picnic spot at New Digha. A sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs has been provided in the plan budget which was expended during financial year 1996-97.

Planning Authorities

Land Use and Development Control Plans in respect of Midnapore-Kharagpur Planning Authority, Barjora-Gangajolghati Planning Authority, 24 Parganas (South) Planning Authority are in indifferent stages of preparation.

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 a Residential Sector, Hotel Sector, Holiday Home Sector, Shopping and Busiess 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. Actions are being taken to implement the recommendations. Moreover, a coastal Zone Management plan drawn up by the

Geological Survey of India is also being followed up. 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 alongwith 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. 130 lakhs is proposed to be spent during 1997-98 on Digha Development Scheme.

11.9 INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

11.9.1 Programme of the Information and Cultural Affairs Department

The Information and Cultural Affairs Department is a Common Service Department of the Government serving all Departments of Government in dissemination of Information and in educating public opinion through different media. The cultural activities of the Government are also looked after by this Department. For better functioning the Department has been structured into four distinct wings for implementation of plan programmes viz. Information Wing, Film Wing, Cultural Wing and Archaeology Wing. Schemes proposed for implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan are discussed accordingly:

Information Wing

The main objective of the Information Wing is to disseminate information on the various activities, plans, programmes 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.

Plan schemes of the Information Wing are as under:

I. Direction and Administration

a) Construction of Information and Cultural Complex

The space available to this Department in Writers' Buildings and elsewhere in Calcutta being inadequate, a building is proposed to be constructed at 85, Acharya J. C. Bose Road (the land owned by Government) to accommodate a few office units. Since the scheme has not been finalised as yet a token provision as indicated in Volume II has been made for the year 1997-98.

b) Setting up of State-level Information Centre at Siliguri

(i) Construction of this Information Centre has been completed. To run the establishment a sum of rupees as indicated in Volume II has been proposed.

(ii) Setting up of Information Bureau in different States

The question of setting up of Information Centres at Bombay and Madras is under consideration of the Government. A token provision as indicated in Volume II has been made for the year 1997-98.

(iii) Setting up of a State Information Centre at Durgapur

Recently, 'Durgapur Notified Area Authority' has enhanced the rent of the building, which is used for the Information Office and the Information Centre. The Department has a plot of land of its own there. In view of the importance of Durgapur it is felt that we should go in for construction of a building on this plot in order to accommodate the Information Office as well as the Information Centre. As such, a provision as indicated in Volume II has been made.

(iv) Setting up of an Institute for Mass Media Research and Training

The proposed expenditure includes training of Journalists of small & medium Newspaper in districts, holding of seminars etc. from time to time by the Mass Media Centre set-up by the State Government. So, a token provision as indicated in Volume II has been made.

(v) 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 as shown in Volume II has been made.

2. 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 as indicated in Volume II has been made.

b) Strengthening of Exhibition set-up

A few permanent sets of exhibition for display in Calcutta and mufasall area have already been prepared. An exhibition set on the life and activities of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has been prepared during 1996-97 and mounted at Mahajati Sadan. A few such exhibition sets will be prepared in the coming year. So a provision as indicated in Volume II has been made.

c) Setting up of Rural Video Screening Units

Colour T.V. sets with VCPs are being purchased and distributed in the districts and sub-divisional Offices. The scheme has now been extended to the Panchayet bodies. So, an amount as indicated in Volume II has been earmarked.

d) Modernisation of Distribution Section

The modernisation scheme is to be continued for speedy despatch of Government publications which are increasing year by year. So, an amount as shown in Volume II has been proposed during 1997-98.

e) **Special publicity for Sunderban Areas**

For various administrative reasons the scheme could not be implemented during the year 1996-97. But steps will be taken to purchase/hire Motor Driving Boat for organising film shows in remote villages of Sunderban in the coming year i.e. 1997-98. As such, an amount as indicated in Volume II may be provided during 1997-98.

3. **PHOTO SERVICES**

Modernisation of Photo Section

Photo Section needs modernisation including installation of a colour Photo Laboratory. A sum as shown in Volume II may be provided during 1997-98.

4. **PRESS INFORMATION SERVICE**

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 1997-98. An amount as indicated in Volume II has been earmarked for the year 1997-98.

5. **LOANS TO BASUMATI CORPORATION**

Due to various reasons the economic condition of Basumati Corporation which is a Government Undertaking, is very. The loan will be required to make it economically viable. An amount as shown in Volume II may be provided during 1997-98.

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, acquisitioned 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 1997-98 are indicated 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 because the machineries are old ones. Conditions of the floors are also not satisfactory. There is urgent need for modern Cameras, lighting facilities and other accessories. To make the Studio up-dated in the financial year 1997-98, a sum of Rs. 44 lakhs has been proposed keeping in view the increase in salary and other price hike.

(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. However, a small room has been constructed to preserve the negatives of the films. The building of the Vault at the Radha Film Studio premises requires immediate repair to prevent further damage to the films lying at the Vault. Adequate arrangements are also required for maintaining an optimum level of temperature in the Vault and for this, installation of A.C.

machines is required. Accordingly, a provision for Rs. 4 lakhs in the budget for the year 1997-98 is being proposed for undertaking this important work.

(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 machineries 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. 10 lakhs is being made for the year 1997-98.

(4) Film Festival

The State Government has decided to hold an International Film Festival every year at Calcutta. Besides, different film festivals of world-wide renowned directors and short film-makers are contemplated to be organised by the State Government through West Bengal Film Centre either singlehandedly or with the Directorate of Film Festival, Government of India or with National Film Development Corpn., N.F.A.I. or with other organisations viz. Short Film Makers' Association, Federation of Film Societies of India etc. So a provision of Rs. 25 lakhs will be required for 1997-98.

(5) Setting up of Film Archive and importance of facilities at West Bengal Film Centre "Nandan"

West Bengal Film Centre is located at Nandan complex. It is an amalgam 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 Ray has been established. High Cost of acquiring films and technical resources required to preserve those films demand financial resources. In the budget estimate for 1997-98, Rs. 5 lakhs is being proposed under the head.

(6) Video Complex

As a joint venture with the Government of Italy, a video complex for training-cum-production centre for educational audio-visual 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. Machineries for this centre will be provided by the Government of Italy. Training will be imparted there in different aspects including digital effects and computer graphics. Under this programme the State Government will have to provide land and building. Accordingly, a budget provision of Rs. 30 lakhs is being proposed for the purpose.

(7) Degree, Diploma Courses in Film-making

It may be recalled that West Bengal Film Centre, Nandan, organised Film Appreciation, film-making courses. A provision of Rs. 1 lakh in the budget estimate for 1997-98 has been made.

(8) Acquisition of Studios

To provide funds towards payment of residual compensation arising out of acquisition of the Technicians' Studio, a sum of Rs. 1 lakh has been provided under the relevant head for the year 1997-98.

(9) 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 a purpose of the filmlovers of West Bengal. Development and Planning Board has given their approval to this project. Estimates have been prepared by Public Works Department of this Government. So to start with, provision of fund for this purpose is required. Accordingly, a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs is proposed for the year 1997-98 under this head.

(10) 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. Ever increasing population also accentuate the inadequacy. Besides, there is a crying need for alternative release chain of offbeat cinema. So, the State Government considered setting up of Cinema Houses throughout the State. A provision of Rs. 10.00 lakh is proposed for the year 1997-98.

(11) 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 negative of those films need proper restoration are immediately called for. Moreover, preventive measures are to be taken for other important films. A provision of Rs. 1.00 lakh is provided for the budget year 1997-98.

