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Rural Development Programmes in Tamilnadu – An Economic Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Rural development needs to complement urban development so that a balanced growth will be ensured and growth in each sector will be mutually reinforcing. Currently rural development is constrained by a slew of factors such as lack of adequate employment opportunities and consequential rural-to-urban migration, frequent occurrence of drought and resultant loss of agricultural output and income, growing erosion of cropped area due to faster pace of urbanization and industrialization, dwindling water resources and asymmetries and disparities in terms of economics and social indicators. Solution to these issues lie in the reinvigoration of the agricultural sector, generation of gainful employment, creation of sufficient infrastructure in rural areas, thrust on a broad based manufacturing sector and strengthening of social services in rural areas.

1. INTRODUCTION

During the Twelfth Plan (2012-2017), the State Government focused its attention on providing basic infrastructure facilities in all habitations, addressing the shelter requirements, creating an open defecation free and garbage free environment, bringing down rural poverty to below 10 per cent, energizing street lights with solar energy and building up a conducive climate in schools for the upliftment of rural education, focusing on water security to all and increasing livelihood opportunities in rural areas. The total funds earmarked during the plan period was Rs.23, 870crore and the anticipated flow of funds from the Government of India was Rs.21,039 crore.
Rural Development in the State is being addressed by creating sustainable livelihood opportunities, providing basic amenities, promoting sanitation, reducing poverty, conserving natural resources, minimizing the urban-rural divide and ensuring improvement in the quality of life of the people in rural areas. Towards achieving this, various State Government Schemes are being effectively implemented. To supplement the efforts of the State, the Central Government on its part executing Centrally-Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the major schemes implemented for rural infrastructural development in Tamil Nadu.

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INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Provision of basic infrastructure facilities in villages is imperative for creating economic opportunities, spurring economic growth and attaining self-reliance. Most of the villages lack basic infrastructure facilities which cramp the pace of economic growth. With a view to create new facilities that are a crying a need and to fill the gaps in the existing facilities, various State and Central Schemes are implemented.

TAMIL NADU VILLAGE HABITATIONS IMPROVEMENTS SCHEMES (THAI)

With an aim to provide minimum basic infrastructure facilities to all the habitations with ‘Habitation’ as the unit of development, the State’s Flagship Programme Tamil Nadu Habitation Improvement Programme (THAI) is being implemented since 2011-12. The scheme is been programmed to cover 79,394 habitations spread over 12,524 Village Panchayats in a phased manner and implemented in five phases from 2011-12 to 2015-2016.

The total developmental requirements of the habitations are gauged through detailed survey and the works are taken up. Initially funds to tune of Rs.680 crore are allotted for the implementation of the scheme during 2011-12. Considering the importance of fulfilling up the infrastructural gaps of rural habitations, the Government is allocating an additional amount of Rs.70 crore from the year 2012-13 onwards which is earmarked to improve Panchayat Union roads which run-though or in the vicinity of THAI villages. In addition to this dovetailing of funds from other schemes of rural development as well as other departments has also be done to fulfill all requirements of habitations.

During the two years 2011-12 and 2012-13, totally 96,552 works were taken up in 43,916 habitations spread over in 4270 village panchayats. Basic requirement works (water supply, street lights, roads and burial grounds) accounted for a higher share of 98 percent. During 2013-14, totally 49,403 works were taken up in 15,115 habitations spread over in 2500 village panchayats, of which 43910 works (89%) were completed upto third week of March 2014 nd the remaining 5493 works (11%) were at different stages of execution.

MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (MLACDS)

With the objective to bridge the gap in the existing infrastructure facilities in the 234 Assembly Constituencies in the State, the Members of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS) is being implemented with financial assistance of the State. The allocation of funds under scheme increased from Rs.1.75 crore to Rs.2.0 crore per Constituency per annum from 2011-12.

Of the total allocation made under the fund 21 percent is earmarked for the areas inhabited by SC/ST in rural areas and slums in urban areas. During the year 2012-13 total works numbering 19,101 had been taken up at the cost of Rs.412.43 crore. Of the total works taken up roads (16.8%).

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Buildings (14.9%), water supply (12.5%), Housing (6.4%) and irrigation works (6.3%) together constituted a share of 57.0 percent. During 2013-14 totally 15,483 works were taken at a cost of Rs.398.80 crore. Of which 6,653 (43%) works were completed at a cost of Rs.137.67 crore (35%) by the end of March 2014.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (MPLADS)

With an aim to fill the gaps in the existing infrastructure facilities and ensure all-round development in the 39 Parliamentary Constituencies of the State, the Government of India provided Rs.5.00 crore to each Member of Parliament. Totally 5,102 works were taken up at a cost of Rs.260.18 crore, of which 4,671 (91.6%) works were completed at a cost of Rs.215.01 (82.6%) crore during 2012-13. The remaining works are under progress. Roads and bridges (28%) and water supply (22%) works were the predominant ones undertaken as these put together claimed a higher share of 50 percent. During 2013-14, 5,402 works were taken up at a cost of Rs.253.95 crore of which 2370 (43.9%) works were completed at an expenditure of Rs.89.43 crore (35.2%)

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME (RIS)

Aiming to stabilize the assets created under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and to maintain basic infrastructure facilities particularly roads, annually Rs.250 crore is being allotted for this purpose under State Finance Commission Grant. During the year 2011-12 of total sum allotted under the scheme, 60 percent was earmarked for upgradation of roads and 40 percent for stabilization of assets created under MGNREGS. The pattern of earmarking of funds has since changed as 66 percent for upgradation of roads and 34 percent for stabilization assets.

Totally 1,364 road works were taken up and completed during the year 2012-13 at a cost of Rs.166.67 crore. In 2013-14 road works numbering 746 were taken up. Upto the end of March 2014, 53 works were completed and the remaining 693 were under progress. With regard to stabilization of works, as against 5,080 works taken up 4,900 (95.4%) were completed. During 2013-14 upto the end of March 2014, 2,834 stabilization works were taken up, of which only 9 works were completed.

BACKWARD REGIONS GRANT FUND (BRGF)

The erstwhile Rashtriya Sam VikasYajana (RSVY) is modified as Backward Regions Grant Fund and is implemented in six districts viz., Villupuram, Thirvannamalai, Cuddalore, Nagappattinam, Dindigul and Sivagangai to bridge the critical gaps in the availability of local infrastructure in order to redress the regional imbalances in development. During 2012-13 total works 3,727 were executed in the above districts. Of the total works executed the cement roads with drainage (43.6%). BT roads (15.3%), Water supply (7.4%) and culvert and retaining walls (12.7%)

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combined together accounted for a higher share of 79 percent. During 2013-14, 3,672 works have been taken up and executed in the above districts at a cost of Rs.144.41 crore.

RURAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION SCHEME (RBMRS)

With an objective to take up routine maintenance of assets created in rural local bodies and to ensure the full utilization, repairs and renovation of Overhead Tanks (OHT). Ground level Reservoirs (GLR) and Pipelines are taken up. During 2012-13, totally 41.153 works were taken up against which 41,128 (99.9%) works were completed. Of the total works completed repair and renovation of OHT accounted for a higher share of 88 percent. During 2013-14 upto the end of November 2013, repair and renovation works numbering 38,843 were taken up at a cost of Rs.211.68 crore of which 2,540 works were completed at a cost Rs.10.19 crore.

3. CONCLUSION

Rural Development Schemes remove poverty of the people and fill the widened gap between the rich and the poor. It encompasses the entire gamut of improvement in the overall quality of life in the rural areas can be achieved through eradication of poverty in rural areas.

4. REFERENCE

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