

BIHAR FORGES AHEAD

Implementation of 20-Point Programme in Bihar

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India Forges Ahead under Leadership of Mrs. Gandhi

Dr. Jagannath Mishra

Our country, under the leadership of Mrs Indira Gandhi, enters the New Year with the satisfaction of having done remarkably well in the economic field and with a new image abroad. Within two years of the Congress-I's return to power, an improvement in all fields of public life is perceptible. In this context I am reminded of a remark of a journalist friend and self-confessed critic of the establishment which I think is the best compliment to the country's leadership. Talking about the sea-change in the last two years, he confessed, "I always worried about rising prices and crime during the Janata regime. But, it is only since January, 1980 that I could go to sleep without worrying about whether the Government was going to topple overnight." And that I think has been my leader's basic achievement in the short span of 24 months. Who does not remember the chaotic days before the Janata experiment aborted when there was no sugar in the market, no water in the taps even during the monsoon and finally no Government at the Centre? As every one knows, Janata-Lok Dal leaders remained busy throughout their tenure fighting amongst themselves over the loaves and pans of office.

Today, I would like to pay a tribute to my leader who, even during the darkest days of the Janata misrule (when she and members of her family were being hounded by people who did not know the 'A', 'B', 'C' of administration), kept telling the country that the Janata Government was like an orange and that the minute the outer skin wore off, the whole thing would break-up into its component parts. History has proved her right.

Who does not remember the queues of tankers and trucks lined up before petrol-pump stations all along the Grand Trunk Road? It was a scene you could see almost anywhere during 1979. At times, one got the despairing feeling that the entire nation had ground to a standstill. Just compare that with the situation today.

But some people, as our Prime Minister has aptly pointed out, never learn from their mistakes. The same people who were responsible for the anarchical situation prevailing in the country during 1974--1977 and who later, through their misrule, frittered away all the gains of national development since Independence and lowered the country's prestige abroad, are again ganging up to weaken the nation. In the name of Opposition unity, what they really want to gain is power. In democracy, power is a means to serve the people. To gain power as an end is the game of Fascists.

It is these people who try to belittle the country's achievements and malign our image. Their aim is to confuse the people and weaken their morale. At a time when the country is at the threshold of a major breakthrough on the economic front and its prestige abroad is soaring high, the Opposition parties are again back at their old game of character-assassination and vilification campaign.

Amidst growing tensions between the power blocs and an atmosphere of violence in the international arena, India has emerged as the leader of the forces of sanity. It has become a major force in the Third World, thanks to diplomatic initiatives taken by our Prime Minister. As a matter of fact, never has our international image been so high except perhaps during Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru's time. We have a leader who is heard with respect throughout the world—at Cancun, at Melbourne and at all international forums.

With her characteristic decisiveness, Mrs. Gandhi made it clear both at Cancun and Melbourne that India is the voice of the Third World whose aspirations and ambitions can no longer be ignored by the affluent nations. International stability rests on a new economic order in which the poor nations must have a fair share. India's views on Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, the Indo-Soviet Treaty, nuclear power and new economic order were reinstated. A new public opinion in favour of India has been mobilised in many world capitals.

Mrs. Gandhi's visits to Indonesia and the Philippines have established a new rapport with South-East Asia in the context of regional issues. Her visits to Bulgaria and Romania reinforced India's friendship with the Socialist countries and emphasised the importance of detente for World peace.

There are many unmistakable indications of a new willingness abroad to see India's point of view. One of them is the IMF loan which has been secured in the teeth of U.S. opposition. This has been probably one of the most important events on the economic scene. The conditions on which the loan was granted in no way compromise our right to pursue an independent policy. As the Prime Minister has rightly declared, "We have told the

IMF that we cannot change our policies which have been accepted by Parliament, the people of India. They have accepted our position." The granting of such a big loan by the IMF is an acknowledgement of the strength of the Indian economy.

The economy has staged a significant recovery during 1980-81 which is reflected in the reduced inflation rate from 22 per cent in 1979 and 16.7 per cent in 1980 to 8 per cent in 1981. Many developed countries are still combating a two-digit inflation rate. Concerted measures taken by the Government to build a sound economic infrastructure have boosted production. The core sector output has improved up to 60 per cent.

The Industrial growth rate has improved from minus 2.4 per cent in 1979-80 to plus 4.4 per cent. The country is expected to cross the target of 8 per cent growth in the current fiscal year. Public Sector enterprises have earned a profit of Rs. 48.47 crore in the fiscal year of 1980-81.

Healthy tendencies on the industrial front are reflected in the buoyancy of the capital market. Our Industrial Policy directives have instilled a new confidence among the corporate sector investors.

With a substantial improvement in production, exports have registered a sharp rise, which is partly also due to a liberalised and streamlined licensing procedure. The present trends in both exports and imports indicate that the trade deficit will be significantly bridged in the current fiscal year.

On the agricultural front, the highest wheat production of 36.46 million tonnes, a rise of 14.5 per cent, was achieved. Rice production also went up by 25.8 per cent. An all-time high sugarcane production was recorded. With a good monsoon, the target growth of 3.5 per cent in agriculture is not too high to achieve. A bumper rabi is expected in the coming season. A buffer stock of 14 million tonnes is good enough to meet any emergency.

Today, the Opposition parties are baffled by the spectacular achievements made since the return to power of the Congress (I) under the guidance of Mrs. Gandhi. As they cannot blame us for non-performance or inaction which was the hall-mark of the Janata regime, they are freely indulging in character-assassination and mud-slinging.

But then nothing better could be expected of a confused lot that the Opposition leaders are. Their confusion is the result of an over-widening chasm between them and the masses. They must realise that the Government cannot afford to allow all its achievements to be lost through labour unrest like 'Bharat Bandh' and political anarchy. They must get over their petty prejudices and see the point in the Prime Minister's New Year message. "May this year be one of the pleasures in our work and pride in our achievement, a year of peace at home and abroad."

Welfare Schemes for the Weak and Infirm

Bihar had the melancholy distinction of being one of the non-governed State in the country until recently. The stigma of lethargy was perhaps glued to the administrative machinery. And perhaps rightly so.

There, no sea-change has taken place in the overall situation in Bihar. But a casual visitor to the State cannot ignore the transformation that is taking place there. Slowly but surely there is all round improvement in various limbs of the administration. The very fact that one feels secure, while on a visit to the State, speaks volumes about the improvement brought about in the general law and order situation.

One feels there is a Government in the State—the Government that is determined to bring about long awaited relief to the people. There is will to govern at the political level. The administrative machinery has been put back on the rails. The people have a sense of participation in the affairs of the State. Above all, the people have developed a faith in the capacity of the Government to fulfil its promises. For the first time perhaps, it is widely believed that the promises made by the politicians at the election time have some sense.

It is no exaggeration to say that the present Congress (I) Government headed by Dr. Jagannath Mishra has not only reversed the process of non-performance, but also made substantial progress in almost all sectors of developmental activity during this period.

No section of society has remained uncovered by the vast umbrella of developmental projects spread by the present Government. Those covered by welfare schemes are students, teachers, industrialists, farmers, industrial and agricultural labourers, rickshaw pullers and self-employed traders.

Special care

Special care has been taken for the old, infirm and disabled. In this respect a social security scheme has been launched for the first time in the State.

All that has happened during the past 18 months is that broad policies have been laid down, guidelines issued for the achievement of desired results and efforts initiated to narrow the gap between promises and performance.

All efforts are being directed towards completion of old projects aimed at the welfare of the people. Targets have been set and monitoring undertaken at regular intervals so as to achieve time bound results. A number of new schemes have been launched to bring about planned growth of all sectors of the State's economy, particularly industry and agriculture. Bihar has to its credit a number of bold and imaginative schemes introduced for the first time in any State in the country. Among these are the Employment Guarantee Scheme, the Crop Insurance Scheme, the Death or Injury Benefit to Kisan Scheme, scholarships for students outside the State, construction of 50,000 houses for landless labourers and the Journalists Welfare Fund.

Emphasis has been laid to minimise Harijan atrocities for which Bihar had acquired a notoriety during the 28 month Janata rule. Cast and communal strifes have been dealt a crushing blow. Academic life in universities and colleges was perhaps the major casualty during the Janata regime. Firm decisions have been taken and implemented too, for the regeneration of the entire academic structure. It was no mean achievement to conduct examinations in Bihar without allowing mass copying. The Government put its foot down on all such demands made by a few but vocal student leaders as giving social sanction to unfair means in the examination.

Education

The Government's decision of complete elimination of private management from the educational field has been widely acclaimed. All degree colleges have been made constituents. Intermediate colleges have been placed under the control of the Intermediate Education Council. All secondary schools have been nationalised. All primary schools had already been taken over by the previous Congress Government headed by the then Chief Minister, Mr. Kedar Pandey.

For the first time students from Bihar studying in the Air Technical Training Institute, Calcutta, are being paid a scholarship of Rs. 200 per month. No student studying anywhere outside the State boundary was hitherto entitled to such a scholarship.

Introduction of the Panchayat Raj is undoubtedly a major step towards decentralisation of power. It has been decided that all developmental activity in the State be entrusted to Zila Parishads. This has brought about a noteworthy change in the administrative pattern, particularly in the rural

areas. Zila Parishads are now the main agency through which transformation is being brought about in the rural areas for improving the lot of the common man. People's representatives at panchayat, block and district-level are now being closely associated with developmental programme which were hitherto the reserved domain of the bureaucrats.

The Bihar Government has lighted a flame which has brightened the evenings of lakhs of old, destitute and poor people. The social security scheme now covers about 25 lakh persons. It has now been extended to provide benefit to about a lakh of handicapped persons.

Any resourceless person who has crossed the age of 60 is now entitled to get a pension of Rs. 30 per month.

The Bihar Government can hardly claim that what it is doing for the old and infirm can be compared with similar schemes in vogue in Western countries in general and in Scandinavian countries in particular. Over the years these welfare schemes in Western countries have developed roots. But it can certainly be said without fear of contradiction that the Bihar Government, despite innumerable constraints, has been a modest beginning in the humanitarian task of wiping tears from the cheeks of the old and the lonely.

What is important is the direction in which the State Government is moving. This is indicative of the desire and determination to help the hitherto neglected section of the society.

Social security

There is no age-limit for securing assistance under the social security scheme for widows in distress, disabled persons and bonded labourers freed recently. Rules have now been relaxed to enable persons with meagre resources residing in the areas covered by Chhotanagpur and Santhal Parganas districts to avail themselves of the benefits of this scheme.

Under the employment guarantee scheme 67 blocks have been covered. About 6,000 unemployed agricultural and other labourers in the rural areas in each block have been offered employment guarantee. No one who seeks work is denied the opportunity under this scheme. Workers are employed on works of community welfare, already identified. The State Government has spent Rs. 20.5 crores under this scheme which is intended to supplement the National Rural Employment Programme. All the 587 blocks in the State have been allotted Rs. 5 lakhs each to provide employment guarantee to the unemployed. "Seekers shall not be disappointed", seems to be the motto of the State Government.

For utilising the educated unemployed in the rural areas and municipal wards in the semi-urban centres, for rendering community services, a "rural and Urban Ward Volunteer Force" has been created. These volunteers assist in such activities as rural and urban sanitation, family planning, health, assistance to farmers and agricultural extension. The volunteers are being paid a nominal allowance of Rs. 50 per month and about two lakh educated unemployed youth have been covered so far. Only those who are at least matriculates or diploma holders and have discontinued their studies for three years and are registered with any Employment Exchange are eligible to join it. The scheme costs Rs. 12 crores per annum.

The State Government has launched a "Self-Employment Scheme" to encourage technically educated unemployed persons. Unemployed medical graduates, veterinary graduates, engineering graduates and diploma holders in various technical fields are provided loan facilities ranging from Rs. 7,000 to Rs. 10,000 to set up dispensaries, workshops, agricultural input sale points and agricultural extension service units. The rate of interest on these loans is only two per cent per annum.

New Years' gift

As a New Year's gift about 70 lakh agricultural labourers and other unorganised labourers were provided protection by the State Government under the Group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme. Payment of premium of these labourers began on New Year's day throughout the State. Under this scheme agricultural labourers, thelawalas, vendors, porters, shop and establishment workers, brick kiln workers, biddi workers, road transport workers and construction workers, between the age of 16 and 65 years and whose annual income is less than Rs. 6,000, are entitled to be benefited. The legal heir of the labourer gets Rs. 2,000 in case of death. The scheme also entitles the insured person to get Rs. 2,000 in case of loss of two limbs and Rs. 1,000 in case of loss of one limb if he is a victim of snake-bite, drowning, electrocution, bus or truck accident or accident during mechanised agricultural operations. In the event of an accident, information is immediately passed on to the Block Development Officer who examines the claim and provides the benefit.

A special programme has been launched to construct 50,000 houses in the State for those poor and landless persons who have no roof over their heads and no land of their own. Necessary infrastructure has already been provided for this scheme. They have been allotted developed house-sites to construct their own dwellings. A special grant of Rs. 400 in the hilly areas and Rs. 300 in the plain areas is being given for this purpose.

Journalist fund

Among its welfare schemes is the creation of a Journalist Welfare Fund. The State Government has initially provided Rs. 3 lakhs for investment by the managing committee of the fund. Journalists in distress are provided help from the interest accrued to the fund. The State Government would provide Rs. 3 lakhs every year for the next five years to the fund, when it is expected to become self-sufficient.

The State Government has cast its net of development and welfare measures wide enough to bring into its fold almost all sections of society. There are schemes for establishment of beggars' homes, setting up of infrastructure for workers' participation in management of industrial units, creation of play centres, increased subsidies on minor irrigation, grants to panchayat samitis, establishment of Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, leprosy home and leprosy control board, additional facilities to hospital, Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathy systems of treatment, establishment of book banks for schools and colleges, residential schools for Adivasis and Harijans, increased subsidy for Gobar gas plants, increase in interest rate of Government Servants Provident Fund, increase in facilities for policemen, chowkidars and dafadars, administrative reforms and setting up of a new distribution system for essential commodities.

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Rapid Strides in Power Generation

With the increase of 29 per cent in power generation without any addition in the generating capacity during the April—October 1981, the Bihar State Electricity Board has taken rapid strides, giving a sharp thrust to the development of power resources in the State.

The Board generated 1,562 million units of electricity during this period as compared to the generation of 1,207 million units during the corresponding period in 1980. Needless to emphasise that such remarkable improvement has been made possible because of the implementation of the plant betterment programmes, procurement of imported spares and constant analysis, supervision and monitoring.

If the present improvement is any guide it can be safely said that the power sector has been placed on a sound and stable footing which augurs well for the economic development of the State.

The State Government and the BSEB addressed themselves to the task of stabilising power generation as fast as possible after Dr. Jagannath Mishra took over as Chief Minister of the State in June 1980. Before that the power scene was rather bleak. The generation at Barauni had touched the rock bottom and at Patratu it had dwindled to 150 MW. The basic flaw was that neither at Barauni nor at Patratu had any planned maintenance programme been carried out.

Power generation had touched an all time low. Huge chunks of this sprawling State with over 67,500 villages were in darkness. Even the important towns in Bihar looked like ghost towns after dusk. Industry had come to a grinding halt, agriculture was in the doldrums, and students were unable to study. It was a massive human problem crying out for a speedy solution. Under the dynamic and inspiring leadership of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, one of the prime tasks of the Chief Minister, Dr. Jagannath Mishra, was to lead Bihar from darkness to light.

With the assistance of the Union Government the State Government mobilised services of experts from Poland and the USSR for Barauni and Patratu power houses and from BHEL for attending to BHEL sets. The visits of foreign experts were also turned to good account by obtaining spare parts for these power plants and expediting the supply of spare parts, orders for which had already been placed with them.

The Board has, as a result of these efforts, turned the corner in power generation within a very short span. From the lowest level of 150 MW power generation it has gone up to between 400 MW and 450 MW. In fact, the maximum generation recorded during the period under review was 550 MW which is an all time high in the Board's history.

The Board has already generated a total of 1,793 million units during the April—November 1981 period as against the target of 2,824 million units set for 1981-82.

Medium and large industries can instal captive power plants to meet their requirements of energy. The State Government offers 20 per cent subsidy on such ventures.

The creation of this positive climate for greater power production has boosted the morale of all concerned.

On the hydel generation front the Bihar SEB combined its efforts with BHEL to commission the Subarnarekha Hydel Project (Power house no. II) at Subarnarekha on October 18, 1980.

Like power house no. 1 this is also a 65 MW unit. Indeed they are so arranged that the discharge of water from no. 1 is the intake for the second power house. Thus, the same water generates 125 to 130 MW electricity during peak load hours. The peak load demand of the State is 450 MW and this is being met fully at present.

The Board has initiated a regular programme to train engineers and workmen for undertaking major overhauling and maintenance as well as operation of the power plants. About 630 diploma and degree-holders are undergoing theoretical and practical training at Barauni and Patratu. This is yet another significant step towards self-sufficiency. This will help create a cadre of trained personnel for maintaining and repairing the two thermal units in the State. The State Government is adopting the policies of keeping in trim the existing power plants, expanding them and exploring the possibilities of setting up new power plants.

Setting up of new extension units is being expedited. Two sets of 110 MW each at Barauni and two of 110 MW each at Patratu will be commissioned by 1983-84, adding a minimum of one set every six months from October, 1982 onwards.

The Board has given to BHEL on turn-key basis the construction of 2 × 110 MW plant at Muzaffarpur. It has also undertaken the planning, design and construction of 2 × 210 MW thermal power projects (ultimate capacity—2,000 MW) at Tenughat. The prestigious Koel-Karo hydel project (710 MW) has been undertaken by the Union Government. The Union Government has also cleared a super thermal power station (2,000 MW) at Colgong to be set up in the Central sector. The Muzaffarpur thermal power station is expected to be commissioned in August 1982 and Tenughat projects in 1985 and 1986.

Bihar is likely to receive 135 to 150 MW of electricity from the Farakka super thermal power station and 100 MW from the Chukka hydel project. It is worth mentioning that the foundation stone of the Farakka super thermal power station was laid by the Prime Minister recently.

Hydel schemes, both major and minor, have been prepared for generating 1,000 MW power capacity. Some of the schemes are Sankh hydel project (600 MW), Koel-Karo tail race project (165 MW), Kanhar hydel project (120 MW), Gandak Canal hydel project (45 MW), South Karo hydel project (42 MW), Karkatgarh hydel project (18 MW) and Sone Canal hydel project (16 MW). Besides, one more site for a thermal power project (2,000 MW) at Ray (Palamau district) has been surveyed. Besides, a proposal to set up a thermal power plant (2 × 65 MW) at Patna is on the anvil.

To facilitate inter-State flow of power and to enable Bihar to avail of power supply from the northern grid, the work of laying a 220 KV inter-State line (90 km) has been completed in a record time of three months. The Board has geared itself up to complete the important 220 KV and 132 KV lines by March 1982. It has also undertaken construction of a 400 KV line from Patna to Bodhgaya.

Of the 67,566 villages in Bihar 21,784 had already been electrified until March, 31, 1981. The ground-water resources in the State, particularly in North and South Bihar, are extremely good, and development of agricultural pumping will, therefore, form the core of rural electrification. Comprehensive schemes have been prepared for electrifying over 3,000 villages annually in the coming five years. While 2,069 villages were electrified during 1980-81, the Board expects to electrify 3,060 villages in the current financial year. In the previous years only 600 to 700 villages were electrified in a year.

So far as the Board's revenue collection is concerned the showing is quite good. The assessed revenue for 1981-82 was fixed at Rs. 136 crores. To this may be added a revenue collection of Rs. 8 crores as a result of increase in fuel surcharge and another Rs. 8 crores because of the revision in the tariff with effect from October 1981.

Thus the total assessed revenue comes to Rs. 152 crores. Until November 1981 about Rs. 86 crores had been collected. Going by the rising tempo, the Board is expected to collect another Rs. 64 crores from December 1981 to March 1982. Thus the total collection is expected to be of the order of Rs. 150 crores for 1981-82 as against the assessed target of Rs. 152 crores. This would fairly exceed 90 per cent of the current collection as directed by the Prime Minister. Judged by the current trend, the total realisation of the accumulated arrears is also expected to be Rs. 27 crores as against the target of Rs. 25 crores laid down by the Prime Minister. In sum, the Board hopes to fulfil both the targets set by the Prime Minister.

The Board has taken a number of steps to reduce the high tension line losses in the system. These steps have yielded rich dividends as is apparent from the fact that the percentage line loss has climbed down from 24—49 per cent in 1979-80 to 22.30 per cent in 1980-81. Efforts are being made to reduce it still further.

The outlay of power generation under the Sixth Plan is a massive sum of Rs 800 crores, which represents an increase of more than Rs. 165 crores over the total investment of Rs. 634.90 crores made during the earlier three decades. This shows the earnestness of the Government to speed up power development in the State.

From the foregoing it is abundantly clear that the Bihar State Electricity Board has, under the able guidance of the State Government forged ahead to achieve higher levels of prosperity for the State through accelerated development of power generation.