(12) Grants/Subsidy towards promotion relating to Film Activities in Districts

With a view to propagate film activities in districts through organisation of film festival, seminar, etc. a provision of Rs. 2.00 lakh is provided for the financial year 1997-98.

**11.10 WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES
AND OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES**

11.10.1 Programme of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes Welfare Department

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are the weakest section of the society and constitute 23.62 percent and 5.59 percent respectively of the West Bengal's population. Their welfare and development are the major concern of the Government. To improve the socio-economic conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes a variety of programmes are taken up under normal Departmental programme, under Special Component Plan, under Special Central Assistance and also through WBSC & ST Development and Finance Corporation and WBTDCE.

The Annual Plan of the Department of Scheduled Castes and Tribes Welfare for the year 1997-98 has been proposed for Rs. 40.00 crores.

Out of the aforesaid amount, a sum of Rs. 28.49 crores will be required for implementation of various educational schemes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, including an amount of Rs. 20.54 crores for implementation of various stipendiary schemes like "book-grants" for

students of secondary stage, "hostel charges", "maintenance charges" for day-scholars and "maintenance cost of the Ashramites of 201 ashram hostels under State Sector."

In order to make available grants for purchase of books to 11 lakh students in 1997-98, it has been proposed plan expenditure of an amount of Rs. 475.00 lakhs in 1997-98. To cater to the needs of the students pursuing higher technical courses it has been decided to give lumpsum book grants to the students of Engineering and Medical Courses to start with a grant of Rs. 2000/- per annum. It is presumed that the number will not exceed 1500 of such students in each year and thus their requirement will be Rs. 30 lakhs per year. To encourage the poor students to continue with their studies at the primary level and to arrest the dropout rate among them the seat capacity in the Ashram type of hostels are planned to be increased in the Ninth Five Year Plan and an additional capacity of 1100 seats are going to be added in the next financial year. Hence total plan allocation for 1997-98 for maintenance of Ashram students has been earmarked at Rs. 158 lakhs. As regards maintenance charges it has been proposed an allocation of Rs. 522.00 lakhs for 1997-98 in place of Rs. 397.00 lakhs in 1996-97, which would benefit 2,10,000 day-scholars in 1997-98 compared to 1,70,000 day-scholars in 1996-97. These schemes proposed to be implemented are particularly for the benefit of the wardens of rural poor.

As in 1996-97, an identical amount of Rs. 1.34 crores have been proposed for meeting 50 percent matching share for construction and extension of Government managed Central Hostels for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes boys and girls students for which equivalent amount of Central Assistance will be received.

It has been proposed grants-in-aid of Rs. 21.00 lakhs in 1997-98 as Aid to Voluntary agencies working for development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and also an amount of Rs. 28.40 lakhs in 1997-98 for promotion of cultural activities and Mela relating to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people.

For Roads, Bridges and Culverts in area pre-dominantly inhabited by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population, it has been proposed an amount of 352.00 lakhs only in 1997-98. An amount of Rs. 150.00 lakhs have been earmarked to be spent on construction of new Ashram type hostels considered to be a most important infrastructure which may contribute to the development of the new generation of the weaker section, in pre-dominantly inaccessible areas. This will help in constructing 60 hostels of 20 seat capacity at an approximate cost of Rs. 2.5 lakhs each. Thus every year the Ashram hostel seats are expected to be increased by 1200 numbers. This alongwith the expenditure of roads, bridges and culverts will form the care of RIDF for which Rs. 5 crores are earmarked in the Annual Plan of 1997-98.

It has been proposed a sum of Rs. 600.00 lakhs for 1997-98 under share capital contribution to be utilised as margin money loan for benefitting SC and STs under Family Oriented Employment Generation Schemes, NSFDC-linked Schemes etc. Meanwhile West Bengal Backward Classes Development and Finance Corporation has been set up with 1 non-official Chairman, 5 (five) State Government nominated members and other statutory members. In 1996-97 NBCFDC have sanctioned 550 units in January 1997 with total project cost of Rs. 383.50 lakhs, for which budget provision in 1996-97 took care 10% of the project cost as margin money loan to finance the sanctioned schemes. For 1997-98 it has been provided for margin money loan in the proposed plan scheme.

In view of availability of higher assistance of share capital, both from Government of India and State Government, of which 4 percent can be utilised towards monitoring charges, it

has been proposed a token amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh in plan for 1997-98 during the current financial year towards matching grants to the Corporation for promotional activities.

Creation of a few new posts at Headquarters and at field level is felt essential to cope up with additional volume of work which has increased in view of works relating to Other Backward Classes having been included in the Rules of Business of this Department, as well as for monitoring TSP schemes along Maharashtra model already adopted by State Government and also for SCP schemes.

11.11 LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

11.11.1 Programme of the Labour Department

Labour and Labour Welfare

The Labour Department is concerned with two heads of developments, (1) Labour and Labour Welfare including Employment and (2) Employees' State Insurance (Medical Benefit) Scheme.

A total sum of Rs. 11536.35 lakhs including Rs. 215.25 lakhs for ESI (MB) Scheme was provided for the entire Eighth Plan Period. Out of entire amount an amount of Rs. 2680.00 lakhs is now controlled by the Technical Education and Training Department and Rs. 2827.68 lakhs was incurred by the Labour Department up to 1995-96. Rs. 685.79 lakhs has been proposed to be incurred during 1997-98.

For the year 1997-98 a total outlay of Rs. 822.00 lakhs has been earmarked for execution of the schemes under Labour and Labour Welfare including Employment.

Schematic descriptions with financial implications of the programme under Labour and Labour Welfare including Employment are recorded hereunder:

Labour Directorate

Labour Directorate adopted the following ongoing schemes with a view to catering greater benefits as provided in different Labour Laws for the working classes of the State.

- i) Strengthening of Enforcement Machinery.
- ii) Strengthening of Labour Institute-cum-Central Library.
- iii) Grants to Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management for Labour Welfare Officers Training Course.
- iv) Improvement of Labour Statistics.
- v) Strengthening of Industrial Relations Machinery.
- vi) Bidi Workers' Welfare Scheme.
- vii) Improvement of Working Condition of women and child labour.

All the above schemes are staff-oriented and there is provision for modernisation of offices with sophisticated equipment.

For this purpose a sum of Rs. 36.00 lakhs was provided for 1996-97.

An outlay of Rs. 40.00 lakhs has been provided during 1997-98 the schematic details of which has been shown in Volume II.

Directorate of Boilers

The Directorate adopted the following ongoing schemes:

i) *Setting up of a Testing Laboratory for examination of Boilers:* The Testing Laboratory has been set up in order to look after the quality of the material of the boilers and its welding and also its in-built technique by chemical, physical and metallurgical testing along with destructive and non-destructive tests as per requirement of Indian Boilers Regulation, 1950. With the development of latest Boiler Technology the Testing Laboratory has been equipped with modern sophisticated equipment. It has been rendering valuable service to the Engineering Industries of this State.

This scheme is for modernisation and expansion of the Laboratory with modern machineries as well as with expert personnels.

For this purpose a sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs was spent during 1996-97.

An outlay of Plan Budget provision of Rs. 15.00 lakhs has been kept for the year 1997-98.

ii) *Welders' Training Centre:* This centre imparts training in High Pressure welding on completion of the course. This training programme creates employment avenues for the unemployed ITI students in Welding Trade. This centre is also giving training to the Engineering personnels sponsored by different Engineering Industries around the country.

There is scope for expansion of the centre, hence the scheme.

For this purpose a sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs was spent during the year 1996-97.

An outlay of Plan Budget Provision of Rs. 21.50 lakhs has been kept for the year 1997-98.

