

### 5.6.1 EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

Towards fulfilling the Ninth Plan Commitment of 'Empowering Women and Development of Children', co-ordinated efforts of both governmental and non-governmental organisations working in the field of Women and Child Development will continue, as in the past, during 2000-01. While the general development programmes continue to remain as the mainstay for the welfare, development and empowerment of women and children, innovative programmes which are specific to women and children viz., welfare and support services; continuing education and vocational training; employment-cum-income generation programmes; and awareness generation and gender sensitization, have been playing a complementary and supplementary role to the general development programmes in empowering women.

2. The special strategies and mechanisms that were put into action during the Nineties, viz. the National Commission for Women (NCW); Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK); National Children's Fund and National Crèche Fund (NCF); National Nutrition Policy (NNP); National Plans of Action for Children and the Girl Child; Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY); Balika Samridhhi Yojana (BSY); Rural Women's Development and Empowerment Project (RWDEP) etc. continue to be in effective action towards meeting the special needs of women and children.

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3. In the Annual Plan 2000-01, an outlay of Rs.1460 crore has been earmarked for Women and Child Development under the Central Sector. Under the State Sector, no separate figures of either outlays or of expenditure are available, as the women and child development forms part of the 'Social Security and Welfare'. While a programme-wise and year-wise details of the outlays at central level are given below, scheme-wise details and the details of the externally aided projects are given at Annexures 5.6.1 & 5.6.2 respectively.

**TABLE 5.6.1**  
**Outlays and Expenditure on the Empowerment of Women and Development of Children during 1998-99 to 2000-2001**

Programme	(Rs. crore)			
	Annual Plan (1998 -99)	Annual Plan (1999 -2000)		Annual Plan (2000-01)
	Actuals	BE	Actuals	Outlay
<b>Centre</b>	1131.74	1320.00	1247.39	1460.00
Child Development	1030.20	1197.67	1185.00	1183.81
Women Development	97.58	114.15	57.48	122.46
GIA and Others	2.77	4.93	2.95	4.83
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1130.55</b>	<b>1316.75</b>	<b>1245.43</b>	<b>1311.10</b>
Food & Nutrition Board	1.19	3.25	1.96	2.90
Lumpsum provision for North Eastern Region	-	-	-	146.00

States/UTs	Refer Annexure 5.6.2 of Chapter on Social Welfare
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Source: Department of Women and Child Development

### EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

4. The re-set priorities of the Ninth Plan continue to ensure a special thrust on training-cum-employment-cum-income-generation activities along with ' forward ' and ' backward ' linkages of credit and marketing facilities so as to make women economically independent and self-reliant. The following paragraphs give an account of the various measures undertaken and the investment made by the nodal Department of Women and Child Development.

#### Support To Training-Cum-Employment Programme (STEP)

5. The programme of STEP, launched in 1987, aims to upgrade the traditional skills and knowledge of women through training besides employment, credit and market linkages in the traditional sectors of agriculture, animal husbandry, dairying, fisheries, handlooms, handicrafts, khadi and village industries, sericulture, social forestry and wasteland development for enhancing their productivity and income generation. Since the inception of the programme, about 4.42 lakh women have been covered under 81 Projects launched in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In the year 1999-2000, two new projects benefiting about 4500 women have been sanctioned. So far, there has been heavy demand for the sectors such as dairying sector followed by handlooms, handicrafts, sericulture, poultry etc. Of the Ninth Plan outlay of Rs.88.32 crore, an expenditure of Rs.44.48 crore has been incurred during 1997-2000. For the Annual Plan 2000-2001 an outlay of Rs.13.00 crore to benefit 16000 women has been provided.

#### Employment-Cum-Income Generation-Cum-Production Units (NORAD)

6. The programme of Employment-cum-Income Generation-cum-Production Units (popularly known as NORAD) assisted by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation aims to equip young women/girls through training in non-traditional trades like electronics, watch assembling, computer programming, garment making, secretarial practices, community health work, fashion designing, beauty culture etc. Since 1996-97, assistance from NORAD is being phased out. Therefore, the same is being supplemented with domestic resources. As per the agreement signed between the Government of India and the Government of Norway in 1997, a total assistance of Rs.20 crore (NOK 38 million) is expected to be flowing over for a period of five years that is up to 2000-01. Thus, the share of the Norwegian Government remained around 33 per cent of the total outlay. Towards better monitoring of the programme, the State Women's Development Corporations have been involved not only at the pre-appraisal stage but also at the mid-term evaluation of these Projects. The Programme which is being implemented with an ultimate objective of extending sustainable employment opportunities for women/young girls could so far benefit 2.28 lakh young women/girls through 1477 Projects. Of the Ninth Plan outlay of Rs.88.98 crore, an expenditure of Rs.43.83 crore was incurred during 1997-2000. For the Annual Plan 2000-2001, the outlay is Rs.13.00 crore.

