

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	Annual Plan (1998 -99)	Annual Plan (1999 -2000)		Annual Plan (2000-01)
		Actuals	BE	Actuals
Centre	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
Sub Total	1130.55	1316.75	1245.43	1311.10
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 31st 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. 14th 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 (MLYC)s and 392 Anganwadi Workers Training Centres (AWTC)s. 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 Samridhi Yojana (BSY)

27. The Scheme of Balika Samridhi 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 2nd 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 15th 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.

TABLE 5.6.2.1
Outlays and Expenditure for Welfare and Development of Backward Classes Sector
and Tribal Affairs during 1997-98 to 2000-01

S. No.	Schemes	(Rs. crore)			
		Annual Plan (1998-99) Actuals	Annual Plan (1999-2000) Outlay	Annual Plan (2000-01) R.E.	Annual Plan (2000-01) Outlay
I. BACKWARD CLASSES SECTOR (M/SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT)					
1	Welfare and Development of SCs				
(i)	Central Sector Schemes	123.11	86.00	81.15	*90.50
(ii)	Centrally Sponsored Schemes	209.86	285.50	286.06	*304.00
	Total (i+ii)	332.97	371.50	367.21	394.5
(iii)	SCA to SCP	360.83	437.00	437.00	470.00
	Total 1	693.80	808.60	804.21	864.50
2	Welfare and Development of OBCs				
(i)	Central Sector Schemes	92.34	105.70	105.01	83.02
(ii)	Centrally Sponsored Schemes	7.46	20.80	13.50	20.01
	Total 2	99.80	126.50	118.51	103.03
3.	Welfare and Development of Minorities				
(i)	Central Sector Schemes	38.22	30.00	27.30	32.65
	Total - I (1+2+3)	831.82	965.00	950.02	1000.18
II. TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT (M/TRIBAL AFFAIRS)					
(i)	Central Sector Schemes	44.44	83.00	78.00	84.00
(ii)	Centrally Sponsored Schemes	28.10	47.00	43.50	126.00
	Total (i+ii)	72.54	130.00	121.5	210.00
(iii)	SCA to TSP	380.00	400.00	400.00	400.00
(iv)	Grants-in-Aid under Art. 275 (1)	75.00	100.00	100.00	200.00
	Total-II (M/Tribal Affairs)	527.54	630.00	621.50	810.00

* Figures under Backward Classes Sector include some of common Central and Centrally Sponsored schemes for both SCs and STs upto 1999-2000.

Source: Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

Scheduled Castes And Scheduled Tribes

37. Education being the most effective instrument for social empowerment, high priority continued to be accorded to the programmes that aimed at improving the educational status of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SCs/STs), especially amongst their women and the girl children. The scheme of Post-Matric Scholarships (PMS), a nation-wide programme for the educational development of SCs and STs, is being implemented through out the country for extending financial assistance to the students pursuing post-matriculation courses in recognised institutions. Under the scheme of PMS, 100 per cent Central Assistance is extended to the States/UTs over and above their respective committed liability. However, in the case of the North Eastern States, the committed liability on account of PMS has been

dispensed with effect from April 1998. So far, 22.68 lakh SC/ST students who were pursuing higher education, received Post-Matric Scholarships during 1999-2000. For the current year (2000-2001) an amount of Rs.214.00 crore has been earmarked to provide financial assistance as PMS to SC/ST and OBC students to pursue higher studies. Of this, an amount of Rs.70.00 crore was earmarked for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for extending PMS to Scheduled Tribe students in the current financial year 2000-2001.

38. The scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarships for the children of those engaged in un-clean occupations, is another important educational scheme which supplements the government efforts in eliminating the most in-human practice of scavenging and rehabilitating those engaged in the practice. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to the children of scavengers, sweepers having traditional link with scavenging, flayers and tanners to pursue education up to matriculation level. Nearly 4.37 lakh students have been given pre-matric scholarships during 1999-2000. An amount of Rs.10.00 crore has been earmarked for extending pre-matric scholarships during 2000-2001.