By the mid-eighties Bihar will have more power than it can use and may be in a position to help some of the neighbouring States. This will mean the setting up of a solid base for an industrial infrastructure. Agricultural production will go up and the standard of living of the common man, especially the weaker sections of the society, is bound to rise appreciably.

The State Government is keen that the Board should raise as much revenue from internal resources as possible so that it can make greater contribution to agricultural and industrial development of the State. But the impediments in this direction are many. Among the problems being faced by the Board is the large number of cases of theft of electricity in the rural areas. The need of the hour is to educate the masses to avoid misuse and theft of electricity, so that benefits could be extended to large sections of the population at a reasonable rate.

Towards Self-sufficiency in Foodgrains

Bihar occupies a place of pride in the Gangetic Plains—the first abode of Aryans—once known as the grain bowl of India. It has perhaps the richest soil, immense ground water resources, fairly adequate rainfall and a hardy people suited to the agricultural economy. It has no dearth of modern agricultural inputs like fertilisers and pesticides.

But what is wrong? Why agricultural production is not on expected lines? Why green revolution has not spread to this State?

Answers to these questions are not far to seek. Feudal values die hard, as they say. Bihar has not been able to implement various land reforms measures brought about during the past two decades. No serious efforts were made to bring about the green revolution in the context of changing patterns of field economy.

The Bihar Government has addressed itself to this pressing problem and taken several steps to boost agricultural production in the State to achieve self-sufficiency.

Encouraged by the achievements in foodgrains production of 106.40 lakh tonnes in 1980-81, the Bihar Government has fixed the target of 116 lakh tonnes for the current year (1981-82). The target is likely to be achieved with the efforts of the State Government to exploit agricultural potential in unison with all sections of rural society. The annual targets for the remaining years of the sixth plan are 1982-83—120 lakh tonnes, 1983-84—124 lakh tonnes and 1984-85—128 lakh tonnes.

Though after Independence, during the course of successive five-year Plans, Bihar has stepped up food production to a very great extent the State Government has not been able to achieve self-sufficiency. It has to import six to seven lakh tonnes of foodgrains every year. ...

In 1950-51 the total foodgrains production was 44.42 lakh tonnes, in 1955-56 was 56.21 lakh tonnes, in 1960-61 was 74.19 lakh tonnes, in 1965-66 was 72.38 lakh tonnes and in 1970-71 was 87.66 lakh tonnes. It increased to 106.4 lakh tonnes in 1980-81 against 91.76 lakh tonnes in 1975-76. The target for 1982-83 has been fixed at 120 lakh tonnes.

The State has a total area of 174 lakh hectares of which 85 lakh hectares is under cultivation. According to the census of 1981, the State has a population of 698 lakhs and thus the average cultivable land comes to 0.12 hectare per capita.

Taking into account the population explosion, this figure is further, likely to come down to 0.10 hectare per capita by the end of the sixth five-year Plan. It is, therefore, imperative for Bihar to go in for intensive cultivation and increasing the productivity of land to feed the hungry as also to supply raw materials to the agro-based industries. With the prospects of augmenting acreage under cultivation in the State the Government is making efforts to bring about a substantial increase by stepping up per unit productivity. It has also taken recourse to multiple cropping by ensuring cultivation of high-yielding varieties of paddy, maize, wheat and potato under irrigated conditions. The Government is also laying emphasis on the cultivation of pulses and oilseeds in rainfed areas and plateau regions and use of high yielding and certified seeds on large scales. The authorities advocate balanced use of fertilisers on the basis of soil tests and taking timely plant protection measures. The Government is also making efforts to boost production by advancing the cultivation of paddy and taking the cultivation of winter maize and summer moong on a large scale.

In fact the cultivation under high-yielding varieties of foodgrains has been going up. In 1981-82 it is 3.910 lakh hectares against 3.2 lakh hectares in 1980-81.

Various Government agencies have been working vigorously for achieving the target.

SEED PRODUCTION

The Bihar State Seed Corporation has been supplying certified seeds of paddy, wheat, maize, potato, pulses, oil-seeds and jute on a large scale. It is proposed to produce 3,40,600 quintals of certified seeds in 14,000 hectares by the end of sixth plan period. The Bihar State Seeds Certification Agency certifies the seeds after ensuring their quality right from seeding to harvesting and processing stage.

The seed production programmes at 422 Government farms has not been able to make satisfactory progress for lack of irrigation, water storage, and other

facilities. In the sixth plan Rs. 560 lakhs have been provided for equipping these farms suitably to increase their seed production potential from the present 95,000 quintals to 1,45,000 quintals by the end of the sixth five-year plan period.

To ensure the use of properly tested seeds, a State level Seed Testing Laboratory at Patna and regional laboratories at Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur and Ranchi have been established. It is also proposed to establish such laboratories at Darbhanga, Hazaribagh and Kudra during the remaining years of the Sixth Plan period. In 1980-81, 8,000 samples of seeds had been tested and it is proposed to enlarge the scope of such testing to 43,500 samples by 1984-85.

FERTILISER

It is well-known that fertilisers have direct influence on per unit production and there is a direct link between consumption of fertilisers and productivity. In 1980-81 1,60,000 tonnes of nitrogen, 29,600 tonnes of phosphorous and 14,500 tonnes of potash in the form of nutrients were consumed in the State which is a record.

To ensure the use of fertilisers and soil amendments on the basis of soil testing for recommendation of soil, soil testing laboratories have been established in all the districts of the State from where farmers can get their soil samples tested free of cost. Besides, minisoil testing laboratories are proposed to be established in each block of the State during the Sixth Plan period. This facility will be extended to 100 selected blocks during the current year. To take up the analysis of trace elements and related matter a Central Testing Laboratory is also proposed to be set up during the Sixth Plan period. To exercise effective quality control of fertilisers and insecticides a Quality Control Laboratory will also be established in the State during the Sixth Plan period which will test 1,000 samples of fertilisers and insecticides every year.

PLANT PROTECTION

To encourage cultivators to adopt plant protection measures and reduce crop losses 25 per cent subsidy has been arranged on the systematic sale of insecticides, seedicides, fungicides and pesticides as also of equipments, like sprayers and dusters in the Sixth Plan for which Rs. 8 lakhs have been provided. Out of the 587 blocks of the State, 465 already have plant protection centres. During the Sixth Plan period it is proposed to cover all the remaining blocks at an estimated cost of Rs. 101 lakhs. Besides, additional emergency squads will be created at three divisional headquarters (viz., Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur and Ranchi) to meet the situation created by epidemics. In

1980-81 plant protection measures were undertaken in 4.5 lakh hectares of land. By the end of the Sixth Plan 5.0 lakh hectares are proposed to be covered by plant protection measures.

TRAINING

For the training of farmers and extension workers there are four extension training centres in the State. During the Sixth Plan period the present farmers training centres will be upgraded to the level of Kisan Vidyapeeth and this will cost Rs. 84.64 lakhs. Four more Kisan Vidyapeeths will be opened at Saharsa, Bhagalpur, Gaya and Dhanbad which will cost Rs. 42 lakhs. For reorganised extension set up proposed under the World Bank Project 3,000 additional V. L. Ws. will be required during the Sixth Plan.

To encourage discussions on improved agricultural practices 300 Kisan Charcha Mandals will be established in the jurisdiction of each Kisan Vidyapeeth which will get radio-transistor sets on subsidy for listening rural programmes of All-India Radio. To enable farmers to see themselves agriculturally developed States and institutions there is a programme to send farmers in batches to such places for which a sum of Rs. 16 lakhs has been provided in the Plan.

To carry the message of intensive agriculture directly to the farmers with the use of audio-visual aids, a training-cum-visit programme has been in operation in five districts of the State (Patna, Rohtas, Purnea, West Champaran and Ranchi) with the assistance of the World Bank. This programme has now been extended to 11 more districts of the State (Bhojpur, Vaishali, Muzaffarpur, Saran, Siwan, Gopalganj, East Champaran, Saharsa, Gaya and Aurangabad) and by the next year this programme will further be extended to the remaining districts of the State.

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

For the development of implements and their proper maintenance, there is a programme of establishing agricultural workshop at 27 district headquarters during the Sixth Plan at a cost of Rs. 49 lakhs. In 1981-82 district workshops will be established at Motihari, Chapra, Bhagalpur, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Hazaribagh, Palamau and Singhbhum at a cost of Rs. 16 lakhs. About 3,000 sets of agricultural implements are proposed to be distributed on 75 per cent subsidy in the Scheduled Tribe areas for which Rs. 12.50 lakhs have been provided. About 500 seed-cum-fertiliser drills would also be distributed in the plain areas of the State during 1981-82 so that seeds and fertilisers are placed in uniform rows and at proper depths and weed control could be effected more economically by using improved hoes.

The Bihar State Agro-Industries Development Corporation will manufacture different agricultural implements on a large scale during the Sixth Plan. The State Government will provide Rs. 10 lakhs to the corporation as share capital in the Sixth Plan of which Rs. 5 lakhs will be paid during 1981-82.

CULTIVATION OF PULSES AND OILSEEDS

Special programmes have been launched at the national level to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses. To intensify the cultivation of pulses in the State demonstrations will be organised for increasing production of pulses crops. Subsidy will be provided on breeder seeds and certified seeds. Arrangements will be made for taking timely plant protection measures. All these will entail an expenditure of Rs. 140 lakhs. Fifty per cent of the expenditure will be met by the Government of India and the rest by the State Government.

Similar measures will be adopted for pushing up the cultivation of oilseeds in the State during the Sixth Plan at a cost of Rs. 240 lakhs.

INFORMATION SERVICE

The agriculture information service is being strengthened by establishing an exhibition unit during the current year so that the State Department of Agriculture may be able to participate in fairs and exhibitions organised in different regions of the State more effectively. For this Rs. 13.50 lakhs has been provided in the Sixth Plan.

BIO-GAS

The Janta Bio-gas plant has been found extremely useful in solving the problems of fuel, light and manure in the rural areas. To popularise new models of the Janta Bio-gas Plant, it is proposed to construct 774 bio-gas plants for demonstrations during the Sixth Plan for which Rs. 26 lakhs will be required. As many as 234 such plants are to be installed in 1981-82 on cent per cent subsidy on the holdings of Harijans and Adivasis. Besides, 22,600 more bio-gas plans are proposed to be installed during the Sixth Plan for which different categories of farmers will be entitled to Government subsidy at suitable rates.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DEVELOPMENT

During the Sixth Plan period three community canning-cum-fruit preservation centres will be established at Muzaffarpur, Patna and Jamshedpur

at a cost of Rs. 10.5 lakhs. A fruit and vegetable development corporation has been established in Bihar for the production and the processing of fruits and vegetables which will get a share capital of Rs. 41 lakhs during the sixth Plan. For the production of improved seeds of vegetables, five new seed multiplication farms will be established in Bhagalpur, Begusarai, Gaya, Dhanbad and Chapra districts. Besides, one Makhana nursery will also be opened at Madhubani. The existing fine seed multiplication farms will be further strengthened.

DRY LAND FARMING

To encourage the cultivation of high-yielding crops like maize, rainy season potato, high-yielding paddy suited to the uplands and ground-nut in place of inferior crops like Marua, Gandale, Sarguja and Gora paddy in the rainfed areas, dry land farming projects have been launched at a cost of Rs. 50 lakhs.

COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT

A sum of Rs. 32 crores is proposed to be spent on Command Area Development Agencies during the Sixth Plan in the State sector of which Rs. 448 lakhs will be spent on the special component plan designed to benefit the farmers of the scheduled castes.

The targets under the programmes for the Sixth Plan period are contour surveys—12,13,000 hectares, soil surveys—11,16,000 hectares and planning design—11,87,000 hectares. The targets of construction of field irrigation channels are 3,62,000 hectares, construction of field drains 4,86,800 hectares, land levelling 1,88,000 hectares, sinking of State tube-wells 10,00,000 hectares and OFD Demonstrations—74,00,000 hectares.

SOIL CONSERVATION

The soil conservation work was taken up on watershed basis in the State during the second Plan. Soil conservation works were started in the rain-fed tracts and in the catchment areas of irrigation projects under the State Plan. Soil conservation work has also been taken up in the Plateau areas of Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas for the benefit of the Adivasis with the assistance of the Central Government. Soil conservation works have also been established in the River Valley Project areas of Mayurakshi, Rangila, Mandira, Damodar and Sone with the central assistance. In Rohtas, Nawada, Palamau and Monghyr districts soil conservation work is proposed to treat 2,23,765 hectares of land during the Sixth Plan period at a cost of Rs. 1,500 lakhs.

About 607 lakh hectares of land have already been treated since the inception of the soil conservation work in the State at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 2,800 lakhs.

DIARA LAND DEVELOPMENT

A Diara Land Development scheme has been taken up during the Sixth Plan at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 20 lakhs to promote suitable agro-techniques and cropping pattern on Diara land extending along the Ganges from Buxar to Sultanganj.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

To speed up the solution of problems of tribal farmers of the plateau areas and to impart agricultural education and training on right lines, a separate Agricultural University, namely, Birsa Agricultural University has been established at Ranchi with the faculties of agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry. As far as practicable faculties of basic science and humanities, agricultural engineering and home economics will also be opened in due course. Faculties of home science and basic sciences have also been opened in Rajendra Agricultural University and it is proposed to open a faculty of dairy science therein shortly.

SPECIAL FACILITIES

Several special facilities have been provided to the farmers to encourage them to adopt improved agricultural practices. They are abolition of sales tax on certified seeds; subsidy of Rs. 30 per quintal on the sale of certified seeds and Rs. 20 per quintal on truthfully labelled seeds and Rs. 100 per quintal on hybrid maize seeds; extension of limit of short-term credit to Rs. 15 crores this year. Efforts are being made to ensure that no cultivator is debarred from using improved inputs for the paucity of funds. In the extraordinary situation created by droughts during the kharif, all those who owe a debt up to Rs. 1,000 under this head are getting the facility of new credit. To encourage adoption of plant protection measures 25 per cent subsidy is being provided for systematic insecticides, weedicides, fungicides and storage pesticides as also on plant protection equipment like sprayers and dusters to enable the cultivators to sink their own irrigation wells, borings and tube-wells.

With the implementation of the programmes elaborated in the foregoing paragraphs, it is expected that the agricultural development of the State would be accelerated so that self-sufficiency in foodgrains could be achieved and adequate raw materials could be made available for the agro-based industries. All these are expected to usher in an era of prosperity for the State.

An amount of Rs. 673.55 crores has already been spent on major and medium irrigation projects until March, 1980. Nearly 115 lakh hectares of the total of 173.50 lakh hectares is cultivable and arrangements can be made to irrigate 92.30 lakh hectares from the ground level water sources.

The Sixth Plan of Bihar (Irrigation Sector) envisages an outlay of Rs. 850 crores and potentiality for an additional area of 6.65 lakh hectares. By the end of the Sixth Plan utilisation of the irrigation potential for 6.88 lakh hectares has also been envisaged. Thus by the end of the Sixth Plan period irrigation potential for 31.17 lakh hectares and utilisation capacity for 24.08 lakh hectares would have been created. The achievement in respect of the creation of irrigation potential will be 27 per cent of the total irrigable cultivable land and 34 per cent of the total irrigable land.

During 1980-81 irrigation potential for additional 72,000 hectares and utilisation capacity for additional 80,000 hectares was created and in the current financial year, creation of irrigation potential for additional 1,05,000 hectares and utilisation capacity for additional 104,000 hectares have been targetted.

In 1980-81 Rs. 101.74 crores were spent on major and medium irrigation projects. It is proposed to spend Rs. 139.75 crores during the current year. Special consideration is being given to the completion of those projects which have spilled over from the previous year so that their benefit reaches farmers without delay. The Gandak Project, Kosi Project, including its eastern canal, Rajapur Canal, Sone Reservoir Canal, North Koel Reservoir, Barnar Reservoir, Upper Kiul Reservoir and Batane Reservoir are the important projects among those which have been under execution for the past several months.

Since the old irrigation system of the State is not working properly, schemes have been formulated for their modernisation. The Sone Canal System is hundred years old. In the Sixth Plan nine projects, including the Sone system, have been included for modernisation for which Rs. 42 crores have been provided.

It is proposed to spend Rs. 169.50 crores on irrigation projects in the tribal sub-sector out of the total outlay of Rs. 850 crores, provided in the Sixth Plan. Rs. 14.07 crores was spent on these projects in this area in 1980-81 and an expenditure of Rs. 25.40 crores is expected to be made during 1981-82. Ajay Barrage, Swarnrekha Project, Gumani Barrage, Totei Reservoir, Pares Reservoir, Masaria Reservoir and Plana Reservoir can be mentioned as some of the important projects in the State.

Flood is also one of the ticklish problems of this State. An area of nearly 43 lakh hectares is flood prone, where nearly two crores of persons are affected. Till the end of 1979-80 Rs. 179.08 crores was spent on flood control schemes and 2,863 kms. of flood protection embankment was constructed and 26.32 lakh hectares of land protected from floods. It is proposed to spend Rs. 158

crores on flood protection work during the Sixth Plan for the construction of additional 200 kms. embankment, providing protection to additional 5.41 lakh hectares of land from floods.

During 1980-81 a sum of Rs. 24.08 crores was spent on flood control schemes which included construction of 30 kms. of embankment which provided protection to nearly 43,000 hectares of land.

The target for 1981-82 is to spend Rs. 23 crores under this programme for the construction of 30 kms. of embankment to provide protection to 55,000 hectares of land from floods.

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Industrial Tempo Gains Momentum

Gone are the days when Bihar was known as one of the industrially backward States in the country. Entrepreneurs in their large numbers are now coming forward to get up their units in the State, thanks to the package of incentives announced by the Bihar Government.

The State Government has taken steps to improve the infrastructure for industrial development. Power generation schemes have been taken up in right earnest. Raw material availability has been made easier, transportation and marketing facilities for finished goods have been augmented. Special efforts are being made to exploit the mineral resources so as to provide a boost to industrial growth.

Bihar has now reached the take off stage for finding its due place on the industrial map of the country. Industrial revolution is round the corner.

Bihar has the distinction of having a fair share in big industrial units set up by the Union Government. To name a few, these are steel plants, refineries, fertiliser projects and Heavy Engineering Corporation. Industrial towns of Jamshedpur and Dalmia Nagar are a living testimony to the keen desire of the people of Bihar to adopt industrial progress as a way of life. Jawaharlal Nehru described big industrial units as modern temples of the country and the people of Bihar have taken them to be so.

Among the infrastructure for industrial development is the implementation of the new Industrial Policy announced by the Chief Minister, Dr. Jagannath Mishra, on November 17, 1980. While framing the new industrial policy the Government laid emphasis on balanced growth of industries as also on promoting such industries as were ignored in the past. The Government has also laid stress on promoting chemical and light engineering industries.

During its tenure so far the Government has not only got the old, lapsed letters of intent renewed but also made efforts to obtain some fresh ones for setting up industries based on States's mineral wealth and other raw materials available in the State.

During the last budget session of the Bihar legislature, the Chief Minister announced the decision to set up medium industries at an estimated cost of Rs 300 crores in various districts of the State, which aimed at a balanced industrial growth assuring a rapid economic development.

Steps have already been taken to implement the new industrial policy. Top priority is being given to the chemical industry. The caustic soda plant at Palamau and a Chemical complex around it will go a long way in promoting chemical industries in the State. Under the 20-point programme a ceramic industrial estate is being set up by the Bihar State Pharmaceutical and chemical Development Corporation in Santhal Parganas with great employment potential of engaging local Harijans and Adivasis. Small and medium units will be set up around it.

The State Government is making efforts to set up a chain of industries based on the by-products from the coke ovens of the Bokaro Steel Plant. As a result, several important units such as synthetic tanning materials and dyeing are now coming up. Another unit namely the Eastern Naphtha Chemicals has gone into trial production. Efforts are also being made for the setting up of a petro-chemical complex at Barauni. A master plan is under preparation for the setting up of various industries based on the products of petro-chemical industries.

A unit for the manufacture of glucose and starch is being set up at Pandaul. Besides, schemes for setting up industries based on alcohol and similar products have also been drawn up and necessary steps taken for the implementation of the same.

Special attention has been paid to the setting up of industries based on minerals and other raw materials available in the State. Steps have been taken to set up a coal-based fertiliser factory at Giddi in Hazaribagh district. Action on the scheme for the manufacture of phosphates and sulphuric acid based on pyrites available in and around Amjhore has also been initiated. Necessary provisions have been made in the State's next plan for preparation of a feasibility report by the Government of India. Industries based on lime-stone are also being promoted.

The State Government is also striving hard for setting up cement factories. The Government of India has assured the State Government to make slags available from the fourth blast furnace of the Bokaro Steel Plant. The Bihar State Industrial Development Corporation has taken steps for the setting up of two cement factories. The authorities hope to have three cement factories at Bhavanathpore and Patratu.

The Government also proposes to set up Central Processing Plants at Gaya, Ranchi and Bhagalpur to ensure the facilities of dyeing and printing of fabrics. Efforts are being made to set up plants of calcium carbide, nylon filament and yarn.