### **Socio-Economic Programme (SEP)**

7. The Socio-Economic Programme (SEP), being implemented by the Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB), aims to extend opportunities for women on the principles of - 'Work and Wage' and 'Earn while you Learn'. The same is being implemented through voluntary organisations for whom financial assistance is given to take up a wide variety of income generating activities which include the production of industrial components in ancillary units, handlooms, handicrafts, agro-based activities such as animal husbandry, sericulture and fisheries, and self-employment ventures like vegetable or fish vending etc. The scheme of SEP has been reviewed and modified to expand the scope of the programme. Now organisations, working for the handicapped, women's cooperatives organisations and institutions like jails, Nari Niketans etc. are also eligible to receive grants under this programme. Grants to the extent of 85 per cent of the Project cost are provided by the Board, the balance being the matching contribution by the NGOs. During 1999-2000, a sum of Rs.9.27 lakh was released under this programme benefiting 2469 women. For the year 2000-01, an outlay of Rs.100 crore has been earmarked.

### **Condensed Courses Of Education & Vocational Training Programme (CCE&VT)**

8. The Scheme of Condensed Courses of Education and Vocational Training is being implemented in its revised form, through the medium of voluntary organisations for needy women in rural, hilly and tribal areas. Under the scheme of Condensed Courses, voluntary organisations are given grants to conduct courses of two years duration to enable females who are 15 + to pass Middle and Matric level examinations. The vocational training programme extends training for young girls/women in employment-oriented trades such as dress designing, computer courses, typesetting, batik, handloom weaving nursery teachers training, stenography etc. During the year 1999-2000 an amount of Rs.114.68 lakh was sanctioned by the CSWB to organise 129 Condensed Courses benefiting 3225 candidates up to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2000. For the year 2000-01, an outlay of Rs.1.50 crore has been earmarked.

9. At the instance of the Planning Commission, the Department is contemplating to merge the above discussed on-going programmes of STEP, NORAD, SEP and CCE&VT and formulate an umbrella scheme of "Training and Employment for Women" during 2000-01.

### **Working Women's Hostels**

10. To promote greater mobility for women in the employment market, a Scheme called 'Hostels for Working Women' has been in operation since 1972-73. The scheme extends safe and inexpensive accommodation which is a 'Home away from Home' for working women of lower income groups. Under this scheme, financial assistance is extended to voluntary and other autonomous organisations to the extent of 75 per cent of the cost of the construction of the hostel building and 50 per cent of the cost of the land. The income ceiling for eligibility of hostel accommodation has been raised from Rs.5000 to Rs.16000 per month in metropolitan cities and from Rs.4500 to Rs.15000 per month in other cities and towns w.e.f. 14<sup>th</sup> July 1998. A resident is allowed to stay in these hostels for a maximum period of five years. Women undergoing employment oriented education/professional courses are also eligible for accommodation in these hostels.

11. While the Master Plan of Operations (MPO) prepared by the Department of Women and Child Development in 1991 indicates a need to provide hostel accommodation to an estimated 1.35 lakh working women all over the country, the scheme could cover only 43.8 per cent (58700 women) of the total target. Since its inception in 1972-73, 831 hostels have been sanctioned till 1999-2000 (as on 25.2.2000) benefiting 58700 women and their 7700 dependent children including seven Hostels sanctioned during 1999-2000 to benefit 630 women. Of the Ninth Plan outlay of Rs.51.25 crore, an expenditure of Rs.22.31 crore was incurred during 1997-2000. In the Annual Plan 2000-2001, an amount of Rs.7.02 crore has been provided.