Directorate of Factories

For better and efficient workings of this Directorate and to cater better services to the workers of the Factories in West Bengal as per provisions framed under different Acts relating to factories the following ongoing schemes have been taken up for implementation:

- i) Opening of a new branch office at Howrah.
- ii) Strengthening of Research and Development Wing.
- iii) Grants-in-aid to the Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management for Training of Safety Officers.

All these schemes are employment generated with proposals for purchase of modern equipment for Research and Development Wing.

A sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs was incurred during the year 1996-97.

An outlay of Rs. 33.00 lakhs has been kept for the year 1997-98 as detailed in Volume-II.

Shops and Establishments Directorate

The Shops and Establishment Directorate has taken up the following new schemes for better enforcement of the West Bengal Shops and Establishment Act for safeguarding the interest

of the persons employed in the Shops and Establishment and to dispose of the Registration cases quickly and efficiently:

- i) Strengthening of the enforcement machinery.
- ii) Computerisation of the Registration Section in the Head Office, Calcutta.

For this purpose an outlay of Rs. 12.50 lakhs has been earmarked for the Annual Plan Period 1997-98.

Industrial Tribunals/Labour Courts

Setting up of Industrial Tribunal and Labour Court: For speedy disposal of the Industrial dispute cases as well as to cope up with the increasing number of Industrial dispute cases, there is a proposal for setting up of two more Industrial Tribunals one each at Howrah and Barrackpore where the concentration of Industrial units is very large.

An outlay of Rs. 2.00 lakhs has been earmarked for the year 1997-98.

Strengthening of the Planning Cell of Labour Department (Secretariat)

This is a staff-oriented proposal leading to creation of some posts of cope up with the increasing work-load of the Planning Cell of the Labour Department.

An outlay of Rs. 1.00 lakh has been kept for implementation to this proposal during 1997-98.

Setting up of Child Labour Cell of the Labour Department (Secretariat)

This is also a staff-oriented proposal leading to creation of some posts for Special Child Labour Cell in order to make survey to identify child labour in different employments in the State and to withdraw the children working in hazardous occupations as per directions of the Supreme Court of India and also to enact the provision of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act. Besides, this Department have to execute the National Child Labour Project in seven districts of the State as per guidelines of the Government of India.

An outlay of Rs. 80.00 lakhs has been kept for this purpose during 1997-98.

Directorate of Employment

Extension of Employment Services

This scheme comprises of the following sub-schemes:

- i) Opening/Strengthening of University Employment Information and Guidance Bureau.
- ii) Opening of 40 (forty) Employment Information and Assistances Bureau.
- iii) Setting up of Women/Physically Handicapped Cells.
- iv) Strengthening of Staff Training Unit at the Directorate Headquarter.

This scheme is mostly staff-oriented.

An outlay of Rs. 30.00 lakhs has been kept for implementation during the year 1997-98.

Employment Market Information

This is a staff-oriented scheme which is divided into two sub-schemes namely:

- i) Opening of EMI Units.
- ii) Strengthening of Statistical Cell at the Directorate.

For implementation of this scheme an outlay of Rs. 5.50 lakhs has been provided during 1997-98.

Self-Employment Scheme for the Registered Unemployed in West Bengal

The State Government provides margin money @ 25% of the Project cost. For effective implementation of the SESRU Project Co-ordination with Banks is a continuing process. Effective measures to clear the projects sponsored by Employment Exchanges but not sanctioned by the Bank have been taken up.

To improve the recovery of Bank Loan under SESRU Programme Employment Exchanges are organising/participating in recovery camps in collaboration with Banks.

The following sub-schemes are to be materialised for effective implementation of the SESRU :

- i) Creation of posts of Statistical Inspectors.
- ii) Opening of SESRU Unit in Hingalganj Employment Exchange.
- iii) Execution of Schemes Employment Exchange.
- iv) Computerisation of Employment Exchange.

For the Annual Plan, 1996-97 Rs. 526.00 lakhs was approved and provided. For 1997-98 an outlay of Rs. 433.50 lakhs has been kept.

Labour Welfare Board

The West Bengal Labour Welfare Board has been constituted under the West Bengal Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1974 to look after promotion of welfare activities amongst the employees of Factories, Tea Plantation Commercial Estates, Tramways and Motor Transport of the State. To cater more welfare measures and recreational facilities to the workers and their families, several plan schemes have been taken under "Model Labour Welfare Centres and Holiday Homes".

- a) Construction of Holiday Homes:

Construction of Holiday Homes has been suggested at the following places:

- i) Ayodhya Hills in Purulia District.
- ii) Farakka in Murshidabad District.
- b) Construction of Holiday Home-cum-Community Hall at Salt Lake, Calcutta.
- c) Construction of Model Labour Welfare Centre.

The following places have been identified for this purpose:

- i) Bowria in Howrah District.
- ii) Bagdogra in Darjeeling District.
- iii) Haldia in Midnapore District.
- d) Renovation/Repair/Addition/Alteration of existing Holiday Homes/Welfare Centres.

The following Holiday Home/Welfare Centre have been identified for this purpose:

- i) Holiday Home at Digha.
- ii) Welfare Centre at Gourhati.

A total sum of Rs. 70.00 lakhs has been provided for the year 1997-98 for this purpose.

Subsidised Housing Scheme for Bidi Workers

This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. A sum of Rs. 1.00 lakh was provided for the year 1996-97. An outlay of Rs. 1.00 lakh has been provided for the year 1997-98.

11.11.2 Programme of the Development & Planning Department

Additional Employment Programme

Additional Employment Programme was introduced in the State in the year 1973-74 as a Central Sector Scheme with three components. viz., Training, Subsidised Employment and Self-employment. The scheme was redesigned in the year 1974-75 and emphasis was laid mainly on self-employment schemes among the educated unemployed persons. Since 1978-79 the scope of the programme has been further widened to include all categories of unemployed persons, educated or uneducated for promoting self-generating employment schemes.

Under the programme margin money assistance is provided to proprietary concerns/ partnership firms, public/private limited companies and co-operative societies for the purpose of setting up new societies as well as for expansion of existing small scale units in the field of industries, commerce and service etc. Margin money is sanctioned to the extent of 10% of the total project cost as approved by the financial institutions and there shall have on average, one employment in that unit for every Rs. 5000/- of margin money. 20% margin money assistance is extendable to entrepreneurs belonging to SC and ST. Physically handicapped entrepreneurs. Ex-servicemen and Industrial Co-operatives. The loan together with admissible rate of interest thereon is repayable in four equal annual instalments. Repayment of margin money against Block Capital starts after the terms loan from Bank/Financial Institutions with interest has been fully repaid or eight years whichever is earlier. Repayment of margin money against working capital commences from the 3rd year of the date of advance.

The Scheme would be continued during the Ninth Five Year Plan and appropriate fund would be kept. For the Annual Plan 1997-98 Rs. 20.00 lakhs has been provided for the programme.

11.11.3 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 of 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 a 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 of Rs. 25.00 crores has been provided for the Annual Plan Period of 1997-98.

11.12 SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE

11.12.1 Programme of the Social Welfare Department

Human resource development play a critical role in the socio-economic development of a country. It is an investment towards improving the quality of human life. Although development brings economic gains to society in general, specific measures are required to extend the fruits of development to reach the disadvantaged and the weaker sections of the population such as women, children, the disabled, the aged and the destitute. It is also required to extend the victims of drug and also to the victims of other categories of our social system.