Necessary guidelines are being given to entrepreneurs and project reports prepared. District industrial centres have been set up and strengthened.

To remove the difficulties of small industries regarding the procurement of raw materials and marketing, two Industrial Area Development Authorities at Patna and Adityapur have been set up. To handle the distribution of raw materials, arrangements are being made for the storage of raw materials. Steps have also been taken for extending marketing facilities. The Bihar State Purchase of Materials and Price Preference Rules have been made more effective. All Government Departments and institutions have been instructed to make purchase of the products of the State Industrial Units on a preferential basis failing which they would be liable for punishment. A representative from the Department of Industries has been nominated to act as a member on the Purchase Committees of almost all the Departments and offices of the Government whose main duty will be to ensure observance of the rules.

Close contacts of the institutions and organisations concerned with industries are also being maintained to accelerate the pace of progress of small industries and the like. The State Government also organises seminars and workshops with a view to encouraging entrepreneurship. To extend the facilities of testing, a National Test House is being set up. The Government of India has been requested to open a regional office of the DGS and D in this State as well so that entrepreneurs could get timely notice of the tenders and be in a position to make timely supply of materials.

Several measures have been taken by the B. S. Export Corporation to facilitate export of products of small industries. Effective steps have been taken to start an Air Cargo Complex at Patna. Woollen goods produced at the Patna industrial units are being exported. Efforts are being made for production of bicycles and assembly of handles for export.

As the ancillary and allied industries play an important part in the development of industries in the small and tiny sectors, steps have been taken to encourage such industries. The Government has decided to set up a nucleus complex each in Palamau and Madhubani districts.

A few medium industries and several small units will also be set up in the complex. An industrial estate is being set up at Jhanjharpur in Madhubani, in the sixth Plan it is proposed to create new industrial areas at Samastipur, Kishanganj, Rosera, Forbesganj, Purnea, Tenughat, Sambalpur, Chandbara, Lohardaga, Sahebganj, Chakulia and Bara Jamda.

Due importance is also being attached to the silk industry as a decision has been taken to sanction grant-in-aid at the rate of Rs. 2,000 per acre to promote sericulture. The issue of a reasonable price support for cocoons has been taken up with the Government of India.

Special arrangements have been made for helping entrepreneurs of weaker sections of society. Rs. 736.40 lakhs has been provided in the current financial year for large and medium industries sectors, of which Rs. 99 lakhs would be spent in the tribal areas. Similarly, of Rs. 797 lakhs provided for small and rural industries Rs. 194 lakhs would be spent on industries in the tribal areas.

A special component plan costing Rs. 276 lakhs is being implemented for the benefit of about 38,000 scheduled caste persons. Particular stress has been laid in this plan on the development of leather industry. The Plan envisages the setting up of tanneries in addition to the existing three.

Three model tanneries are being set up each at Gumla, Hiranpur and Latehar in the tribal areas of Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas. A design development Centre, in already been set up at Ranchi. In the past, several incentives and facilities were being offered to the entrepreneurs for the promotion of industrial growth. The Janta Party Government had, by its amendments, made them ineffective and put many a hurdle in the way of the implementation of schemes for industrial growth. On resuming power, the present Government, at the time of framing its new Industrial Policy, resolved to restore the facilities and make the incentives more effective.

All the districts of the State have since been declared backward for the purpose of providing 15 per cent capital subsidy investment. The amount of subsidy on captive diesel generator and for preparing the project report has been enhanced. The amount of subsidy for the Adivasi entrepreneurs has been raised by 50 per cent.

Entrepreneurs had to face numerous difficulties because of procedural complexities and delay at various levels in the Government Departments. The Government has, therefore, authorised the Development Commissioner to take final decisions on all issues relating to industries. Monitoring arrangements have been made for proper implementation of the Industrial Policy and for quick elimination of the hurdles in the way of the entrepreneurs.

The Industrial Policy is being mainly implemented through the State Public Undertakings which have since been made more active and effective. The result has been that most of these undertakings are now fast achieving their goals. In a very short span of time, the Bihar State Electronics Development Corporation started production of TV sets and mining equipment. The Bihar State Textile Corporation has made much progress in setting up Central Process Houses at Gaya and Ranchi each at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.84 crores. Spinning mills at Madhubani and Jasidih, each at an estimated cost of Rs. 91.31 lakhs are being set up. The Bihar State Industrial Development Corporation has also taken steps for the setting up of a sponge iron plant, a caustic soda

plant, a paper mill at Baijnathpur, expansion of the high tension insulator factory and for implementation of various other projects. Selection of financial and technical collaborators for the sponge iron project has been made.

The Bihar State Parmaceutical and Chemical Development Corporation has taken steps to set up a Ceramic Capacitor Plant and a glazed tiles factory in the joint sector. The Chief Minister laid the foundation of the Glazed Tiles Factory at Dumraon on November 21, 1981. An agreement has already been signed with the Japanese collaborators for the Ceramic Capacitor plant at Patna.

Financial institutions of the Bihar Government are actively joining hands in the State's industrial growth. The loan sanctioning limit of the Bihar State Credit and Investment Corporation has been raised from Rs. 30 lakhs to Rs. 60 lakhs which has quickened the pace of its activities. This is obvious from the very fact that the Corporation has sanctioned Rs. 12 crores as loans in the single year (1980-81) as against a total of Rs. 4.05 crores disbursed from its very inception up to March, 1980. Similarly the Bihar State Financial Corporation sanctioned Rs. 18.40 crores as loan during 1980-81 as against Rs. 13 crores in the preceding year. Power generation occupies a top place in the State's industrial development programmes. The Government has made arrangements for providing subsidy on diesel generator sets in order to tide over the power scarcity problem facing the industries. The rate of the subsidy has now been enhanced from Rs. 1.50 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs.

The State Industries Department has also taken steps to cope with the energy crisis. Till February, 1981, as many as 6,613 gobar gas plants were set up in Bihar. A target of 6,000 gobar gas plants has been fixed for the current financial year. The amount of subsidy on a gobar gas plant is now 50 per cent which was previously 25 per cent only.

The Government has also taken steps to revive the sick industrial units and to prevent further sickness among them. The closed RBHM Jute Mill has been nationalised and is now running under the control of the Government of India. Steps have also been taken to restart Kumardhubi Engineering Works and Nalanda Ceramics.

The Government has substantially raised the plan allocations in comparison with those made in the preceding years. The allocation for 1980-85 is Rs. 11.165 lakhs which is higher than the cumulative expenditure of Rs. 9,436.81 lakhs incurred during the last 29 years ending March 1980.

Steps to Curb Atrocities on Harijans

Atrocities on Harijans and weaker sections of society have been the bane of the feudal system. Beginning from the Belchi carnage which hit the headlines of the world Press, Bihar had acquired a notoriety for a chain of ghastly incidents of violence on innocent, helpless and unarmed Harijans only a few years ago. At least 11 Harijans, including two children, were burnt alive at Belchi village in Nalanda district of Bihar.

Hardly a month passed without the occurrence of organised violence against the Harijans, as if there was no Government for this neglected class of people because no serious efforts were made to curb this menace.

To name a few, Belchi, Bishrampur, Bajetpur, Pathmada, Kaila, Pipra and Parsa are such incidents which can be described as inhuman, to put it mildly.

The Bihar Government took up the challenge seriously after June 1980 when Dr. Jagannath Mishra became the Chief Minister. It decided to prevent these incidents which lowered the prestige of the citizens of Bihar—the seat of cultural heritage of the country. The administrative machinery was toned up to meet the situation.

Long delays in the arrival of the police on the scene of the ghastly crimes encouraged recurrence of such incidents at various places. The impression had gone round that the police could not provide protection to the helpless victims. Investigation of such cases did not continue as the relations of the victims had practically no resources to pursue their complaints.

The Congress (I) Government committed, as it was, to the welfare of the Harijans decided to set up special police task force almost at every district headquarters. Local police officials and district police officials were made responsible for providing adequate protection to life and property of the Harijans. It was made clear that an incident of Harijan atrocity would be taken serious note of and officials concerned punished for any lapse on their part.

The State Government wasted no time in setting up special investigation teams to pursue the pending cases. This served as a deterrent to the habitual offenders.

Delayed trials of these cases often led to the loss of faith of the victims' relations in the judicial system. Over the years they could not follow up these cases which were pending in courts.

The Chief Minister, Dr. Jagannath Mishra, said on January 7 that the State Government had earmarked some courts exclusively for the trial of all pending cases of atrocities on the Harijans. In the shortest period several cases were decided and in most of them the accused were convicted.

Dr. Mishra's face lit up with a sense of satisfaction when he said, "We wanted to provide expeditious trial of these cases and we have achieved the desired results." At least 100 persons had been convicted. 50 in a single case who were sentenced to life imprisonment.

He spoke more in anguish than in anger about the delay in the distribution of land to landless Harijan families. He said about 34,000 hectares of land had been acquired for distribution among the Harijans. But the distribution work had been held up following the courts issuing stay orders on the petitions filed by land-owners whose land had been acquired. "We have to put up with these difficulties as we believe in the rule of law," he remarked.

The State Government, Dr. Mishra said, was engaged in the implementation of various schemes aimed at welfare of the Harijans, Adivasis and other weaker sections of society.

Half of the 22 lakh Harijan families in the State would be covered under these schemes during the Sixth Plan. Schemes costing Rs. 75 crores had been taken up during the last financial year. About two lakh families were covered. Rs. 126 crores have been earmarked for these schemes in the current financial year.

Special efforts are being made to provide educational facilities to the Harijans. The State Government has already set up 33 residential middle schools for the Harijans. It is proposed to establish one such school in each of the 587 blocks in the State and one secondary residential school in each of the 33 district headquarters in the State.

Dr. Mishra said that ten Harijans had been nominated to each Zila Parishad. Serious efforts were being made to fill the desired number of reserved jobs under a time-bound programme.

Special committees have been set up to fix up the responsibility of the officials for wilful negligence in not filling the reserved jobs. Separate committees are functioning for all departments. Four legislators are members of each such committee which is headed by the Minister in charge of the department.

These committees have been authorised to review all cases of filling reserved vacancies. As a result of these reviews two senior officials, including an IAS, were placed under suspension recently, according to Dr. Mishra. A special cell has been created at the State headquarters to look into complaints made by the Harijans. A special officer has also been designated for such a job at each district headquarters.

Special Harijan thanas have been set up and at the police headquarters, an officer of the rank of the D. I.-G. has been entrusted with the task of ensuring protection to the Harijans.

Dr. Mishra was confident but kept his fingers crossed when he remarked: "Harijans" atrocities should be treated as events in the history. It may not be possible to completely prevent the occurrence of such cases but I can assure you that no such case will go undetected or unpunished."*

*This is by a journalist who interview the Chief Minister at New Delhi.

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Restructuring Academic System

Nalanda was synonymous with the highest seat of learning in the world in the B.C. era. Buddhist and Jain scholars continued to dominate the educational scene in Bihar for a long time. Even during the British rule in India, Bihar had the unique distinction of producing some of the top educationists of the sub-continent.

Time was when Bihar's educational standards were considered ideal throughout the country. Post-graduate students from all corners of the country used to vie with one another in seeking admission to some of the prestigious educational institutions in the State. Until mid-sixties the Bihar Universities maintained high standards of education. But the post-1967 period brought about political instability in the State. Many politicians and political parties started using educational institutions as recruiting centres for their respective volunteer forces. Almost the entire academic structure had been politicalised before the emergency was declared in the country. Then came a period of academic anarchy in the wake of change of the Government. Educational institutions were turned into political cells and students as well as teachers were used as an instrument of establishing political authority.

Strikes in schools and colleges became the order of the day. Violent clashes between various sections of students marred the sanctity of educational institutions. Teacher-taught relationship was anything but cordial. Examinations became a farce and academic calendars were pushed back for a few years in many cases and completely upset in a few others. Even where the examinations of the sort were conducted mass copying was the rule rather than exception. Students who took up their studies seriously started migrating to outside universities in search of knowledge.

Academic standards were at their lowest ebb and not much credence was given to those who claimed to have obtained degrees from Universities in Bihar.

This was about the picture of academic structure in Bihar when the Congress (I) Government headed by a well-known educationist Dr. Jagannath Mishra, took over the reins of administration in Bihar in June 1980. Academician-turned-politician Dr. Jagannath Mishra knew well the condition of educational institutions in the State.

It was no surprise, therefore, that the Bihar Government gave top priority to the restructuring of the academic edifice. In one of his earliest Press conferences, Dr. Mishra announced to the chagrin of those who wanted to continue to exploit the student community for their political ends that copying would not be tolerated in the examination. Prophets of doom lost no time in expressing their lack of faith in the assertions of Dr. Mishra.

Copying in the examination was made a cognizable offence through an Ordinance promulgated in 1980. To make it more stringent copying or putting obstructions in conducting the examination was made a non-bailable offence. Such deterrent steps went a long way in stemming the rot in the educational institutions. Police protection was provided to invigilators and offenders were taken to task in keeping with the rule of law.

It was in this backdrop that the Bihar Government had to launch a number of new schemes for restructuring and expansion of educational facilities in the State.

One of the schemes is meant for those children of the age-group of 9—14 who never had the good fortune of attending schools or had been forced to leave the school due to different reasons after attending classes for a very short period. An amount of Rs. 60 lakhs was provided in 1980-81 for starting 2,250 non-formal education centres. The Central Government also sanctioned an amount of Rs. 43,47,800 for setting up 1,058 additional non-formal education centres and strengthening the Directorate and providing equipments to the above noted centres.

It is proposed to strengthen 60 of the 84 Primary Teachers Education Colleges of the State by supplying furniture, teaching aids and materials for productive work under central schemes of experimental non-formal education.

In order to encourage regular attendance in schools, Rs. 1 lakh was distributed by the State Government as attendance prize during the last quarter of 1980-81. Of this Rs. 70,000 had been earmarked for non-tribal areas and Rs. 30,000 for tribal areas.

Special efforts are being made to provide educational facilities to the Harijans. The State Government has already set up 33 residential middle schools for the Harijans. It is proposed to establish one such school in each of the 587 blocks in the State and one secondary residential school in each of the 33 district headquarters in the State.

The education imparting socially useful productive work scheme envisages imparting education in useful productive crafts and trades utilising the easy availability of raw materials and craft tradition of the area. Preliminary selection of such trades and crafts in selected areas/schools is being done. For example, in the Kosi area where Jute is produced in abundance, schools have been advised to set up jute carpet training centres and jute carpets thus produced are utilised in the schools for children to sit on. About 80 teachers have been trained in the mat-making craft.

Worksheds in such schools have been set up and tools provided. During 1980-81 a sum of Rs. 7.66 lakhs had been provided. The total estimated outlay for 1980-85 is Rs. 1.75 crores.

Except the 63 Government secondary schools and 215 State subsidised schools all other secondary schools had been set up privately. Obviously, most of the schools had come up without any planning and are devoid of many basic requirements of staff and buildings. The Government, therefore, on August 11, 1980, promulgated an Ordinance taking over all non-Government secondary schools in the State (Minority Schools, Central Schools and proprietary schools not included); in this way 2,860 non-Government secondary schools have been nationalised with effect from October 2, 1980. This step has been taken in order to improve the condition of the non-Government high schools and developing them on proper lines. There are 190 minority schools (religious and linguistic minority) in the State. Over and above these 22 applications from different secondary schools are pending in the department for declaration of minority character. As the State Government is determined to respect the sentiments of the minorities none of the minority schools in the State has been nationalised.

The Ordinance also provided for declaration of good schools as autonomous institutions. This has been done in order to encourage originally and special attainments. Such residential schools which proved their worth in field of curricular and extra-curricular activities are to be considered by the Government for being given the autonomous status.

The Secondary service Board was set up in October, 1980 in order to select deserving and qualified headmasters and teachers for the nationalised secondary schools. This Board has replaced the School Service Commission.

Book banks have so far been established in 65 Government secondary schools and 700 nationalised schools of the State. There are still 2,300 schools where these have to be established. The Government has provided a sum of Rs. one crore in the sixth Plan for the establishment of book banks in secondary schools in phases.

Under the special schemes for girls common room-cum-toilets are being constructed in co-education secondary schools to help improve entilement of girls in these schools. So far the progress was very slow. The present Government has proposed an outlay of Rs. 125 lakhs for the Sixth Plan to construct 500 common room-cum-toilets. In 1980-81 a provision of Rs. 6 lakhs was made. This has been substantially augmented in 1981-82.

Many of the existing Government secondary schools have no buildings of their own. There is also a general shortage of quarters for teachers and other staff besides shortage of class rooms and hostels in the nationalised schools. Therefore, a sum of Rs. 320 lakhs has been earmarked under the Sixth Plan for these programmes.

To provide quality schools the Government had set up Netarhat Vidyalaya in 1954 which earned its name as an ideal institution. There is persistent demand for opening of more such schools for boys and girls. With the limited resources being made available for the development of secondary education it is not possible to invest huge amount on opening many such schools. However, in keeping with the growing demand of good schools, it is proposed to develop some selected schools gradually into residential schools.

The Government has taken important steps in order to develop Sanskrit and Madarsa education. These steps are sure to bring about considerable improvement in the field of oriental education.

With a view to improving the standard of non-Government Madarsas and Sanskrit schools and curbing vested interests that plagued these institutions the Bihar State Madarsa Education Board Ordinance and Bihar Sanskrit Education Board Ordinance have been promulgated.

The Government has also paid due attention to the welfare of the teachers of Madarsa and Sanskrit schools. Previously the salaries to teachers had been made the responsibility of managing committees of Sanskrit schools and Madarsas. The Government used to sanction grants to these institutions only to cover the differences of pay, but now to remove the difficulties of the teachers of Sanskrit schools and Madarsas the Government have decided to take the full responsibility of the payment of salaries to these teachers with effect from April 1, 1979. These teachers used to get Rs. 96 only as cost of living allowance but now the present Government has decided to give them cost of living allowance at the Central rates.

The mode of payment to the teachers has also been totally changed. Previously they were paid in an irregular manner by Managing Committees.

Now it is the responsibility of the Sanskrit Education Board and the Madarsa Education Board to pay them directly.

The present Government has also decided that teachers in the Sanskrit schools and Madarsas will get the benefits of pension, gratuity and GPF just like teachers in other nationalised schools.

There are at present about 61,580 primary and middle schools. About 40 per cent of the primary schools have no building of their own and the remaining schools have hardly two rooms each while each such school should have at least five rooms.

About 6,000 primary schools are under construction. A very large sum is required for the purpose. During 1980-81 a sum of Rs. 12.5 crores had been earmarked for this work. It is proposed to continue the drive during the remaining period of the Plan. The Construction Cell of the Education Department has been strengthened and placed under a Superintending Engineer. It is also proposed to establish an Educational Construction and Development Agency on the pattern of the SFDA. This will facilitate the creation of a fund and public participation in the scheme.

There is a provision to supply text books free of cost to all school children in classes I to III and to Scheduled Castes and Tribes children of classes IV to V. During 1980-81 a sum of Rs. 1.85 crores had been sanctioned for the purpose. The total outlay for 1980-85 is Rs. 9.82 crores.

Under the programme of free supply of uniform to girl students about 3,47,420 girls belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of society have been given two sets of uniform each at a cost of Rs. 50 per student. Ashram schools are to be established in the sparsely populated areas of Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas and other hilly, forest and backward areas. So far 18 such schools have been established. Five more such schools were provided for during 1980-81. During the remaining period of the Plan it is proposed to provide one residential middle school in each of the remaining 587 blocks.

According to the new education pattern of 10 plus 2 plus 3 Class VIII has been added to 50 per cent of the existing middle schools of the State with effect from January 1980.

So far as welfare steps for teachers are concerned, the pay-scales of headmasters and headmistresses of nationalised middle schools, Government Basic Schools and Government Middle Schools had been revised to Rs. 415-745 with effect from 1st April 1980. Moreover 20 per cent of the posts were upgraded to the selection grade of Rs. 510-980 with effect from April 1, 1980. These Pay-scales have again been revised and raised as per recommendations of the Fourth Pay Revision Committee with effect from April 1, 1981.

Radio and TV are two mass media available for coverage of educational programmes in primary and middle schools. A special broadcast for primary and secondary school children from AIR Patna is being provided to all schools. The Education Department has taken up the responsibility of supplying broadcast schedules and other allied literature to all primary, middle and high schools.

Television is available in Muzaffarpur only where primary schools located within a radius of 43 km. of Muzaffarpur town are in a position to utilise it. A special TV programme is being telecast on all working days by Muzaffarpur Doordarshan Kendra. A total of 300 primary and middle schools have been provided with TV sets. With the launching of ATS Satellite in early 1982 TV facilities are likely to be made available on a very large scale and the entire State is likely to be covered by TV transmissions.

The teachers and the non-teaching staff of the universities have been given special retirement benefits:—

- (a) 10 per cent contributory PF;
- (b) 8 per cent contributory provident fund-cum-gratuity; and
- (c) general provident fund-cum-pension-cum-gratuity.

