

CHAPTER - VII

**RURAL
DEVELOPMENT**

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN MEGHALAYA

7.0. Development in the Rural Sector:

Meghalaya is predominantly a rural State. The rural population in Meghalaya is 1,864,711, thereby constituting about 80.4 percent of the total population of Meghalaya i.e. 2,318,822. This is higher than the all India figures of 72.2 percent. Rural development is probably the biggest challenge before planning and policy makers in India today. Rural Meghalaya is marked by high incidence of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment poor infrastructure and absence of basic facilities. Despite the efforts made in the past few decades, rural poverty in Meghalaya continues to be an issue of great concern. The failure in improving the rural scenario is perhaps attributable less to formulation of appropriate policies and more to their implementation. The present approach in rural development intervention involves initiatives towards improving the lot of people through direct self-employment programmes on one hand and indirect wage employment and infrastructure development programme on the other. In addition there are programmes for shelter, old age, destitutes, watershed and wasteland development programme. The extent to which these programmes have contributed to poverty reduction needs to be examined on the basis of analysis of actual implementation of the programme and their impact in the specific locales.

Rural areas in Meghalaya are characterized by limited opportunities, low level of skill development, poor infrastructure base and ineffective decentralized decision-making capability, which in turn affects the quality of Governance. Moreover, the rugged terrain of the state, a low percentage of cultivable land, scattered nature of the settlements have presented serious problems for necessary interventions in terms of infrastructure development. A reflection of these can be seen in the incidence of poverty of the state estimated by various agencies from time to time. As per the estimate of Planning Commission, 33.9 percent of the total population of the state was below the poverty line in the year of 1999-2000, as against the national figure of 26.1 percent. The department of Community and Rural Development (C&RD) on the instruction of the Government of India (GOI) conducted the Below Poverty Line (BPL) survey in the state in 2002 and finalized it in 2008. The percentage of the rural BPL families of the state was 54 percent during the 9th Plan. During the 10th Plan (2002 survey finalized in 2008) the percentage of rural BPL families is 48.90 percent in the state.

7.1. Current level of development – some key indicators

The current level of development in the rural areas of the state can be viewed from a variety of indicators. The present section considers some of them such as food grain production, value of agricultural product per agricultural worker, rural road connectivity, rural employment and amenities e.g. types of housing, electricity connection, availability of latrines, sources and location of drinking water etc.

7.1.1 Agriculture:

The Meghalaya economy is basically agrarian whereby 70 percent of the population's livelihood is dependent on agriculture. However, the contribution of this sector to the economy of the state is around 22 percent of the NSDP. This reflects that the majority of the people dependent on agriculture are living close to subsistence level and a large percentage of them are below the poverty line. As such, proper management for development of the crop husbandry / horticulture and allied sector is vital for the healthy growth of this primary sector. Enhancement of food grain production in the hill state of Meghalaya is constrained by its topography making only about 12 percent of its geographical area suitable for cultivation of crops for food grain production. However, improvement of production to the extent possible by way of more coverage and improvement of irrigation methods, use of HYV seeds, crop rotation, judicious application of fertilizers and pest control taken up needs to be sustained in light of the fact that much of the paddy land is being degraded due to indiscriminate and unscientific mining. The production of food grains during 2006-07 was 269.93 thousand tones and the anticipated achievement for 2007-08 is 291.00 thousand tonnes. By the end of the 11th Plan, the food grain production is expected to touch 379.00 thousand tonnes. The target during 2008-09 is to produce 291.00- thousand tonnes of food grains.

The goal for the 11th Plan was laid out to usher in a paradigm shift from the implementation of omnibus schemes widely dispersed all over the seven districts with dissipating effect on scare resources, to a more focused approach based on cluster and backed by an integrated package of practices. The strategy would be to consolidate traditional strengths and past gains and at the same time capitalize on emerging opportunities.

Value of agricultural product per agricultural worker

The agricultural output in value terms per agricultural worker has been estimated at Rs. 15752 for the state as a whole during 2005-06. However, there exists a wide inter-district variation in the value of agricultural output. It is the highest in East Khasi Hills with Rs. 37,095 followed by South Garo Hills with Rs. 19,916 and West Garo Hills with Rs. 18,403. All the other districts are lying below the State's average figure. It is found that the districts with a high proportion of agricultural labourers to total workers have a lower value of agricultural product in per agricultural worker. This situation clearly indicates the prevalence of pre-capitalist mode of production where agricultural labourers are less prominent in the contribution to production.

Table 7.1. Value of Agricultural product per Agricultural Worker

District	Value of agricultural output (Rs. In lakh)**	Agricultural worker*	Value of output per agricultural worker (Rs.)	Proportion of agricultural labourer to total worker
East Garo hills	9718	89519	10855	12.1
East Khasi hills	28470	76748	37095	13.3
Jaintia hills	9059	96402	9397	28.6
Ri Bhoi	8040	68217	11785	18.4
South Garo hills	6978	35037	19916	12.6
West Garo hills	28067	152508	18403	16.4
West Khasi hills	8935	111739	7996	23.3
Meghalaya			15752	12.54

Source: Directorate of Economic and Statistics, Meghalaya

*Sum total of cultivator and agricultural workers (2001 census). **At constant (1999-2000) prices

7.1.2. Road Connectivity:

Good road connectivity for habitations, particularly in rural areas with sub divisional towns and district headquarters, is often the primary means of enhancing the effectiveness of public effort directed at providing basic health and educational services as well as infrastructure support for production, trade and commerce at the village level. In many cases, particularly in sparsely populated areas and towns with large hinterland, good road connectivity may help make these areas self sufficient and altogether obviate the need for public provisioning of some of these services in each and every village. At the same time it will help forge durable economic linkage of such habitations with the rest of the economy. Road connectivity is therefore **a useful indicator of “inclusionary”** aspect of development process and, accessibility, perhaps reach of the market as well. It is particularly relevant in the context of Meghalaya where over 80 percent of population continue to live in rural areas and in which over 55 percent of villages with population of less than 1000 are yet to be connected. This has a significant bearing upon the state of rural development in Meghalaya, as the majority of villages have a population of less than 1000. The following table shows the position of the state in terms of road connectivity.

Road coverage in the table refers to all categories of roads (both surfaced and un-surfaced) including NH, SH, Major district roads, other district roads and rural roads.

Table 7.2 Percentage of villages connected by road

State	Population less than 1000			Population between 1000 and 1500			Population above 1500		
	1991-92	1994-95	1996-97	1991-92	1994-95	1996-97	1991-92	1994-95	1996-97
Meghalaya	46.76	49.49	44.51	100	100	86.49	100	100	64.29
All India	36.52	37.45	49.18	72.32	76.54	74.58	89.82	91.72	78.04

Source: Meghalaya Human Development Report (2008)

Inheriting a road length of 2786.68 kms with a road density of 12.42 km/100 sq. km from Assam in 1970, at the end of the 10th Plan period the state had achieved a total road length of 8221.68 kms with a road density of 36.66 km/100 sq. km. The road density is anticipated to further improve to 36.93 km/100 sq. km with a total road length of 8919.68 kms by the end of 31st March 2008. The table below indicates the progress of achievement from the 8th plan period to the end of the 10th plan period with an anticipated achievement by 31st March, 2008:

Table 7.3. Progress of Achievement under Road Sector up to 2007-08

Sl. No.	Plan Period ending	Total road Length Achieved (cum.)	Of which		Road Density (Km/100 Sq. Km.)
			Blacktopped Road	Gravelled Road	
1.	Eight Plan (1192-1997)	6707	3004	3703	29.90
2.	Ninth Plan (1997-2002)	7553	3571	3982	33.67
3.	Tenth Plan (2002-07)	8221.68	5159	3062.03	36.66
4.	Eleven Plan (2007-2011) Anticipated for 2007-08	8919.68	NA	NA	36.93

Source: Meghalaya Plan Supplement, 2008-09

RURAL ROADS (PMGSY) UNDER BHARAT NIRMAN

The PMGSY was launched on 25th December 2000 as a fully funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of the Ministry of Rural Development which aimed to provide road connectivity in rural areas of the country. The Programme envisages connecting all habitations with a population of 500 persons and above (250 persons and above in respect of Hill States, Tribal and Desert areas).

Physical and financial progress under PMGSY

The total fund released by the Ministry of Rural Development up to 31st March 2008 was Rs. 123.17 crore against which, the expenditure was Rs. 125.74 crore. The expenditure includes Rs.6.26 crore against the sanctioned amount of Rs. 39.62 crore for Phase IV, which is yet to be released. The state PWD being the nodal department for PMGSY is still working out 2004-05/-06 schemes. The State PWD needs to put itself in full gear to bridge its lags of 3-4 years. This would

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call for multi agencies approach, sectoral strengthening, capacity building, etc.

Projects sanctioned and road length completed as on 31st March, 2008:

Against a total of 85 nos. Road works with a total length of 230.50 kms cleared by MORD, 53 Nos. Road works covering a total length of 148.91 kms. was completed. The percentage Physical Achievement against the projects sanctioned was 62.35 % for Road works and 64.60 % for Road Length respectively.

Habitations connected up to 31st March, 2008:

A total of 178 Habitations were connected up to 31st March 2008:

- 1000 + = 6 nos.
- 500 - 999 = 86 nos.
- 250 - 499 = 58 nos.
- < 250 = 28 nos.

A look at the Table below would reveal that the PWD (Roads) Deptt. (the SRRDA) needs to go a long way before it covers all the villages. It is pertinent that for Hill Areas, villages up to 250 need to be connected. **Thus more than 1/3 of the numbers of villages in the State is yet to be connected.**

Total No. of Habitations					Unconnected As on : 31-03-2008					Connected as on 31.3.2008								Balance						
										1000+		500-999		250-499		>250							Total	
1000+	500-999	250-499	>250	Total	1000+	500-999	250-499	>250	Total	N*	U*	N*	U*	N*	U*	N*	U*	N*	U*	1000+	500-999	250-499	>250	Total
212	713	1450	2987	5362	9	150	597	1996	2752	6	-	86	-	58	-	28	-	178	-	3	64	539	1968	2574

Table 7.4 Habitations coverage as on: 31st March, 2008

Source: Ministry of Rural Development Website(2008)

Issues:

- **Strengthening of Institutional Capacity**

There are Programme Implementation Unit (PIU) in each of the 7(seven) districts of the state. The PIUs are being looked after by existing Executive Engineers in-charge of PWD (Roads) Divisions. Decision is yet to be taken to engage other Agencies i.e. Meghalaya Government Construction Corporation, Meghalaya State Electricity Board and other national agencies to augment institutional capacity to expedite progress of PMGSY. Augmentation of contracting capacity and reinforcing and organizing the construction sector in a well planned manner is the need of the hour given the growing economy and requirements of the State.