### **Short Stay Homes For Women And Girls**

12. The Scheme of Short Stay Homes, which takes care of women and girls facing social/moral danger, has been transferred to the Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) during 1999-2000. The services extended in these Homes include medical care; psychiatric treatment; casework services; occupational therapy; education-cum-vocational training and recreational facilities. As per the revised norms, recently approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, the recurring cost will now be Rs.401350 per Home per annum with a one time non-recurring cost of Rs.50000. Provisions have also been made for upgrading skills and capacities of staff and residents as well as education of the children of residents.

13. Some of the special activities undertaken under this scheme during 1999-2000 include: (i) 36 new Short Stay Homes have been sanctioned for the displaced persons from Indo-Pakistan Border in J&K and for the victims of super cyclone in Orissa; (ii) two training programmes, one in Calcutta and another in New Delhi were organised during the year to train the functionaries of different Short Stay Homes; (iii) a major advertisement campaign was launched to popularise the scheme and involve as many as possible NGOs in its implementation which, in fact, has resulted in considerable response from NGOs; (iv) An Implementers Manual is being prepared by the Department to ensure minimum standards in the implementation of the scheme throughout the country; and (v) the application format for submitting new proposals has been completely revised to make it more user friendly. Of the total 362 Short Stay Homes, 298 catering to 8940 women are being supported under Plan. Of the Ninth Plan outlay of Rs.55.64 crore, Rs.12.23 crore was incurred during 1997-2000. For the Annual Plan 2000-01, the approved outlay is Rs.12.00 crore.

### **Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY)**

14. Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY), launched in 1995, aims to empower women through (i) generating awareness amongst women by disseminating information and knowledge to bring about an attitudinal change; (ii) to help women achieve economic strength through micro-level income generating activities; and (iii) to establish convergence of various services such as literacy, health, non-formal education, rural development, water supply, entrepreneurship etc. IMY is built upon the idea of setting up/strengthening of the Self-Help Groups viz. Indira Mahila Kendras (IMKs) at the Anganwadi level and thus provide a grass-root level institution for women to interact. Around 40,000 Self-Help Groups have been formed under the Scheme till December 1998, of which 3000 groups have been formed during 1999-2000. For the purpose of sensitising implementation of IMY, a series of State/district level workshops are being conducted throughout the country with the assistance

of National Institute of Public Cooperation & Child Development (NIPCCD) at the State/district level. On the recommendation of the Joint Study Team of the Planning Commission and the nodal Department of Women and Child Development which conducted a Quick Evaluation of IMY, the Scheme is being recast after incorporating the special provisions of income generation, capacity building through training, credit and market linkages etc. The recast Scheme is expected to merge the Scheme of Mahila Samridhi Yojana which could not continue due to cost in-effectiveness. The recast Scheme is under finalisation. The Ninth Plan outlay for IMY is Rs.165.00 crore. No expenditure was incurred on this scheme from 1997-98 to 1999-2000. However, an outlay of Rs.18.00 crore is made available in the Annual Plan 2000-01.

### **Rural Women's Development And Empowerment Project (RWDEP)**

15. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rural Women's Development and Empowerment (RWDEP) launched in 1997 for a period of five years (1997-2002) with assistance from IDA and IFAD. The same is in action in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka and Gujarat with an estimated outlay of Rs.186.21 crore. The major objective of RWDEP is to strengthen the processes for creating an enabling environment for empowerment of women through - (i) establishment of between 7400 and 12000 self-reliant women's Self-Help-Groups (SHGs) having 15-20 members each, which will improve the quality of their lives, through greater access to, and control over, resources; (ii) sensitising and strengthening the institutional capacity of support agencies to pro-actively address women's needs; (iii) developing linkages between SHGs and lending institutions to ensure women's continued access to credit facilities for income generation activities; (iv) enhancing women's access to resources for better quality of life, including those for drudgery reduction and time saving devices; and (v) increased control of women, particularly poor women, over income and spending, through their involvement in income generation activities which will indirectly help in poverty alleviation. The Women's Development Corporations, which are the implementing agencies, are expected to involve NGOs in the implementation tasks. 1450 SHGs are likely to be formed during 1999-2000 and 2000 SHGs in 2000-2001. Of the Ninth Plan outlay of Rs.102.94 crore, an expenditure of Rs.13.00 crore was incurred during 1998-2000. The outlay for the year 2000-2001 is Rs.15.00 crore.