Those appointed on April 1, 1978 and after will be eligible for GPF-cum-pension-cum-gratuity. The teachers of universities will henceforth be allowed to draw their due leave salary for a maximum period of six months after retirement. If they are regularly promoted to higher posts against duly created regular posts, their pay will be fixed after adding 12 per cent of their basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 150.

A roster of Harijan and Adivasi and Backward Castes has been prepared for appointment in the universities. A provision has been made in the University Act for setting up Selection Boards for each university according to the recommendations of the University Grants Commission.

The State Government has promulgated an Ordinance for curbing the use of unfair means in examinations. It provides for punishment up to six months or fine up to Rs. 2,000 or both for using unfair means which has been made a cognizable offence.

Central DA and interim relief as admissible to Government employees have been sanctioned to the university employees as well.

Till recently the Education Department had been sanctioning 30,711 scholarships, including 1,628 in the Tribal Sub-Plan area. Of these 5,734 scholarships are under the Plan head and the rest are under the non-Plan head. The nature of scholarships at University-level is: (i) State merit scholarship; (ii) State merit-cum-poverty scholarships; (iii) Special merit scholarships to

girls; (iv) Scholarships to Bihar students reading in JNU, Delhi, and (v) Scholarships to students reading outside the State. At the Secondary stage are Primary scholarships.

These 30,711 State scholarships have been doubled by the present ministry as a measure of incentive to poor and deserving students to help them continue their studies. At present the State Government has been spending around Rs. 2 crores on different types of scholarships per year. Owing to the doubling of the scholarship an additional sum of Rs. 1,641 lakhs would be needed during the Sixth Plan period.

Besides, the State Government also sanctions special scholarships to the children of deceased Government employees who die in harness. This scholarship is limited to a maximum of three children of a Government employee and is available up to the age of 21 years.

There are a number of scholarships that are sanctioned at full Central cost. These are National Merit Scholarships, National Loan Scholarships and Scholarships to the teachers wards.

So far there used to be lots of complaints regarding delayed disbursement of scholarships. The State Government has introduced pass book (bank account) system to ensure speedy disbursement of scholarships. The scholarships machinery has also been strengthened. There are 18,600 Adult Education Centres for the benefit of 5,68,000 men and women in Bihar. Special emphasis has been laid on providing adult education facilities to the Harijans and the Adivasis. This work has been entrusted to the "Deepavatan" which is also preparing books, charts and other materials suitable for the purpose. The number of illiterate people in Bihar is around 1.40 crores. It is therefore, a formidable task to cover this huge number in a span of five or even ten years unless vast resources are channelled into this programme and every development contributes its share.

In order to involve the people at large and obtain the advice of knowledgeable persons, the State Adult Education Board with the Chief Minister as its Chairman has been constituted. Representatives of various development departments and opinion leaders of the public have been nominated as members of this Board. A steering committee with the Chief Secretary as Chairman has also been set up. At the district level a similar Board has also been constituted to assist and advise the Collector who has been made responsible for the successful implementation of the programme. He is also the Chairman of the District Adult Education Board. The Directorate of Adult Education, set up in the year 1978, has been entrusted with the responsibility of drafting a plan for adult education and its implementation

IMPLEMENTATION OF 20-POINT
ECONOMIC PROGRAMME

Implementation of 20-point Economic Programme

1. Steps to bring down prices of essential commodities and streamlining the system of procurement and distribution of essential commodities.

For easy availability of essential commodities to the consumers the number of fair-price shops has been increased from 27,513 in March, 1980 to 33,854. Essential commodities like wheat, rice, edible oil, sugar, control cloth, kerosene oil and exercise books are being distributed through these fair-price shops on ration cards in areas and on the basis of Family lists in rural areas.

A. SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

Allocation of Essential Commodities mentioned above is received every month from the Central Government. In the month of November, 1981, allocation was as follows:—

Commodities	Quality, Distribution (in tonnes)
(1) Wheat	... 17,000
(2) Rice	... 60,000
(3) Sugar	... 36,929
(4) K. Oil	... 20,400
(5) Controlled Cloth	... 1,858 (Bales)

(1) Management of supplies and distribution including difficulties encountered.

(i) *Wheat*.—Though our requirement for public distribution system and roller flour mills has been estimated at 1.95 lakh metric tonnes per month,

the State is now receiving a monthly allocation of only 0.17 lakh metric tonne on an average under the public distribution system and 0.19 lakh metric tonne for roller flour mills. Because of meagre allocation only the barest needs and that too only of the urban populations are being met. To bring in improvements in the availability of wheat products, the State has issued instructions to all flour mills and big check is to make available wheat products like Atta, Suji and Maida through public distribution system. The 21 roller flour mills and big Atta Chakkies have been tagged with various districts to facilitate the distribution. To make wheat products available in adequate quantities, particularly in remote and backward areas and even to maintain a semblance of distribution system the quantum of allocation requires to be restored to at least 0.60 lakh metric tonne which is the allocation previously in June, 1980 and July, 1980.

(ii) *Rice*.— Though there has been an increase in the allocation, which is now 0.60 lakh metric tonne the offtake of rice was not very good. The principal reason appears to be that the quality of rice was not according to the taste of the local people. Persistent approach to the Government of India and F.C.I. Officials has resulted in the supply of better quality of rice including par boiled rice which has resulted in the improvement offtake.

(iii) *Edible oil*.—Against an allocation of 8,800 metric tonnes of R.B.D. Palm oil and 4,600 metric tonnes of refined rapeseed oil, so far till 16th November, 1981, 5,135 metric tonnes of R. B. D. Palm oil and 1,659 metric tonnes of rapeseed oil could be supplied to the consumers. Besides, providing relief to the general consumers, it has also provide useful in arresting the price rise in mustard oil.

(iv) *Sugar*.—Since October, 1979 when partial control of sugar was reimposed, the State has been getting a levy allocation of 26,929 metric tonnes per month. In the initial months after imposition of levy there were difficulties in getting full supplies of quota from F.C.I. Since July, 1980 to February, 1981 supplies received have been full. Out of monthly quota of 26,929 metric tonnes of sugar about 10,000 metric tonnes are distributed in the State from the mills and the remaining is to be procured from U.P. and Maharashtra Sugar Mills. But due to non-availability of railway wagons the moment from U.P. and Maharashtra is being affected causing much strains in the smooth supply. The Government of India have been accordingly requested to supply the entire amount of sugar from the sugar produced from the mills of the State.

(v) *Controlled cloth*.—Against the monthly requirement of 5,000 bales of controlled cloth, only 2,287 bales were allotted by the Textile Commission earlier which were further reduced to 1,858 bales. To meet the ever-

increasing demand of low priced cloth the State Government has decided to channelise distribution of 75 per cent of the handloom cloth manufactured within the State through the public distribution system in addition to the controlled cloth. To streamline the distribution of controlled cloth and to make it available to the economically backward classes, the State Government have restricted the distribution only on ration cards in urban areas and on the basis of families in rural areas.

(vi) *Kerosene oil*.—The requirement of the Kerosene oil in the State is about 30,000 metric tonnes per month, while the allocation from the Central Government was 24,100 metric tonnes in May, 1981. It was hereafter reduced to 20,000 metric tonnes. The allocation recently increased to 21,000 metric tonnes. Bihar is a large State with a larger population, 85 per cent residing in the rural areas. For lighting purposes, kerosene is a poor man's must. The allocation in the past has been inadequate but the Petroleum Ministry have been kind enough to have increased the allocations and we have a satisfactory situation in this field. Kerosene oil is being made available to the consumers through fair-price shops and in addition through private retail dealers. Arrangements have also been made for distribution of kerosene in weekly Hats and in Bazars under the supervision of supply official to make the availability easy in the rural and remote areas.

One of the essential needs for the Kerosene distribution system to function effectively is that kerosene agents should be selected at the rate of at least one agent in each block. At present there are 2 to 3 agents in bigger towns and none in most of the rural blocks, with the result that kerosene retail dealers have to travel long distances to get the kerosene before they could supply it to the consumers. This sometimes creates difficulties and artificial scarcities are built up. We have requested the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals to consider the proposal to have one dealer in each block. We hope that this request would be favourably considered in order that kerosene distribution system would be streamlined.

(vii) *Exercise books*.—The Education Department of the State Government have entrusted the job of distribution of exercise books for the students to the Food and Supply Department. Till 23rd November, 1981, about 1,75,07,171 exercise books were kept in store against 2,03,00,772 on 26th October, 1981. During this interval the number of exercise books distributed was 27,93,67.

(viii) *Establishment of Departmental Stores*.—The State Government already opened till September, 1981 24 such stores in Patna and 5 in Dhanbad. The recent position is that 55 departmental stores in Patna, 7 in Dhanbad and 5 in Saharsa are opening. It has been decided that through these

departmental stores, in addition to general consumer's commodities, such essential material like R.B.D., Palm oil, mustard oil, refined rapeseed oil, soda-ash, salt, tea, Amul baby food, matches, free sale sugar, H.M.T. watch, Janta dhoti and sari, exercise books, etc., should be in the list. The aim is not to cater to the needs of all consumers but to meet the needs of a large percentage of population and influence the market price and keep it subdued as far as possible.

(ii) STRENGTHENING OF THE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

(a) *Vigilance Committees*.—Vigilance Committees consisting of non-officials and official members have been constituted from Panchayat level upwards to the district level for proper supervision and control. Vigilance Committees are to meet once a month or more often if needed. Members of Parliament and State Legislature and Panchayat Samities are kept informed of the issues being made through public distribution system in their area to keep a check on mal-practices. The Vigilance Committee of the Panchayat level has been reorganised and the members will include Mukhiya of the Gram Panchayat, Sarpanch, Local M. L. A., etc., one member at least shall be from the Harijan or Adivasi.

(b) *Distribution Committee*.—Distribution Committee consisting of non-officials and officials have been constituted from the block level up to the district level for distribution of sugar, cement, edible oil, kerosene oil. Fortnightly meetings of these committees have been prescribed.

(c) *Monitoring System*.—A system of monitoring has been introduced at the State level, district level and subdivisional level.

Control rooms have been set up right from subdivisional level to State level for monitoring (i) reports of inspections of fair-price shops, (ii) price report of key commodities, (iii) availability of essential commodities, and (iv) action against anti-social elements.

(i) *Inspection*.—The officers at the different levels are to inspect regularly whether the distribution system is working properly or not. The number of inspections to be conducted has been prescribed. The inspection to be conducted by the District Officer is fixed at least 10 shops per month.

Norms and standards of inspections of fair-price shops have been prescribed for all categories of officials. At State level the position is reviewed every month with the representatives of the Food and Civil Supplies officials of the State and representatives of principal suppliers like Food Corporation

of India, Indian Oil Corporation, Coal India Limited, Railways and Bihar State Food and Civil Supplies Corporation. Problems relating to these are discussed and difficulties removed.

(e) *Ration Cards*.—According to 1981 census, about 1.5 crore Ration Cards need be distributed covering towns and rural areas. The concerned department is going ahead with the task of printing and distribution of cards.

(f) *Display of stocks and prices*.—With a view to preventing mal-practices about the quantities and price, all the shops dealing in essential commodities are required to display stock of essential commodities available. The fair-price shops are required to display foodgrains received from godowns in sealed bottles at a prominent place in the shop for inspection by both the officials and the consumers.

(iii) DEHOARDING DRIVE

The State Government have undertaken regular drives and maintained vigilance against anti-social elements in the State. Between the period January 1981 to 15th November, 1981, 10,440 raids were conducted which resulted in seizure of essential commodities worth Rs. 118.82 lakhs. As a follow-up of these raids 558 cases were instituted and 351 persons were taken into custody. The value of goods confiscated is Rs. 15.68 lakhs and for the remaining confiscation proceedings are continuing.

So far 7 persons have been convicted by courts. Besides 24 persons were ordered to be detained under the prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. Of these 9 persons have been released by the Advisory Board and 4 have been released by the High Court. Detention in respect of 6 persons have been confirmed and 5 are still absconding against whom processes under section 87/88 have been taken up.

(iv) PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS IN THE STATE

Under this year's procurement order the rice mills would have to pay 50 per cent of rice milled daily. The wholesale of dealing in rice will have to part with 35 per cent of their stock on opening day and 35 per cent of the day-to-day purchase thereafter. The rice mills operating under the Co-operative Sectors are also included under the purview of the order. There is no ban on the free movement of rice and paddy to outside the State. There is also provision in the Act for penalising the traders or mill owners who fail to pay

the levy in time. The target of collections have been fixed 5,000 metric tonnes from the open markets, 44,000 metric tonnes from 146 rice mills and 1,70,400 metric tonnes from the wholesalers.

(B) IMPLEMENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CEILINGS AND SPEEDIER DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS LAND

Out of 46,752 returns which were to be verified only 865 are pending for verification. Draft publication has been made in 12,223 cases involving 7.14 lakh acres of land and 1,910 cases are pending for draft publication. The remaining cases have been dropped after verification. Objections have been filed in 9,760 cases involving 5.56 lakh acres of land. 4,511 cases involving 1.12 lakh acres of land have been dropped after hearing of objections. 2.36 lakh acres of land have been acquired so far inclusive of 1.03 lakh acres which was voluntarily surrendered. 1.39 lakh acres of land have been distributed so far. Of the remaining 78,470 acres are disputed as appeal, revision, writs have been admitted even after issue of notification notifying surplus land, 6,683 acres are fit for distribution and the rest is unfit for distribution.

To overcome some of the procedural and legal hurdles standing in the way of more effective and time-bound implementation of the Ceiling Act amendments having far-reaching consequences have been made in the Ceiling Act. Some of the more important features of the Amending Act are:

- (a) The undisputed surplus land can now be acquired without waiting for disposal of appeal/revision/writ in respect of disputed portion of surplus land.
- (b) Formerly persons other than the landholders having interest in surplus land were given an opportunity only after the land was declared as surplus. They will be now impleaded as parties when the notices are being issued to the landholders
- (c) In the case of death of landholders during the pending of the proceeding the heirs can now be substituted.
- (d) Only one appeal/revision shall now be against the composite order disposing of objections under section 10 of the Act allowing exemption under section 29 of the Act, and orders under section 5(i)(3) annulling transfers made between 22nd October 1959 and 9th September 1970 with a view to defeating the provisions of Ceiling Act.
- (e) Landholder will have to keep lands transferred by him after 9th September 1970 without permission of Collector and half of lands transferred between 22nd October 1959 and 9th September 1970 which have been annulled as far as practicable.

Steps are being taken to request High Court/Supreme Court to remand the pending cases in view of the substantial changes effected in the Act. Steps have also been taken to draft publish all such cases which have not been finally published in pursuance of the above amendment.

Instructions have been issued to closely monitor the progress of disposal of cases under the Ceiling Act particularly in cases of big landholders holding more than 200 acres of surplus land.

A monitoring cell consisting of non-official members has also been set up to closely review the progress of implementation of Ceiling Act and to make reviewers at field level also.

Provisions have been made under Ceiling Act to take action against threatened ejection or to restore possession to dispossessed allottees. Of the 4,756 cases filed so far 3,912 have been disposed of.

Provisions have been made for providing assistance to allottees of surplus land at the rate of 400 per acre. 1.60 crores have been distributed so far.

PROFORMA 1

LAND CEILING FORTNIGHTLY REPORT, DATED THE 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1961.

Name of District	Land Acquired	Land Distributed	Available for Distribution	Disputed Land	Land not fit for Distribution
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Patna	2,290.35	1,634.16	40.79	615.42	..
2. Nalanda	557.65	361.85	11.65	55.57	55.57
3. Bhojpur	3,765.83	2,373.93	11.15	753.05	627.69
4. Rohtas	4,033.14	2,399.22	86.01	1,738.62	..
5. Gaya	6,528.14	4,423.04	25.65	2,079.45	..
6. Nawada	2,021.43	1,283.24	66.97	179.68	179.68
7. Anrangabad	2,499.57	739.59	..	1,782.93	1,292.56
8. Saran	1,661.28	565.26	..	290.37	197.55
9. Siwan	948.75	464.76	61.82	395.74	..
10. Gopalganj	669.08	320.94	48.50	299.64	299.64

PROFORMA 1—concl'd

LAND CEILING FORTNIGHTLY REPORT, DATED THE 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1981.

Name of District	Land Acquired	Land Distributed	Available for Distribution	Disputed Land	Land not fit for Distribution
1	2	3	4	5	6
11. E. Champaran ..	11,397.06	4,429.16	221.26	6,657.16	15.55
12. W. Champaran ..	22,130.27	5,979.79	336.31	15,555.09	322.78
13. Muzaffarpur ..	4,067.14	2,522.40	20.51	190.81	1,333.42
14. Vaishali	2,308.30	1,906.66	9.12	190.60	..
15. Sitamarhi	5,109.22	4,380.50	45.90	682.82	..
16. Darbhanga	6,131.40	3,850.24	148.01	3,478.12	..
17. Samastipur	6,078.16	2,780.66	411.72	2,765.60	210.60
18. Madhubani	7,138.35	4,672.87	198.68	1,308.60	957.91
19. Begusarai	5,452.57	2,813.37	400.00	1,716.32	..
20. Khagaria	3,898.39	2,363.79	..	1,170.87	363.64
21. Monghyr	8,832.91	4,952.27	394.30	1,433.91	2,051.92
22. Bhagalpur	13,219.05	9,823.24	1,148.73	2,062.98	1,349.44
23. Santal Parganas ..	885.13	566.81	160.79	136.67	20.86
24. Saharsa	12,241.52	6,885.99	100.65	4,288.14	..
25. Katihar	21,834.84	11,599.39	587.37	8,303.83	..
26. Purnea	38,446.15	34,074.63	1,387.51	2,618.84	1,331.77
27. Madhepura	7,072.05	3,498.77	10.56	3,562.71	..
28. Hazaribagh	9,938.42	3,739.82	258.62	5,939.63	..
29. Giridih	2,683.33	1,434.99	..	111.50	200.16
30. Dhanbad	258.09	243.94	34.32	8.82	..
31. Ranohi	12,737.77	5,692.64	425.28	4,434.12	2,185.92
32. Palamau	8,060.25	5,232.31	68.10	2,760.50	2,759.84
33. Singhbhum	2,077.25	1,174.15	23.00	902.00	..
GRAND TOTAL ..	2,36,199.23	1,39,184.77	6,683.87	78,470.19	15,756.50

APPENDIX 6

LAND CEILING MAXIMUM LIMIT REGULATION ACT MONTHLY REPORT, SEPTEMBER, 1981

Serial no.	Name of the districts	Total return								Remarks
		Return received under section 6	Returns and shadow returns received under sections 5, 6 and 8	Report verified	Pending for verification	Returned after verification	Published under section 10(2)	Pending cases for publication under section 10(2)	Published cases under section 11	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
PATNA DIVISION										
1	Patna	195	720	720	..	612	108	..	81	
2	Nalanda .. ..	..	126	136	..	83	53	..	19	
3	Bhojpur .. ..	..	2,318	2,318	..	1,996	822	..	251	
4	Rohtas	29	3,061	2,933	128	2,162	771	..	312	
TOTAL - PATNA DIVISION ..		224	6,735	6,607	123	4,853	1,754	..	663	
MAGADH DIVISION										
5	Gaya	25	2,346	2,346	..	1,272	716	358	131	
6	Nawada	35	716	714	2	463	218	33	98	
7	Aurangabad .. ..	..	2,394	2,454	240	Not available	1,328	..	48	
TOTAL - MAGADH DIVISION		60	5,756	5,514	242	1,735	1,316	391	277	
SARAN DIVISION										
8	Saran .. ..	..	733	723	10	678	89	6	2	
9	Siwan	74	474	477	..	367	102	8	61	
10	Gopalganj .. ..	..	464	464	2	366	66	30	Not available	
TOTAL - SARAN DIVISION ..		74	1,674	1,662	12	1,411	207	44	63	

APPENDIX 6

LAND CEILING MAXIMUM LIMIT REGULATION ACT MONTHLY REPORT, SEPTEMBER, 1981

Serial no.	Name of the districts		Total return							Remarks
			Return received under section 6	Returns and shadow returns received under sections 5, 6 and 8	Report verified	Pending for verification	Returned after verification	Published under section 10(2)	Pending cases for publication under section 10(2)		Published cases under section 11
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
TIRHUT DIVISION										
11	East Champaran	.. ..	143	3,230	3,066	169	2,019	724	318	327
12	West Champaran	.. ..	132	1,397	1,397	..	494	721	182	381
13	Muzaffarpur	.. ..	62	1,243	1,226	17	894	292	40	139
14	Sitamarhi	.. ..	22	682	675	7	397	696	87	71
15	Vaishali	.. ..	..	347	302	45	Not available	233	..	3
TOTAL—TIRHUT DIVISION			559	6,899	6,666	238	3,804	2,661	627	926
DARBHANGA DIVISION										
16	Darbhanga	.. ..	..	723	723	..	582	136	5	81
17	Madhubani	.. ..	153	1,335	1,335	..	966	369	..	54
18	Samastipur	.. ..	85	1,550	1,550	..	1,609	409	32	165
19	Begusarai	.. ..	..	567	567	..	266	209	92	75
TOTAL—DARBHANGA DIVISION.			238	4,175	4,175	..	2,923	1,123	129	374

BHAGALPUR DIVISION

20	Khagaria	..	..	..	772	772	..	267	202	303	77
21	Monghyr	..	..	27	2,159	2,159	..	1,660	499	..	170
22	Bhagalpur	..	..	82	3,263	3,263	..	2,256	861	146	236
23	Santhal Pargana	..	..	..	1,478	1,478	..	Not available	80	..	70

TOTAL - BHAGALPUR DIVISION.