The amendments made in the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) should be implemented while inviting tenders for Phase V works

Table 7.5(a) Distribution of Rural Households by number of Dwelling Rooms (%) 2001

State/ District	No exclusive room %	One room %	Two rooms %	Three rooms %	Four rooms %	Five rooms %	Six rooms and above
West Garo Hills	7	35	36	17	3	1	1
East Garo Hills	3	31	43	17	4	1	1
South Garo Hills	3	21	43	26	5	1	1
West Khasi Hills	4	22	33	21	10	5	5
Ri-Bhoi	4	17	32	26	11	5	5
East Khasi Hills	7	23	30	20	11	5	4
Jaintia Hills	3	15	24	19	16	11	13
Meghalaya	5	25	33	20	9	4	4

Source: Table on Amenities; Census of India 2001

It may be mentioned that every year about Rs 6-7 crore worth of CGI sheets (3 bundle each) is given under the Rural Housing scheme of Housing department supplemented also by SRWP (by some of the MLAs).

Rural Housing Indira Awas Yojna (IAY)

The main aim of this scheme is to provide shelter to SC/ST and freed bonded labourers living below the poverty line free of cost. The assistance provides Rs. 27,500/- (now revised to Rs 38500) for construction of new houses and Rs.12,500/- (now revised to Rs 15000/-) for Upgradation or conversion of unserviceable kutcha houses to pucca /semi pucca houses. Fund for the programme is shared by Central and State government in the ratio of 75:25. (now 90:10).

Cumulative financial and physical achievement during the last 5 Years from 2003-04 to

2007-2008:

A. New construction:

- The cumulative availability of fund during this period was Rs. 5604.13 lakhs, against which the expenditure incurred was Rs. 4852.53 lakhs.
- Percentage of achievement was 86.59 %.
- The physical achievement during the period was a total of 21733 houses completed against the target of 31086 numbers of houses.
- Percentage of achievement was 69.91 %.

B. Upgradation:

- Total availability of Fund was Rs.1154.50 lakhs out of which Rs. 1026.00 was spent during the period.
- The percentage of physical achievement was 88.91%.
- Physical achievement during the period was 10165 houses upgraded against the target of 8126 Nos. of houses.
- The percentage of achievement was 125 %.

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On the face of it, the progress appears satisfactory. However, this hides the fact that many a times most of the DRDAs have not been able to fully utilise the allocated fund from the Govt. of India due to delay in submission of UCs. Many DRDAs have not claimed/ taken 2nd installments under the programme. There is also delay in selection of beneficiaries and approvals or changes. The scheme also suffers from its acceptance in the shape of cost norm, socio-customary requirements and local impediments.

The detailed year-wise progress of achievement of both schemes from 2003-04 to 2007-08 is indicated in the tables below:-

Table 7.6 ACHIEVEMENT UNDER IAY FROM 2003-04 TO 2007-08
NEW CONSTRUCTION

Sl. No.	Year	Financial achievement (Rs. In lakhs)		Target (No. of houses)	Physical performance (No of houses constructed)
		Total fund available	Fund utilised		
1	2003-04	1086.69	916.30	4821	4331
2	2004-05	1050.21	912.95	5076	4394
3	2005-06	1437.98	1265.55	3494	5775
4	2006-07	1153..22	1040.30	7467	4012
5	2007-08	876.03	717.43	10228	3221
TOTAL		5604.13	4852.53	31086	21733

Source: Department of C. & R.D., Meghalaya.

Table 7.7 ACHIEVEMENT UNDER IAY FROM 2003-04 TO 2007-08
UPGRADATION

Sl. No.	Year	Financial achievement (Rs. In lakhs)		Target (No. of houses)	Physical performance (No of houses constructed)
		Total fund available	Fund utilised		
1	2003-04	249.81	231.20	2651	2416
2	2004-05	195.82	168.02	2791	1902
3	2005-06	317.90	295.92	2684	2647
4	2006-07	246.62	211.05	-	2086
5	2007-08	144.35	119.81	-	1114
TOTAL		1154.50	1026.00	8126	10165

Source: Department of C. & R.D., Meghalaya.

Progress of implementation:

1) Physical achievement:

Hilly tracts of land, high rainfall and limited working season combined with late receipt of funds under IAY hinder the achievement of the targets set by the government under the scheme. The delay in submission of UCs and Audit Report by DRDAs made the Govt. of India to hold up sanction for the Second Installment of the scheme to many DRDAs. Hence targets could not be achieved. DRDAs are instructed from time to time to improve performance under IAY so that the set targets could be achieved in full. It may be suggested here that funds under the scheme should be released in one installment only at the beginning of the financial year instead of fragmented installments at the fag end of the year. This perhaps will facilitate speedy implementation of the scheme and achievement of the target in full. This scheme also requires rigorous monitoring, social audit and effective vigilance.

2) Status of Permanent IAY Wait Lists:

In Meghalaya 5 districts namely, Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills, West Garo Hills, West Khasi Hills and South Garo Hills have completed preparation of Permanent IAY Wait List based on the draft BPL List 2002. The other two districts i.e. East Garo Hills and Ri-Bhoi are yet to complete the same. It is expected to complete preparation of the Waiting Lists shortly.

3). Construction of Sanitary latrines:

It has been the tradition and habit of the people in Meghalaya to construct toilets at some distance from the dwelling unit. As a result construction of sanitary latrines along with the IAY house is not so popular in the State. **Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) as a separate scheme** (*implemented by the PHE department*) which is not included in the IAY scheme. Therefore, no financial assistance from Total Sanitation Campaign is allotted to the IAY beneficiaries for constructing latrine along with IAY house. Efforts are being made to co-ordinate it in Urban / Rural Areas of the state.

4). Homestead plots:

In Meghalaya, land does not belong to the government and is privately owned. Site for constructing a house construction is provided free of cost to the people by the village authority. The site is selected by the people along with the Headman of the village anywhere according to their will. Hence, it may be said that the house site is not a problem. However, cluster formation and other innovative models could only happen if done with greater involvement and consultation with the community, hitherto missing in rural development efforts.

5). National rural housing and habitat policy:

The policy is under the consideration of the government. However, a wider consultation and consultancy would be required in the matter.

7.1.4.A. Supply of drinking water by source and location:

About 62% of the rural households in Meghalaya have access to safe drinking water. However,

there exist large inter-district variations. Only 12% of the total rural households have the source located within the premises, and another 56% have the source near the premises. The following Tables show the inter-district variations.

Table 7.8 Distribution of rural households by source of drinking Water (%) 2001

State/ District	Tap	Hand Pump	Tube Well	Well	Tank, Pond, Lake	River, Canal	Spring	Any other
West Garo Hills %	10	5	7	40	10	5	20	3
East Garo Hills %	19	0	0	36	1	3	40	1
South Garo Hills %	27	0	0	9	2	13	47	2
West Khasi Hills%	24	1	3	32	8	5	26	1
Ri-Bhoi %	36	1	2	18	6	7	28	2
East Khasi Hills%	46	2	2	22	7	5	15	1
Jaintia Hills%	13	1	2	46	4	4	27	3
Meghalaya	24	2	3	33	6	5	25	2

Source: Table on Amenities; Census of India 2001.

Table 7.9 Distribution of Rural Households by Location of Drinking Water (%) 2001

District	Within Premises (%)	Near Premises (%)	Away(%)
West Garo Hills %	19	54	27
East Garo Hills %	19	57	24
South Garo Hills%	8	59	33
West Khasi Hills %	4	52	44
Ri-Bhoi %	12	51	37
East Khasi Hills %	10	62	28
Jaintia Hills %	6	53	41
Meghalaya	12	56	32

Source: Table on Amenities; Census of India 2001

7.1.4.B. Sustainability of drinking water supply sources and systems

Provision of drinking water supply to all the rural habitations has been included as one of the components under Bharat Nirman Programme launched by Govt. of India. All the Not Covered (NC), Partially Covered (PC) Habitations and Quality Affected Habitations (Iron in Meghalaya) are to be provided with adequate safe water supply by 2008-09.

As per the survey conducted during 2003-04 (based on 2001 census) at the behest of Govt. of India and subsequently validated by IIPA, New Delhi, the state has 9326 Nos. of habitations, of which 2285 habitations (25%) are Not Covered (NC), 2849 habitations (31%) are Partially Covered (PC) and the balance 4192 habitations (44%) are Fully Covered (FC) habitations.

Consequent to coverage since validation, the status of NC, PC habitations in the state as on 1.4.07 was as below:-

Table 7.10 NC/PC/FC Habitations

SI No.	Type	Number of habitations
1	Not Covered(NC)	1325
2	Partially Covered(PC)	1884
3	Fully Covered(FC)	6117
TOTAL HABITATIONS	NC/PC/FC	9326

Source: Department of PHED, Meghalaya

Thus, 3209 (1325+1884) nos. of habitations were yet to be provided with water supply as on 1.04.07. Out of these 3209 nos. of habitations, 45 nos. were CAP 99 category (i.e. habitations identified during 1991-94 Survey & remained uncovered/partially covered). Govt. of India desired that these left out CAP 99 Habitations were covered on a priority basis.

Number of quality (Iron) affected habitations in Meghalaya as per survey was 160 numbers. Consequently upon subsequent coverage, left out Iron affected habitations in Meghalaya as on 1.04.07 was 45 nos.

Progress of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (RGARWSP)

- Under State Sector there was an achievement of 894 nos. of villages against the target of 776. Hence the percentage of achievement is 115.20 %.
- Under the Central Sector there was an achievement of 1887 no of villages against the target of 1540. The percentage of achievement is 122.53 %

Table 7.11

Physical Target Vs Achievement during Tenth Plan on Coverage of habitations under RWSP

Year	State Sector		(% age) Achievement	Central Sector		(% age) Achievement	Total		(% age) Achievement
	Target	Achievement (No. of villages)		Target	Achievement (No. of villages)		Target	Achievement (No. of villages)	
2002-03	152	131	86.18 %	258	244	94.57 %	410	375	91.46 %
2003-04	150	151	99.33 %	260	246	94.61%	410	397	96.82 %
2004-05	154	197	127.92 %	263	222	84.41 %	417	419	99.52 %
2005-06	150	192	128 %	229	280	122.27 %	379	472	124.53 %
2006-07	170	223	131.17%	530	895	168.86 %	700	1118	159.71 %
TOTAL	776	894	115.20 %	1540	1887	122.53 %	2316	2781	120 %

Source: Department of PHED, Meghalaya

Expenditure under ARWSP during the 10th Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07)

- Out of a total available fund of Rs 19682.45 crores, the expenditure is Rs. 14388.27 crores which is 73.10 %

Table 7.12 Year-wise Expenditure under ARWSP during Tenth Plan (Rs in crore)

Year	Total available fund	Expenditure	% Achievement
2002-03	3089.12	1663.69	53.84 %
2003-04	3237.21	2138.55	66.06%
2004-05	3520.66	2739.83	77.82 %
2005-06	4003.78	3276.69	81.83 %
2006-07	5831.68	4569.51	78.35 %
Total	19682.45	14388.27	73.10%

Source: Department of PHED, Meghalaya

Sanction and completion of schemes under ARWSP (2002-03 to 2006-07)

- Out of a total 1201 nos. of schemes sanctioned, 672 schemes have been completed which is 55.95% and out of the total amount sanctioned which is Rs. 21703.6 lakhs, Rs.5817.35 which is 26.80%

Table 7.13 Year-wise sanction and completion of schemes under ARWSP

Year	Sanctioned		Completed		Achievement
	No. of schemes	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of Schemes	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	% of schemes completed
2002-03	97	1058.20	123	694.25	126.80 %
2003-04	93	1973.30	102	1196.60	109.67 %
2004-05	63	2949.50	112	1038.60	177.77 %
2005-06	325	6798.20	176	1583.90	54.15 %
2006-07	623	8924.40	159	1304.00	25.52 %
Total	1201	21703.60	672	5817.35	55.95 %

Source: Department of PHED, Meghalaya

Achievement during Annual Plan 2007-08 under PHED

Financial:

- Original Approved outlay during 2007-08 for the sector was Rs.4700.00 lakhs, which was subsequently revised to Rs.5334.00 lakhs. As against this, the expenditure was Rs.5124.00 lakhs (96.06% of the approved outlay).
- The expenditure under State Sector Rural Water Supply Programme was Rs. 3984.00 lakhs and another Rs. 290.00 lakhs made available as loan from RIDF, totaling to Rs.4274.00 lakhs.
- Under Central Sector, the total available fund under ARWSP was Rs.6791.17 lakhs for 2007-08. As against this, the expenditure was Rs. 5661.16 lakhs.