With this broad objectives in view, several schemes have been undertaken in this State which are detailed below:

Strengthening of District Set-Up: This is for meeting the salaries of the Inspectors of Social Welfare. Plan outlay for 1997-98 on this scheme is Rs. 2.50 lakhs. The 80 vacant posts of Social Welfare Inspectors are expected to be filled up this year. The fund is essential to strengthen and implement the district level important Social Welfare Programme.

Training schemes for different categories of functionaries of Welfare Directorate and Department through different organisation: The purpose of this scheme is to orient the social welfare officers and to develop their skill and knowledge about the plans and programmes of Social Welfare. Plan outlay for 1997-98 for this scheme is Rs. 0.50 lakh. UNICEF have given non-recurring grant for setting up a State level training centre.

Implementation of the recommendations of the Home Reforms Committee: This is a scheme for implementation of the recommendations of the Home Reforms Committee set-up by this Department for a study of various problems of different institutions under this Department. The proposed Plan Outlay for 1997-98 is Rs. 3.00 lakhs to modernise Government Homes.

Creation of 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 SW Programmes. Rs. 3.00 lakhs have been proposed for the Annual Plan 1997-98. A portion of the fund will be used to prepare a film against dowry and also on development of consciousness of handicapped persons.

Welfare of Handicapped 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. An outlay of 15.00 lakhs has been proposed for the Annual Plan 1997-98. This would meet to some extent emerging demand of these appliances.

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. Proposed Plan outlay for 1997-98 for this scheme is Rs. 36.00 lakhs. This provision would meet to some extent rising demand for the scholarship.

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. Proposed Plan Outlay for 1997-98 for this Scheme is Rs. 1.00 lakh.

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. The proposed Plan Outlay of this scheme for 1997-98 is Rs. 29.50 lakhs only. At present 1571 handicapped persons are receiving this pension. Proposed Outlay would extend more coverages.

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. This scheme may be linked with IRDP so that the grant can be used as seed money in bankable projects wherever possible. The proposed Plan Outlay for this scheme is Rs. 13.00 lakhs only.

Integrated Education for Disabled children: This scheme aims at educating disabled children by making extra efforts to get them enrolled in existing schools. The proposed Plan Outlay for 1997-98 is Rs. 1.00 lakh.

Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working in the field of Welfare of handicapped: The purpose of this scheme is to offer grant-in-aid to encourage the voluntary organisations working in the field of welfare of handicapped persons. The proposed Plan Outlay for this scheme is Rs. 1.00 lakh only for 1997-98.

Creation of Public Awareness against drug abuse: In order to curb the incidence of drug addiction among youths adequate public awareness should be build up to prevent the onset of drug habits among the young generation of our State. Hence, a provision of Rs. 2.00 lakhs has been made for the year 1997-98.

Printing of I.C. for the Disabled: The proposed Plan Outlay for this scheme is Rs. 1.00 lakh. To meet cost of printing 10 lakhs of Identity Cards for disabled persons. Identity Cards are basic requirement for awarding benefits to disabled persons.

Training on early detection of disability: Detection of sign of Non-normal behaviour at the early stage goes a long way in preventing disabilities of the children. This is more relevant for the remote areas of the districts. The scheme aims at organising skill development for social/paramedical workers and other functionaries through specified training. The proposed plan outlay is Rs. 0.50 lakhs.

Remodelling and Renovation of Cottages at Digha: 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 proposed Plan Outlay for the year 1997-98 is Rs. 2.50 lakhs for construction of dormitory building.

Establishment of Child guidance clinics: This scheme is aimed at giving financial assistance to voluntary organisations for setting up units of Child guidances Clinics for counselling of children and parents with a view to restoring interpersonal relationship and fastening healthy value. Plan Outlay for this scheme is Rs. 1.40 lakhs only for the year 1997-98.

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. Government of India withdraw their contribution w.e.f. 1.4.93. The Plan Outlay for 1997-98 for this scheme is Rs. 160.00 lakhs only. 6900 children are maintained with fund under the head. Higher provision may be necessary to afford more facilities to the inmates.

Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisation for maintenance of neglected and Destitute Children: This scheme is for meeting up capitation allowance of destitute children at Homes run by Voluntary Organisation with institutional care. The Plan Outlay for 1997-98 is Rs. 10.00 lakhs only to cope with increased maintenance cost.

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. Plan Outlay under this scheme for 1997-98 is Rs. 13.00 lakhs.

Introduction of Vocational Training Centres for Destitute Boys: This scheme is for imparting vocational training to the destitute children reared up in the Homes run by Government/ Voluntary Organisations. The Plan Outlay for 1997-98 is Rs. 8.00 lakhs only. The vocational trades are imparted by NGOs like Ramkrishna Mission, Narendrapur, Rahara, Karma Kutir etc. Training of ex-inmates of Government Home comes under this scheme.

Welfare of Street Children: This scheme aims at health inputs providing education and nutrition to street children living in cities through NGOs. The Plan Outlay for 1997-98 is Rs. 1.00 lakh.

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 NGOs. The Plan Outlay for 1997-98 is Rs. 0.50 lakh.

Assistance towards setting up of working Women's Hostel: The purpose of this scheme is to give matching grant for construction of working women's hostels for staff of ICDS Projects as well as for other working women. The Plan Outlay for this for 1997-98 is Rs. 4.00 lakhs only. Hostels at Dist. levels need be constructed. This fund is also needed for encouraging voluntary agencies who come up with the proposal of setting Women Hostel. At present 17 such Hostels are under construction and for them grants are required to be released from the State Head.

Grant of Pension to Destitute Widows: The purpose of this scheme is to give financial assistance to destitute widows @ Rs. 100/- per month per beneficiary. The Plan Outlay for this scheme is Rs. 43.00 lakhs only to accommodate more number of beneficiaries who are waiting at different levels. At present 2357 widows are getting widow pension. Higher Provision is required for additional coverages.

Vocational Training for Girls and Women in Government Homes: The scheme is aimed at strengthening vocational training in Homes run by Government for girls and women. The Plan

Outlay for this scheme for 1997-98 is Rs. 1.00 lakh only. The vocational trades include weaving, printing, tailoring and knitting.

Assistance for Economic Rehabilitation of Girl inmates of Home: The scheme is for giving financial assistance to discharged girl inmates of Homes for their economic rehabilitation. The Plan Outlay for this scheme for 1997-98 is Rs. 1.00 lakh only.

Training Programme for Women in Distress: The scheme is for imparting training to distressed women under erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Scheme run by Voluntary Organisations. The Plan Outlay for 1997-98 for this scheme is Rs. 1.00 lakh only. Government of India discontinued funding on this programme since 1.4.1992.

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 setting income generating activities. The proposed Plan Outlay for the scheme is Rs. 20.00 lakhs only. This is a State Plan Scheme for different programme of women development.

National Programme on Improved Chulha: This Centrally Sponsored Programme works in village level in the field of women welfare. For awareness building among the women Rs. 1.00 lakh has been kept for 1997-98.

Preparation of IEC materials for focussing on Women's issues: This fund is essential for preparation of information, educational and communication material for focussing on women's issues. The provision will also be utilised for support to women for their empowerment. The proposed Plan Outlay for in 1997-98 is Rs. 1.00 lakh only.

1. *Promotion of Establishment of Homes for the Old Destitute:* The scheme is for completion of construction of the existing structure of South Girls Home and its maintenance and also for opening of new old-age Home. The proposed Plan Outlay for 1997-98 for this scheme is Rs. 4.00 lakhs only.

2. *Expansion/Renovation of existing vagrants' Homes and establishment Homes for Vagrants in Calcutta and Districts:* This scheme is meant for expansion/renovation of existing vagrants' Homes under the Controller of Vagrancy, West Bengal and for construction of new vagrants' Homes. The Plan Outlay proposed is for Rs. 40.00 lakhs only for 1997-98.