109 7,672 7,672 .. 4,182 1,642 449 553

KOSI DIVISION

24	Saharsa	..	..	51	3,879	3,780	29	3,218	560	2	349
25	Madhepura	..	..	45	1,230	1,230	..	950	280	..	138
26	Katihar	..	..	103	1,845	1,845	..	1,086	759	..	362
27	Purnea	..	..	287	5,343	5,152	196	3,250	1,683	219	520

TOTAL - KOSI DIVISION

486 12,227 12,007 220 8,504 3,282 221 1,269

NORTH CHOTANAGPUR DIVISION

28	Hazaribagh	..	..	30	1,020	1,013	7	754	259	..	143
29	Giridih	..	..	18	326	326	..	278	47	1	40
30	Dhanbad	..	..	..	496	496	..	470	26	..	15

TOTAL - NORTH CHOTANAGPUR DIVISION.

48 1,842 1,835 7 1,502 332 1 198

SOUTH CHOTANAGPUR DIVISION.

31	Ranchi	..	..	234	4,258	4,258	..	3,872	386	..	269
32	Palamau	..	..	101	1,315	1,290	25	936	350	4	193
33	Singhbhum	..	..	2	1,533	1,533	..	1,407	126	..	68

TOTAL - SOUTH CHOTANAGPUR DIVISION.

337 7,106 7,081 25 6,215 862 4 530

GRAND TOTAL

1,935 54,086 53,214 872 35,130 12,679 1,866 4,848

An up-to-date land record is a necessary requisite for implementation of various land reforms measures. With this object in view the work relating to updating of land records was taken up first in Purnea district and was subsequently extended to other districts. Emphasis was laid on recording of the right of share croppers and other weaker sections of the society. Survey settlement operations are also necessary to detect the large scale alienation of tribal land which has taken place. The progress of implementation of settlement operations in various districts is indicated below:—

Kosi Division.—Survey of rural areas of Purnea and Katihar districts has been completed while the survey in town areas is in progress. Survey in rural areas of Saharsa district is nearing completion and the land records will be published in December. Work relating to town survey is in progress.

Tirhut Division.—Survey work in the districts of Muzaffarpur, Vaishali and Sitamarhi has been completed. Land records in the two districts of east and west Champaran are being updated as a preliminary step of consolidation operation and there is, therefore, no need for revisional survey.

Darbhanga Division.—The town survey has still not been taken. The survey in rural areas is in a stage of disposal of appeal and revision. Survey in Begusarai district has still not been taken up.

Saran Division.—Land records in three districts of Saran, Siwan and Gopalganj will be updated as a preliminary step of consolidation and there is no need for revisional survey.

Bhagalpur Division.—Survey work in rural areas of Bhagalpur district is complete and the town survey is in progress. Survey operations are in advance stage in the district of Santhal Parganas. Survey work has not been taken up in Monghyr district.

Gaya Division.—Survey work in rural areas in the district of Gaya, Nawada and Aurangabad is in final stage except in 22 Anchals where the consolidation operations are in progress. Land records are likely to be finally published this year. Town survey has not been taken up in any of these districts.

Patna Division.—The work relating to rural survey except for survey of diara land has been completed in Bhojpur and Rohtas and the land records are being finally published. Town survey work is in different stages of progress. It is proposed to start the survey operation in the districts of Patna and Nalanda this year.

Hazaribagh Division.—It is proposed to start revisional survey operation in the district of Hazaribagh and Giridih this year while the revisional survey operation in Dhanbad district has just been started.

Ranchi Division.—Rural survey in Singhbhum district has been completed. Town survey has been completed in 6 out of 8 wards and the work is in progress in various stages in the districts of Ranchi and Palamau where town survey has still not begun.

Stepping up of provision of house sites for landless and weaker sections:

Under the Privileged Persons Homestead Tenancy Act, homestead have been granted to 8,08,662 persons in respect of 37,091 acres of land.

The scheme relating to provision of house sites which is included under the Minimum Needs Programme was launched initially in the Central sector but since it has been transferred to State Sector from 1st April 1974. The State Government have recently taken up the survey of landless persons in the State and have found that 2.9 lakh persons require houses. Available information is being examined with a view to either settling them on the Government land if possible or providing them house sites.

Out of 75,856 house sites sanctioned so far, 43,300 have been developed and 37,741 distributed. In partial modification of the above scheme the State Government have taken up the programme of construction of houses in house-sites in clusteration estimated cost of Rs. 4,000 per unit through the Housing Board. The unit cost consists of loan amounting to Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 1,500 being provided for by the HUDCO and the State Government and the remaining Rs. 500 as subsidy. Housing Board have started construction of 7,500 houses of which 1,088 have already been completed.

PHYSICAL TARGET FOR 1981-82 AND PROGRESS TILL AUGUST

Rural Survey

Name of the Settlement.	Surveying		Khanapuri		Attestation		Draft Publication		Disposal of objection cases.		Disposal of the revision objections.	
	Target	Progress	Target	Progress	Target	Progress	Target	Progress	Target	Progress	Target	Progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Ranchi ..	4,17,595 Plots	4,15,595 Plots	4,17,595 Plots	2,63,972 Plots	1,63,432 Plots	2,49,887 Plots	17,16,719 Plots	7,574 Plots	29,162 Objections	10,561 Objections	1,892 Objections.	51 Objections.
Palamau ..	10,95,779 Plots	..	1,32,171 Plots	..	14,85,590 Plots	..	15,58,699 Plots	..	30,000 Objections	..	590 Objections.	..
Santhal Parganass	8,00,000 Plots	7,47,346 Plots	..	2,74,435 Plots	7,50,000 Plots	3,97,445 Plots	It has not been started as yet.					
Dhanbad ..	7,82,481 Plots	..	7,82,481 Plots	..	It has not been started as yet							
Bhojpur ..	15,000 Plots	..	15,000 Plots	..	9,343 Plots	..	9,343 Plots	..	..	..	455 Objections.	12 Objections.
Darbhanga ..	This work has already been completed.								1,59,940 Objections.	43,759 Objections.	1,200 Objections.	208 Objections.

PHYSICAL TARGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1981-82 AND PROGRESS UPTO AUGUST

Survey

Draft Publication

Name of the settlement.	Target	Work progress.	Target	Khanapuri						
				Progress	Target	Progress	Target	Progress	Target	Progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Bhojpur	38,100 plots of 50 & 2 parts wards of Arrah, Sasaram and Dehri	12,028 plots of 8 wards of Arrah and Sasaram.	38,000 plots of 8 wards of Arrah and Sasaram.	2,103 plots of 8 wards of Arrah.	1,622 plots of wards of Dumraon.	8,605 plots of 6 wards of Dumraon.	8,605 plots of 6 wards of Dumraon.	8605 plots of 6 wards of Dumraon.
Bhagalpur	Award and 8,443 plots.	Award and 8,443 plots and 8443 plots of 3 wards.	..	..	Award 8443 plots.	..
Gaya	Jehanabad and Nawadah Municipality.	2 wards of Jahanabad municipality.	14 wards of Jahanabad municipality.	..	6 wards of Jahanabad Municipality.	..	..	..
Saharsa	22 Wards and 127 plots.	22 Wards and 97 sheets.	..	18 Wards and plots 52,807.	4 Wards	18 Wards and plots 52,817.	..	18 Wards plots 3,262.
Darbhanga and Jainagar.	40 wards of Darbhanga and Samastipur.	..	40 wards of Darbhanga and Samastipur.	..	40 wards of Darbhanga and Samastipur.	..	40 wards of Darbhanga and Samastipur.	..
Sirghbhum

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PHYSICAL TARGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1981-82 AND PROGRESS UPTO AUGUST—*conctd.*

Survey	Draft Publication														
	Name of the settlement.	Disposal of objection cases.		Disposal of the review cases.		Work.		Comparison of records.		Final publication.		Disposal of cases under sections 9 C.N.T. Act.		Disposal of records in the collectorate record room.	
		Target.	Progress.	Target.	Progress.	Target.	Progress.	Target.	Progress.	Target.	Progress.	Target.	Progress.	Target.	Progress.
1	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Purnea ..	1,645 Objec- tions.	1,645 Objec- tions.	Katihar Kishanganj, Purnea and Araria.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Muzaffarpur ..	329 Objec- tions.	145 Objec- tions.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bhojpur ..	456 Objec- tion.	1,710 Objec- tions.	..	..	1,162 Plots	..	11,622 Plots	..	2,485 Plots	..	..	..	24,852 Plots	..
Saharsa ..	3,421 Objec- tions.	1,076 Objec- tions.	158 Objec- tions.	18 Objec- tions.	18 ward and 4,4058	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bhagalpur ..	136 Objec- tions.	136 Objec- tions.	93 Objec- tions.	450 Objec- tions.	32 ward and 44,339 plots.	..	..	..	12 wards and 1,777 plots.	..	..	..	12 ward 17,773 plots.	..
Singhbhum ..	766 Objec- tions.	..	54 Objec- tions.	..	6 ward 20,4,426 Plots.	..	3 wards and 8,138 Plcts.	15 ward and 5,000 P.cts.	9 ward 2400	..	1,935 objec- tions.	12,68 objec- tions.	2 wards 22,745 Plots.	2 wards 16,276 Plots.	

DISTRIBUTED

Name of District	Sanc- tioned	Deve- loped	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribes	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Patna	5,478	1,340	..	..	329	1,011
2. Nalanda	6,932	1,362	355	..	151	486
3. Bhojpur	5,753	3,184	2,388	..	196	3,184
4. Gaya	1,194	1,163	..	..	..	388
5. Rohtas	1,796	664	..	..	..	282
6. Nawada	7,288	4,520	4,102	4	3	4,109
7. Aurangabad	1,216	1,174	1,123	..	..	1,123
8. Saran	448	118	71	..	..	112
9. Siwan	499	504	404	..	..	404
10. Gopalganj	622	528	333	..	195	528
11. Purbi Champaran	2,489	1,009	..	..	..	1,009
12. West Champaran	463	353	198	37	118	353
13. Muzaffarpur	755	260	217	..	43	260
14. Vaishali	264	154	..	..	..	154
15. Sitamarhi	418	320	117	..	203	320
16. Darbhanga	2,189	940	..	..	..	940
17. Samastipur	64	64	64	..	..	64
18. Madhubani	2,189	1,407	1,253	..	154	1,407
19. Begusarai	4,090	569	569	..	..	569
20. Khagaria	2,421	1,825	..	..	..	1,825
21. Monghyr	6,837	5,989	..	..	..	4,615
22. Bhagalpur	1,809	890	248	45	580	873
23. Santhal Parganas	8,562	5,795	1,856	1,785	1,910	5,551
24. Saharsa	1,828	163	160	..	3	163
25. Katihar	2,151	1,890	..	..	..	1,890
26. Purnea	1,090	703	312	..	252	564
77. Madhupura .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
28. Hazaribagh	2,372	2,312	325	155	1,832	2,312
29. Giridih	744	739	..	..	..	576
30. Dhanbad	1,210	1,210	720	180	310	1,210
31. Ranchi	807	402	..	..	..	369
32. Palam	640	638	152	389	97	638
33. Singhbhum	1,229	1,211	377	471	286	1,134
GRAND TOTAL	75,856	43,300	..	..	..	37,741

CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES IN RURAL AREAS OF BIHAR UNDER 20-POINT PROGRAMME.

PROGRESS REPORT

Serial no.	Name of districts.	No. of houses under construction.	Progress Report quotations received.	Quotation invited.	Quotations accepted work in received.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Vaishali ..	600	500	..	500
2	Darbhanga ..	600	300	..	300
3	Muzaffarpur ..	100	100	..	100
4	Patna ..	100	100	..	100
5	Nalanda ..	219	..	..	..
6	Gaya ..	2,592	2,592	..	2,000
7	Bhojpur ..	320	..	100	..
8	Saharsa ..	200	..	200	..
9	Bhagalpur ..	200	..	200	..
10	Samastipur ..	320	320	..	..
11	Hazaribagh ..	184	184	..	..
12	Ranchi ..	904	904	..	200
13	Jamshedpur ..	1,197	1,197	..	281
14	Dhanbad ..	384	387	..	231
TOTAL ..		8,823	6,584	644	3,732

ABOLITION OF BONDED LABOUR

After the enactment of the Bonded Labour Abolition Act, the system has been legally abolished freeing all bonded labourers. The fear of not getting alternative employment and denied of whatever little wages he was earning acts as a deterrent on the bonded labourers to come forward to get themselves identified. To create a proper climate in which the bonded labour will be willing to come forward to get himself identified, the State Government are providing old age pension of Rs. 30 per month from the date of his release. The State Government have under their active consideration the proposal to implement NREP or similar schemes in areas having concentration of bonded labour.

2. The State Government have also taken a decision to involve social workers and voluntary agencies genuinely interested in such work in the task of identification of bonded labour in areas having their concentration and

sanction honorarium to them. A task force is being constituted at the State level which shall intensively tour areas having such concentration. The enforcement machinery at the block levels is being strengthened by creating additional posts of Labour Inspectors and Block Employment Officers at the block level who will also be responsible for this programme. An Officer to exclusively look after the work relating to identification, formulation and implementation of schemes relating to rehabilitation of bonded labourers is being posted in districts having high concentration of bonded labour.

3. Instructions have been issued that the schemes being drawn up for rehabilitation of bonded labour take into account the individual needs of the beneficiary on one hand and on the other to ensure that the benefits accruing from such schemes are sufficient to ensure that he does not become bonded again. Apart from the Centrally-sponsored scheme social infrastructure is being provided in case of areas having concentration of scheduled caste bonded labour under the special component plan. In other areas the relevant schemes under the Minimum Needs Programme are being taken up.

4. A decision has been taken to provide legal assistance to such bonded labourers who are implicated in false cases.

5. So far 6,587 bonded labourers have been identified and freed inclusive of 1,598 of which 559 belonged to other States, freed by District Administration of Rohtas by conducting raids in stone quarries of this district. Schemes for rehabilitating 1,955 released bonded labourers were in progress prior to 1980-81 schemes for rehabilitating 1,877 schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 66.80 lakhs were sanctioned last year and are under various stages of implementation. The Central Government have recently sanctioned schemes for rehabilitation of 672 persons. An amount of 4 lakhs each was allotted to Palamau, Santhal Parganas and Monghyr, Rs. 2 lakhs to Bhagalpur and Rs. 70 thousand to West Champaran respectively for carrying out infrastructural development under the special component plan as the released bonded labourers mostly belonged to Scheduled Castes. In district-wise progress, reports are given in Annexure.

PLAN FOR LIQUIDATION OF RURAL INDEBTEDNESS LEGISLATION FOR MORATORIUM ON RECOVERY OF DEBT FROM LANDLESS LABOURER, SMALL FARMERS AND ARTISANS.

The Bihar Debt Redemption Act, 1976, was enacted with the purpose of giving relief to small farmers, village artisans and agricultural labourers from all kinds of debts excepting the loans advanced by Government in and other Financial Institutions notified by the State Government in the official gazette. The articles pawned by them automatically stand released and persons sent to civil prison for non-payment of debts stood is charged. So far 74,420 persons have been benefited and loans amounting to Rs. 2.27 crores have been written off. This enactment has offered relief to the weaker section of the society in the rural area in a big way by taking them out of the clutches of money lenders.

NO. OF RELEASED BONDED LABOURERS IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS OF BIHAR STATE AND UP-TO-DATE POSITION REGARDING THEIR REHABILITATION PROGRAMME.

Serial No.	Name of the district	No. of released bonded labourers	No. of released bonded labourers for whom rehabilitation programme is continuing from before 1981-82.	No. of bounded labourers for whom rehabilitatio schemes were sanctioned by the Govt. of India in 1980-81.	No. of bonded labourers for whom rehabilitation schemes have been sanction now by Govt. of India.	No. of bonded labourers for whom rehabilitation scheme are under consi-deration of the State Government.	No. of bonded labourers for whom rehabilitation schemes have not been received from District Officer.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Monghyr ..	2,534	371	1,338	244	..	581	
2	Palamau ..	1,099	623	96	5	..	385	
3	Santhal Pargana ..	753	520	155	13	..	65	
4	W. Champaran ..	455	60	170	215	..	10	
5	Begusarai ..	383	307	74	..	..	..
6	Nawada ..	374	..	..	169	..	202	Worked in Calcutta Died.
7	Sitamarhi ..	42	..	..	..	..	42	
8	Nalanda ..	30	..	..	..	..	..
9	Giridih ..	26	..	..	26	..	..
10	Patna ..	11	..	..	..	..	11	
11	Bhagalpur ..	158	52	43	..	..	63	
12	Muzaffarpur ..	3	..	..	..	..	3	
13	Samastipur ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	
14	Singhbhum ..	372	..	..	..	..	381	Rehabilitation scheme for bonded labour o e d.

15	Gaya	..	106	..	..	..	..	106
16	Rohtas	..	67	..	..	..	..	106
17	Ranchi	..	65	..	..	..	..	65
18	Hazaribagh	..	60	..	..	..	17	43
19	Aurangabad	..	35	..	..	..	35	35
20	Dhanbad	..	8	..	..	..	..	8
21	East Champaran	..	5	..	..	..	..	5
TOTAL		..	6,587	1,955	1,876	672	2	2,063	(Rehabilitation of 4 bonded Labour not required.)

The Social security pensions have been sanctioned to the bounded labourers of Saraikela sub-division vide Addl. Commissioner, Singhbhum, Chaibasa letter no. 1002 (A), dated 26th December 1981 D. M., dated 7th November 1981. In the same subdivision loans have been provided for various items of work to 40 bonded labourers by the Commercial banks and to 39 bonded labourers by Bank of India.

UTILISATION OF AMOUNT RELEASED FOR REHABILITATION OF BONDED
LABOURERS.

District	1978-79	Amount Allotted			Amount spent	No. of labours benefitted
		Central Grant	State Grant	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Santhal Parganas ..	481	6.20	6.35	12.55	12.04	375
Monghyr ..	371	7.0	7.28	14.35	13.98	386
Bhagalpur ..	52	.61	.44	1.05	1.02	51
Nalanda ..	30	.40	.20	.60	.26	14
TOTAL ..	934	14.28	14.23	28.56	27.30	826
1979-80						
Bogusarai ..	309	6.03	9.32	15.35	1.23	63
West Champaran ..	60	.59	1.18	1.77	1.77	53
Palamau ..	..	..	4.50	4.50	N.A.	N.A.
TOTAL ..	369	6.62	15.00	21.62	3.00	116
1980-82						
Monghyr ..	592	8.74	8.98	17.72	N.A.	N.A.
Bogusarai ..	74	1.48	1.48	2.96	N.A.	N.A.
West Champaran ..	170	..	2.62	2.62	N.A.	N.A.
Santhal Paraganas ..	65	..	1.87	1.87	N.A.	N.A.
Samastipur ..	1	..	.04	.04	N.A.	N.A.
TOTAL ..	902	10.22	15.00	25.22	N.A.	N.A.

REVIEW OF LAWS ON MINIMUM AGRICULTURAL WAGES

The State Government have recently set up a committee to make an in-depth study of the various problems being faced by the Agricultural labourers and to suggest measures to make an all round improvement in their working conditions. Comprehensive amendments to make the present law more effective are also under active consideration of the Government.

2. A 25 per cent increase has been made in the rates of Minimum Wages and separate rates have been prescribed for the plain and hilly areas of the State to ensure that the wages are uniform.

3. To ensure effective implementation of the Minimum Wages Act a separate Directorate of Agricultural labour at the State level, an Assistant Labour Commissioner at the Divisional level and Labour Superintendents at the District level was set up. The State Government have sanctioned additional posts of 391 Labour Inspectors and has taken steps to fill them up to ensure that labour inspectors are available for each block. The State Government have also taken a decision to create posts of Block Employment Officer at Block level to look after various schemes being administered by the Labour Department including the Minimum Wages for Agriculture.

4. The State Government have also taken the following measures for implementation of minimum wages:—

(i) Identification of Law wage prospects and sensitive areas which are followed by intensive drives to raise minimum wages.

(ii) Preparation of list of landlords having more than 15 acres of land to vigorously pursue their cases.

(iii) Constitution of committees at Panchayat level consisting of Mukhia and representatives of farmers and representatives of agricultural labourers including a Harijan to ensure implementation of programme in a cordial atmosphere.

(iv) The authority to dispose of cases arising out of non-payment of wages has been vested with circle officers/Land Reforms Deputy Collectors for expeditious disposal of such cases. The power to dispose of such cases has also been vested with the Assistant Commissioner posted at Divisional level to facilitate disposal of cases particularly in low wage and sensitive pockets by holding camp courts.