Physical:

- 1205 nos. of NC/PC/Quality affected habitations were provided with adequate safe water supply against a target of 1500 nos. of habitations (196 nos. under MNP, 998 nos. under ARWSP, 8 nos. under NLCPR and 3 nos. under Swajaldhara).
- Against the total of 1950 nos. schools without water supply as on 1.04.06, 726 & 149 nos. were provided with water supply under ARWSP with 50:50 funding by Central 7 State Govt. during 2006-07 & 2007-08 respectively.
- Thus a total nos. of 1075 schools are without drinking water supply facilities as on 31.03.08. This however does not take into consideration new schools that have come up newly under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) or other programmes.
- As on 31st March 2008 a total of 1075 schools are without drinking water supply facilities. This does not include new schools that have come up under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) or other programmes.
- Remaining schools would be provided with water supply in the next two years with funds under ARWSP & SSA.

With the passage of time, the yield of existing sources reduces or the sources dry up completely, population increase, existing schemes becomes non functional on attainment of the design, new habitations grow up, life style improves with more demand for water . This gives rise to slippage of habitations and in Meghalaya also, the slippage of habitations has taken place. The figures of left out habitations as indicated above do not include habitations slipped back between 2005-06 to 2007-08.

Sustainability of sources/schemes is a major challenge in order to reduce the occurrence of slippage and is given highest priority by the Department. For ensuring sustainability of surface sources, the Department is also taking up schemes like check dams, rain water harvesting etc. As regards ground water, the depletion position is not alarming in the State, since the ground water has been explored in a limited way in selected areas only in the State. It has come to light that people's sense of ownership of water supply scheme is lukewarm. Very often the community demand water supply as a matter of right, but hardly involves themselves in facilitating, monitoring the progress of the scheme or take upon themselves the duty of maintenance. Besides, the community has a role in protecting the catchments and the source from pollution and unsustainably. Moreover, impediments are created during the implementation. This calls for a policy shift of principle of polluters to pay, social agreement concept, as well accepted in NERCORMP livelihoods project to be enforced. Besides, this vital natural resource has to be managed well and sustained with the involvement and ownership of the community.

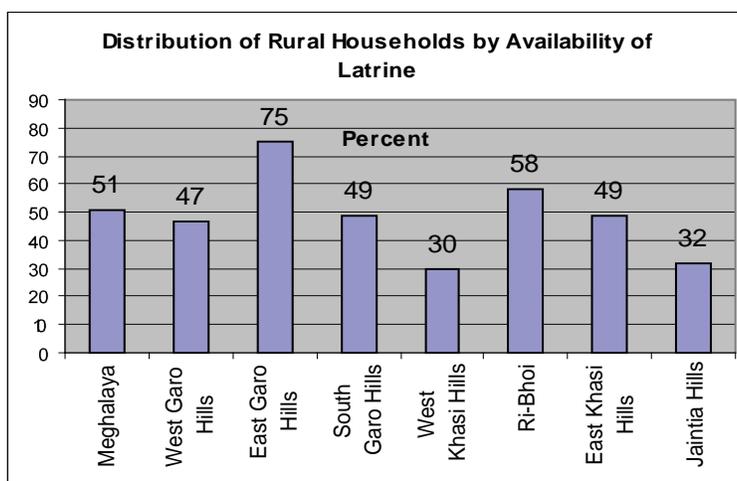
Drinking water in all rural schools:

The number of schools without drinking water supply facilities as per the record available with PHED as on 1.4.06 is 1950 nos. During 2006-07 and 2007, 726 & 149 nos. of Schools were respectively provided with water supply facilities as on 1.4.08 = 1950-726-149 = 1075 nos. this however does not take into consideration new schools that have come up new under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) or other programs.

The figures of schools without drinking water supply needs to be reconciled with the information available with Elementary and Mass Education Department for which necessary action would be taken shortly. Remaining schools could be provided with water supply in the next two years with funds under ARWSP and SSA.

7.1.5. Availability of latrine facilities

Facilities for the safe disposal of night soil can have a great bearing on rural health. In the rural areas of Meghalaya only about 51% of the households have access to latrine facilities. The distribution of latrine facilities is not uniform throughout the State, East Garo Hills with 75% has the highest percentage of latrine facilities. On the other hand, West Khasi Hills with 30% has the lowest availability of latrine facilities. Jaintia hills with only 32% is also among the lowest.



Source: PHE Deptt. GOM

Table 7.14 Distribution of rural households by availability of latrine facility (%) 2001

State/ District	Availability of latrine (%)	State/ District	Availability of latrine (%)
Meghalaya	30	West Khasi Hills	30
West Garo Hills	16	Ri-Bhoi	38
East Garo Hills	14	East Khasi Hills	57
South Garo Hills	13	Jaintia Hills	34

Source: Table on Amenities; census of India 2001

Total Sanitation campaign (TSC)

Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Drinking Water Supply, Govt. of India launched Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) in 1999-2000. TSC guidelines were revised and modified in January 2004. In Meghalaya, in January 2004, TSC project for East Khasi Hills & West Garo Hills were sanctioned. Subsequently for other districts, TSC projects were sanctioned. The project for South Garo Hills district was last sanctioned on 15.1.2008. Summary of the cost of TSC projects for all the seven districts during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 are as below:-

Details	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)
Total cost	7186.05
Central share	4530.95
State share	1679.80
Beneficiary contribution	975.30

Source: Department of PHE, Meghalaya

Implementation of TSC is now picking up in the State. Till May, 2008, 13,265 nos. of Individual House Hold Latrines (BPL), 12,076 nos. of Individual House Hold Latrines (APL), 1261

nos. of School Toilets, 32 nos. of Sanitary Complexes, 109 nos. of Balwadi Toilets & 1 RSM have been constructed. Target /Objective vis-à-vis achievement under TSC is as below:-

Table 7.15 Target & Achievement under TSC

Details	Target under TSC programme (nos.)	Achievement up to May 2008 (nos.)
IHHLs BPL	199837	13265
IHHLs APL	66414	12076
IHHLs TOTAL	266251	25341
San. Complex	290	32
School Toilets	8842	1261
Balwadi Toilets	1405	109
RSM	26	1

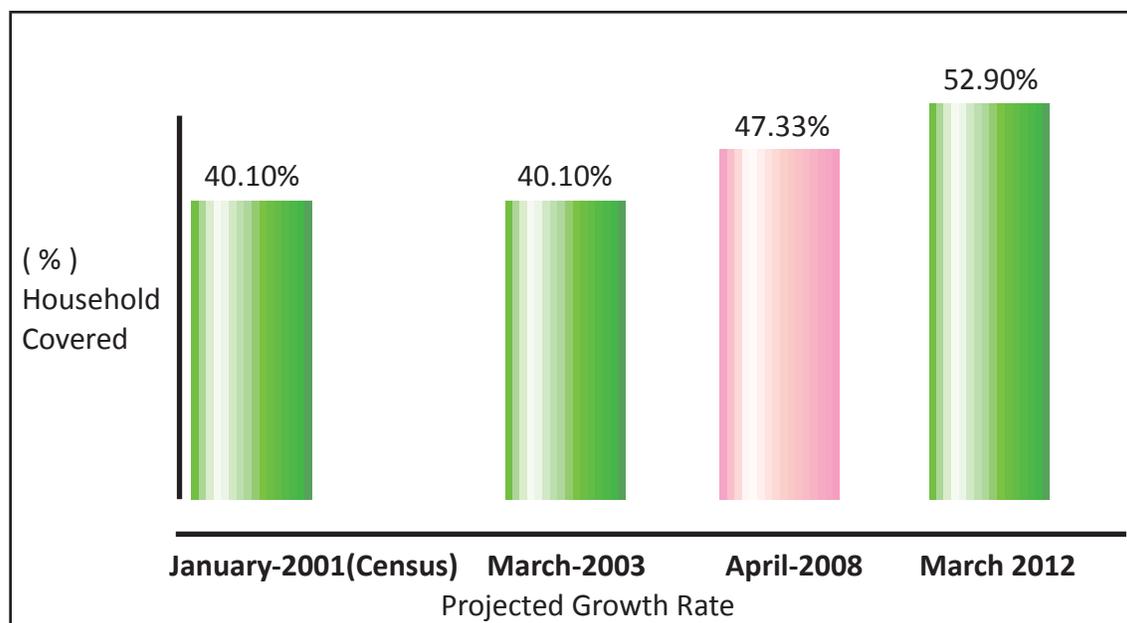
Abbreviations: IHHL: Individual Household Latrines, SCW: Sanitary Complex for Women, RSM: Rural Sanitary Marts. Source: Department of PHE, Meghalaya

During the period, Rs. 987.83 lakhs had been released as Central Share for all seven districts. The State Share required to be provided for implementation of TSC is Rs. 16.80 crore. An amount of Rs. 27.23 lakhs was received as contribution from beneficiaries. As against this, the expenditure up to May 2008 was Rs. 506.28 lakhs. During 2008-09, an outlay of Rs. 250.00 lakhs has been kept in the Annual Plan proposal for providing state share under TSC. Efforts are being made to arrange additional Rs. 100.00 lakhs under State Plan during the year.

As per the guidelines, the TSC projects are to be implemented by the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) of respective Districts, which were constituted on 1st August 2003 in the state. The State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM) headed by the Chief Secretary as Chairman and Commissioner & Secretary, PHE, as Member Secretary was also constituted to monitor the progress of TSC implementation. Earlier ADMs were made member secretary of DWSM. However subsequently in December 2005, Superintending Engineers/ Executive Engineers of PHED were made member secretaries as it was observed that this would help in speedy implementation of the Project.