### **National Commission For Women (NCW)**

16. The National Commission for women (NCW), set up in 1992, has a mandate to safeguard the rights and interests of women. The Commission continued to pursue its mandated activities of safeguarding women's rights through investigations into individual complaints of atrocities; sexual harassment of women at the work place; organising Parivarik/Mahila Lok Adalats; legal awareness programmes/camps; review of Legislations etc. The Commission maintains a complaints Cell as one of the Core Units of the Commission which processes both written and oral complaints and takes suo-moto action in matters relating to - (i) deprivation of women's rights; (ii) non-implementation of laws; (iii) non-compliance of policy decisions; (iv) guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships to women; and (v) taking up issues arising out of such matters with appropriate authorities. The complaints received relate mainly to harassment for dowry, dowry deaths, torture, desertion, bigamy, rape, refusal to register FIR by the Police, discrimination in employment, domestic violence, incest, and cruelty by husbands and in-laws. Of the Ninth

Plan outlay of Rs.16.25 crore, an expenditure of Rs.8.50 crore was incurred during 1997-2000. For the Annual Plan 2000-2001, a sum of Rs.3.50 crore has been provided.

### **Rehabilitation Of Widows At Vrindavan**

17. A Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Minister of State for Women and Child Development was set up to coordinate the efforts of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal Governments and Central Government organisations for rehabilitation of these marginalised women at Vrindavan; monitor flow of benefits of various schemes to the target group; and to recommend a plan of Action for their rehabilitation etc. The Committee consists of the Chairpersons of the National Commission for Women and of the Central Social Welfare Board, Secretaries of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Director General of Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathan and of the Secretary and Joint Secretary of the nodal Department of Women and Child Development, Chief Secretaries of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, besides the representatives of voluntary organisations and women's activists in the field. The Committee is working out a package for the rehabilitation of these destitute widows in collaboration with all the concerned.

### **DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN**

18. Development of Children as an investment in the country's human resource development has been the major strategy in the Ninth Plan. While the first five years are acknowledged as critical for the development of children, greater stress is being laid on reaching the younger children below two years through the countrywide network of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

#### **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**

19. The nation-wide programme of ICDS continues to be the major intervention for the overall development of children. It caters to the pre-school children below six years of age and expectant and nursing mothers with a package of services viz. immunization, health check-ups, referral services, supplementary nutrition, pre-school education and health and nutrition education. The universalisation of ICDS contemplated in 1995-96 could not be achieved due to the restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Finance. Therefore, of the total 5614 ICDS Projects sanctioned till 1996, only 4200 projects became operationalised by the end of the Eighth Plan. The same position continued even during the first two years of the Ninth Plan with a total coverage of 21.5 million children and 4.03 million mothers. During 1999-2000, it was decided to operationalise 390 more projects in a phased manner during the Ninth Plan period with domestic support. Simultaneously, approval of the Government has also been obtained for operationalisation of 461 additional ICDS projects under the World Bank assisted ICDS-II and ICDS-APER Projects. Thus, it will be possible to cover about 5051 blocks/urban slums in the country by the end of the Ninth Plan. However, the process of universalisation will continue beyond the Ninth Plan till all the 5614 Projects become operationalised.

20. The impact of ICDS, which would be completing 25 years of its implementation in October 2000, was evaluated by a number of individual experts and various research organisations. Of these, the National Evaluation of ICDS conducted by the National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development (NIPCCD), New Delhi in 1992 and the Mid-

term Evaluation of World Bank assisted ICDS need a special mention. The findings of the Study by NIPCCD indicated a very positive impact of ICDS on the health and nutrition status of pre-school children. The Mid-term evaluation of the World Bank assisted ICDS conducted in Andhra Pradesh during 1995-96 also revealed that the Project interventions had brought down the IMR to 62 per 1000 live births which was in consonance with the project objective of 60 per 1000 live births. The incidence of severe malnutrition amongst children of 0-3 years was reduced to about five per cent and that of 3-6 years to three per cent. The proportion of low birth weight babies also came down to 20 per cent as against the project goal of 24 per cent. Similarly, in Orissa, the IMR has come down to 93.6 per cent and the incidence of low birth weight of babies to 23 per cent.