(v) Amendments have been made in the Act to provide for filing of prosecutions for non-maintenance of records simultaneously with the cases arising out of non-payment of wages. Field Officers have been asked to take action under this clause only against the big land-holders and recalcitrant defaulters.

(vi) To facilitate quicker filing of claims cases it has been decided that the Labour Inspectors can file cases without taking permission from the Labour Superintendent as was hither to the practice.

The authority to give approval for filing prosecutions for non-maintenance of registers has since also been delegated to the Assistant Labour Commissioners posted at the Divisional level.

5. The Agricultural Labourers being illiterate are ignorant of their rights. Being unorganised they are unable to bargain collectively for improving their lot. The State Government have initiated the following measures to enable the agricultural labourers to become conscious of their rights to know the laws schemes being implemented to improve their conditions, to understand the need to organise: —

(i) Training camps lasting 3 days are being organised in rural areas in which 40 persons are usually trained 6 such camps were organised last year and 8 such camps will be organised this year. In areas having more than 20 per cent Scheduled Caste population camps exclusively for persons belonging to Scheduled Castes are organised which are of 5 days duration. 25 such camps were organised last year. It is proposed to hold 50 such camps this year benefiting 5,000 persons.

100 selected agricultural labourers who have the capacity and ability to develop leadership are provided further training for 3 months.

(ii) The power to register organisation of agricultural labourers have been delegated to the labour Superintendents to create an atmosphere conducive to the growth of organisations amongst agricultural labourers.

An outright grant of 1,500 is also provided to such organisations. An amount of Rs. 2 lakhs is expected to be utilised this year.

6. The endeavour of enforcement machinery is to solve disputes arising out of non-payment of minimum wages by peaceful negotiations and take recourse to filing claim cases only when such negotiations are not successful. The enforcement machinery toward 31,954 villages in the period July 1980, September 1981 carrying 1.15 lakh inspections. As a result of such efforts wages amounting to Rs. 9.23 lakhs in cash and 5,371 quintals in kind were made available, and 180 Bighas of land was restored. The courts passed orders for payment of wages of Rs. 1,396 lakhs in cash and 705 quintals in kind. The courts also awarded compensation of Rs. 4.65 lakhs in cash and 77 quintals in kind during this period.

7. State Government is actively considering introducing a group insurance scheme for labourers in unorganised sectors particularly agricultural labourers.

State Government have also launched a scheme to provide relief to 2,000 families of agricultural labourers who die while operating machines in agricultural operations.

7. MAJOR AND MEDIUM IRRIGATION

Bihar has a total area of 173.50 lakh hectares. Cultivable area of the State is assessed at 115.00 lakh hectares and the maximum irrigation potential at 92.30 lakh hectares. Since the economy of the State depends mainly upon agriculture, irrigation facilities have to be substantially improved with a view to providing a strong base for agricultural development.)

7.2. Before the First Five-Year Plan, Bihar had only 4.4 lakh hectares of land with irrigation facilities from major and medium irrigation projects. As a result of a planned and systematic efforts to develop the irrigation facilities for Bihar through the five-year plans, the situation improved to 24.52 lakh hectares of land under irrigation by 1980. The utilisation of the irrigation potential developed was, however, restricted to 17.02 lakh hectares by the end of the 5th Five-Year Plan. Thus 24.32 per cent total culturable land in Bihar had irrigation facilities and the irrigation potential was being utilised to the extent of 70.15 per cent.

The Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980—85) of Bihar was formulated in this background and it provided for creation of additional irrigation potential in 6.58 lakh hectares, through execution of major and medium schemes. The outlay of major and medium irrigation sector in the 6th Five-Year Plan is Rs. 850 crores.

7.3. Bringing additional five million hectares of land under irrigation is one of the main points under Prime Minister's 20-point plan. Against the national targets of bringing additional 5 million hectares of land under irrigation, provision has been made in Bihar's Sixth Five-Year Plan to bring additional 6.58 lakh hectares under irrigation. The phasing of the above targets is indicated below: —

	Targets of potential to be created (Thousand Hectares).				
1980-81	80
1981-82	105
1982-83	473
to					
1984-85	658 or 658 lakh hectares

7.4. The broad details of the Sixth Plan outlay of Rs. 850 crores for major and medium irrigation is indicated below:—

PROJECTS

	6th Plan outlay (Rs. in crores)
(A) Continuing projects taken up before the 6th Plan—	639.29
(i) Major (16 nos.) 	639.29
(ii) Medium (43 nos.)	95.77
(iii) Modernisation of schemes ...	30.00
Total (A) ...	765.06
(B) New schemes of Sixth Five-Year Plan—	
(i) Major (24 nos.) 	34.75
(ii) Medium (25 nos.)	10.00
(iii) Modernisation (8 nos.) ...	12.00
(iv) Construction of water channels	4.50
(v) Conjunctive use of surface and ground water.	0.20
Total (B) ...	61.44
(C) Water Development Services Survey Monitoring, etc.	23.50
GRAND TOTAL (A + B + C) ...	850.00

As would appear from the above table, the major portion of the outlay for major and medium irrigation would be continuing schemes, so that the benefits could start flowing to the economy. As per programme, 9 major and all the 43 continuing medium irrigation schemes would be completed during this period.

During the Plan Period Kosi Barrage Eastern Canal, Rajpur Canal, Son High Level Canal, Balharna Reservoir Schemes and 81,920 hectares of additional land would be brought under irrigation. On completion of the Konar Diversion Scheme, additional 27,000 hectares of land would be brought under irrigation.

For 1981-82 Annual Plan an outlay of Rs. 139.76 crores has been kept for major and medium irrigation. The sanctioning orders issued till October, 1981 cover expenditure of Rs. 104.49 crores. Thus, the major portion of 1981-82 outlay for the major and medium irrigation stood sanctioned by the end of October, 1981.

7.5. *Minor Irrigation.*—The ultimate irrigation potential through minor irrigation schemes in Bihar is 59 lakh hectares. Of this, 40 lakh hectares are possible through Ground Water sources and remaining potential of 19 lakh hectares through the surface water sources. Against this potential, by 1977-78, 12 lakh hectares of Ground Water Resources were utilised and 9 lakh hectares of surface water potential was utilised. By 1979-80 against the ultimate minor irrigation potential of 59 lakh hectares in Bihar, 22.5 lakh hectares of irrigation facilities were developed, which came to 38.1 per cent of the ultimate potential.

Out of 1,365 lift irrigation schemes and 790 other minor irrigation schemes which have spilled over on 1st April, 1981 it is proposed to complete 700 lift irrigation and 500 other minor irrigation schemes this year.

In the (1980—85) Sixth Five-Year Plan of Bihar, the outlay of Rs. 168.7 crores has been kept. Of this, outlay in 1980-81 was Rs. 25.4 crores and for 1981-82 the outlay has been kept at Rs. 27.65 crores.

7.6. Physical Targets of providing irrigation facilities in 2.15 lakh hectares was kept by the Minor Irrigation Department in the current financial year. Of this, 0.45 lakh hectares were through ground water resources. Apart from this, a massive programme for supporting private minor irrigation efforts with institution credit and generous subsidy is being taken up during 1981-82. The targets sinking of over 10,000 Dug Wells and 55,000 Tube-wells and pump sets.

7.7. To give particular impetus and acceleration to private minor irrigation programmes, the scheme of subsidy has been further broad based during 1981-82. The present schemes of subsidy rates are as indicated below:—

	For Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.	For Non-Scheduled Castes and non-scheduled Tribes.
	Per cent	Per cent
1. Persons owing over 10 acres of land	40	25
2. Persons owing land between 5—10 acres	55	40
3. Persons owing land between 2½ and 5 acres	75	50
4. Persons owing land less than 2½ acres	80	65
5. Scheduled Tribes owing land less than 7½ acres	100% for Dug Wells only.	

8. POWER

The Bihar State Electricity Board was set up in April, 1958 to take up production and supply of electricity in an organised manner. Before this, electricity was being generated by small private units in urban areas. The State Electricity Board set up thermal power plants in Patratu and Barauni and stressed the installed capacity adding new units in these two places. By 31st March, 1980, the installed capacity in the State had increase to 850 MW. During 1980-81 an additional unit of 65 MW was commissioned, taking the total installed unit of capacity to 915 MW. This 65 MW was a part of 725 MW programme for the Sixth Plan 1980—85.

8.2. The 1980—85 Plan accords a very higher priority to the power sector. The outlay approved for power in the 6th Plan is Rs. 588 crores, which is 25 per cent of the total Plan outlay. During 1980-81, a sum of Rs. 107.10 crores was utilised. The outlay approved for 1981-82 is Rs. 137.49 crores.

There has been a marked improvement in the level of power generation by the Bihar State Electricity Board. During 1980-81 the total generation by the Board was 2.251 million units against the target of 2.565 million units. For 1981-82, the Prime Minister has fixed a target of 3.000 million units in the last week of June, 1981 when she visited Patna. During April, May and June the generation has been 200 million units, 183 million units and 221 million units, respectively. During July, September and October the production has been 246, 251, 210 and 251 million units, respectively. Thus in the first 7

months of the financial year, total generation of electricity has been of the order of 1,562 million units. Reasons for low generation are given in the following paragraphs:—

At Patratu Thermal Power Station.

- (1) Unit no. 1 (50 MW) Russian of this, powers station is under shut-down since April, 1981 itself on account of its capital maintenance. Delay has taken place due to shortage of some vital spares of the turbine which are being manufactured by HEC, Ranchi. This unit is expected to be commissioned by 20th December 1981.
- (2) Unit no. 2 (50 MW) Russian, of this power station is under shut down since 7th April 1981 due to breakage of its L.P. Turbine rotor blades. The turbine is expected to be commissioned by 29th January 1982.
- (3) Unit no. 3 (50 MW) Russian, was under shut down for a total period of 1,086 hours (42.94 per cent of available period) during April 1981 to September 1981 mainly due to statutory maintenance of its boiler and tube leakages.
- (4) Unit no. 4 (50 MW) Russian, was under shut-down for a total period of 1,949 hours (44.38 per cent of available period) during the above period mainly due to formation of slag, tube leakages and under process of stabilisation after maintenance.
- (5) Unit no. 5 (100 MW) Russian, of this power station was under total shut-down for a period of 395 hours (9 per cent available period) due to S. G. Tube leakage and various minor defects.
- (6) Unit No. 6 (100 MW) Russian, of this power station was under total shut-down for a period of 512 hours (11.65 per cent of the available period) mainly due to formation of slag, S. H. Tube leakage and other various minor defects.
- (7) Unit No. 7 (110 MW) BHEL, of this power station was under shut-down for a total period of 1,592 hours (36.25 per cent of available period) during the above period mainly due to trouble in I. D. Fans and Ball Mills, Superheater tube leakages and replacement of drum internals, etc.
- (8) Unit No. 8 (110 MW) BHEL, of this power station was under shut-down for a total period of 2,759 hours (62.82 per cent of available

period) mainly due to statutory maintenance of boiler replacement of large number of damaged superheater tubes, leakage from the flanges of steam lines, etc.

At Barauni Thermal Power Station.

- (1) Unit No. 3 (15 MW) of this power station is under shut-down since 28th November 1979 due to shearing of its connecting link between turbine casing and from pedestal of the turbine as under shut-down during this period also. The repair work is in progress and unit is expected to be commissioned by end of January, 1982.
- (2) Unit No. 2 (15 MW) of this power station was under shut-down for a total period of 1,362 hours (31.01 per cent of available period) mainly due to tube leakages, trouble in feed pumps, coal mills and other defects.
- (3) Unit No. 3 (15 MW) of this power station was under shut-down for a total period of 1,664 hours (37.88 per cent of the available period) mainly due to trouble in its coal mills and leakage from condenser tubes, formation of slag, trouble in coal handing system, etc.
- (4) Unit No. 4 (50 MW) of this power station was under shut-down for a total period of 1,544 hours (35.15 per cent of the available period) during the above period mainly due to super heater tube leakage. boiler tube leakages, etc.
- (5) Unit No. 5 (50 MW) of this power station was under shut-down for a total period of 2,394 hours (54.51 per cent of the available period) during the above period mainly due to super heater tube leakage, non-availability of coal, condenser tube leakage trouble in governing system and other various defects.

In order to achieve the target during 2nd half of the year 1981-82 the Board is very conscious of the same and it has taken the following steps to improve generation:—

- (i) Improvement in Organisation Design.
- (ii) Man Power Planning and Advance O and M Staff.
- (iii) Training to Operating and Maintenance Personnel.
- (iv) Job specification/Placement of right man to the right job.
- (v) Maintenance Planning/Spare parts management.
- (vi) Study of operation/problems and tripping analysis.

- (vii) Plan betterment/renovation programme.
- (viii) Personnel Management/Incentive/Welfare schemes.
- (ix) Improvement in documentation procedure, etc.

For achieving the target of generation supply of suitable quality of coal must be ensured by the Coal India Ltd. both for Barauni Thermal Power Station and Patratu Thermal Power Station. The quality of coal being supplied to Barauni Thermal Power Station and at Patratu Thermal Power Station is very poor. Supply of coal of specified quality, therefore, is a must for ensuring sustained generation.

8.3. The position regarding progress of various schemes of power generation is as indicated below:—

(i) *Patratu Thermal Power Station (2 × 118 MW) Units 9-10.*—The present installed capacity of 620 MW at Patratu Thermal Power Station is being augmented by adding two units of 110 MW each. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 115.08 crores. The target dates for commissioning the units are as under:—

(1) 9th Units of 110 MW	...	...	March 1983
(2) 18th Unit of 110 MW	...	...	September 1983

The supply and erection of main plant and equipment is being done by BHEL. But as 6,300 of required for erection of boiler for 9th unit about 3,524 M. T. have been erected. Similarly out of 6,122 M. T. required for erection of boiler for 18th unit 2,857 M. T. have been erected up to October, 1981. But of total 1,972 M. T. of turbo-generator required for units 9th and 10th about 1,650 M. T. of STS equipments have been received at site. About 28 per cent erection of condenser have been completed for unit 9. Erection of Turbine proper for unit 9 have also started.

(ii) *Barauni Thermal Power Station (2 × 110 MW) Units 6 and 7.*—The present installed capacity of 145 MW Barauni Thermal Power Station is being augmented by adding two units of 110 MW each. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 98.28 crores. The target dates for commissioning the units are as under:

	As finalised by Planning Commission in December 1980	As anticipated now
(1) 6th unit of 110 M.W.	March, 1982	October, 1982
(2) 7th unit of 110 M.W.	March, 1983	March, 1983

The supply and erection of main plan and equipments is being done by BHEL. About 5,185 M. T. of boiler equipments out of 5,544 M. T. and 950 M. T. of turbo-generator equipments out of 995 M. T. for Unit No. 6 have been received. The erection of boiler for Unit No. 6 is in progress and about 4,183 M. T. of equipments have been erected. Erection of Turbo-generator for Unit No. 6 and boiler for Unit No. 7 have commenced from January 1981. About 1,272 M. T. of Turbo-generator equipments have been received for unit 6. About 1,879 M. T. of boiler equipments for Unit No. 7 have been erected.

The commissioning programme indicated at the time of review by the Prime Minister in June, 1981 for Barauni Unit No. 6 was March, 1982. The position was reviewed again in the meeting held at New Delhi taken by Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Government of India on the 20th August, 1981 and it was realised that it will not be possible to adhere to the commissioning programme for Unit No. 6 in March, 1982. The principal reason for delay in the commissioning is as under:

- (1) Delay in the civil work.
- (2) Delay in the delivery of the 6.6 KV switch gear on account of lock-out in the factory of the supplier M/s TMG Bombay with effect from 2nd July, 1981. The lock-out is still continuing.
- (3) The delay in the commencement of erection of coal handling plant by M/s. Tata Robins Frazer on account of non-settlement of the claim put forward by the firm on account of delay in the civil works.
- (4) Delay in the commencement of erection of miscellaneous and mechanical equipment and electrical installation due to delay in the civil works.
- (5) Delay in the delivery of derater by M/s BHEL.
- (6) Unsatisfactory progress in the erection of Turbo-generator unit on account of defective parts supplied by M/s. BHEL namely pedestal bearing of larger clearance between the parts of the low pressure cylinder of the turbine.

M/s. TRF have not yet agreed to take up the erection work but instead they put forward almost unacceptable terms for starting the work. The matter is being examined further.

The problems of 6.6 K. V. switch gear has been resolved by resorting to diversion of 6.6 K. V. switch gear ordered for Patratu extension units 9 and 10 for Barauni. All these constraints were explained to Union Energy Secretary

in August, 1981 at New Delhi and the Energy Secretary after considering the constraints, agreed that the commissioning of Unit No. 6 for Barauni could only be targeted to October, 1982.

The Board expects to adhere to target dates of other generating stations, as directed by Prime Minister.

(iii) *Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Station (2 × 110 MW) Units 1 and 2.*—The installation of two units of 110 MW each of Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Station has been entrusted to BHEL on turnkey basis. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 146.82 crores. According to the contract executed with BHEL the target dates for commissioning the units are as under:

(1) First unit of 110 MW	...	...	August, 1983
(2) Second unit of 110 MW	...	...	February, 1984

Land for power station as disposal area and railway siding has been acquired. Construction of approach road, storage and boundary has been completed. Work for piling works, concreting works, fabrication and erection of steel structures, R. C. C. chimney, cooling towers, civil works in foundation are going on. About 723 piles out of a total of 2,815 piles have been driven till September 1981. About 2,035 M. T. of Steel structures out of a total of 5,000 M. T. have been fabricated till September, 1981. The Broad Gauge Railway siding to power station site has been completed and opened for movement of the traffic. Order for most of the mechanical and electrical ancilliary equipments have been placed and orders for the remaining are under finalisation.

(iv) *Tenughat Thermal Power Station (2 × 210 MW) Unit 1 and 2.*—The installation of two units of 210 MW each at Tenughat Thermal Power Station was sanctioned by the Planning Commission in March, 1979. The later estimated cost of the project is Rs. 281.33 crores.

Permission of the D. V. C. for construction of the power station in the Valley area was obtained in June, 1979. The Design and Engineering work has been entrusted to the Central Electricity Authority and design and engineering work is in progress. Eastern Railway has been entrusted with the survey and investigation work for private railway siding to the power station site for which an advance of Rs. 3.77 lakhs has been paid to them.

Letter of Intent has been issued to BHEL for supply of Boiler and Turbo-generator equipment. An *ad hoc* advance of Rs. 6.00 crores has been paid to BHEL in March, 1981 and the balance amount of *ad hoc* advance of Rs. 4.00 crores was to be paid. Due to shortages of funds the balance of Rs. 4.00 crores has not been paid to BHEL.

The target date for commissioning the units are as under:

		As finalised by Planning Commission in December, 1980	As anticipated now.
1. First unit of 210 MW	.. ..	June, 1986	June, 1987
2. Second unit of 210 MW	.. ..	June, 1987	June, 1987

Critical items.

1. Acquisition of land.

Acquisition of about 1,059 acres of land for the power station and colony.
Details are as under :—

			Land for Power House (in crores).	Land for Colony (in crores)
(i) Raiyati land	.. ..	..	89.75	64.42
(ii) Homestead land	.. ..	..	2.92	9.72
(iii) Gairmazarua land	.. ..	..	168.55	260.62
(iv) Forest land	.. ..	..	346.88	105.24
TOTAL	.. ..	..	608.00	431.00

The Board has deposited Rs. 30,00 lakhs in March, 1981 with the District Land Acquisition Officer for transfer of Raiyati Land referred to above. This is under process and possession of land is awaited. Homestead land has been evaluated by the Irrigation Department. Evaluation of Gairmazarua land has been completed by the local Land Acquisition authorities at Giridid and Gomia and is being submitted to the State Government for approval.

Requisition for acquisition of Forest Land has been submitted to the Divisional Forest Officer in the first week of April, 1981 verification of land

and trees have been completed and consolidated report is being prepared by the Forest Department officials for submission to the Government of India for according approval for acquisition.

8.4. The statement showing progress of various schemes being executed by the Bihar State Electricity Board is enclosed as annexure 1.

9 NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE HAND-LOOM SECTOR.

2 lakh families, were engaged in Handloom trade in this State. Because of a steep competition from the large scale textile manufacturing industries, it is being increasingly difficult for the people engaged in this industry to compete and survive. Many had left their age long profession. When the present Government came in power about 50 thousand worker only were engaged in handloom, producing about 30 million sq. metre of cloths. The State Government have increased the target of production of 60 millions during 1980-81 and this target has been exceeded by 5.9 million sq. metres the total value of the produce being estimated amount 20 crores rupees. The target for 1981-82 is kept at 90 million sq. metres. It is expected that additional employment to 20 thousand workers will be generated increasing the number of gainfully employed persons to 70,000.

BIHAR STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD.

20-Point Programme Progress Report for the Month of October, 1981

-----	At the end of 1980-81.	Target for 1981-82.	Progress up to previous month.	Progress during the month.	Up to date progress (1981-82)	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A. Generation—						
(1) Installed capacity B.S.E.B (MW)—						
(a) Thermal	765	110	..	..	..
(b) Hydrel	150	..	..	..	..
		915				

BIHAR STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD.