So far Rs. 844.83 lakhs has been released as Central Share for six districts, except for South Garo Hills District. The State Share required to be provided for implementation of TSC is Rs. 16.80 Crore. During 2007-08, State Share of Rs. 100.00 lakhs was released. Another Rs. 300.00 lakhs was proposed from RIDF as loan. However, this could not materialize. An amount of Rs. 27.23 lakhs was received as contribution from beneficiaries. As against this, the expenditure up to March 2008 is Rs. 432.43 lakhs. During 2008-09, an outlay of Rs. 250.00 lakhs has been kept in the Annual plan proposal for providing State Share under TSC.

As per 2001 Census Data, 40.10% of the total households in Meghalaya have sanitation facilities. Up to May, 2008 with the implementation of TSC, 47.79% of the total households have Sanitation facilities. It has been estimated that with current growth rate, by 2012, 52.90% of the total households would have sanitation facilities.



Source: Department of PHE, Meghalaya

Sanitation Facilities In All Rural Schools:

Providing sanitation facilities in school has also been included under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC).

Table 7.16 Target *vis-à-vis* achievements in construction of Toilet facilities in schools are as below

Sl. No.	Name of District	Target for construction of School Toilets under TSC	Achievement on construction of School Toilets under TSC up to March 2008
1	EAST GARO HILLS	1294	242
2	EAST KHASI HILLS	2148	199
3	JAINTIA HILLS	595	0
4	RI BHOI	474	209
5	SOUTH GARO HILLS	1074	0
6	WEST GARO HILLS	2244	419
7	WEST KHASI HILLS	1013	0
	GRAND TOTAL	8842	1069

Source: Department of PHE, Meghalaya

TSC Programme is now picking up in all the districts & thus 100% sanitation facilities in all schools are likely to be achieved in the next two years.

7.1.6. Electricity Connection:

Rural Electrification in India has long been regarded as a vital programme for socio-economic development of rural areas. The access to electricity to rural households in the State is quite low as per 2001 census. The difficult terrain and scattered nature of the settlements (48% villages less than 200 population, density of population in rural areas less than 80/ sq. km.) may partially explain this phenomenon. Moreover, high incidence of rural poverty might have also been acting as a constraint behind low access to electricity in rural areas. As per 2001 census about 30% of

the rural households in the State have electricity connection though there are wide inter district variations in electricity connection. It is maximum in East Khasi Hills (57%) and minimum in South Garo Hills (13%).

Table 7.17 DISTRIBUTION OF RURAL HOUSEHOLDS BY ELECTRICITY CONNECTION (%) 2001

State/ District	Electricity connection	State/ District	Electricity connection
Meghalaya	30	West Khasi Hills	30
West Garo Hills	16	Ri-Bhoi	38
East Garo Hills	14	East Khasi Hills	57
South Garo Hills	13	Jaintia Hills	34

Source: Table on Amenities; Census of India 2001

Present (March 2008) status of rural electrification is as below:

- Total Number of Villages : 5782 (2001 Census)
- Villages Electrified As on 31.03.08: 3428 (60%)
- No. of Villages to be electrified under:
 - (i) RGGVY: 1945
 - (ii) MNRE: 158
 - (iii) To be declared Electrified 148
 - (iv) PMGY (Spill over): 103

TOTAL 2354

Recognizing the need, the problems associated with rural electrification in India, to accelerate the pace of village electrification programme and its critical role in poverty alleviation, the Government of India, in April 2005, launched the new scheme for attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) goal of providing access of electricity to all households in five years. The aim was to electrify over one lakh villages and release of electricity connections to 2.34 crore rural households. The approval was given at that time for capital subsidy of Rs.5000 crore for remaining two years of the 10th Plan period. However, the situation in the State of Meghalaya did not improve dramatically in the State by the end of 10th plan. Only 43% of the household (157375) has been electrified by the end of 10th plan.

Now, the Government has given the approval for continuation of “Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana - Scheme of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification”, Scheme in the 11th Plan for attaining the goal of providing access to electricity to all households, electrification of about 1.15 lakh un-electrified villages and electricity connections to 2.34 crore BPL households by 2009. The approval has been accorded for capital subsidy of Rs.28000 crore during the Eleventh Plan period, at this stage. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) would be the nodal agency for the scheme. In the State of Meghalaya MeSEB is the implementing agency.

Progress of Implementation of RGGVY in the State

This is a programme related to rural electrification taken up by MeSEB covering all the seven (7) districts of the State. The programme aims at providing electricity in the rural villages. Under this programme the following schemes are included :-

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- No. of villages to be covered for electrification for two separate categories (a) Un-electrified villages (b) De-electrified villages.
- No. of BPL Households to be covered for electrification.
- No. of Households to be covered for electrification.
- No. of electrified villages covered under the scheme.

The report furnished by MeSEB highlighted the fact that the Board had just started the implementation works in some districts of the State viz., Ri-Bhoi District, Jaintia Hills and East Khasi Hills District and that also Block-wise. As the schemes were sanctioned only in 2007 and 2008 the time frame for completion of these schemes has been fixed till 2009. In the case of East Garo Hills, South Garo Hills, West Garo Hills and West Khasi Hills sanctions of schemes are yet to be awarded. The total amount sanctioned under RGGVY is Rs. 29041.99 lakhs.

Table 7.18 Status of RGGVY SCHEME FOR 11th PLAN:

Name of the District	Virgin Villages (No.)	De-electrified villages	Extension in electrified villages	Electrification of BPL households	Sanctioned cost (Rs. in Crores)	Status	Length of lines (Km.)		Sub-station (MVA)	
							33 KV	11 KV	33/11 KV	11/0.4 KV
East Khasi Hills Dist.	-	19	314	14193	16.63	Sanctioned 11.03.08 and work is in progress	Nil	340.55	Nil	5.903
Jaintia Hills Dist.	18	50	360	14029	26.11	Sanctioned on 21.11.06 and work is in progress	Nil	673.78	Nil	13.750
Ri-Bhoi Dist.	72	34	84	9647	19.89	Sanctioned on 26.09.06 and work is in progress	Nil	303	Nil	4.337
West Khasi Hills Dist.	224	20	126	17592	34.67	Sanctioned 11.03.08 and tender evaluation is in progress	Nil	513.9	Nil	4.262
West Garo Hills Dist.	534	123	861	40543	81.43		13	1374.85	1 x 1.6	11.242
South Garo Hills Dist.	364	15	32	5384	49.74		81	564.8	2 x 1.6	5.182
East Garo Hills Dist.	361	111	358	15059	61.95		38	1164.98	2 x 1.6	7.835
TOTAL	1573	372	2135	116447	290.42		132	4917.86	8.0	52.511

Source: Power Department GOM (2008)

The detailed sanction and progress report of 7(Seven) Districts under RGGVY are as follows:-

- **Ri-Bhoi is Rs.1989.07 lakhs** and the total number of households to be covered for electrification under this scheme is 9647. The no. of electrified villages covered under the scheme is 423. The schemes awarded on the 28.09.07 and the target date for completion is 27.09.2009.

- **Jaintia Hills is Rs.2610.73 lakhs** and the total number of households to be covered for electrification under this scheme is 31848. The No. of electrified villages covered under this scheme is 374 numbers. The schemes awarded on the 16.07.07 and the target date for completion is 15.07.2009.
- **East Khasi Hills is Rs.1662.51 lakhs** and the total number of households to be covered for electrification under this scheme is 26169. The No. of electrified villages covered under this scheme is 834. The schemes awarded on the 09.06.08 and the target date for completion is 08.12.2009
- **East Garo Hills is Rs.6195.43 lakhs** and the total number of households to be covered for electrification under this scheme is 24353. The No. of electrified villages covered under this scheme is 335. The schemes are yet to be awarded.
- **South Garo Hills is Rs.4973.50 lakhs** and the total number of households to be covered for electrification under this scheme is 15104. The No. of electrified villages to be covered under this scheme is 248. The schemes are yet to be awarded.
- **West Garo Hills is Rs.8143.42 lakhs** and the total number of households to be covered for electrification under this scheme is 67026. The No. of electrified villages covered under this scheme is 816. The schemes are yet to be awarded.
- **West Khasi Hills is Rs.3467.33 lakhs** and the total number of households to be covered for electrification under this scheme is 26477. The No. of electrified villages covered under this scheme is 506. The schemes are yet to be awarded.

Activities Under Taken By Meghalaya Non-Conventional & Rural Energy Development Agency (MNREDA):

MNREDA is the agency in the state which undertakes various non-conventional and renewable sources of energy. The details of items of activities and progress in last 5 years are depicted below:

Table 7.19 Progress of Scheme during last five years:

Sl. No.	Item details	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1.	Solar Photovoltaics					
	(i) Solar lantern.	-	20000 Nos.	-	-	1000 Nos.
	(ii) Solar Domestic Home lighting System.	1000 Nos.	1500 Nos.	1700 Nos.	-	2000 Nos.
	(iii) Street lighting System	-	50 Nos.	-	100	500 Nos.
	(iv) SPV Power Plants	12 Nos.	12 Nos.	-	-	-
2.	Solar Thermal :-					
	(i) Solar Water Heating System	10Nos/100LPD	-	30 Nos/100 LPD	3/4000 LPD	5000 LPD
	(ii) Solar Water Pump	14 Nos.	-	-	-	-
	(iii) Solar Dryier	-	-	-	-	1000 Sqm.

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3.	Bio Energy (i) Biogas Plant (2 Cum) (ii) Night Soil/Community Biogas Plants (10 Cum) (iii) Biomass Gassification	200 Nos. - -	50 Nos. 2 Nos. -	200 Nos. 2 Nos. 1 No./250 KW	200 Nos. 2 Nos. 2Nos/50 KW	300 Nos. 3 Nos. 10Nos/10KW
4.	Micro Hydel Project Survey Investigation	-	-	-	10 Nos.	-
5.	Water Mill Programme	-	-	-	5 Nos.	5 Nos.
6.	Remote Villages Electrification	-	5 Nos.	-	73 Nos.	80 Nos.
7.	Energy Conservation devices : (i) Family Size Fixed Impd Chullah (ii) Community Fixed Impd Chullah (iii) Charcoal Briquetting	800 Nos. - 900 Nos.	500 Nos. - 1000 Nos.	- 200 Nos. -	- - -	1000 Nos. 1000 Nos. 1000 Nos.
8.	Hybrid Power Plant	-	-	-	2.5 KW	10 Nos / 5 KW
9.	Wind Mapping Station	-	-	-	3 Nos.	12 Nos.