21. Keeping in view the goals set in the National Plan of Action for Children to be achieved by 2000 AD, it is necessary to ensure universalisation of ICDS at the earliest possible. However, in view of the resource constraints, the Department has proposed to operationalise only 851 additional projects during the Ninth Plan and that too in a phased manner, as stated earlier. Keeping in view the future prospects of ICDS, the following Action Points will receive special attention during the remaining period of the Ninth Plan starting from 2000-01:

- Special efforts to ensure that adequate funds are made available for supplementary feeding of ICDS by all the States/UTs, as there exists a large gap of around 50 per cent between the 'need' and the 'supply'. ICDS becomes meaningful only when the funds for food supplementation from States/UTs get synchronized with the funds contributed by the Government of India towards the maintenance of the super-structure for operation and supervision of ICDS.
- The Adolescent Girls Scheme which has been launched to take care of the specific needs of the adolescent girls has been in operation in 507 blocks. It is proposed to cover 1493 additional blocks during the Ninth Plan period.
- The concept of mini-anganwadi (four mini-anganwadi centres can be opened in lieu of full fledged aganwadis) being flexible enough to take care of the sparse population in remote hilly areas dominated by tribals. The process will continue during the Ninth Plan.
- Other innovative/emergent activities include - models for community participation; integration of the scheme with the activities of Department of ISM&H; strengthening of MIS of ICDS in States; improved service delivery by providing IFA and vitamin 'A' supplementation to adolescent girls; quality improvement at anganwadi centres; strengthening women's component; action research projects aimed at improved nutritional level, inter-State coordination and consultation for devising replicable innovative models, area/project specific intervention for tackling early childhood disabilities etc.

22. Of the Ninth Plan outlay of Rs.4980 crore, an expenditure of Rs.2285.65 crore was incurred during the year 1997-2000. For the Annual Plan 2000-2001 the outlay of Rs.935.00 crore has been provided.

### **World Bank Assisted ICDS Projects**

23. Apart from providing normal ICDS services, the World Bank assisted ICDS extends to additional components like construction of Anganwadi buildings, Office-cum-

godowns on a selective basis, strengthening of training and communications components, improved health facilities, income generation activities for women and Women's Integrated Learning for Life etc.

24. The World Bank assisted ICDS Project-I launched in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa came to an end in December, 1997. It covered 191 blocks in Orissa and 110 blocks in Andhra Pradesh. All the blocks covered under the Project in both the states have become operational. ICDS-II Project in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh became operational in September 1993 for a period of seven years, i.e., upto September 2000. The project covered 210 blocks in Bihar and 244 blocks in Madhya Pradesh in predominantly tribal and difficult areas, in a phased manner. The third phase of the World Bank assisted ICDS Project-III which has started in March 1999 is currently in action in the States of Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Of the Ninth Plan outlay of Rs.1163.79 crore, an expenditure of Rs.523.67 crore was incurred during the year 1997-2000. An outlay of Rs.180.00 crore has been provided for the year 2000-2001.

### **ICDS Training Programme - UDISHA**

25. Training being the most critical component of ICDS, the Department of Women and Child Development formulated a comprehensive training strategy for different functionaries of ICDS such as Anganwadi Workers, Supervisors, Additional Child Development Project Officers (ACDPOs) and Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), Medical Officers (MOs) and Paramedical Staff. The same has been recast as UDISHA with assistance from the World Bank.

26. To ensure effective implementation of UDISHA, an elaborate mechanism for frequent and regular interaction with the States/Union Territories has been introduced. At national level the D/WCD held meetings with State Nodal Officers in Manesar, Haryana in July, 1999, in Goa in January, 2000 and in Udaipur in February, 2000. Group level reviews were also held with the States in November, 1999 and January, 2000. These meetings have gone a long way in establishing direct linkages with the States/UTs. Training is imparted to these functionaries through the National Institute of Public Cooperation & Child Development (NIPCCD) through its three Regional Centres at Lucknow, Guwahati and Bangalore, 36 Middle Level Training Centres (MLYCs) and 392 Anganwadi Workers Training Centres (AWTCs). Till November, 1999, 26926 Anganwadi workers at 470 AWTCs (Anganwadi Workers Training Centres); and 571 Supervisors at 36 MLTCs (Multi-level Training Centres) had been trained. The National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) organised 68 programmes upto February, 2000 and trained 1986 participants. In the year 1999-2000, the Institute has undertaken several new initiatives in making its training programmes more interesting and effective by laying emphasis on participatory methods of training. Of the Ninth Plan outlay of Rs.329.29 crore, an expenditure of Rs.69.81 crore was incurred during the year 1997-2000. An outlay of Rs.35.00 crore has been provided for the year 2000-2001.