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. The proposed Plan Outlay is Rs. 43.00 lakhs only. 2357 destitute old people are getting pension under this head. Addl. fund is sought for more coverages.

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 Plan Outlay of Rs. 90.00 lakhs only for 1997-98. Funds will be spent on construction and upgradation of services in the homes.

Assistance to Voluntary Organisations: This scheme aims at giving financial assistance to voluntary organisations for promotion of Social Welfare activities. The proposed Plan Outlay is of Rs. 9.90 lakhs only for 1997-98.

11.12.2 Programme of the Mass Education Extention Department

Social Welfare Homes

There are ten State Welfare Homes under the direct administrative control of the Department and forty-six aided Welfare Homes, including eight for destitute girls for imparting school education and vocational training to orphans and economically backward boys and girls. The per capita expenditure per inmate per month in the Welfare Homes has been enhanced from Rs. 240 to Rs. 400 with effect from 1.7.95.

During the financial year 1996-97, 1380 applications for admission to different Social Welfare Homes have been sanctioned. At present 2795 inmates are residing in different Welfare Homes. Of them, the number of male inmates is 1810 and the number of female inmates is 985.

The following are some of the steps taken for improvement of infrastructure and other facilities in the Social Welfare Homes:

(i) Proposals for acquisition of land and buildings of Dhanyakuria State Welfare Homes for women, North 24-Parganas and the State Welfare Home at Contai, Midnapore, are under consideration;

(ii) To accelerate the process of admission in the State Welfare Home, the admission procedure has been decentralised with effect from 28th January, 1997. The Managing Committees of the State Welfare Homes in the districts have been entrusted with the responsibilities of filling 50% of their seats directly.

(iii) The matter relating to provision of vocational training in some Welfare Homes is being looked into.

(iv) To improve the standard of teaching in the different State Welfare Homes the vacant posts of teachers and other non-teaching posts are being filled up.

During the financial year 1997-98 the target is to sanction 1500 applications for admission to different Welfare Homes.

11.12.3 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) Economic Rehabilitation Grant to the people rendered helpless and destitute due to socio-economic reasons. In order to alleviate the sufferings of the destitute families and to ensure their economic rehabilitation the scheme for Economic Rehabilitation Grant was introduced. About 1330 destitute families of different districts were benefited under this scheme during the Eighth Plan period. This scheme will be continuing during the Plan period 1997-98.

b) *Disaster Warning System (DWS)*: The scheme for installation of Disaster Warning System (DWS) in the coastal areas was introduced in the year 1990-91 with the object of improving the communication system in the far-flung coastal areas in order that disaster warnings are received and people are alerted beforehand. This scheme will also be continuing during the Annual Plan Period 1997-98.

An amount of Rs. 31.00 lakhs has been kept for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

11.12.4 Programme of the Panchayat and Rural Development (Panchayat) Department

Under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) introduced by the Government of India in the Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, destitute persons above the age of 65 years are to be given old age pension at the rate of Rs. 75 per month. Considering the amount to be inadequate and also to keep the scheme in line with other Pensionary Schemes of the State Government, it has been decided by the State Government to grant pension at the rate of Rs. 100.00 per month to each such destitute persons. The additional amount of Rs. 25.00 is paid by the State Government. During 1996-97, a total sum of Rs. 496.77 lakhs was released by the State Government to supplement the allocation received from the Government of India.

A sum of Rs. 9.00 crores has been provided for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

11.13 NUTRITION

11.13.1 Programme of 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 ICDS Projects. The proposed Plan Outlay for 1997-98 under this scheme is Rs. 11.22 crores for operationalisation of new ICDS Projects and enhancement of nutritional norms. Estimated requirement for 275 ICDS Projects under the Ninth Plan period would be around 116 crores. It may be mentioned that 203 ICDS Projects are now fully operational. At present 3000 regular staffs and 65000 honorary workers are working under ICDS Projects. Rs. 24.50 lakhs of beneficiaries, children up to the age of 6 years and pregnant women and lactating mothers have been receiving package of services through Anganwadi centres in this State.

11.13.2 Programme of the School Education Department

Mid-day meal: The National Programme for Nutritional support to Primary Education has been introduced with effect from 15.8.95 and has been currently running in 216 blocks of this State. The scheme has been introduced by the Government of India and intends to cover the remaining blocks and urban areas of the State during the next financial year. Under this scheme, 3 Kgs. of rice/wheat are provided to each Primary School child in the concerned blocks, subject to their 80% attendance in the school during the relevant month. The State Government is expected to provide cooked food to these children with the rice/wheat so available from the Government of India.

11.14 OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

11.14.1 Programme of the Minorities Development and Welfare Department

Minorities Development and Welfare Department has been formed recently to deal with the following plan items:

- (1) Construction of Muslim Girls' Hostel at Districts;
- (2) West Bengal Minorities' Development and Finance Corporation;
- (3) West Bengal Urdu Academy; and

Social Services

(4) Central Sector Scheme—Multisectoral Plans for ten (10) minority concentrated Districts of West Bengal.

Annual Plan for 1997-98 for the Department of Minority Development and Welfare has been proposed at Rs. 550 lakhs (Rupees Five hundred and Fifty lakhs only) for the schemes mentioned above out of which Rs. 400 lakhs would be provided to West Bengal Minorities' Development and Finance Corporation.

Scheme for construction of Muslim Girls' Hostel in the Districts: Pursuant to the Prime Minister's 15—Point Programme a scheme for construction of Muslim Girls' Hostel in all the minority concentrated Districts has been taken-up. The scheme will gradually be extended to the other Districts. The scheme will meet the needs of accommodation of the Muslim Girl students, coming to District headquarters for further studies.

Four Hostels have since been completed at Burdwan, Birbhum, Murshidabad and Midnapore Districts. Further extension works have also been taken up in those Districts. Construction of Muslim Girls' Hostels in North 24-Parganas, Uttar Dinajpur, Nadia and Hooghly are in progress. For other Districts it would be taken up during the Ninth Plan Period. Plan Outlay for 1997-98 is Rs. 50.00 lakhs.

West Bengal Urdu Academy: Over more than a decade Urdu Academy has been functioning as an autonomous body. Through its manifold activities, the Academy has made significant contributions to the promotion and advancement of Urdu literature and printing and publishing of standard Urdu text-books. The Academy has also been granting stipends and awards to eminent Urdu Writers, to encourage creative works in Urdu literature.

The plan provision for this Academy for the year 1996-97 was Rs. 51.00 lakhs. For the Annual Plan 1997-98, outlay of Rs. 58.00 lakhs has been proposed for the Academy. The outlay includes provision of Rs. 20.00 lakhs for setting up a press under the management and ownership of the Urdu Academy for facilitating printing of various books in Urdu scripts.

West Bengal Minorities' Development and Finance Corporation: The West Bengal Minorities' Development and Finance Corporation was set-up in January, 1996 as a State Channelising Agency with a view to extending financial support to the minorities below double the poverty line in their endeavour to set on their own footing through self-employment programmes envisaged jointly by the NMDFC and WBMDFC. Through various activities the Corporation is expected to bring about a significant change in the economic condition of the notified minorities based on the support of Government institutional finance. The Corporation has evolved plans to undertake various industrial, commercial and other ventures and for this purpose it will impart training in entrepreneurship and provide self-employment opportunities to the notified minorities.

In the self-employment programmes the contributions, of the NMDFC, WBMDFC and the beneficiaries will be in the ratio of 85 : 10 : 5 of the Project Cost.

