

### 4.2 URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Poverty reduction is an important goal of the urban policy. According to the official estimate for 1993-94, 32.36 per cent of total urban population is living below poverty line.

2. The Ninth Plan noted that the problem of urban poverty is a manifestation of lack of income and purchasing power attributable to lack of productive employment and considerable under-employment, high rate of inflation and inadequacy of social infrastructure, affecting the quality of life of the people and their employability. What is needed is the orientation of the programmes towards strengthening this production potential of the economy and providing more opportunities for involving the poor in the economic process.

3. Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) was launched in December 1997. With a view to ensure development and empowerment, the new rationalised scheme contemplated upliftment of urban poor by convergence of employment components of the earlier urban poverty alleviation schemes. The scheme sought to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed poor through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment. The two components under SJSRY comprise (a) the Urban Self-Employment Programme (USEP), and (b) The Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP). The three distinct sub-components under USEP consisted of (i) assistance to individual urban poor beneficiaries for setting up gainful self-employment ventures; (ii) assistance to groups of urban poor women for setting up gainful self-employment ventures under the title 'the scheme for development of women and children in the urban areas (DWCUA)' and (iii) training of beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and other persons associated with the urban employment programme for upgradation and acquisition of vocational and entrepreneurial skills. The UWEP sought to provide wage employment to beneficiaries living below the poverty line within the jurisdiction of ULBs by utilising their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The scheme also promotes setting up of neighbourhood groups, community development societies, etc.

#### REVIEW OF ANNUAL PLAN 1999-2000 AND PROVISION FOR 2000-01

4. The number of beneficiaries under USEP during 1999-2000 was 1,26,944 including 8,241 women beneficiaries. As regards, UWEP, the numbers of beneficiaries covered was 101.388 lakh. The approved outlay/anticipated expenditure for 1999-2000 is Rs.180.65 crore. For the Annual Plan 2000-01, the outlay allocated is Rs.168.00 crore.