Source: Power Department .GOM (2008)

Status of remote village electrification (March, 2008)

D. Remote Village Electrification :-

- * **158 Nos. of Villages approved**
- * **5 Nos. of Villages Completed**
- * **73 Nos. of undergoing work**
- * **80 No.s of to be taken up.**

DISTRICTWISE STATUS OF VILLAGES TO BE ELECTRIFIED UNDER RENEWABLE ENERGY

SL. No.	District	Total No. of Villages	Villages to be Electrified through Remote	Villages already Electrified	Undergoing Work to be Completed by Dec. 2008
1.	East Khasi Hills	920	47	-	24
2.	West Khasi Hills	924	44	02	16
3.	Jaintia Hills	467	16	-	08
4.	Ri-Bhoi	543	22	03	09
5.	East Garo Hills	864	20	-	10
6.	South Garo Hills	595	09	-	06
7.	West Garo Hills	1469	-	-	-
	Total	5782	158	05	73

Source: Power Department .GOM (2008)

7.2. Rural Income/Employment/ Livelihoods:

Programmes initiated by Central and State Government

(I). Swarnjayanty Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY)

Swarnjayanty Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY) is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented on cost sharing basis between the centre and the state in the proportion of 75:25 (now 90:10). The Programme was launched from the year 1999-2000 with the merger of all the earlier programmes of IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA, GKY, and MWS etc under this scheme. The Ninth Plan Outlay for SGSY was Rs. 25 crore. However during this period the total expenditure was only about Rs. 13.50 crore. Thus there has been a marked gap between plan outlay and actual expenditure during the Ninth Plan Period. Further actual deployment of state share to the programme has been less than 40%.

The Projected Outlay for the Tenth Plan (2002-2007) was Rs. 25 crore. The expenditure during 2002-03 and 2003-04 was Rs. 1.742 crore and Rs. 2.75 crore respectively benefiting 200 Self Help Groups and 524 individual self-employed (Swarozgaries) during 2002-03 and 485 Self Help Groups and 965 individual Swarozgaries during 2003-04. During 2004-05 and 2005-06, Rs. 2.79 crore and Rs. 2.99 crore was utilized. The aims and objectives of the Programme are to bring the assisted poor families above the poverty line by providing them with income- generating assets through Government subsidies and bank credits. During 2004-05, 1014 Self-Help Groups and 709 Individual Swarozgaries were benefited. During the Tenth Plan, a total of 4413 Self-Help Groups and 2007 Individual Swarozgaries have benefited.

Swarnjayanty Gram Swarozgar Yojna

SGSY is a subsidy driven programme, which is dependant on the existence suitable economic and technical infrastructure for its success. Unless there is substantial improvement it will not be possible for the beneficiaries to enhance their income by traditional and conventional practices. Thus the Tenth Plan emphasized on infrastructure development on a priority basis. Creation of more facilities and services are necessary for the enhancement of the income related economic activities of the beneficiaries.

The implementation of SGSY in the last few years appears to be moving with a slow pace in the State. The procedure of implementation through Self Help Groups is new to the culture of the tribal people. As a result it needs a lot of persuasion, awareness and guidance to encourage the people to take up the schemes. The sparse location of households in rural areas, small size of villages and remoteness from the branches of the Banks are also other hurdles. However, in the last two years the implementation has improved. During the year 2007-08, 1622 Nos of Swarozgaris were assisted, out of which 847 Nos. were Women Swarozgaris. The total Nos of SHGs formed during the period were 829 Nos. to whom income generating activities provided during the year was 1570 Nos. During 2008-09 upto May, 2008, 50 Nos. of Swarozgaris were assisted, out of which 20 Nos. were Women Swarozgaris. The total nos. of SHGs formed upto May, 2008 was 273 nos. to whom income generating activities provided during the period was 50 nos.

Issues in Implementation of the Scheme

- a. **Strengthening of Implementation of Delivery Mechanism** - Implementation of SGSY in the state is not up to the mark and needs improvement. The Scheme itself is quite a complex one. DRDAs are over burdened and stretched. The State therefore would suggest creating dedicated rural poverty alleviation/ livelihoods machinery or strengthening of DRDA with sufficient manpower, expertise and technical support with stability of tenure of key official in the agency.
- b. **Convergence & co- ordination with other Agencies / Deptts** - Different Departments have formed SHGs in the state. However, SHGs formed under SGSY have their own identity where the members of the groups are the persons living below the poverty line and are linked with the back ended subsidy. There are altogether 8022 number of SHGs formed so far (2008 July) from inception of SGSY, though some overlaps and adoption of SHG appears to have crept in; nevertheless the performance of bank linkage and their impact appears somewhat lackluster.
The success of implementation of SGSY varies from districts to districts within the State. This is due to the fact that in some Districts NGOs are being actively involving themselves as facilitators for formation and development of SHGs. In some Districts like South Garo Hills, East Garo Hills & Jaintia Hills there is dearth of NGO venturing for development of SHGs. Involvement of SHGs with other implementing agencies for various other government programmes such as Mid-day Meal, Rural Health Mission is being initiated by the Block official.
- c. **Monitoring & Review mechanism** - Monitoring of SGSY by different committees such as State Level Co –ordination Committee (SLCC), District Level SGSY and the Block Level SGSY Committee has been hitherto tardy and ineffective. So has been the fate of online monitoring. Department needs to emphasize the matter.
- d. **Awareness Generation and Transparency** – Though steps have been taken up by the Project Directors/ Block Development Officers to publicize the schemes, including in local languages; being a time taking process more involvement of grassroots are necessary in a sustained manner.
- e. **Low level of capacity Building and Training under SGSY** - Basic orientation programme and skill training were conducted by the DRDAs/ NGO and the Blocks meeting the cost of expenditure from 10% of the allocation under SGSY for training and Capacity Building. Further revolving fund is also provided to the groups to augment the group corpus and embark on further capacity building of its entire team. However, fund utilization is low.
- f. **Special Projects under SGSY** - Special Project on Disabled Persons. The project was approved by Government of India and implemented by the DRDA East Khasi Hills, Shillong. The project cost was Rs 116.16 Lakhs which is being sponsored by the Central & the State at 75:25. In this regard the Government of India has already released Rs 69.70 Lakh and the State share has also released Rs 11.62 lakh. The project is in progress.
- g. **Credit Disbursement** - The issue of credit has been a cause of concern for the State. The major responsibility of implementation of SGSY lies with Banks. The success of the scheme is

therefore dependent on the Banks. Insistence for collateral from the SHGs under SGSY for a loan of just over Rs. 50,000/- only; slow and time consuming processing of loan application by the Banks and long time gap between sanction and disbursement; ineffective coordination between the Banks and the BDOs and poor participation by Banks especially at the Block level are some of major credit related bottlenecks. Besides, there are Community & Rural Development Blocks with no Banking facilities.

- h. 'State coordinator for SHG' & RBI's financial inclusion:** Some policy suggestions and focus on SHG has been given in the State by assigning a senior official as the 'State coordinator for SHG' (megselfhelp.gov.in). The policy recommendations/ suggestions / coordination have been made and are also likely to emerge from the State coordinator for SHG. Besides, there has been focus on financial inclusion by the RBI and business correspondence and business facilitator models are being experimented in close collaboration of Banks, NABARD, RBI, State Coordinator for SHG and the Finance Department of the State Govt. [The Survey conducted by the State coordinator and the gist of analysis of SHG is referred at Chapter X on Industrial Development at 10.7.2.]

Thus, selection of beneficiaries, credit related bottlenecks, poor mobilization, awareness, training, creation of necessary infrastructure, inadequate linkage with marketing of products are some of the major problems encountered in the programme.

(II). Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojna (SGRY)

Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojna (SGRY) initiated from the year 2002-03 after the merger of erstwhile JGSY and EAS for the generation of rural employment. SGRY was self-targeting in nature and available to all rural poor (BPL/APL) who were in need of wage employment and willing to take up manual/unskilled work. Under SGRY, 5 kg of food grains was distributed as part of wage per man-day and the remaining wage is paid in cash to ensure the payment of "notified minimum wage" every week. The scheme was implemented on cost sharing basis between the Centre and State in the ratio of 75:25 of the cash component. The State Share when taken against the total allocation including the value of food grains therefore came to only 12.5%. During the Tenth Plan (2002-07) State Plan outlay for this Programme was Rs. 3,500 lakhs, out of which the total expenditure was Rs. 3,310.66 lakhs. The Central Share released during the same period for the Programme was Rs. 10,050.17 lakhs and the amount was fully utilised. The Programme aimed to provide additional wage employment in the rural areas and also food security combined with the creation of durable community, social and economic assets as well as infrastructure development. For the Annual Plan 2007-2008, an outlay of Rs. 3 crore was proposed. This Programme, (SGRY) has been completely merged to National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) from the year 2008-09.

(III). National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA)

The Meghalaya Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MREGS) is a Scheme formulated following the implementation of NREG Act which gives a legal guarantee of 100 days of wage employment in a financial year, to adult members of rural households who demand employment and are willing to do unskilled manual works. MREGS was notified by the Government on 28.07.2006. It is implemented through Local Employment Councils initially in South Garo Hills & West Garo

Hills Districts. The Govt. of India extended the Scheme to Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills & Ri Bhoi Districts during 2007-08 and the remaining 2 Districts Viz. West Khasi Hills and East Garo Hills w.e.f. 01.04.2008. The scheme is being implemented as Centrally Sponsored Scheme on a cost-sharing basis between Centre and State in the ratio of 90:10 in all the districts in the state Financial Achievement during 2007-08: Against the total availability of Fund amounting Rs. 7700.72 lakhs, a total of Rs.5405.67 lakhs was spent during 2007-08. The percentage of achievement was 70.20 %. Physical Achievement: Job cards issued during 2007-08 were 166137 Nos out of which 127319 Nos of Households were provided employment. Person days generated during the year was 48.17 lakh person days.

The District-wise Financial and Physical achievements during 2007-08 are indicated in the Table below:

Table 7.20 Financial & Physical Achievements during 2007-2008 upto March, 2008

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Opening balance as on 1.4.2007	Financial Achievement					Balance	No. of Households getting employment	Achievement (Lakh No. Person days)
			Fund released during 2007-08 includes the fund of 2006-07 and 2007-08			Total availability of Funds	Expenditure			
			Centre	State	Others					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Tura	411.54	3444.61	273.28	18.22	4147.65	3874.37	273.28	92486	36.07
2	Baghmara	390.21	879.98	52.00	11.03	1333.22	1086.98	246.24	17778	10.55
3	Shillong	0.00	900.91	95.15	66.35	1062.41	206.39	856.02	9000	0.11
4	Jowai	0.00	601.79	61.92	0.67	664.38	28.01	636.37	0	0.00
5	Nongpoh	6.63	440.43	43.22	2.78	493.06	209.92	283.14	8055	1.44
	Total	808.38	6267.72	525.57	99.05	7700.72	5405.67	2295.05	127319	48.17

Source: Ministry of Rural Development Website

Financial & Physical Achievements during 2008-09 (upto May'08): Against the total availability of Fund which was Rs. 3955.95 lakhs, the expenditure was Rs. 1303.58 lakhs. Percentage of achievement was 32.95 %.The Nos of Households getting employment during this period, were 77416 Nos. 16.17 lakhs person days has been achieved.