During 1996-97, the Corporation received satisfactory response from different Minority Communities of the State and about 5886 number of applications were processed and scrutinised. About 15 activities, comprising 1965 units, involving Rs. 16.72 crores have been selected and necessary project proposals for these activities have also been done.

During Annual Plan 1996-97, the total outlay for the Corporation towards investment in the share capital has been fixed at Rs. 3.66 crores. For the Annual Plan in the year 1997-98 provision for an outlay to the tune of Rs. 4 crores has been made for the Corporation. It is expected that with the enhanced outlay and matching financial support from the National Corporation, WBMDFC will be in a position to concentrate more on the needs of the Minority Communities in their efforts to secure a sound financial footing.

Central Sector Scheme—Multisectoral Plans in the minority concentrated Districts

The Central Sector Scheme for preparation of multisectoral plans in the ten (10) minority concentrated Districts of West Bengal has recently been in operation in the State. The scheme envisages implementation of schemes under various sectors of development aimed at improvement of the socio-economic condition of the minorities and creation of infrastructures to ensure overall development of the areas inhabited by the minorities.

In the year 1996-97, Central assistance worth Rs. 9.00 lakhs was available under the scheme. This may go up in the financial year 1997-98. The schemes will be implemented as per instructions of a State level Advisory Committee in consultation with District level Committees being set-up for the purpose in tune with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Welfare, Government of India.

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 Labour Co-operative suffers from paucity of fund as the members are mostly economically weak and come from the weaker Strata of the community. The financial assistance in the shape of share capital assistance for strengthening its share base and loan-cum-grants for tools and equipment are given to these societies from the State Plan 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 1997-98 also. Rs. 1485.00 lakhs have been kept in the other Social Services Sector for Annual Plan 1997-98 of this Department.

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XII—General Services

XII. GENERAL SERVICES

12.1 JAILS

12.1.1 Programme of the Home (Jails) Department

Home (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

General Services

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 latrines are replaced by sanitary latrines on hygienic ground.

In the Annual Plan, 1997-98 the above schemes will be continued. Raiganj Sub-Jail will also be converted into District Jail for the Uttar Dinajpur District.

Appropriate provisions have been kept for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

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.

An outlay of Rs. 30.00 lakhs has been provided during 1997-98 for proper functioning of the Organisation.

12.3 PUBLIC WORKS

12.3.1 Programme of the Excise Department

The Directorate of Excise is one of the important revenue earning offices of the State Government. During 1996-97, this Department, with the help of the Excise Directorate collected Rs. 326.54 crores as against the target of Rs. 275 crores.

The main function of Excise Department is the collection of Excise Revenue from liquor shops and vendors and prevention of illicit distillation. For effective collection of Government revenue Excise staff have been deployed in different districts and in the rural areas of West Bengal.

Excise Directorate have been expanding very fast both functionary and also in terms of organisation in recent years. The Officials of the Excise Administration have to work at odd hours. To ensure more effective control on collection of revenue through decentralised administration, schemes for construction of Excise offices, Malkhana, Barrack, Circle offices for Excise offices throughout the State have been taken up. This obviously necessitates provision of office accommodation by construction of new buildings for the Excise personnel working thereon for improving the working condition which may boost collection of Government revenue substantially. Hence Plan Schemes of Excise Department relate mainly to construction works.

Details of Schemes to be taken up during 1997-98 may be seen from the Statement at Annexure-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 1997-98, provision has been kept for the above programme.

12.3.3 Programme of the 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 Schemes 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. Rs. 180 lakhs has been kept in the Public Works Sector for Annual Plan 1997-98 of this Department.

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.

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Two sub-divisional treasuries in these two districts are expected to go on-stream from the 1st May, 1997.

The State Government has now decided to fully computerise all the 79 treasuries by the 31st March, 1999. Computerisation of each treasury costs the State Government a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs including the cost of hardware, software and civil and electrical site preparation. National Informatics Centre (NIC) is providing the technical help in the project while overall co-ordinating responsibility being handled by the Data Processing Centre (DPC) of the Finance Department.

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 pensions 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. 18.63 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. During the financial year 1996-97 a total sum of Rs. 39.09 lakh was provided in the plan outlay. An appropriate provision has been made for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

Construction/Reconstruction/Repair of Food Storage Godowns

For smooth running of the PDS, alternate storage space is required. During the first four years of the 8th Plan a total sum of Rs. 82.27 lakh only could be spent. A sum of Rs. 40.00 lakh was provided for the purpose of the Annual Plan 1996-97.

Provision have been kept for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

Creation of office accommodation in districts and Sub-divisional Headquarters

During the first four years of Eighth Plan a total sum of Rs. 68.20 lakh has been spent. An amount of Rs. 20.00 lakh was provided for the scheme for the year 1996-97.

Provision has been made for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

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. During 1996-97 a provision of Rs. 5.00 lakh expected to be utilised in full.

Provision has been made for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

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. A sum of Rs. 10.00 lakh during 1997-98 will suffice to meet the needs for the purpose. The amount has been provided in the Annual Plan outlay for 1997-98.

12.3.5 Programme of the Home (Police) Department

Public Works

The total approved outlay for Eighth Plan period under Public Works Sector is Rs. 1356.00 lakh (excluding Tenth Finance Commission Award). However a total amount of, Rs. 2032.40 lakh (including Tenth Finance Commission Award) were allotted for execution of various schemes by that Department.

The following ongoing schemes have been proposed to be continued during the Annual Plan period 1997-98:

(i) Construction of Thana Buildings/Outposts: 15 Thana Buildings/Out-posts have been taken up during the 8th Plan period and would be continued. Besides, construction works of 59 Thana Buildings/Outposts under the upgradation programme of Tenth Finance Commission would also be continued.

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(ii) **Water Supply Arrangements:** One of the outstanding problems in the police Buildings is inadequacy of water supply. Every year the Department has to spend for sinking of deep tubewells construction of dug-wells, installation of pumplines and pumpsets etc. so as to alleviate the problems to some extent. During the 8th Plan period 17 such schemes were undertaken of which 8 schemes were since completed.

(iii) **Special Repairs/Major Repairs, Renovation, Additions and Alternations to the existing Police Buildings:** The Police establishment has a vast network of buildings spread over the State. Some of them are quite old and require special/major repairs. During Eighth Plan period 23 such schemes were undertaken of which 8 were completed.

(iv) **Forensic Science Laboratory Buildings:** To meet the demands of the present day, a two-fold programme in respect of the FSL is necessary—one for the extension of the Existing State Laboratory in Calcutta and the other for setting up new Research Laboratories in the remote areas of the State. With that view, a Laboratory has already been set up at Jalpaiguri which is yet to be fully equipped. Besides, construction work of an electrical sub-station at FSL, Calcutta and construction work of a boundary wall at the Regional FSL, Jalpaiguri are in the progress.

(v) **Explosive Laboratory Buildings:** In veiw of the bomb blast in the city in 1993, setting up of an Explosive Laboratory is under active contemplation of Government. Land is being acquired in Calcutta for construction of Explosive Laboratory Buildings.

(vi) **Land Acquisition:** The Police Administration requires land on a large scale for Thana Buildings, Administrative Buildings, FSL Buildings, Barracks, Battalions, Police Hospitals Training Centres etc. Therefore, acquisition of land is a matter of priority in the Police Plan. During Eighth Plan period lands at 10 places were acquired at a total cost of Rs. 175.85 lakh.

(vii) **Improvement inTraffic Management:** This is a very important scheme introduced in the Eighth Plan period to alleviate the traffic problems in the city of Calcutta and in the districts. For this purpose various gadgets and aparatus, such as wireless sets, vehicles (Jeep, Motor Cycle, etc.) are purchased.