### **Balika Samridhhi Yojana (BSY)**

27. The Scheme of Balika Samridhhi Yojana (BSY) originated from the announcement of the Prime Minister on 15 August 1997 stating that 'the Government would extend financial help to the families to whom a girl child is born and if they are living Below



Poverty Line (BPL). Later, scholarships would also be given when the girl child goes to school'. To start with, a programme of Balika Samridhi Yojana was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1997 to extend a post-delivery grant of Rs.500 for the mother of the Girl Child belonging to the BPL Group. For this, the Government released an ad hoc grant of Rs.60 crore to cover 12 lakh girl children in the financial year 1997-98.

28. Based on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers set up for the purpose, the programme of BSY was recast in 1999-2000 with the following features - (i) a post-delivery grant of Rs.500 per girl child upto two girl children born on or after 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1997 which would now, instead of being paid in cash, be deposited either in the Bank/Post Office in an interest-bearing Account in the name of the girl child. A portion of the post-birth grant of Rs.500 would also be permitted to be withdrawn towards the sole purpose of paying the premium on an Insurance Policy in the name of the girl child under the Bhagyashree Balika Kalyan Bima Yojana. Such a utilisation may be permitted with due authorisation of the mother/guardian of the girl; (ii) annual scholarships would also be given to the girl child when she starts going to school. The rate of scholarships will be Rs.300 each in classes I-III, Rs.500 in class IV, Rs.600 in class V, Rs.700 each in classes VI and VII, Rs.800 in class VIII and Rs.1000 each in classes IX and X per annum; (iii) however, the amount of annual scholarships may be permitted to be utilised for purchase of text books or uniforms for the girl child, with due authorisation of the mother/guardian of the girl. The amount of scholarship remaining after such utilisation shall be deposited in the same interest bearing Account in which the post delivery grant has been kept. These deposits will be paid to the girl child on attaining the age of 18 years and remaining unmarried till then. The programme of Recast BSY with the above revisions is being put into action during 1999-2000. Of the Ninth Plan outlay of Rs.390.00 crore, an expenditure of Rs.142.66 crore was incurred during the year 1997-2000. An outlay of Rs.27.00 crore has been provided for the year 2000-2001.

### **Creches/Day Care Centres**

29. The Scheme of Creches/Day Care Centres extends day care services for the children of casual, migrant, agricultural and construction labourers. Children of those women who are sick or incapacitated due to sickness or suffering from communicable diseases are covered under the scheme. The scheme which is non-expanding maintained the same level of 12470 creches benefiting about 3.11 lakh children. Of the Ninth Plan outlay of Rs.36.05 crore, an expenditure of Rs.17.40 crore was incurred during the years 1997-2000. An outlay of Rs.4.50 crore has been provided for the year 2000-2001. This Central Sector Scheme which is being implemented through the medium of NGOs is a non-expanding scheme and is expected to be merged with the National Creche Fund.

### **The National Creche Fund**

30. The National Creche Fund which was set up in March 1994 with a corpus of Rs.19.90 crore has so far sanctioned 1856 general creches and 599 Anganwadi-cum-Creche Centres. The Scheme envisages that 75 per cent of the Creches being assisted by the National Creche Fund would be of general nature and 25 per cent of centres would be Anganwadi-cum-Creche Centres. The general creches assisted by the NCF would be on the pattern of the Creche Scheme of the Department of Women and Child Development and would provide children below five years which would include day-care facilities, supplementary nutrition, immunisation, medical and health care and recreation. Children of

parents whose monthly income does not exceed Rs.1800 are eligible for enrolment. While an ordinary Creche receives Rs.18480 as recurring grant and Rs.4000 as non-recurring grant per centre, an Anganwadi-cum-Creches Centre receives assistance of Rs.8100 per crèches per annum under a schematic pattern of assistance. This includes honorarium to two crèche workers per crèche @ Rs.600/- per month and contingency and emergency expenditure @ Rs.75/- per month. The Ninth Plan outlay for NCF is Rs.0.03 crore. No expenditure has been incurred during the years 1997-2000 as the expenditure on Creches is being met from the interest accrued over the years on the Corpus. However, a token provision of Rs.0.01 crore has been made for the Annual Plan 2000-2001.