- a) **Strengthening of Village Level Institutions & Delivery Mechanism** - PRI does not exist in Meghalaya. However for NREGA, the State Govt has to adopt a new system for implementation of the scheme by way of establishment of new institutions at the village level which are similar to Panchayats. Clearance from the Ministry was received in July 2006 with certain suggestions for amendment in our State Scheme. The scheme has been framed in consistent with the Act by involving traditional tribal authorities at the village level called Village Employment Council (VEC), at the cluster level comprising of 4/5 villages within a radius of 2.5 kms called Area Employment Council (AEC) and Block Employment Council at Block level and District

Employment Council at the District level .These councils act in a similar way like the Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat for purpose of NREGAS.

The existing man power of the DRDA at the District level, Block Development functionaries at the Block level are being utilized for the purpose of NREGS implementation. The additional personnel required such as APOs Asstt/ Junior Engineers/ Computer Operators etc are appointed by the District programme Co-ordinator concerned after making an assessment of the requirements. However, it may be mentioned that the placement of Technical Assistants at AEC level could not be fully made due to shortage of technical manpower especially in Rural areas of the State.

- b) **Convergence & Co-ordination with others related agencies and departments** -Convergence and Co-ordination with other Departments has been taken up in West Garo Hills to optimize impact and quantify development interventions. In this connection the scheme is successfully converging with the Rural Health Mission, where a Village Health & Sanitation Committee is constituted by the VEC to monitor and to ensure that all health relates interventions are effectively carried out under NRHM., Mid day meal Scheme and TLC are also converged with the scheme. In other districts, efforts have been also made to follow the same example as carried out in the West Garo Hills by also converging with the livelihoods programmes of NERCORMP and The MRDS.
- c) **Vigilance & Monitoring Committee** - The Vigilance & Monitoring Committee has been set up in West Garo Hills & South Garo Hills Districts. The Committee extended assistance to the VEC in implementing the schemes as well as to achieve targets within the planned budget. It is also extends help to NGO in conducting of Social Audit. Verification of Muster roll has been carried out by VMC.
- d) **Social Audit by Gram Sabhas** - Social Audit is being conducted in West Garo Hills & South Garo Hills District in each VEC by the village monitoring committees which are facilitated by the NGOs. The reports are placed before the public at the Block Head Quarters where elected members like MLAs , MDCs and officers of all levels are invited.
- e) **State Employment Guarantee Council** – Meghalaya State Employment Guarantee Council was constituted on 4.9.2006. The SEGEC met on 6.8.2007 to review the performance of NREGS and to suggest policy recommendations for improvement of the scheme to GOI. The decisions of the meeting were endorsed to Government of India for consideration especially on preferred works. The Annual report is under process and will be placed before Legislature with SEGEC approval.
- f) **Awareness Generation and transparency** - IEC activity has already been done in Phase I & II Districts. Pamphlets/Booklets in both the local languages about NREGA, State Scheme, Dos and Don'ts for VECs/AECs, and RTI and Social Audit Concepts under NREGAs have been published by SIRD. The Districts are also distributing pamphlets on NREGAs in local language. Hoardings were erected at prominent places. Songs are composed in local lyrics and cassettes distributed to villagers so that those who cannot read will understand about the scheme.

Problems faced by the Department

- 1) There is no Panchayati Raj Institution at village level. Village Employment Council has been created which is a time consuming process and would require time, energy and capacity to build it up.
- 2) On line monitoring and entry of data for MIS at the Block Level is not feasible as many CICs including new CIC have not been operational. The quality of connectivity at the Block level and at times at the District level is poor due to various factors.
- 3) Non availability of Technical personnel at the village level.
- 4) Administrative cost of 4% is not enough to meet contingencies especially in remote areas

(IV). Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)

NOAPS was implemented in the State since 1995. It aims at providing Rs 75 per month to the destitutes of 65 years and above per beneficiary per month. The scheme covered destitute having little or no regular means of subsistence from his / her own sources of income or through financial support from family members or other sources. However, the GOI has made slight modification of the guidelines under NOAPS in respect of the eligibility criteria for assistance under restructured Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS). Under the Scheme, pension is granted to a person who is 65 years and belonging to a household below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India. The scheme is formally launched on 19.11.2007. During the year 2007-08, 32883 beneficiaries were assisted in the State of which 20127 were Women and Rs.530.92 lakhs was utilized under the scheme. During the current year 2008-09, the total availability of fund under the Scheme is Rs. 969.18 lakhs out of which Rs. 811.84 lakhs has been spent upto September, 2008. The total number of beneficiaries for the same period was 28886, including 16611 Women.

Implementation of the Scheme

- A. Identification of additional beneficiaries under IGNOAPS** – Identification of additional beneficiaries is being undertaken by the Govt. However, provisional information has been sent to Govt.of India that 144834 number of additional IGNOAPS beneficiaries in the state is based on the % of BPL families of the 9th Plan (2002 survey finalized in 2008).
- B. Certificate of full coverage :-** So far the state has not yet identified all the eligible beneficiaries under IGNOAPS as mentioned in 'A' above and hence the certificate of full coverage could not be furnished at present.
- C. Opening of Bank/Post Office Account :-** The present procedure adopted by the Govt in disbursement of pensions to the IGNOAPS is by cash. Disbursement of pension is carried out in market day at Block Development Block Office. However, necessary steps are being considered for disbursement of pension through Post Office, if it is convenient to the beneficiaries depending on their option. The state would like to go for computerization of IGNOAPS if supported by the GOI.
- D. Coverage under National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) :-**The State is implementing the scheme by providing a grant of Rs.10,000/- in case of death of the primary bread winner

male or female between the age of 18 to 64 years to the bereaved BPL family. The primary breadwinner as specified in the scheme, whether male or female, had to be a member of the household whose earning contributed substantially to the total household income. During the year 2007-08, 884 beneficiaries were assisted in the State and Rs 88.40 lakh was utilized under the scheme.

E. Monitoring & Verification :- Deputy Commissioners/BDOs have been directed to take necessary steps to safe guard that only the eligible beneficiaries will be benefited from the scheme.

F. Transfer of funds from State to the District: -

- All funds sanctioned are released immediately to the Districts. However, there is communication gap between the GOI and the Nodal Department for release of ACA as copies of sanction not available. It is therefore proposed that a copy of the release of ACA is also marked to the Nodal Department.
- Sanction is not available with Nodal Department. Thus the process for release is slow due to communication gap.

(V). Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY)

The Planning Commission in the Tenth Plan period launched the Backward Districts Initiative under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY). The primary objective of RSVY is to address the problems of the pockets of high poverty, low growth and poor governance by putting in place programmes and policies which would remove barriers to growth, accelerate the development process and improve the quality of life of the people. The programme aims at focused development for backward areas that would help reduce imbalances and speed up development. Planning Commission selected the West Garo Hills District of Meghalaya as one of the Districts in the country to be covered under the Backward Districts Initiative under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojna (RSVY) from the year 2004-05. The Planning Commission will provide Rs. 15.00 crores annually for three years from the year 2004-05 as Additional Central Assistance for this programme. The District Administration has prepared a three-year Master Plan with nested Annual Action Plans for this programme. During Annual Plan 2005-06, an amount of Rs. 15 crore was approved for implementation of RSVY. The expenditure during the Tenth Plan was Rs. 22.50 crore.

Release & Utilisation of Fund for RGVY:

- 2003-04 to 2008-09 – Amount released was Rs. 37.50 crore against the total entitlement of Rs. 45.00 crore, leaving a balance of Rs. 7.50 crore, out of which Rs. 22.50 crore was utilised.
- The percentage of utilisation against the total fund released was 60 %.

Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) Scheme has been subsumed as Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF).

(VI). Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)

The Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) is designed to redress regional imbalances in development. The Fund will provide financial resources for supplementing and convergence existing developmental inflows into identified districts, so as to:

- (a) Bridge critical gaps in local infrastructure and other development requirements that are not being adequately met through existing inflows,
- (b) Strengthen to this end Panchayat and Municipality level governance with more appropriate capacity building, to facilitate participatory planning, decision making, implementation and monitoring to reflect local felt need,
- (c) Provide professional support to local bodies for planning, implementation and monitoring their plans,
- (c) Improve the performance and delivery of critical functions assigned to Panchayats and counter possible efficiency and equity losses on account of inadequate local capacity.

Implementation of BRGF in the State

Existing RSVY has been subsumed into BRGF Programme. The erstwhile districts under RSVY will receive their full allocation of Rs. 45.00 crore per district as per norms of RSVY. Thereafter, they will shift to the BRGF mode of Funding. In Meghalaya, BRGF covers only 3 (three) Districts, viz. West Garo Hills District, which was earlier covered under RSVY, South Garo Hills District and Ri-Bhoi District.

Release & Utilisation of Fund for BRGF:

- During 2007-08 an amount of Rs. 0.30 crore has been released against the total entitlement of Rs. 37.01 crore.
- Of the Total Amount released, Rs.12.07 crore has been earmarked for Ri Bhoi District, Rs. 11.52 crore, for South Garo Hills District and Rs. 13.42 crore for West Garo Hills District. However no amount has been utilised during the year.
- During 2008-09 against the total entitlement of Rs. 37.01 crore an amount of Rs. 33.61 crore has been released and the amount is yet to be utilised.

(VII). Community Development and Panchayats :

This is a State Plan Scheme and the entire amount is borne by the State Government from the plan. The outlay during the Tenth Plan is Rs. 40 Crore. There are two schemes under this programme that are discussed below.

(i) Community Development and Panchayats (including up-gradation of Standard of Administration and Special Problems for the seven new C & RD Blocks):

Under the scheme, emphasis has been made for increasing agricultural production. Roads, education and social education, safe drinking water, health and sanitation, better staff accommodation, good office buildings, guest houses, renovation of both office buildings and staff quarters etc are the main components of this scheme. The 10th Plan (2002-07) outlay for this sector is Rs.4000.00Lakhs and the expenditure is Rs.3496.42 Lakhs. For the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12), an outlay of Rs.12,000.00 lakhs, inclusive of Rs.300.00 Lakhs for Tribal Development Programmes under Article 275, has been proposed. An outlay of Rs.650.00 Lakhs is anticipated to be utilized during 2007-08 while an amount of Rs.815.00 Lakhs is proposed for the Annual Plan 2008-09 inclusive of Rs.54.00 Lakhs for Tribal Development Programmes under Article 275(1). Target could not be fixed for the schemes as the items are heterogeneous in nature and are not uniform. The schemes/item of works are selected and approved by the Committee depending on the felt needs of the people/villages etc.

(ii) Construction of Rural Roads Programme (CRRP):

Construction of Rural Roads is a programme being implemented by the Community and Rural Development Department as a part of poverty alleviation measure by transferring certain funds from Roads & Bridges Sector to Community and Rural Development Sector. It envisages improvement of rural connectivity by active involvement of village community force for construction of village link roads to boost up rural economy. The scheme is implemented through village durbars under the close monitoring of the respective Deputy Commissioners of the Districts. The expenditure for the 10th Plan is Rs.1,200.00 Lakhs. An outlay of Rs.1,200.00 lakhs was approved for 11th Plan. The agreed outlay for the year 2007-08 is Rs.240.00 Lakhs and the actual expenditure is Rs.240.00 Lakhs. Rs.280.00 Lakhs is proposed for the Annual Plan (2008-09). The allocation is shown under the Roads & Bridges sector.

