

CHAPTER-1

Executive Summary and Conclusions

The Backward Districts Initiative under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana has been initiated with the main objective of putting in place programmes and policies with the joint efforts of the centre and the states which would remove barriers to growth, accelerate the development process and improve the quality of life of the people. The scheme aims at focused development programmes for backward areas which would help reduce imbalances and speed up development.

The identification of backward district has been done by planning Commission on the basis of an index of backwardness comprising three parameters with equal weights to each- Value of output per agricultural worker, Agricultural wage rate and percentage of SC/ST population of the district.

The main purpose of the scheme is to address the problems of low agricultural productivity, unemployment and to fill the critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure. A sum of Rs 15.00 crore per year will be made available for a period of three years i.e.. a total of Rs 45.00 crore for three years. Funds will be given on 100% grant basis by the Planning Commission.

While finalizing the schemes stocktaking of various ongoing schemes in the concerned departments were taken care of along with the resource inventory, existing flow of funds for various schemes, strengths of the district, identification of critical gaps and drawing up of schemes to fill up this gap. The Potential Linked Credit Plan prepared by NABARD has also been used as a reference document while preparing the district plan to ensure higher flow of credit in the district.

It has been envisaged to increase the income from agriculture and allied activities through intensification of agricultural and horticultural practices in compact areas particularly in all the command areas of irrigation sources, on farm development of the command areas and introduction of high value crops.

During the implementation an MIS will be prepared which will indicate the progress of the schemes for each quarter in physical and financial terms. The relevant output indicators for each project will be monitored periodically. The Schemes will be monitored by State Level Steering Committee at State Level and report will be submitted to Planning Commission for review by the empowered committee and the high level committee.

The formation of Farmers' Clubs by banks with support and guidance of NABARD helps the bank branches in increasing their rapport with the local people in the service area and consequent boost to their business and recovery. The Clubs also bring about 'Development through Credit' in the club areas with over all development of villages. As on 30.06.2004 there were 33 Farmers Clubs operating in the district by the help of bank branches of HCCB, PADBs, SKGB, PNB and PSB.

For the development of poor rural people at grass root level who are unable to reach banks and banks are also unable to reach them, the banks and other Agencies / Departments should form Self Help Groups (SHGs) in rural areas to help these people. There are 666 SHGs formed in the district as on 30.06.2004, out of which 218 SHGs have been reported to be of BPL families (Under SGSY). Total 222 SHGs have since been linked with bank branches in the district.

There is a strong tendency with about every household in the district to send its one or more family members abroad in search of work which prevents the rural youth from taking up higher studies as well as self employment activities. There are villages where all young male members had gone abroad and only female, children and old members of a family are found there Entrepreneurship is lacking in the district. The people are shifting from traditional farming crops to cash crops of sunflower and potato etc.

Identification of Lead sectors

As per the spirit of the RSVY, a meeting of all the departments, public and private banks was convened by the district administration to invite the views about the projects to be included. While finalizing the schemes / departments, it was considered that the benefits should go to the poorer pockets i.e. Kandi belt in general but in selective cases, involving poor landless and the small farmers, the benefit should flow to all such parts of the district. By adopting the principle of elimination and short listing some of the departments viz. Public Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Education, Health, Rural Development, Sewerage Board, Punjab State Tubewell Corporation (PSTC) and Forest were selected to submit proposals under the scheme. The estimates have been prepared by Executive Engineer (Panchayati Raj) and Public works Department. After having a series of meetings of concerned departments and Assistant General Manager, NABARD, Hoshiarpur, the critical gaps / locations were identified for preparation of area based schemes. The department wise profiles and the detailed proposals have been given in the report. The following schemes have been identified :-

Public Health Department

The villages so far not covered under any Rural Drinking Water Supply Scheme and the feasible locations have been selected in kandi area and in plain area where water tests have proved contamination and unfit for human consumption.