(viii) **Renovation of Police Lock-ups:** A good number of Police Stations are located in old Buildings where the condition of the Lock-ups is bad and are required to be renovated. During the Eighth Plan period 12 nos. of Lock-up Buildings were renovated at an estimated cost of Rs. 24.80 lakh.

(ix) **Construction of Police Training College/School Bldgs. (Tenth Finance Commission Upgradation Programme)**

The existing training facilities at P. T. S, Calcutta and P. T. C., Barrackpore are inadequate. Extension and expansion of the existing training arrangement is an imperative necessity. In recognition of the importance of the matter, Tenth Finance Commission has allocated an amount of Rs. 409.67 lakh for the upgradation of the existing training facilities in the State. With this amount, we have decided to construct one training building at the P. T. S., Calcutta and another building at P. T. C., Barrackpore. The construction works of the said two buildings, likely to be sanctioned during 1996-97 with allotment of funds of Rs. 100.00 lakh for this financial year, would be continued during 1997-98. It is proposed that other training buildings, outside upgradation programme of Tenth Finance Commission, should also be sanctioned and all efforts should be made to complete the construction of all such training buildings.

An appropriate amount has been kept in the Annual Plan period 1997-98 for continuing the above ongoing schemes.

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 a 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. A provision of 0.05 lakh and Rs. 5.00 lakh has been made during the Annual Plan period 1997-98.

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.

(a) 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 North 24-Pgs., Baharampur in Murshidabad, Katwa in Burdwan and Rampurhat in Birbhum. Construction are near completion at Kalyani in Nadia, Cooch Behar Collectorate and Suri in Birbhum, Apart from these, large construction, renovation, special repairs have been done in other district Headquarters and Sub-divisional Headquarters.

In recent years Govt. has established seven new Sub-divisions at Bidhannagar in North 24-Pgs., Canning, Kakdwip and Baruipur at South 24-Pgs., Tehatta at Nadia, Karagpur at Midnapur and Gargampur at Dakshin Dinajpur. Construction of Administrative Buildings in those newly established Sub-divisions are to be undertaken. In the Annual Plan period a provision has been kept in Plan Outlay for 1997-98 for above works.

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. An amount of Rs. 392.00 lakhs, out of total Eighth Plan allocation of Rs. 452.00 lakhs, was provided for this purpose which was increased to 1686.20 lakhs including State's share of 50%.

The Annual Plan allocation for 1996-97 in the Public Works sector was Rs. 305.00 lakhs. The major portion of this amount was provided for matching assistance of State's share for completion of ongoing schemes at the total sanctioned cost of Rs. 844.00 lakhs for construction of Court buildings at Contai, Haldia, 2 + 3, Bankshall Street, Raiganj. The balance was provided for some other essential works relating to Court Buildings at different stations.

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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 following new schemes have been taken up for the year 1997-98:

- i) Modernisation and computerisation at the High Court and at the different district Courts.
- ii) Construction of litigants' shed in all the Courts 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-divisions.

An amount of Rs. 1150.00 lakhs has been kept for the Annual Plan Period, 1997-98.

12.3.9 Programme of the Land and Land Reforms Department

341 Block level, 51 Sub-divisional level and 18 District level offices were opened under the Integrated set up of Land Reforms Administration. Most of these offices are functioning in rented premises imposing a huge burden of rent liability on the exchequer. Besides additional ten more Circuit Houses are required to be constructed in different districts. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, construction of these Circuit Houses were started. Among them, one has been fully completed and construction works for the remaining two in the districts of Barasat and Birbhum are going on.

The Land and Land Reforms Department has also a scheme for construction of Office Buildings including Record Rooms and Circuit Houses in districts.

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 would continue the following continuing schemes during 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.

An amount of Rs. 2850.00 lakhs has been kept for the Annual Plan period, 1997-98.

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. These works will be continuing during the Annual Plan period, 1997-98. 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 1997-98.

An amount of Rs. 119.00 lakhs has been kept in the Public Works Sector of the Annual Plan period, 1997-98.

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

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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 Secretary 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, WBCS (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 for 1997-98 as detailed in Volume II.

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. For the Annual Plan 1996-97, Rs. 40.35 lakhs were provided for the programme. It is proposed to provide Rs. 40.45 lakhs for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

12.4.3 Programme of the Parliamentary Affairs Department

A programme styled Youth Parliament Competition Scheme for school student 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 of Rs. 20.00 lakhs has been earmarked during the year 1997-98.

12.4.4 Programme of the Home (Civil Defence) Department

Home (Civil Defence) Department for making a Budget Provision under the Ninth Plan for construction of Barracks for Home Guards in the different districts of West Bengal who are

called for duty by the Superintendents of Police. At present the Home Guards do not get any Barrack facility and as a result they face difficulties when they are asked to stay over-night.

There is no Central Training Institutes for Home Guards in the State of West Bengal. A site, which is vested with the Government, has been selected at Itahar under Uttar Dinajpur District. The District Magistrate, Uttar Dinajpur has been requested to take necessary action to transfer the land in favour of Home (Civil Defence) Department. The Commandant General, Home Guards, West Bengal has also been requested to prepare the Plan and Estimate in consultation with the Chief Architect.

A provision of Rs. 10 lakhs for construction of Barrack for Home Guards in the districts and of Rs. 25 lakhs for construction of Central Training Institute for Home Guards at Itahar, Uttar Dinajpur have been proposed for Annual Plan, 1997-98.

Proposed total outlay for the year 1997-98 is Rs. 25.00 lakhs in this sector.

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.

Rs. 175 lakhs has been kept in the Other Rural Development Programme Sector for Annual Plan, 1997-98 of this Department.

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XIII—Forestry and Wildlife

13.1 FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE

13.1.1 Programme of the Forest Department

West Bengal being deficient in forest area 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 multifaced programme of forestry development in the State for a durable eco-system. 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, 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 19.505.

Keeping in view the National Forest Policy of 1988 wherein conservation of forest has been given crash priority with special emphasis programme for fuelwood, fodder etc. specially in available wasteland through people's participation to save the State from the impending ecological diaster and fuelwood and fodder famine, priorities have been given on the following major thrust areas of forestry development:

- 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 to extend the same management system gradually to productive forests of other parts of the State.
- Soil and Water conservation.
- Conservation of eco-system and environment of ecologically fragile zones.
- Wildlife conservation and habitat improvement.
- Socio-economic development of forest fringe population.
- Result oriented research, development of minor forest produce and alternative energy sources, training and education.

In consideration of the above, following schemes are proposed in the Forestry Sector of the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002):

Protective Afforestation

Very high rainfall and weak rock formation, led to frequent land slip, soil wash and gully formation in mountains. The situation is aggravated 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.

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 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 little chance to increase this area 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 prime items by way of over seeing the forest boundaries, periodically would survey and maintain them. This would give a continuous update of 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. As 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 due to large scale deterioration of law and order situation there is necessity to strengthen the existing posts and also to improve the security arrangement for staff to work under minimum security arrangement.

Forest Protection Force

For proper guarding the forest resources, there is necessity to cover the forest areas with Radio telephone net work and create forest protection force.

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 the phased manner.

Management Information System

For successful management of any resource, a comprehensive and informative data base is necessary. The Scheme aims at computerised data base Management System.

Economic Plantation

Most of the areas previously covered under this scheme will now be covered under IFDA assisted West Bengal forestry project. However, some districts have not been covered under this programme. This scheme will mainly operate in alluvial zone of the State and also take care of the plantations previously created under this scheme.