20-Point Programme Progress Report for the Month of October, 1981

	At the end of 1980-81.	Target for 1981-82.	Progress up to previous month.	Progress during the month.	Up-to-date progress (1981-82)	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(2) Generation of Electricity from Boards Power station in Million units.	2251.4231	3000	1311—2181	250.7995	1562.0176	
(3) Plant availability (%) .. ..	..	..	PTPS PTPS	58.2% 48.90%	..	..
(4) Plant Utilisation (%) .. ..	..	..	PTPS PTPS	43.29% 30.09%	..	..
B. El. H. V. Transmission—						
(1) 220 KV lines in Kms. ..	870	140	..	..
(2) 132 KV lines in Kms. ..	3071.57	623.33	311.94	..	311.94	
(3) 220/132/33 K.V 5/5 Nos ..	3 nos.	..	..	..	..
(4) 132/33 KV 5/5 nos. ..	30 nos.	13	3	..	3	
C. Distribution—						
(1) 33 KV line in Kms. ..	8794.39	350	31.51	0.50	32.01	
(2) 11 KV line in Kms. ..	40069.173	1000	331.338	63.732	395.870	
(3) L.T. line in Kms. ..	52696.061	1200	294.082	83.437	377.519	
(4) 33/11 KV 5/5 in Nos. ..	258	26	5	1	6	
(5) 11/0.4 KV 5/5 in nos. ..	2,24,488	780	289	18	307	
E. Consumers—						
(1) Numbers of Agriculture connection including State Tube-wells.	1,55,739	4,000	1,088	141	1,229	
(2) Numbers of State Tube-wells electrified.	4,591	262	48	..	48	
(3) Numbers of other connection given.	6,56,149	23,000	10,655	1,609	12,264	
F. Revenue Collection in Crore of Rupees.	90% of annual revenue is Rs. 132 crores and arrears of 25 crores.	..	Rs. 59.5 crores of current dues and Rs. 12.5 crores current dues.	..	..

BIHAR STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD.

20-Point Programme Progress Report for the Month of October, 1981.

		At the end of 1980-81.	Target for 1981-82.	Progress up to previous month.	Progress during the month.	Up-to-date progress (1981-82).
1		2	3	4	5	6
G. R. E. C. Schemes—						
(1) 33 KV line in Kms. ..	96.48	3200	Park work done.	..	Part work done.	Provisional.
(2) 11 KV line in Kms. ..	13200.48	3600	644.48	89.46	733.94	..
(3) L.T. line in Kms. ..	12278.62	5500	768.99	142.73	..	..
(4) Power 5/5 in Nos. ..	2	27	..	..	..	..
(5) Distribution 5/5 in nos. ..	6,557	2,590	433	41	474	..
(6) Agricultural connection in nos.	18,140	19,180	918	49	967	..
(7) Industrial connection in nos.	4,021	2,490	102	14	116	..
(8) D.S./Com. connection in nos.	26,000	15,000	982	82	064	..
(9) Villages electrified in nos. ..	7,878	3,060	502	65	558	..
(10) Total service connection ..	48,161	86,670	2,002	106	2,147	..

The original plan outlay of Rs. 50 lakhs last year was enhanced to Rs. 1.55 crores on account of the enhanced emphasis on the scheme. The total expenditure last year in the co-operative sector was Rs. 2.54 crores, inclusive of the share of Central Government which was Rs. 1.23 crores. Moreover, in the non-co-operative sector, scheme worth Rs. 35 lakhs were implemented.

CO-OPERATIVE SECTOR

The organisation consists of an apex body at the State level with 5 regional Unions at Ranchi, Bihar Shariff, Bhagalpur, Siwan and Madhubani and organisation at village level.

So far, more than 60 per cent weavers have been brought under the co-operative fold. The State Government released Rs. 40 lakhs last year as share

capital assistance to weavers. There were 620 primary co-operative societies, having membership of 59,533 weavers at end of March, 1981 inclusive of 35 societies organised last year, 5,145 weavers were brought under the co-operative fold last year. These societies produced cloth worth Rs. 11.20 crores out of which cloth worth Rs. 10 crores have been sold.

The 5 Regional Marketing Unions have a share capital of Rs. 82.85 lakhs. Only 409 societies are members of those Regional Unions. On account of constraints of working capital, the Regional Unions could produce only 20 lakh sq. metres and 7.31 lakh sq. metres of Janta and non-Janta cloths against respective targets of 1 crore sq. metres of Janta cloth and 2 crore sq. metres of non-Janta cloth.

To strengthen the co-operative structure, the State Government provided share capital contribution of Rs. 40 lakhs to apex body and Rs. 82 lakhs to the 5 Regional Unions last year. 540 primary societies were given share capital base and avail of working capital from Reserve Bank. Managerial subsidy of Rs. 13.4 lakhs was released last year to 248 societies to enable them each to have the services of a paid Manager.

NON-CO-OPERATIVE SECTOR

The Intensive Handloom Development which was in operation in 10 districts, has now been extended to 7 more districts. Under this scheme, the weavers are trained and are provided with improved implements. 494 weavers were trained last year and 1,324 improved implements distributed. The Handloom Corporation tries to provide them with employment. Rs. 13 lakhs were spent under this scheme.

The Bihar State Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation has a scheme for production of Janta cloth. The Corporation has been able to provide regular employment to 1,300 weavers. Against a target of production of 2 crore sq. metres of Janta cloth, the Corporation produced 2.5 crore sq. metres of Janta cloth.

The State Government provided Rs. 8 lakhs as loan to weavers in sub-plan area and Rs. 2 lakhs as loan to weavers outside the intensive programme area last year.

The outlay for 1981-82 has been fixed at Rs. 55 lakhs of which Rs. 14 lakhs will be in sub-plan.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Names of Schemes.	General Plans.	Sub-Plan.	Total.
1	2	3	4
1. Provision of share capital for the handloom weavers co-operatives.	11.70	3.30	15.00
2. Share capital of the Regional Handloom weavers co-operative society.	7.00	2.00	9.00
3. Share capital of the primary weaver co-operative union ..	1.00	2.00	3.00
4. Subsidy for management of the co-operative society of the primary weavers.	1.50	1.00	2.50
5. Subsidy to the entire of the R. B. I. loan to State and Central co-operative Banks for primary weavers co-operative society.	0.80	0.20	1.00
6. Publicity and extension	1.50	0.50	2.00
7. Subsidy for Modernisation of the weaving machines ..	2.50	1.00	3.50
8. 10 per cent rebate on sale of handloom clothes ..	7.00	2.00	9.00
9. 20 per cent rebate on sale of handloom cloth ..	8.00	2.00	10.00
	41.00	14.00	55.00

The scheme as noted under item no. 9 is a new one. The schemes under item nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9 are financed on 50-50 matching grant from G.O.I. Three schemes as under 1, 2 and 3 have been introduced at the apex, regional and primary levels for the handloom weavers co-operatives for strengthening the share capitals. The aim is to put them in a position so as to enable these co-operatives to have more financial helps from the different financial agencies on the basis of their increased share capital amount.

The scheme under serial no. 4 is introduced as per the directions of the Government of India for strengthening the management of the co-operative society by appointment of Managers under the co-operative society. The scheme under serial no. 5 is continuing with the objective of helping the co-operative societies for getting reduced bank rate by $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for the production and marketing of handloom cloths.

The scheme as under serial no. 7 envisages to modernise the technique of production and implements so that improved quality is ensured. The scheme

under serial nos. 8 and 9 is introduced with a view to attracting the prospective buyers and also for giving relief to the weavers. The scheme under serial no. 2, as per available information will benefit about 4 thousand weavers from 5 co-operative unions. Under the scheme as noted in serial no. 3, about 30 co-operative societies are at present being benefited. 46 co-operative will be benefited under the scheme as mentioned under the scheme nos. 1 and 3. Central and State Co-operative Banks will be benefited under the scheme noted as serial no. 5. Employments of 100 persons are being provided under the schemes as noted under serial no. 6 and the scheme no. 7 will benefit about 500 weavers directly.

The general schemes for handloom industry during 1981-82 which do not take into consideration the areas where co-operatives are not operating provide an amount of Rs. 1.15 crores as the target which would produce ninety million sq. metres of handloom cloth. Out of this target, 40 million metres will be for Janta cloth and remaining 50 millions for other cloths. During 1981-82 the target of training 12 hundred weavers including 400 Harijans and 3 hundred Scheduled tribes are expected to be achieved. 16 hundred improved implements are to be distributed. The proposal for an amount of 1.15 lakhs rupees to be distributed as share-capital loan is also under consideration, out of which Rs. 60 lakhs will be allotted for Bihar State Handloom co-operatives. The scheme has so far been particularly sanctioned. 72,235 weavers who constitute 72 per cent of the trained weavers have been brought into the co-operative manifold by constituting 780 societies. They have produced 72.12 million square metres of cloths valued at 6.69 crores this year. Applications involving an amount of 78 lakhs have been sent to RBI by 8 C.C.Bs. for providing finance to these societies.

514 of these primary societies are members of the 5 Regional Weavers Co-operative Unions who have produced cloths valued at 57.85 lakhs during this period. These Regional Weavers Co-operative Organisations have 23 sale outlets to facilitate easy distribution of controlled cloths.

To ensure proper linkage with the functioning of Regional Unions the byelaws of the Apex Body have been suitably amended. The Board of the Apex Body has also been reconstituted.

A target of producing 40 million sq. metres of Janta cloth through the Bihar State Handloom Co-operative and Marketing Unions has been set. The Handloom Corporation has been able to provide gainful employment to 12,000 weavers who have so far manufacture 15 sq. million metres of Janta cloth. The Regional Co-operative Weavers Unions have produced 1.14 million square metres of controlled cloth.

10. IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF PEOPLE'S CLOTH

It has been mentioned earlier that though our minimum monthly requirement is 5,000 bales we are getting only 1,858 bales every month against 2,287 bales being supplied earlier. To meet the additional demand of low priced cloth the State Government have channalised 75 per cent production of Janta cloth manufactured by State Handloom Corporation. In order to make controlled and Janta cloth available to deserving people the distribution has been ordered on ration cards in urban areas and family lists in rural areas. The question of bringing improvement in the production of controlled cloth is not within the competence of the State Government. To meet the public demand effectively the State should have an allocation of at least 5,000 bales. In fact during the months of May, 1980 to July, 1980 the State got allocation of 5,000 bales.

11. SOCIALISATION OF URBAN AND URBANISABLE LAND CEILING ON OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION OF VACANT LAND AND ON THE PLINTH AREA OF NO DWELLING UNITS.

The Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 is a Central enactment which was adopted by this State. It has been enforced in the 4 towns of this State namely, Patna, Ranchi, Jamshedpur and Dhanbad. Progress is given in the annexure.

STATEMENT SHOWING PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF URBAN LAND CEILING ACT TILL OCTOBER, 1981.

Name of Town	No. of persons who have filed the statement of vacant land in excess of ceiling	No. of statement disposed of	Extent of vacant land in excess of ceiling limit as indicated in the statement	Statement of vacant land acquired and vested the State Government	No. of applications for exempting vacant in excess of ceiling limit	No. of applications disposed of land	Extent of exemption accepted	No. of applications for permission	No. of schemes approved up to the end of June, 1981
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Jamshedpur ..	85	Nil	1,98,76,800	Nil	49	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ranchi ..	420	23	14,63,360	3,046.00	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dhanbad ..	383	106	5,70,720.00	48,974.00	7	1	38,360	Nil	Nil
Patna ..	142	2	516	Nil	32	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ..	1,028	133	2,19,11,166.00	1,81,620.00	82	1	38,360	Nil	Nil

Figures under cols. 4, 5 and 8 are in square metres.

15. WORKERS' PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT

The Scheme as drawn up in 1975 envisaged setting up of shop and plant level in manufacturing and mining units in public, private or co-operative sector employing more than 500 labourers. Units employing less than 500 persons could have voluntarily accepted the scheme. No specific criterion had been evolved for selection of representative of workers and the choice was left to the management. Normally representatives of recognised labour unions had been nominated on such committees. A decision was taken in January 1977 to extend the scheme to commercial and service organisation in public sector employing more than 100 persons. Units having less than 100 persons could have voluntarily accepted the scheme. These committees generally discussed matters pertaining to welfare of labour, canteen, cleanliness and other problems relating to day-to-day administration. The scheme was in force in 123 units in March 1977.

The committee set up in 1977 to look into various aspects of these schemes submitted its report in November 1978. Final decision has yet not been taken on the above recommendations.

The number of establishments registered under the scheme fell from 123 to 113 in June 1980. The State Government have taken a decision that the scheme of workers' participation in management should be implemented by all the public sector units of State Government. The representatives of Central Government undertakings have also assured in a meeting that they are going to implement the scheme very soon. The scheme has since been extended to four more units—Bihar State Food and Civil Supplies Corporation, Bihar State Roadways Transport Corporation, Bihar Scooters, Fatwah and M/s. Morton Confectionaries and Milk Products, Marhowrah.

16. NATIONAL PERMIT SCHEME FOR TRANSPORT OPERATORS

The Government of India in the Ministry of Shipping and Transport had allotted in 1976 a quota of 450 national permits to this State under this scheme. All the 450 permits were issued subsequently and public carriers are operating throughout the country on these permits. This has favourably affected the distribution system of the country and the national permit system has become very popular. Keeping in view the public demand for more national permits, the State Government requested the Government of India for allotment of an additional quota to this State. Accordingly, this State along with others got an additional quota of 450 national permits in October 1980. Applications were, thereafter, invited through advertisement in the local dailies for such additional national permits. In all 1,703 applications have been received. Objections have since been received and it is expected that the recently constituted State Transport Authority would be granting the permits very soon.

17. ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES AT CONTROLLED PRICES TO STUDENTS IN HOSTELS.

Following arrangements have been made in this regard:—

- (a) Ration scale has been fixed at the rate of 8 kg wheat, 6 kg rice and 850 gms. sugar for students residing in approved hostels.
- (b) The District Officers have been requested vide this Department Circular letter no. 2093, dated the 5th March 1981 to personally ensure regular supply of essential commodities to the students residing in hostels.

18. BOOKS AND STATIONERY AT CONTROLLED PRICE

The following quantities of papers have been received from Government of India at concessional rate during April 1981 to December 1981:—

Figures in M.T.

Name of Quarter	For Private	For Text Book	For Exercise Books	For Examination	For Adult education.	Total
April to June 1981 ..	80	1,000	2,110	60	..	3,250
July to September 1981 ..	..	526	1,320	97	..	1,943
October to December 1981 ..	65	887	1,120	295	30	2,397

The allotments made in the quarters July to September and October to December this year are less than the allocations of 2,434 and 3,150 M. T. respectively made during the second and third quarter last year. The allotment is inadequate particularly to meet the requirement for manufacturing exercise books which has been assessed at 3,292 M. T.

SUPPLY OF TEXT BOOKS

The allotment for preparing Text Books is made to the Bihar State Text Book Corporations. Since the allotment during the quarter was much less than the actual demand 104 M. T. of paper meant for exercise books has been reallocated to the Text Book Corporation after taking necessary permission.

Text Books worth Rs. 2.15 crores were distributed free of cost amongst all the students of Classes I to III and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students reading in Classes IV and V last year. Extra books valued at Rs. 1.81 crore will be

supplied free of cost to 27 lakhs children reading in Classes I to III and those belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe reading in Classes IV and V this year.

SUPPLY OF EXERCISE BOOKS

The earlier practice in vogue since quarter April—June 1980 of first assessing the requirement of the district on basis of students and allotting the paper to various units in the district in accordance with their capacity has since been revised and the allotments are now being made to all the units in the State in accordance with their capacity.

The State Food Corporation makes available exercise books to students through educational institutions, fair price shops under the public distribution system, its selected sale outlets and other selected shops. The Government have also issued instructions to make these exercise books available through reputed stationeries. The Government have requested the educational institutions to utilise students welfare fund for sale and purchase of exercise books. The State Food Corporation has also made arrangements for direct supply of exercise books to schools and colleges on payment for distribution amongst the students.

Bhagalpur Engineering College and Patna University have been allotted some paper for manufacturing exercise books in their own press and distribute them to students. The State Food Corporation has opened its sale centres at selected colleges and schools which have not so far set up their own sale centres.

19. SETTING UP OF BOOK BANKS

This scheme was started in all middle schools in 1980-81 for which a sum of Rs. 98 lakhs was sanctioned. Each school was given a set of 27 books. Students belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections studying in Classes VI, VII and VIII would be the main beneficiaries.

A sum of Rs. 3.75 lakhs inclusive of 0.75 lakh in tribal areas, was sent last year for establishing book banks in 150 selected Secondary Schools. Besides this Rs. 534 lakhs was sent for setting up book banks in 178 schools having concentration of Scheduled Caste population.

Book Banks will be established in 480 selected Secondary Schools this year at an estimated cost of Rs. 12 lacs in which 20 sets of books will be provided to each school.

20. NEW APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME TO ENLARGE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SPECIALLY OF WEAKER SECTION.

The above apprenticeship scheme which extends to 136 trades is administered in respect of Central Government undertakings by the Central Government and in respect of public sector undertakings of State Government and private undertakings by the State Government. The low utilisation of training facilities in the Central Government also adversely affects the implementation of schemes in respect of private undertakings particularly in the State. Of the available 6,135 seats, 4,000 seats only were filled up in the recently concluded course. The decisions taken in the meeting of Labour Minister with representatives of Central Government undertakings are being pursued.

Steps were taken in the recently concluded session to provide increasingly greater facilities for weaker section of society. As per information available upto now out of the 3,500 persons receiving training 900 apprentices belonged to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

The State Government is constantly pursuing the matter with public sector units of the State Government and important private sector undertakings to ensure fuller utilisation of seats. The Bihar State Electricity Board, TISCO and TELCO took up special programme for training of 439, 44 and 20 apprentices respectively. A programme to provide training in Mining to members of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe was drawn up in consultation with Central Coalfield Limited with the hope that they will be absorbed in future. A mini I.T.I. has been opened at Gua in Singhbhum district where 90 persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes are receiving training.

Taking recourse to agitational means for getting employment after completion of apprenticeship even though there are no provisions for it is perhaps one of the factors responsible for non-utilisation of full capacity. The State Government had earlier made a suggestion that some percentage of opportunities of employment may be reserved for trained apprenticeships. The State Government have been taking follow up measures with major undertakings to provide employment to trained apprentices. As a result of such follow-up, the Bihar State Electricity Board has initiated measures to appoint 400 apprentices in new projects. TISCO has promised to provide employment to trained apprentices in a phased manner. TELCO have been recently agreed to provide employment to trained apprentices.

In the recent concluded meeting in Calcutta with representatives of various State Governments it was decided that—

- (a) Apprenticeship Act be amended to provide that 50 per cent vacancies be filled up from trained apprentices;
- (b) The number of apprentices in an undertaking should be regulated by the employment opportunities in industrial potentialities of the area. Self employment should be encouraged.

A FEW OF OUR IMPORTANT SCHEMES

Helping the Helpless

The Bihar Government has fulfilled its promise of introducing Group Insurance Scheme for unorganised workers. As a token of Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi's abiding concern for the welfare of the poor, the promise was made by the Chief Minister, Dr. Jagannath Mishra, on November 19, 1981 as part of the birthday celebrations of the Prime Minister.

The Group Insurance Scheme came into operation as a New Year's gift to the people of Bihar. On January 1, 1982 the Bihar Government launched the scheme covering about 70 lakh unorganised workers providing succour and relief to them and their dependents in case of injuries, disablement or death during the course of their duty.

Payment of premium of these labourers began on New Year's day throughout the State. Under this scheme agricultural labourers, thelawallas, vendors, porters, shop and establishment workers, brick kiln workers, beedi and cigar workers, road transport workers and construction workers, between the age of 16 and 65 years and with annual income of less than Rs. 6,000 are entitled to be benefited. The legal heir of the labourers gets Rs. 2,000 in case of death. The scheme also entitles the insured person to get Rs. 2,000 in case of loss of two limbs and Rs. 1,000 in case of loss of one limb if he is a victim of snake-bite, drowning, electrocution, bus or truck accident or accident during mechanical agricultural operations.

In the event of an accident, information is immediately passed on to the Block Development Officer who examines the claim and provides benefit. Members of Parliament and State Legislature and officers authorised by the Labour and Employment Department have been empowered to certify a person's eligibility for the benefit and also to identify such a person.

All agricultural labourers coming under the definition of the term as used in the context of the Indian Census and employees of all units coming under the purview of Bihar Shops and Establishment Act will be eligible for the benefit provided they fulfil all other conditions. For other sections of the unorganised labour, the scheme is being implemented on the basis of data collected in their

respect. The scheme covers all those belonging to the unorganised sectors, but who are not beneficiaries of any other insurance cover provided either by the Government or a non-Government agency. Rickshaw-pullers are not included because the Government has already launched a separate scheme for their welfare. This is a major breakthrough in Bihar where the unorganised labour now reaps a harvest of protection when it needs it most.