Agriculture

For facilitating involvement of general Self Help Groups (SHGs) in economic activities, it has been envisaged that 100 SHGs per year will be trained by the Agriculture Department in vermiculture and out of a total project cost of Rs.30,000, an assistance of Rs.15,000 will be provided as revolving fund from the project and balance Rs 15,000, will be met by borrowing from banks. It has been projected that an investment of Rs. 30,000 gives a return of Rs. 16000/- per year. It is hoped that 10 members per SHG will take up this activity in rural areas in each of the blocks each year (ii)For three villages viz Simbli, Panam and Nazarpur affected with

selenium toxicity will be treated with the application of gypsum. (iii) As a part of promoting diversification to Honey and Turmeric project proposals have been envisaged.

Sewerage

The major townships of the district viz Dasuya and Mukerian are facing the severe problem of sewerage in the shape of various diseases. It has been decided to augment the sewerage schemes in these two cities .

Punjab State Tubewell Corporation

For villages which are having signs of selenium toxicity viz. Panam, Simbli and Najarpur and the problem is going from bad to worse, deepening of tubewells needs to be taken upon priority as the only remedy. The areas are affected with severe diseases of human beings and the cattle. Experts have planned the deepening of tubewells so that toxicity may be treated. PSTC have prepared a scheme for installation of four deep tubewells in the affected area and one tubewell at Majari to provide irrigational facilities in the area which it was not having.

Forest Department

The department has proposed a scheme viz Samriti Sanjhi Van Yojna for private afforestation.

The summary of main objectives and benefits expected to be achieved are given below –

Public Health Department

The main benefit from this project is to improve health and economic welfare of the rural people. Availability of adequate safe drinking water acts as a preventive measure towards achieving better health care. The proposed water supply schemes will enable them to save substantial amount of time which is wasted in fetching water and it will also save them from water borne diseases and harmful effects of excessive chemicals in water. The water supply will also provide them good health in rural areas and production and productivity in agriculture will also increase. To cap it all water plays an important role in making the health of a person.

Agriculture

To reclaim the selenium effected soil to generate employment and produce vermicompost to increase income of farmer and generate employment. To reduce the loss of crop and judicious use of agriculture input. To reduce selenium effect in the soil and prevent spread disease in human being and animal by selenium toxicity. To generate self employment for 3000 farmers and vermicompost for 5000 acre. Increase income of individual farmer and generate employment Reduce cost of production per unit area. Reduce selenium toxicity effected fodder and food to spread in other area of the state. Improve soil health, replace chemical fertilizer and generate employment. To generate qualitative and quantitative agriculture produce. Reduce environment pollution and under ground water. Reduce disease in human being and animals created by

selenium toxicity. Reduce environment pollution and improve soil health. Honey and Turmeric project will help in promoting diversification in cropping pattern.

Sewerage

Sewerage is the key to Healthy living. Sewers are meant only for liquid waste and not for dumping the rubbish, plastic bags and cow dung etc. Choked sewers are worse than no sewers at all. Cleaned sewers ensure freedom from blockages, back flow and stagnation in low lying areas. Service pipes for house connection passing through open drains can cause serious contamination of drinking water. Discharging of untreated sewerage into natural stream or using for broad irrigation without dilution for crops to be eaten raw is a health hazard. Also with 100% sewerage the towns will be rendered scavenger free and the revenue of the town will also increase.

Punjab State Tubewell Corporation

The under ground water of shallow T/wells of Simbli, Panam and Nazarpur villages is too much saline as the test conducted by the Pb. Agriculture University. The Crops in both sequence i.e. Rabi and Kharif are being Irrigated by the shallow T/well ground water. It contains too much selenium contents which are beyond the permissible limit. The land is becoming unfit for Agriculture purposes day by day and this saline water is causing earth cancer. If the irrigation with this saline water continues, this will effect the living standard of families as the land is going on unfit for Agriculture production. This position is also effecting the relationship with each other. This underground water is harmful for the health of human being and animals too. The animals are losing their hairs and malformation of hoofs and horns. The fodder which is produced by this ground water is not fit for animals. The food grains has also the same effects of selenium and it is harmful for the Human being. The cultivators are selling these food grains in the nearby local markets which will effect the health of the consumers on later stage.

Forest

Planting more trees will reduce environment pollution and improve soil health.