(VIII) Land Reforms

There is no systematic and regular record of land in Meghalaya. Lands in the state have never been surveyed earlier. The absence of any kind of maps and records is detrimental to any kind of systematic development planning. Moreover this is the cause of unnecessary litigation. The government enacted the Meghalaya Land Survey and Record Preparation Act 1980 to implement land reforms and introduced the scheme of Cadastral Survey to have all lands to be surveyed and the preliminary records prepared with a view to identify the owner/user of the land. The management and control of land in the State is vested with the District Councils. In order to make this scheme successful and operational the Meghalaya Land Survey and Record Preparation Act 1980 was amended in August 1991. Subsequently, the survey staff and the officers were placed at the disposal of the District Councils. The approved outlay for the 11th Plan (2007-12) is Rs.1,600.00 lakhs. The approved outlay of Rs.200.00 lakhs for 2007-2008 is expected to be utilized in full. The proposed outlay for 2008-09 is Rs.250.00 lakhs

Achievements made during the Tenth Plan:

- During the 10th Plan, cadastral survey works were done in 100 villages and in 61 government lands. Computation has covered 45 numbers of villages and 62 numbers of government lands. The 10th Plan (2002-07) outlay for Land Reforms Sector was Rs.1,030.00 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs 873.25 lakhs was incurred.

Annual Plan 2007-08 & 2008-09: The following schemes which are under implementation during Annual Plan 2007-08 are also proposed to be implemented during 2008-09:-

Table 7.21 The break up proposed expenditures for the Annual Plan 2008-09

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	11th Plan projected outlay (2007-12)	Approved outlay 2007-08	Anti. Expn. 2007-08	Proposed outlay 2008-09
1.	Cadastral Survey	676.27	92.20	92.20	101.42
2.	Metric System	576.14	85.80	85.80	94.38
3.	Enforcement Branch	44.25	6.60	6.60	7.26
4.	Land Tenure Research Cell	22.10	3.30	3.30	3.63
5.	Grants-in-aid to the District Councils	81.24	12.10	12.10	13.31
6.	Procurement of Survey Equipments	200.00	-	-	30.00
	Total	1600.00	200.00	200.00	250.00

Source: Meghalaya Plan Supplement, 2008-09

(IX). Special Rural Works Programme (SRWP)

Under this programme schemes of varied nature, are selected by the MLAs and implemented through village durbars/ local committees under the supervision of respective BDOs. Deputy Commissioners of the District sanctions the projects. Presently Rs 100 lakh per MLA is allocated. The outlay for the 10th Plan (2002-07) was Rs.6812.50 lakhs and the expenditure was Rs.15061.50 Lakhs including Rs.2000.00 lakhs as CM's Special Rural Development Fund. An outlay of Rs.28,500.00 lakhs has been proposed for the 11th Plan (2007-12). An outlay of Rs.5850.00 Lakhs is anticipated to be utilized during 2007-08, and Rs.5,850.00 lakhs is proposed for 2008-09 including Rs.400.00 lakhs for the CM's Special Rural Development Fund during 2008-09.

Other Programmes of Rural Development in the State:

I. Livelihood Improvement Programmes:

A. The North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP) is funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The overall objective of NERCORMP is to improve the livelihood of vulnerable groups in a sustainable manner through improved management of their resource base in a way that contributes to preservation and restoration of the environment. The **NERCORMP** is looking at participatory, sustainable, and viable community based institutions that is expected to carry out a people driven mode of rural development. The project concentrated on building up Community based Institutions (CBIs) at the grassroots level called - Natural Resources Management Groups (NaRM-Gs) and Self Help Groups (SHG). One of the significant achievements through the creation of CBIs is the emergence of a bottoms-up planning approach by the village communities based and perceived on their felt needs.

A pilot project with IFAD support on participatory development process is also under implementation in the State under the (NERCORMP). The project is working for participatory, sustainable, and viable community based institutions that are expected to carry out a people driven mode of rural

development. The programme gives thrust upon increasing local capabilities, improving livelihood opportunities, enhancing saving habit and capacity and improving delivery systems through local participation, especially that of women. It has been concentrating on building up Community Based Institutions (CBIs) at the grassroot level, called Natural Resources Management Groups (NaRM-Gs) and Self Help Groups (SHG). In Meghalaya, West Garo Hills and West Khasi Hills are being covered. SHGs are supposed to play a crucial role in the success of the programme. 257 and 520 SHGs have been formed in West Khasi Hills (162 villages) and West Garo Hills (192 villages) respectively with the help of selected NGOs. Of these about 302 SHGs (April 2005) have been graded in West Garo Hills District, and have received 12.12 lakhs as loans and in addition Rs. 24.80 lakh as loans for transport etc. The project cost In Meghalaya is about Rs 159.36 crore which has contributions from IFAD (Rs 109.92 cr- 68.9%), GOI (Rs. 26.88 Cr- 16.86%), beneficiary (Rs.16.80 Crore-10.54%) and financial institutions (Rs. 5.76 crore- 3.63%).

The project covered 162 villages, 6900 households having 162 NARMGs and 454 SHGs in West Khasi Hills district. Similarly the project covered 192 villages, 7070 households having 257 NARMGs and 852 SHGs in West Garo Hills district.

7.3. Livelihoods Improvement Project for the Himalayas (LIPH): Another IFAD project is being implemented by the Meghalaya Rural Development Society (MRDS) with planning department of the Govt. of Meghalaya as the nodal department. The project goal is to improve livelihood of vulnerable group in a sustainable manner through livelihood opportunities and strengthening local institutions that relate to livelihood development. The project component include Promotion and capacity building of SHGs; Capacity building of SHGs promoters, grassroots trainers and formal financial institutions; enabling networking of SHGs and capacity building of federations; revolving fund assistance to SHGs and federations; funding mobile banking facility; technical assistance to federations; need based studies and research. Approximately 29300 households in over 570 villages of 14 blocks covering about 30% of each block are likely to benefit and is expected to cause ripple effect. The total project cost is around Rs 172.14 crore. The cost sharing is likely to be 48.34% by the IFAD, 27% by the banks in the form of credit, 10.63 % by the stakeholder i.e. poor people, 14 % by the state govt. Thus, the programme holds a good promise to enhance credit deployment and absorptive capacities in the State.

Important Project Milestones as of SEPTEMBER 2008:

10th Jun 2004	Establishment of MRDS
22nd Jun 2004	Registration of MRDS under Society Registration Act 1860
14th Dec 2004	Financial & Administrative Rules 2005 approved
31st Oct 2005	Completion of recruitment process of core staff
23rd to 25th Nov 2005	1st Review Mission by UNOPS
16th & 17th Mar 2006	State level Project Launch Workshop
12th May 2006	MoU signing with partner NGOs for 1st phase Blocks
27th Nov - 8th Dec '06	2nd Review Mission by UNOPS
27th & 28th Mar 2007	MoU signing with partner NGOs for 2nd phase Blocks
9th July 2007	Approval from BoD for formation of Social Venture Capital Company (SVCC); advertisement for CEO floated, interview tentatively scheduled in November 2007
May 2008	Joint Review Mission
September 2008	Mid Term Review

MEGHALAYA STATE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Achievements at a Glance (upto September, 2008):

					Achieved	AR Target
District					5	5
Block					15	14
Villages					614	570
No. of Social Agreement Signed					218	NS
No. of Household Covered (As per WBR)	I	II	III	IV	Total	
	12995	13544	6848	3219	36606	29300
No. of SHGs					1267	1955
			M	F	Total	NS
No. of Project Staff			43	14	57	NS
No. of FNGO Staff			71	29	100	NS
No. of VLGP			82	28	110	NS
No. of CRPs			235	327	562	NS
No. of RNGOs					18	NS
No. of Direct Project Beneficiaries					13185	

Direct project beneficiaries are the total number of SHG members.

7.4. INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (ICDS): Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme was launched in 1975 seeking to provide an integrated package of services in a convergent manner for the holistic development of the child. ICDS symbolizes the country's commitment to its children the scheme targets the most vulnerable groups of population including children up to 6 years of age expectant and nursing mothers and adolescent girls .

Physical and Financial Progress for the year 2007-08:

- A total of 441791 beneficiaries which included children up to 6 years of age expectant and nursing mothers and adolescent girls have been covered during the 2007-08. No. of feeding days is 300 during the Year @ of 25 days in a month.

Table 7.22 Financial Progress for the year 2007-08

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the scheme	Budget provision	Funds released by GOI	Pattern of sharing		Expenditure	Physical achievement
			State share	Central share		
ICDS General scheme	2724.35	1299.26	-	100%	1324.84	3195 AWCs
KSY	42.90	42.90	-	100%	32.95	12100
SNP	(O) 1900.00 (R) 1500.00	1205.56	50%	50%	1345.07 (State) 1203.03 (Central)	360408 beneficiaries
NPAG	20.00	17.50		12.36	(Met from State)	2750

Source: Social Welfare Department, Meghalaya

Financial Achievement for I.C.D.S for the year 2008-09:

Against the Approved Outlay for 2008-09 of Rs. 2996.03 lakhs, the department utilised Rs. 577.65 lakhs (19.28 %) by the 2nd quarter.

**Physical Achievements against the Physical Targets of Each Components
under ICDS up to 30.9.08:**

<u>Component</u>	<u>Target In Nos.</u>	<u>Cumulative Achievement Up to 30.9.08</u>
i) State Cell	1	1
ii) DPOs	5	5
iii) ICDS Projects	39	39
iv) Urban ICDS Projects	2	2
v) AWCs	3388	3325
vi) Mini AWCs	1234	1214
vii) Children covered	370962	366470
viii) Moderate	15000	15533
ix) Severe	295	295
x) Rehabilitation of handicapped	5 NGOs	5 NGOs

with 799 beneficiaries with 799 beneficiaries

(Source Social welfare Department, Meghalaya)

Selection of AWWs/AWHs to be recommended by the VLCC.

7.5. Nutrition and Health Education

The Nutrition and Health education component of the ICDS scheme aims, at effective communication of certain basic health and nutrition messages with a view to enhancing the mother’s awareness of the child’s needs and her capacity to look after these within the family environment.

The AWWs conducts regular home visits in all the AWCs. The AWW through home visit were able to discuss the problems and difficulties with regard to health and nutrition problems of the family and necessary guidance and instructions are also given during the visit.

Non-formal Pre-school Education

Non-formal Pre-school education is one of the important components of the ICDS scheme which covers children in the age group of 3-6 years of age. Pre-school education is conducted in all the Anganwadi Centres with the help of pre-school kits supplied by the Department and the colourful wall paintings has helped the children enjoyed learning joyfully through play way methods.