Protection to Unemployed

The Bihar Government is implementing a scheme under which token unemployment allowance is being given at the rate of Rs. 50 per month to matriculates, I.T.I. passed diploma-holders and other unemployed with higher educational qualifications who have discontinued their studies and are not engaged in any employment. The Government is spending Rs. 13.74 crores on this prestigious welfare project.

The allowance is given on quarterly basis and is admissible to such educated unemployed whose guardian's or family's annual income from all sources, including agriculture, does not exceed Rs. 5,000 and /or whose family owns not more than five acres irrigated land or 10 acres of non-irrigated land (in case of barren hilly land, even more as long as total income does not exceed Rs. 5,000 per annum). Only those educated unemployed are entitled for this benefit who are within the age-limit of minimum 21 years and maximum 40 years.

The benefit is given to those who are (i) registered with an Employment Exchange and waiting on the Live Register for last two years or more and who have discontinued their studies for last three years. For Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes educated unemployed, the period of registration and waiting on the Live Register of an Employment Exchange is one year only. For the disabled, it is enough to get their names registered in any Employment Exchange before they apply for the allowance; (ii) such educated unemployed who have not got themselves registered with the Employment Exchange also get benefit of this scheme only if they have discontinued their studies five years ago or more and have their names registered with the Employment Exchange before filing an application for Token Unemployment Allowance. For the Harijan and Adivasi educated unemployed of such category, the period of discontinuing studies has been kept for four years and for the physically handicapped three years. Those physically handicapped uneducated unemployed getting a pension of Rs. 30 per month under the Social Security Scheme and are also selected for Token Unemployment Allowance, get the benefit of Rs. 20 per month under this scheme.

The Block Development Officers and the Circle Officers have been empowered as Oath Officers for the purpose of signing the affidavit submitted by the educated unemployed under this scheme. The educated unemployed applicants under this scheme have been exempted from Stamp Duty.

about 2,00,000 educated unemployed are to be benefited this year under this scheme and this allowance is admissible to them for a maximum period of three years from the date of sanction provided during this period if they get any employment/self employment or they leave the rural and urban voluntary service corps on their own, the allowance is terminated automatically.

These beneficiaries are engaged in activities of social upliftment, security and development after giving them short training and organising them into a Voluntary Service Corps at the Panchayat level in the rural areas and ward level in the Municipal areas. This allowance is being disbursed through the nearby Commercial or Co-operative Bank or Post Office Savings Account.

*

Self Employment Scheme

This scheme aims at encouraging the technically educated unemployed to get self-employment on their own with State Government's help. Technical graduates, I. T. I. diploma holders, medical graduates and diploma holders who are unemployed will be advanced loans amounting up to Rs. 10,000 each to start their own ventures. Loans up to Rs. 10,000 will be advanced to Engineering graduates, M.B.,B.S. degree holders and Agricultural graduates, up to Rs. 8,000 to Engineering diploma holders, up to Rs. 7,000 to veterinary doctors and I.T.I. diploma holders, up to Rs. 5,000 to Unani and Ayurvedic physicians and up to Rs. 2,000 to Homeopathic doctors.

To begin with, ten persons in each block will be advanced loans. Thus a total of 5,870 persons will benefit from this scheme during 1981-82. Out of Rs. 4.71 crores allotted under this head, each block has been advanced a sum of Rs. 80,000.

The potential beneficiaries have been identified by Block Development Officers under the supervision of Deputy Development Commissioners. Priority will be given to members of the scheduled castes and tribes, women and poor families.

A nominal rate of 2 per cent interest will be charged on the loan to the self-employed under this scheme. Though no surety will be required, every loanee has to furnish a personal bond. Loans will be repayable in 10 half-yearly instalments after two years.

*

Seek and Ye shall Find

In Bihar seekers of employment in rural areas shall not be disappointed. The proverb of Sermon on the Mount of the Holy Bible has come true literally.

The Rural Employment Programme is aimed at providing supplementary employment opportunities to work-seekers during the lean employment periods of the year. The programme is being operated in close conjunction with the on-going developmental programmes ensuring that employment and development become catalysts of each other and its benefits to the community are maximised.

Under the Employment Guarantee Scheme of the State Government 71 Blocks have been covered. About 6,000 unemployed agricultural and other labourers in the rural areas in each Block have been given employment guarantee. No one who seeks work is denied the opportunity under this scheme. The State Government has spent Rs. 20.5 crores under this scheme which is intended to supplement the National Rural Employment Programme. All the 587 Blocks in the State have been allotted Rs. 5 lakhs each to provide employment guarantee to the unemployed. A minimum 100-day employment has to be provided in all such Blocks.

The programme has three basic objectives:—

- (i) Generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and underemployed persons, both men and women in the rural areas;
- (ii) Creation of durable community assets for strengthening the rural infrastructure, which will lead to rapid growth of rural economy and steady rise in the income levels of the rural poor; and
- (iii) Improvement of the nutritional status and the living standard of the rural poor.

Only the works, which directly help in strengthening the rural infrastructure and result in the creation of durable community assets in the rural areas as also those works which improve the rural economy and the quality of life in the villages are being taken up under the programme. These works include afforestation and social forestry works on Government and community lands including lands belonging to local bodies like Panchayat, etc., roadside plantation, plantations along canal banks and on waste lands, on sides of railway lines, etc., plantation of trees in the denuded forest areas and other land unfit for cultivation, plantation of fuel, fodder and fruit trees, drinking water wells, community irrigation wells, group housing and land development projects for Harijans and Adivasis, construction of village tanks, repairing, deepening and rejuvenation of existing tanks for providing water for human use or for cattle, for developing irrigation and fisheries, etc., minor irrigation works including those relating to flood protection, drainage and anti-waterlogging works, construction of intermediate and main drains, field channels and land levelling, etc., in the command areas of irrigation projects cleaning and desilting of watercourses, soil and water conservation and land reclamation, rural roads subject to standard specifications, their hard surfacing, cross drainage, maintenance, etc., school buildings, Panchayat ghars, community centres, cattle ponds, gaushalas, drinking water holes for the wild animals in the forest areas, community poultry and piggery houses, bathing and washing platforms, community toilets, community garbage pits and community bio-gas plants.

In order to ensure that benefits of this programme reach the weaker sections of the society, at least 10 per cent of the allocations under the programme is earmarked for utilisation exclusively on programmes of direct benefit to Harijans and Adivasis. Contractors have been totally excluded from the execution of this programme as well as from the distribution of foodgrains as wages to workers employed on works under the programme. The distribution of foodgrains as part of the wages is being done through fair-price shops. Efforts have also been made to organise mobile fair-price shops at the centres where rural works are in progress so that other essential items of consumption also become available to the needy poor at reasonable price.

Since the programme is basically aimed at providing employment to the rural poor, raising their economic status, generating community assets and thereby strengthening the rural infrastructure, the Panchayati Raj institutions are actively involved in its implementation. For the successful implementation of the programme and co-ordination between various concerned departments of the Government, a State-level Steering Committee headed by the Chief Minister, Dr. Jagannath Mishra has been set up. The Committee makes detailed review of the progress of the implementation of the programme and provides overall guidance.

A New Deal for Rickshaw-pullers

Prime Minister's 20-Point Programme aims at ameliorating the economic conditions of the common man specially the poor and the downtrodden. Rickshaw-pullers belong to this category of the population. According to one estimate there are sixty thousand rickshaws in the State. Conditions of their pullers—economic, physical, educational and cultural—are indeed pitiable. For their general improvement "Bihar Cycle Rickshaw Ordinance, 1976" was promulgated earlier by the last Congress Government through which proprietary rights were given to 50,000 rickshaw-pullers. But subsequently this scheme got a set-back. As a result 10,000 rickshaws are still in the hands of the proprietors. Besides, many rickshaws whose proprietorship changed hands earlier again went back to their old masters. The present Congress (I) Government of Bihar has again taken up the cause of the rickshaw-pullers and has launched a new scheme through which not only proprietorship of these 10,000 rickshaws would go to the pullers but the pullers would also be provided with finance on nominal interest for purchase of these and new rickshaws. The Banks pay 75 per cent of the cost of a rickshaw as loan at 4 per cent interest and the rest 25 per cent is provided by the Government as seed money.

HOUSING FACILITIES FOR RICKSHAW-PULLERS

Government have decided to construct Khatala for keeping the Rickshaws and dormitories as rest houses for the rickshaw-pullers.

A total number of 256 Khatala are being constructed in this State at a cost of Rs. 1.28 crores. These Khatala would be accompanied by Sulav Sauchalayas. At these Khatala the pullers would be provided with bread, sattu and Janta cloth and spare parts of rickshaws at concessional prices. Besides, Adult Education Centres are being set up at these Khatala for the rickshaw-pullers. These Khatala would also be provided with Mobile Dispensaries for treatment of the ailing rickshaw-pullers. The Government have also decided to help the pullers in taking the Life Insurance Policies. For this the Government would subscribe a part of premium in the beginning.

For making this scheme a success a Directorate has been created at the State headquarters under the charge of a member of Indian Administrative Service with suitable personnel at all the district headquarters and other places along with a police official of S. P.'s rank.

Crop Insurance Scheme

It has been decided to introduce the Crop Insurance Scheme for the first time in this State which would provide relief and succour to the small and marginal farmers in times of floods, famine and drought and other natural calamities. Efforts are being made to introduce this scheme this year on experimental basis.

This scheme would be implemented by the Co-operative Department aided by Department of Statistics and Evaluation and the Directorate of Institutional Finance. Each crop and area would be separately insured. Selection of the area to be insured would be made by Insurance Corporation of India in consultation with the State Government. Under the Experimental Crop Insurance Scheme of the General Insurance Corporation the State Government would participate as a partner and contribute up to 25 per cent in premia and claims.

This benefit would be available only to those small and marginal farmers who would get loans on their crops from Central Co-operative Bank and other Commercial Banks.

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Social Security Scheme

It has been the conscious efforts of each welfare State to mitigate the suffering of the helpless and to improve the lot of downtrodden of the society.

To achieve this end, the Bihar Government initiated the Old Age Pension Scheme now known as the Social Security Scheme. This scheme today covers more than 21 lakh persons in this State. A pension of Rs. 30 per month per head is being paid under this scheme to all widows, disabled persons, bonded labourers and to all such persons, who are more than 60 years of age and who do not own more than two and half acres of land in Chotanagpur and Santhal Parganas and one acre in plain areas and whose monthly income does not exceed Rs. 50 per month. The limitation of age has been relaxed in case of bonded labours, disabled persons and widows. The process of getting certificate regarding age and income has been simplified and power to grant pension has been given to Block Development Officers and the Subdivisional Officers. The expenditure under this scheme is expected more than Rs. 73 crores a year.

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Book Banks

One of the important schemes announced by the Chief Minister during last year's budget speech was the setting up of book banks in Colleges and Universities for which a sum of Rs. 45 lakhs was provided. Out of this sum Rupees one lakh were provided to Central Libraries of each University Rupees twenty thousands to each of the 110 Post-graduate departments and Rupees sixteen lakhs to about 320 Colleges for setting up and strengthening the book bank units.

This scheme was introduced in secondary schools in 1976-77. So far 65 Government schools and 957 nationalised and other schools have been provided with book banks. The number of High Schools which is 3,000 at present is expected to rise to 4,000 by the end of the sixth year plan. According to the recent announcement of the Chief Minister for providing each school with a book bank a sum of Rs. 43 lakhs have been made available during the current year in the first phase. A sum of Rs. 2,500 out of this grant per school would be provided for this purpose to 320 schools for scheduled tribe areas, to 1,080 schools for non-scheduled tribe (General) areas and to 320 schools for non-scheduled tribe (Harijan) areas. Out of this amount 20 sets of books would be purchased for each class from VI to X.

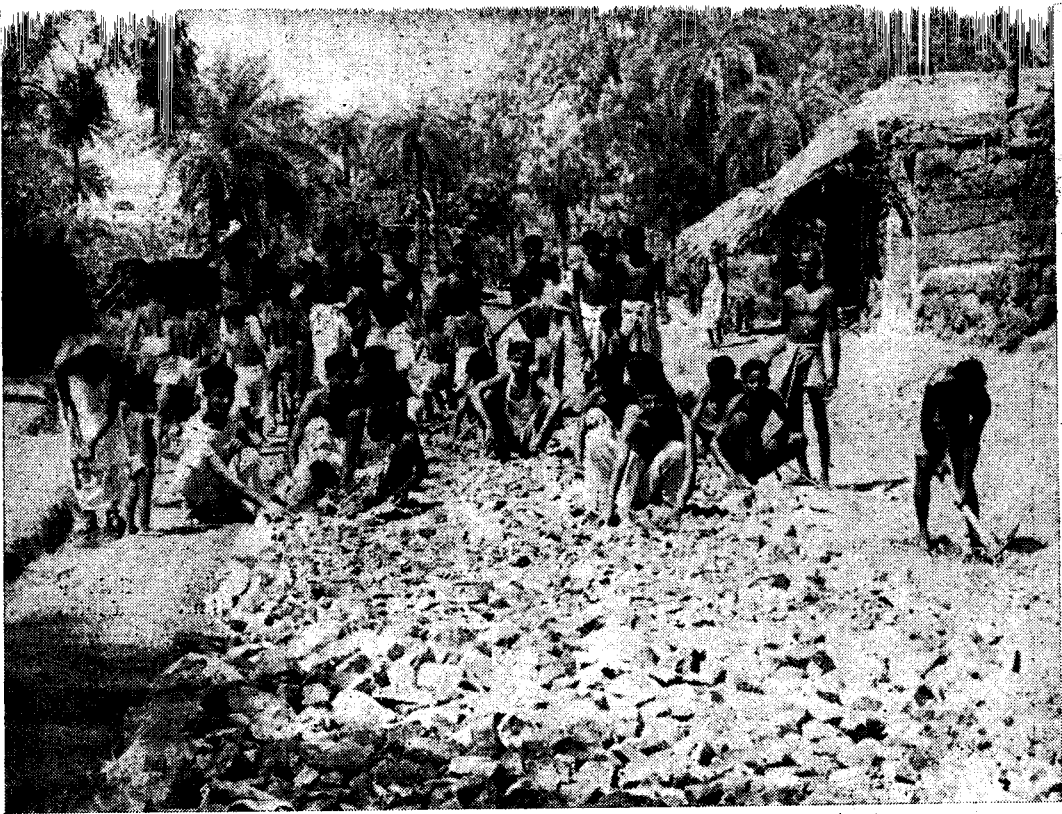
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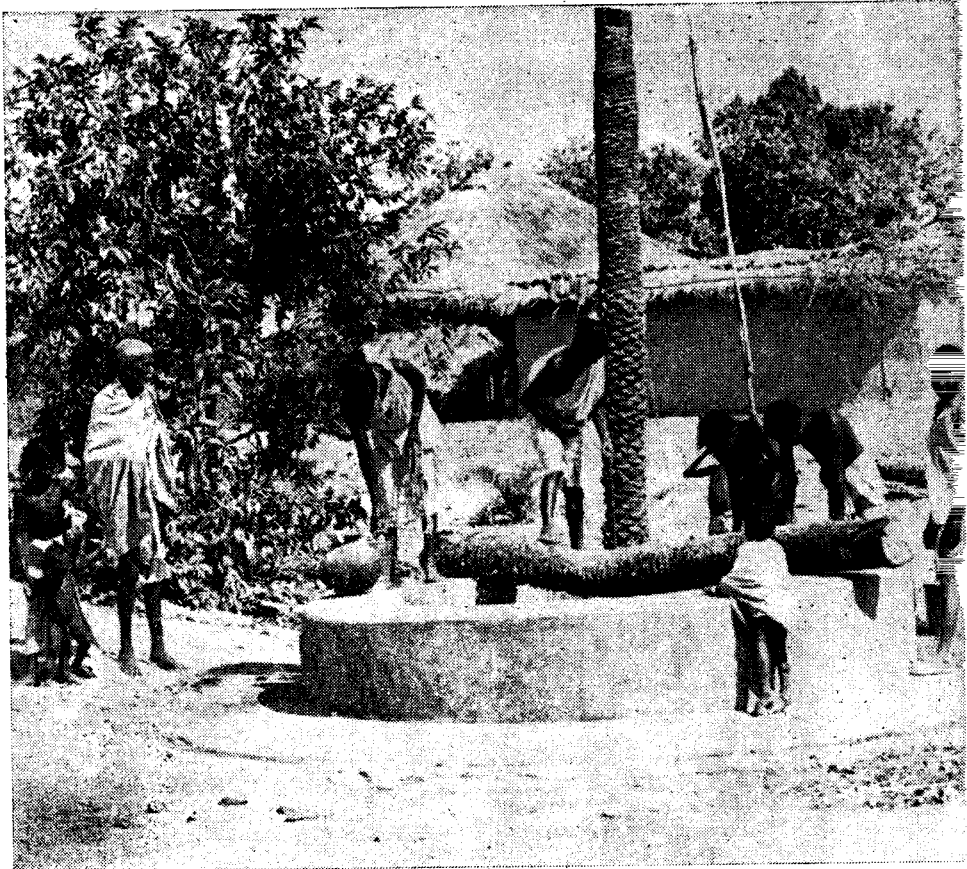
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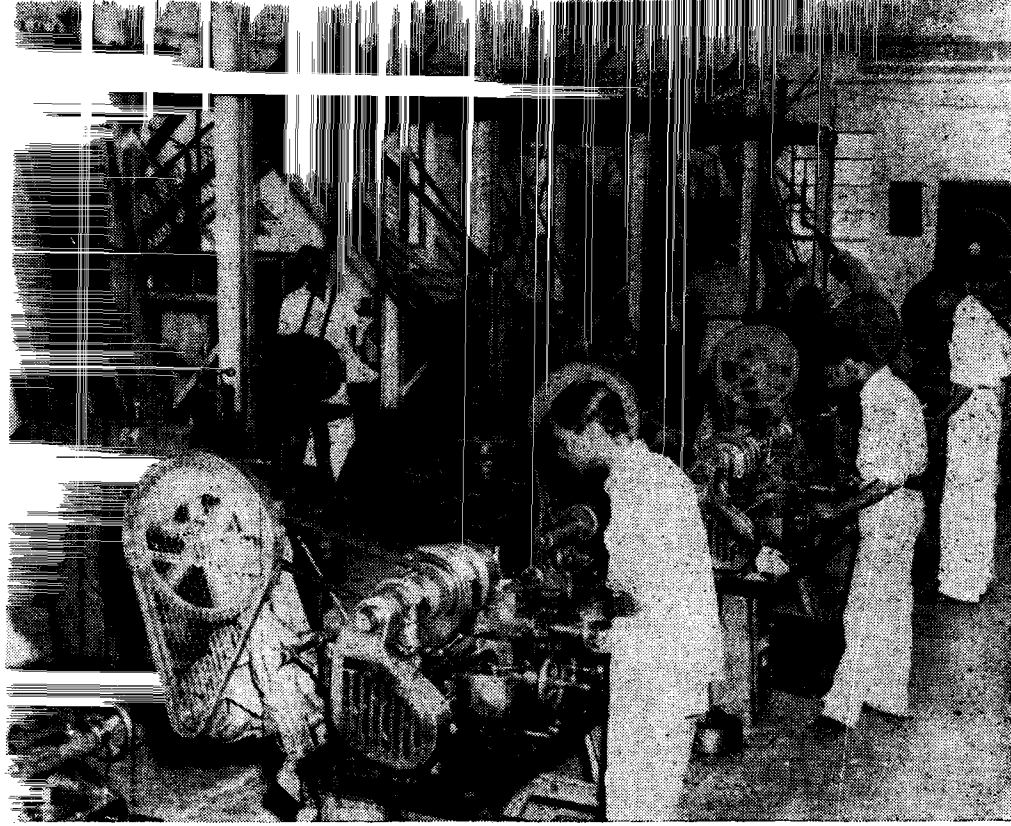
Rains or no
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Road construction work in an Adivasi village of Dumka.



Even this remote Adivasi village has been provided with a Pucca well for pure drinking water.



At the Dumka Industrial Institute educated unemployed people getting training.



With a cent per cent Government subsidy this well is being dug up in an Adivasi village of Ranchi.



A child being medically examined at a Village Health Centre in Dumka District.



A cemented drain being erected in an Adivasi village of Dumka.



Village women getting supplies of essential commodities at a Village Fair Price Shop.



The winners of Sanjay Gandhi Gold Cup Football Tournament getting the cup at the hands of Chief Minister Dr. Jagannath Mishra.



This homeless person of Gaya getting allotment letter for a home at the hands of Chief Minister, Dr. Jagannath Mishra under Housing Programme for weaker sections of society.

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27/15



Chief Minister addressing a gathering under the auspices of Anjuman Taraqqi - e - Urdu, Patna.



This homeless person of Gaya getting allotment letter for a home at the hands of Chief Minister, Dr. Jagannath Mishra under Housing Programme for weaker sections of society.

Chief Minister
195
29/12



Chief Minister addressing a gathering under the auspices of Anjuman Taraqqi - e - Urdu, Patna.