Plantation of Quick-growing species

Under this scheme, mainly industrial plantations of laterite zone will be covered along with upkeep of older plantations created under this scheme. Area which cannot 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, South 24-Parganas, North 24-Parganas, Burdwan and Birbhum. During the current year, a proposal has been sent to the Government of India to include districts of Nadia, Murshidabad, Malda and West Dinajpur under this scheme. The scheme mainly aims at supply of field 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.

West Bengal Forestry Project with World Bank Assistance

This project sanctioned with effect from the financial year 1992-93 with a total project cost of Rs. 109.33 crores over 5 years period starting from 1992-93 ending in 1996-97. The spill-over amount of Rs. 1700.00 lakhs which is due for reimbursement will be spent in the year 1997-98 up to September, 1997. The World Bank aided project will thus be completed by September, 1997. In order to keep-up the works already undertaken in the project some part schemes taking into consideration of the Project Components have been proposed from the year 1997-98 (part) and also for the Ninth Five Year Plan period.

It was primarily a project encompassing all aspects of forestry development. Briefly the main project activities are given below :

Forestry Development on Forest Lands

In view of a very wide range of agro-econological 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 covering a total area of 169,000 ha. and involving joint management arrangement with FPCs. Nearly two-thirds of the target area concerns regeneration from viable root stock mainly degraded sal forests of South-West Bengal which includes 1,500 ha. of similar areas of North Bengal and enrichment planting totalling 2,000 hectares will also be undertaken in blank pockets within these area. The balance one third concerned treatment of large forest blanks and included 27,000 ha. in South-West and North -Bengl (including multi-tier reforestation and reforestation with Tassar host plants targeted at women FPC members and 20,000 hectares of mangrove plantations in the Sunderbans).

B. Production Forestry on Forest Lands

Those treatments cover 7,000 hectares and are confident 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 of principal associate species.

C. Forestry Development on Non-Forest Lands

The total target is 1,14,000 hectares and comprises mainly of Farm Forestry which is directed towards small and marginal farmers. This includes promotion of agro-forestry systems also. Of this total area, a target of 5,000 ha. 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 projects, namely, survey and demarcation of external forest boundaries, improvement of forest roads, construction of small earthen dams and other waterbodies for groundwater recharging, gully control and watershed stabilization, special amenities, income generation and employment.

Special Action Programmes

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.

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. The 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.

Wildlife and 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 consist of these studies.

Fodder and Live-stock development

To find sustainable remedies for correcting imbalances in supply and demand of green fodder and reducing the unmanaged utilisation of forest lands by live-stock, long term remedial measures have been proposed to be taken up through a co-ordinated programme with ARD Department. Funds have been set aside for fodder research, seed multiplication, collaborating field programmes, training and extension.

Financing

The entire project cost is included in the budgeted allocation of the two implementing departments, with the IDA contribution being obtained through reimbursement to the State exchequer.

Schemes in lieu of the externally aided Project

Some of the Schemes which are incorporated in the West Bengal Forestry Project have been included in the State Plan namely Machinery and Equipment, Reserach and Seed

Propagation, Training, Mangrove Treatment, Wildlife and Bio-diversity, Forestry Treatment, Community Development, Other Allied Work Components, Monitoring and Evaluation and Farm Forestry, because the small pool of money earmarked in the West Bengal Forestry Project cannot finance totally for the whole year as the scheme is going to be ended on September '97. The balance amount has been earmarked in the State Plan to finance the various components for the whole year in order to complete the schemes.

Support Systems to Forest Villagers/FPCs

There are nearly 5,000 nos. of Forest Villagers and approximately 3,500 nos. of Forest Protection Committees (FPCs) who are residing inside and fringe areas of the forests. Some development works are to be undertaken for the socio-economic development of the forest villagers. No fund flow has been made for the development of the forest villagers since 1994-95 though a Division has been created for the development of forest villagers. Similarly, Joint Forest Management (JFM) works which has been initiated in the West Bengal Forestry Project has to be continued in order to keep the FPCs in right footing.

Urban Forestry, Parks & Gardens and Rural Greening Programme

Due to rapid industrialisation and population growth, gradually all the available open 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 spots. At Salt Lake, Central Park is under creation now. Three new parks one at Mathabhanga and other two in Malbazar and Bandoan of Purulia district are under creation. Apart from this, renovation of older parks are done under these schemes.

Coastal Belt plantation

Mainly coastal areas which are outside West Bengal Forestry Project are being taken up under this programme. Mainly this programme will be taken up in Midnapore district. Apart from maintenance of older asses, new plantations will be taken up under this programme.

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 of North Bengal particularly in productive forests.

Timber Operation

One of the thrust area is judicious harvest of forest recourse 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 Departments is realised by working through this scheme.

Economic Rehabilitation of Fringe Population

It is being largely felt that forests cannot be protected without enlightening support of forest fringe dwellers. Therefore, development activity in villages situated at forest fringe is a necessity for protection of forests. Thus scheme will cover only areas which are outside the purview of the West Bengal Forestry Project.

Intensification of Management

With rapid urbanisation and rise in demand of forest produce, protection of forests is becoming increasingly difficult. This task is becoming more complex due to opening up of new roads at new directions. To keep pace with this development, intensification of out age for management practice has to be done as a continuous process for upgrading the protection mechanism.

Amenities to forest staff and labourers

This is a scheme for providing amenities to forest staff and forest villages. It will not be out of place to mention that there are more than 10,000 forest staff spread all over West Bengal in more than 200 locations.

Publicity-cum-Extension

This scheme is meant for awareness programme throughout the State.

Improvement of Wildlife

This scheme is meant for improvement of wildlife in the 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 32% 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. Allocation under State Sector is very small due to augmentation by the Government of India. Gradual development of these sanctuaries are being done to improve the wildlife status of the area which is on decline due to multifarious biotic factors.

Forestry 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, Reserach, SED Technology, Social Forestry and other sector connected with fringe area development programmes.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes (100% allocation from the Government 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 bit elephant herds have been broken into sallet herds and have lost direction completely. These small herds have tendency to colonise a small forest patches. Therefore, forest areas are being taken up under this project to create suitable area for their habitat so that depredation in outside 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 watershed, maintenance work is in progress. State Level and Watershed Level Committees are being formed to monitor the work.

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. State Level and Watershed Level Committees are being formed to monitor the works.

Integrated Eco-afforestation Project in Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Bankura, Midnapore and 24 Parganas Districts

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.

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

Forestry and Wildlife

laboratories are being strengthened. Tress 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.

Aerial Seeding Programme

This scheme is being operated in Sunderbans. There is a proposal to extend this to inaccessible hill areas of North Bengal also.

Decentralised People's Nursery

Seedlings are being raised through Kishan Nurseries under this programme. Government of India is giving subsidy to Kishans through the State Government for producing seedlings for outside sale. These Kishans are being selected through panchayats 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 vide GOI Memo No. MEF (NWDB) : 10-1/92-M-VI dated 27.05.1992.

Schemes earmarked for District Plan

	<u>1997-98</u>
Parks & Gardens (2406) :	41.00
Urban & Recreational Forestry (2406) :	30.00
Greening of Rural areas (2406) :	7.00
Decentralised Peoples' Nursery (2406) :	150.00
Farm Forestry (2406) :	150.00
Plantation of Quick Growing Species (2406) :	34.00
Economic Plantation (2406) :	19.00
Decentralised Peoples' Nursery (2551) :	56.00
Parks & Gardens (2551) :	2.00
Protective Afforestation (2551) :	11.00
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Total:	500.00