Immunisation and Health Check-up

Immunisation and Health Check-up is conducted in all the Anganwadi Centres in close coordination with the Health functionaries. Each Anganwadi Centre is provided with a weighing scale and growth cards are maintained by the Anganwadi Workers for all the children beneficiaries below 6 years so that the workers can detect the growth faltering of the beneficiaries and in turn can educate the mothers to take care the health and nutrition aspects of their children.

7.6. National Nutrition Mission/Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG)

National Nutrition Mission a new scheme introduced by the Govt. of India during 2002-03 as a Pilot Project for East Khasi Hills District for implementation of subsidized foodgrains to adolescent girls, expectant and nursing mothers belonging to Below Poverty Line families and undernourished.

The Nutrition Surveillance System is implemented in all the ICDS projects to check and prevent malnutrition through the monthly reports submitted by the AWWs. Through this system children with Grade III and IV are monitored and double ration for such children have been provided. Through the survey conducted by the AWWs, the child population is also being monitored. Birth and deaths records is also maintained by the AWWs and the same was reported and discussed during the submission of the monthly report for further action to be taken if necessary. Food and Nutrition Board also monitors the nutrition growth of the children in the Centre.

Impact of the Scheme:- The most important impact of the scheme is reflected in significant decline in the level of Severely Malnourished Children and Malnourished Children and Infant Mortality Rate in the State. The percentage of Children suffering from Severely Malnourished have significantly decline within a short gap from 0.2% during 2005-06 to 0.1% during 2006-07 % and Malnourished Children decline from 8.9% during 05-06 to 8.3% during 06-07.

7.7 Border Areas Development Programme: In 1969, Meghalaya was accorded the status of an autonomous (independent) region within Assam. Meghalaya was granted full statehood in 1972 and became the 21st State of Indian union. The state is bounded by the state of Assam on the north and east. The districts of Goalpara, Kamrup and Nowgong (of Assam) lie in the north and Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills districts lie in the east. It is bounded on the South and Southwest by Bangladesh. This international border, which runs for about 443 kilometres, is of strategic and economic significance to the state.

The Border Areas have been defined and demarcated as a territory to the distance of 10 Kilometres belt inside the state from the international border with Bangladesh. The following criteria were taken into account:

- Distance from the international boundary with Bangladesh (approximately 10 kilometres distance of crow's flight),
- Degree of economic backwardness, and
- Dependence upon the traditional trade relations with areas that now fall into the present day Bangladesh

For the implementation of integrated schemes under the Border Areas Development Programme (BADP) in 1974, the Government prepared a master list of border villages. This list was subsequently revised in 1982 and 1992. At present, there are 1,566 villages falling in the border areas, which cover an area of 4,430 square kilometres, running laterally about 443 kilometres from Dona-Malidor areas in Jaintia Hills District to Mahendraganj in the West Garo Hills District and for some distance towards Mankachar in the West Garo Hills District. The District-wise break up in respect of number of villages and length of area is as given below :

Name of the District	Number of villages	Length of international boundary (km)
Jaintia Hills	152	107
East Khasi Hills	383	101
West Khasi Hills	208	53
West Garo Hills	367	114
South Garo Hills	456	68
Total	1566	443
Source: Directorate of Border Area Development		

Table 7.23: Border Districts, Number of Villages and Border Length in the state

These 1,566 villages were divided into 12 areas. One Border Area Development Officer (BADO) has been appointed for each of these areas for administrative convenience and for the efficient implementation of schemes. Each of these notified areas fall either fully or partly under the 19 Blocks identified by the state government.

The length of the international border with Bangladesh is about 443 kms. Before independence, people living in the border areas of Bangladesh used to cultivate crops like oranges, bananas, betel nuts, betel leaves, black pepper, bay leaf, etc. These commodities had a ready market in the areas presently in Bangladesh. Similarly some essential commodities were imported to the bordering areas of the state from Bangladesh. The communication from these areas to the interior of the state was virtually non-existent.

After the partition of the country abrupt stoppage of trade with the bordering Shylet and Mymensing resulted into tremendous economic hardship to the people living in the bordering areas of the state. The people of this region were deprived of the traditional markets to sell their agro products. Moreover, the traditional supply lines for the supply of essential commodities were also severed. With a view to ameliorate the suffering of the people inhabiting the area and to accommodate and improve their economy, the Border Areas Development Programme was initiated as a special area programme during the Fourth Five Year Plan. The Border Areas Development Department was created in 1973 and the Directorate of Border Areas Development in 1975 to co-ordinate efforts to undertake and implement schemes felt urgently needed to bring about rapid development of the border areas. The schemes undertaken under the programme are supplemental in nature and are over and above the other developmental schemes undertaken by the different development departments of the State Government in the entire State, which also included the border areas.

Over the years, various developmental schemes have been taken up under the Border Area Development Programme. However, execution of these schemes have been entrusted to other development departments like P.W.D., Agriculture, Education, Soil Conservation, Co-operation, etc., as the Directorate of Border Area Development did not have any technical personnel of its own to enable it to undertake even minor construction works.

The Border Area Development Program (BADP) is a 100% centrally funded Special Area Program, which also covers the Border Blocks of the North Eastern States having international borders with Bangladesh, Myanmar, China and Bhutan. Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Border Management) administers the BADP programme in respect of the North Eastern states. The guidelines under BADP have been framed by the Empowered committee in the Planning Commission and now in the Ministry of Home Affairs in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the State Governments implementing the BADP and the state level screening committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary approves the schemes. The main objective of the programme is to meet the special needs of the people living in the remote and inaccessible areas near the international border.

In Meghalaya, the Border Area Development Department is implementing the State Plan Schemes and also schemes of the Special Central Assistance under Border Area Development Programme which is 100% funded by the Central Government. Schemes of the Special Central Assistance under Border Area Development Programme are being implemented by the Local Committees formed by the concerned villages with technical supervision from the Department for (1) Generating Employment opportunities among the local people of the area (2) better quality and early completion of the schemes, except those schemes which are highly technical in nature where implementation has to be done through the Technical Wing of the Department.

The State Government has undertaken schemes mainly under the following activities - Rural Electrification, Micro Hydel Projects, Ropeway Projects, Construction / extension of school buildings, Illumination of caves, Construction of footpath / footbridges, Construction of Community Halls, Construction of link roads, Construction of playground, Construction of market stalls, Construction of bus waiting sheds, Drinking water & sanitation facility, and also Individual schemes under Agriculture, Horticulture, Industries, Veterinary, Fisheries, Handloom & Sericulture.

7.8. Conclusions and recommendations:

The State of Meghalaya has wide rural urban disparity in terms of level of development if viewed from access to amenities and other economic and social indicators of developments of the State. The widespread prevalence of common property resources as ensured by the Constitutional provisions have not contributed to the desired level of change in terms of removal of wide spread inequality among the inhabitants.

The State, till date, remain insular to the paradigm shift in the development policies in India during the last decade of the twentieth century which took shape in the form of 73rd and 74th Amendment of the Constitution. A considerable amount of debate persists on whether the absence of Panchayati Raj institution limits the level of effective participation of the people in the development activities at the grass root level. Moreover, it also limits the participation of women in the decision-making processes. It is nevertheless believed that a more enabled, empowered, effective, accountable and participatory governance is required at the grass root level.

There has been a reduction of poverty at the national level in recent time, but the rural areas in Meghalaya continues to exhibit a high incidence of poverty. Though the general poverty scenario as mentioned in various reports has been acknowledged by the policy makers at different level, there has been no detail database on this subject in Meghalaya so far. This has complicated the issues of objective identification of the poverty stricken areas and has limited the effectiveness of the required interventions. Moreover, there is no formal database on land use, which has further complicated the situation.

The development activities in the rural areas of the State show that there has been wide gap between targets and achievements. The schemes of employment generation and self-employment have suffered most in this respect. The low level of asset formation is also evident from the small proportion of capital expenditure to the total expenditure in the rural development in the State.

The level of access to amenities to rural households also point out very low level of penetration of various facilities. A lot of ground has to be covered in areas like rural sanitation and water supply. The scattered nature and small size of the villages also pose a great problem in terms of connectivity. The remoteness of settlements on one hand is a major stumbling block for the government to provide social and economic infrastructure in a cost effective manner and on the other hand limits the expansion of economic endeavours of the rural population. All these factors can be identified for the general economic backwardness in the backdrop of an otherwise socially progressive society in Meghalaya.

The recommendations of this section mainly points out the necessary measures in terms of the subjects discussed above. But these must be supplemented with those in agriculture and resource management that are dealt separately.

- The absence of decentralized governance at grass root level is the major concern. The Sixth Schedule has hardly helped as an instrument of self-management and social and economic changes. The 73rd Amendment on the other hand promises more democratic way of land and community asset management for a better rural society of economic viability. It also provides for empowerment of the socially vulnerable sections in general and women in particular. There is enough scope within the provisions of 73rd amendments to accommodate the existing form of governance by State in transforming the Autonomous District Councils and role played by the traditional tribal councils. Thus the State must take initiative to look into the prospect of introducing some form of decentralized governance. In the Northeast Arunachal Pradesh has gone ahead by accepting the 73rd constitutional Amendment and constituted the Panchayat institutions. A close scrutiny of the Arunachal law on this subject should be taken up immediately involving all the concerned parties of the state.
- There should be formal database on rural poverty. The proposed study of Human Poverty Index should be expedited. The result of the household survey of the BPL families should be

consulted at every step of programme implementation and necessary corrective measures should be taken up in the process without any prejudice if any discrepancy is noticed.

- The financial performance of various schemes of rural development though available its spatial coverage should be maintained and published. Moreover the physical achievements should be made accessible to all concerned. The methodology and format to generate data and information on physical achievements of various schemes and their special coverage should be prepared with the help of competent agencies. Special effort should be in place to identify and document the best practices in rural development activities.
- The involvement of the NGOs, CBOs have been found to be very crucial as suggested by the better performance of Special Rural Works Programme (SRWP) where local communities participated actively. The government should take up necessary steps to involve such organizations to improve the effectiveness of the programme implementation. Conversely, hijacking or pocket boroughing Rural Development schemes should be firmly rejected and contained
- The share of capital expenditure in rural development works should increase to the desired level to sustain the development initiatives. Special care should be given to generate economic assets of the rural people.
- The rural population of Meghalaya is almost entirely dependent upon agriculture and allied sectors. These sectors however are characterized with low input output ratio and poor productivity. A development of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and fisheries etc. can help provide sustainable employment to many rural households and help alleviate rural poverty. Rural development, indeed any development is linked to shifting an economy from primary production level to that producing value added products. This shift is facilitated by an efficient knowledge creation and dissemination system. This system should in the interest of efficiency be supported by government but managed by independent widely networked institutions with wide, efficient and rapidly upgrading learning organization. Performance and support to this organization should be outcome achievement linked. Given the rather small size of the State such a model can be successfully implemented.



RAIN WATER HARVESTING



RURAL WATER SUPPLY SCHEME



IAY SCHEME



RURAL SANITATION

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN WEST GARO HILLS