31. Other programmes for the development of children include Early Childhood Education (ECE) which extends pre-school education to over one lakh children through 4365 ECE Centres run by the voluntary organisations in the educationally backward states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal; Balwadi Nutrition Programme which provides supplementary nutrition feeding besides the other pre-school services to 10,000 children through 336 Balwadis; and the National Institute for Public Co-operation and Child Development which takes care of the training needs of various ICDS functionaries. A total outlay of Rs.37.40 crore is made available for these three schemes in the Annual Plan 2000-01.

### **National Plan Of Action For Children And The Girl Child**

32. Ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has given further thrust so as to achieve the goals set under the two National Plans of Action - one for children and the other exclusively for the Girl Child, adopted in 1992. These Plans of Action are expected to ensure survival, protection and development for children. Based on the National Plans of Action, the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and NCT of Delhi have formulated their own State Plans of Action. To monitor the progress of the implementation of these two Plans of Action, Inter-ministerial/Inter-departmental Coordination Committees have been set up both at the Central and State levels.

### **Role Of The Non-Governmental Organisations**

33. The non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been contributing in a big way in the implementation of various programmes for the empowerment of women and development of children, especially in the areas of creating awareness and gender sensitisation to change the mind-set of the people in favour of both Women and the Girl Child and also for combating violence/atrocities against women and the girl child.

## **5.6.2 EMPOWERMENT OF THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED GROUPS**

34. Empowerment of the Socially Disadvantaged Groups viz. Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Minorities is the commitment of the Ninth Plan through a three-pronged strategy of - social empowerment, economic empowerment and social justice. Therefore, special efforts continued to be taken in action to bring their concerns on to the main Agenda of developmental planning and thus raise their status at par with the rest of the Society. To this effect, not only are the on-going programmes being strengthened/expanded, but also new measures are being initiated wherever necessary to accelerate the over-all development of these disadvantaged groups. One of the important initiatives taken in this direction was setting up of an exclusive Ministry of Tribal Affairs at the Centre in October 1999 to extend focused attention to the welfare and development of tribal population as they suffer from typical problems of their own such as illiteracy, ignorance, land alienation, displacement, bonded labour, indebtedness etc.

### **REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL PLAN 1999-2000 AND 2000-2001**

35. In the context of the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan, review of the Annual Plans 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 bear special significance not only from the point of the progress made in respect of the implementation of policies and programmes but also from the point of utilisation of plan allocations. Of the total Ninth Plan outlay of Rs.5399.18 crore [excluding Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) and Grant-in-aid under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution] earmarked for the Backward Classes Sector at the Centre in the budget of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (M/SJ&E), an amount of Rs.2690.23 crore was likely to have been spent during the first three years (1997-2000) leaving Rs.2708.95 crore for the rest of the two years (2000-02) of the Plan. Of this, an amount of Rs.1610.18 crore was earmarked for the Annual Plan 2000-01 (Rs.1000.18 crore for the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Rs.610.00 crore for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs). This includes Rs.740.18 crore for Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Rs.437.00 crore as Special Central Assistance (SCA) for Special Component Plan (SCP) and Rs.400.00 crore for Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). In addition to this, an amount of Rs.200 crore was provided under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution for raising the level of Administration of the Scheduled Areas especially focusing educational development amongst the tribals.

36. In the State Sector, an amount of Rs.9690.75 crore was allocated for implementing various socio-economic development programmes meant for the socially disadvantaged groups. Out of this, an amount of Rs.6308.67 crore was likely to have been spent during 1997-2000, thus leaving a balance of Rs.3382.08 crore for the remaining two years of the Ninth Plan (2000-02). While the Scheme-wise outlays and expenditure at the Central level for the Backward Classes and Tribal Affairs during 1998-99 to 2000-01 are given at Annexure 5.6.2.1, the details of the outlays and expenditure in the State Sector for the same period are given at Annexure 5.6.2.2. The sectoral outlays and expenditure along with a detailed review of the implementation of various programmes during 1998-99 to 2000-01 are given in the Table 5.6.2.1.