SOCIAL SECURITY MEASURES IN INDIA

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Bharat Nirman
This programme, launched in 2005-06 for building infrastructure and basic amenities in rural areas, has six components, namely, rural housing, irrigation potential, drinking water, rural roads, electrification and rural telephony. Bharat Nirman has received an outlay of Rs. 40,900 crore in the interim budget for 2009-10 as against Rs. 31,280 crore (including NER component) in 2008-09.

RURAL SANITATION
2. The Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) is one of the eight flagship programmes of the Government. TSC projects have been sanctioned in 593 rural districts of the country at a total outlay of Rs. 17,885 crore, with a Central share of Rs. 11,094 crore. The Central outlay for the Eleventh Five Year Plan has been approved at Rs. 7,816 crore for TSC including Rs. 1,100 crore for the Nirmal Gram Puraskar. The annual To encourage the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to take up sanitation promotion, the incentive scheme of Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) has been launched for open defecation-free environment (Central Government outlay of Rs. 1,100 crore is approved for the XIth Plan).

POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAMMES
3. Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)
The objective of IAY is to provide financial assistance for construction/upgradation of houses to BPL rural households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, freed bonded labourers, non-SC/ST rural households, widows and physically handicapped persons living in the rural areas. The scheme is funded on a cost-sharing basis of 75:25 between the Centre and the States. However, in the case of NE States, the funding pattern has recently been revised to 90:10. During 2008-09, against the total allocation of Rs.5,645.77 crore earmarked for District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) under the IAY for construction of 21.27 lakh houses, Rs. 8,795.79 crore has been released till March 31 2009 and 21.05 lakh houses have been constructed during 2008-09.

4. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
NREGS, which was launched on February 2, 2006, in 200 most backward districts in the first phase, was expanded to 330 districts in the second phase during 2007-08. The remaining 266 districts were notified on September 28, 2008, and the scheme has now been extended to all the districts of the country. More than 4.47 crore households were provided employment in 2008-09. This is a significant jump over the 3.39 crore households covered under the scheme during 2007-08. Out of the 215.63 crore person-days created under the scheme during this period, 29 per cent and 25 per cent were in favour of SC and ST population, respectively and 48 per cent of the total person-days created went in favour of women. An allocation of Rs. 30,100 crore has been made in the interim budget for 2009-10 as against Rs. 16,000 crore in 2008-09 for NREGS.

5. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
SGSY was launched in April 1999 after restructuring of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and allied programmes. It is the only self-employment programme currently being
implemented for the rural poor. The objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted swarozgaris above the poverty line by providing them income generating assets through bank credit and Government subsidy. The scheme is being implemented on cost sharing basis of 75:25 between the Centre and states. Up to March 2009, 34 lakh self-help groups (SHGs) had been formed and 120.89 lakh swarozgaris have been assisted with a total outlay of Rs. 27,183.03.

Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 was enacted in order to ensure need-based maintenance for all the parents and welfare measures for senior citizens. The Act has been notified by 21 states and 6 Union Territories so far. Section 19 of this Act enjoins upon State Governments to establish at least one old-age home for 150 indigent senior citizens per district.

**EDUCATION**

6. *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*: SSA is being implemented in partnership with State Governments to address the needs of children in age group of 6-14 years.

**HEALTH**

7. *National Rural Health Mission*

NRHM was launched on April 12, 2005, to provide accessible, affordable and accountable quality health services to the poorest households in the remotest rural regions. Allocation has been increased to Rs. 12,070 crore in interim budget for 2009-10 compared to Rs. 12,050 crore in 2008-09.

To encourage the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to take up sanitation promotion, the incentive scheme of *Nirmal Gram Puraskar* (NGP) has been launched for open defecation-free environment (Central Government outlay of Rs. 1,100 crore is approved for the XIth Plan).

8. *Social Welfare*

The programmes for educational development, economic empowerment and social empowerment of socially disadvantaged groups and marginalized sections of the society are implemented through the close participation of State Governments, UT Administrations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These programmes include those for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, minorities, other backward classes, and persons with disabilities.

**WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

9. *Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)*

Two schemes are being implemented for the development of adolescent girls viz. *Kishori Shakti Yojana* (KSY) and *Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls* (NPAG). KSY is an intervention for adolescent girls and aims at addressing the needs of self-development, nutrition and health status, literacy and numerical skills, vocational skills of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-18 years.

The *Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)* has been formulated for implementation during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period to provide a safe and secure environment for comprehensive development of children in the country who are in need of care and protection as well as children in conflict with law. The *Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers* provides services to the children of age group 0-6 years which includes supplementary nutrition, emergency medicines and contingencies.
The Support to Training & Employment Programme for Women (STEP) scheme seeks to provide updated skills and new knowledge to poor and assetless women in 10 traditional sectors for enhancing their productivity and income generation.

10. Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY)
Under AABY, a scheme launched on October 2, 2007 insurance to the head of the family of rural landless households in the country will be provided against natural death as well as accidental death and partial/permanent disability. **Up to December 31, 2008 the scheme has covered 60.32 lakh lives.**

11. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana
The scheme was launched on October 1, 2007, under which all workers in the unorganized sector belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category and their families will be covered for health care. Till May 6, 2009, 22 states and Union Territories have initiated the process to implement the scheme. Out of these 22 states and Union Territories, 17 states have started issuing smart cards and more than **41.8 lakh cards have been issued in these states taking the health insurance cover to more than 2.09 crore persons.**

The salient features of the Act are as under: Section (2) provides for the definitions, including those relating to unorganized worker, self-employed and wage worker.

Section 3(1) provides for **formulation of schemes by the Central Government** for different sections of unorganized workers on matters relating to (a) **life and disability cover**; (b) **health and maternity benefits**; (c) **old age protection** (d) **any other benefit** as may be determined by the Central Government.

Section 3(4) provides **formulation of schemes** relating to **provident fund, employment injury benefits, housing, educational schemes for children, skill upgradation, funeral assistance and old-age homes by the State Governments.**

Section 4 relates to funding of the schemes formulated by the Central Government.

Section 5 envisages constitution of National Social Security Board under the chairmanship of the Union Minister for Labour & Employment with Member Secretary and 34 nominated members representing Members of Parliament, unorganized workers, employers of unorganized workers, civil society, Central Ministries and the State Governments with provision for adequate representation to persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the minorities and women. The functions of the National Board, inter alia, include: to recommend to the Central Government suitable schemes for different sections of unorganized workers; monitor the implementation of schemes and advise the Central Government on matters arising out of the administration of the Act.

Section 6 has provision for constitution of similar Boards at the State level.

Section 7 relates to funding pattern of the schemes formulated by the State Governments.

Section 8 prescribes record keeping functions by the district administration. For this purpose, the State
Government may direct (a) the district panchayat in rural areas; and (b) the urban local bodies in urban areas to perform such functions.

Section 9 provides for setting up of constitution of Workers’ Facilitation Centre to (i) disseminate information on social security schemes available to them, and (ii) facilitate the workers to obtain registration from district administration and enrolment of unorganized workers. The Unorganised Workers’ Social Security Rules, 2009 under the Act have been framed.

Source: Economic Survey 2009, Ministry of Finance