39. Under the Scheme of Hostels for SC/ST Boys and Girls, Central Assistance is extended to States/UTs for construction of hostels on 50:50 sharing basis, while 100 per cent assistance is provided to UT Administrations with the twin objectives of reducing the prevailing high drop out rates ranging from 66.6 per cent to 74.7 per cent amongst the SCs/STs students of classes I to VIII in 1993-94 against 60.5 per cent amongst general categories and ensuring their retention rates in schools thereby encouraging educational development amongst these disadvantaged groups. SC/ST students studying in middle schools, higher secondary schools, colleges and universities are the major beneficiaries under this scheme. Central Assistance to the tune of Rs.32.00 crore was provided for the construction of Hostels for SC/ST Boys and Girls during 1999-2000 and the same has been enhanced to Rs.47.00 crore in the current year (2000-01). About 10522 SC/ST boys and girls are expected to receive benefit under this scheme.

40. Another Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. Coaching for Allied Services extends coaching to candidates through Pre-examination Training Centers to enable them to compete in the competitive examinations conducted by UPSC, SSC, Banking, Railway Board, Service Commissions, Public Undertaking and various other the recruiting bodies with ultimate objective of improving the representation of SCs and STs in different Central/State Governments, Public Undertakings etc. During the year 1999-2000, an allocation of Rs.4.00 crore was made to benefit 12189 SC/ST students through 75 Coaching Centres in 10 States. Further 15 Universities and 15 NGOs were involved in extending technical support to the beneficiaries. An allocation of Rs.3.00 crore has been made available for this scheme during 2000-01.

41. In addition to the above, a few more educational programmes have been in operation for the benefit of SCs and STs. They include Book-Banks for SC/ST Students; Up-gradation of Merit of SC/ST Students' Special Educational Development Programmes for SC Girl Students in Low Literacy Areas; Educational Complexes for ST students; Ashram Schools in TSP Areas and other educational programmes being implemented by voluntary organisations. Also, there is a non-plan scheme called National Overseas Scholarships (NOS) under which financial assistance is extended to SC/ST students to pursue higher and specialised studies abroad. Every year, 30 overseas scholarships are awarded to help students belonging to these disadvantaged groups to pursue higher studies abroad. During 1999-2000,

under this Scheme 17 awards were given to SC students, 9 for ST students, 1 for de-notified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes and 2 for SC Converts to other religions and 1 for landless agricultural labourer and traditional artisans.

Other Backward Classes (OBCs)

42. The major strategy of improving access to education to OBCs besides assisting them to upgrade their traditional skills and artisanship through various vocational training programmes has been in effective operation. This will continue during 2000-2001 with a commitment to improve the socio-economic status of the Other Backward Classes. Towards promoting higher education amongst OBCs, financial assistance under the Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarships (PMS) has been increased from Rs.5.5 crore in 1999-2000 to Rs.9 crore in the current financial year (2000-2001). Under the scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarships, financial assistance in the form of scholarships is being extended to those students whose parents/guardian's income from all sources does not exceed Rs.44500 per annum. The same level of income ceiling is applicable under the scheme of Post-Matric Scholarships also. An amount of Rs.6 crore is allocated in the current year (2000-2001) for the scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarships for OBC Students. In addition to this, other schemes viz. Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls; Pre-examination Coaching Centres for OBCs; and Grant-in-aid to NGOs to work for the well-being of OBCs, have also been put into action with a sole objective of improving the lot of OBCs.

Minorities

43. In the field of education, the Maulana Azad Education Foundation continues to undertake various educational programmes for the educationally backward minorities. Of the total corpus fund of Rs.70.01 crore, the Ministry has released Rs.3.15 crore as a recurring Annual Grant during 1999-2000. The Foundation has so far sanctioned a total grant-in-aid of Rs.33.06 crore till January, 2000.

44. Under the Scheme of Pre-Examination Coaching Centres for weaker sections, financial assistance is extended to various Coaching Centres to prepare the Minority students to compete with other candidates in various competitive examinations, with a view to ensure their representation in various jobs. Around 320 Coaching Centres have so far received financial assistance to extend the much needed coaching to the Minority students.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Scheduled Castes And Scheduled Tribes

45. Economic Development being crucial for empowering the disadvantaged groups, the strategy of raising them from the levels below the poverty line will continue to receive high priority during the Annual Plan under report. To this effect, special thrust is being given to training-cum-employment-cum-income generation programmes to make the socially disadvantaged groups economically independent and self-reliant. The existing apex organisations viz. (i) National Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC); (ii) National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC); (iii) Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED); and (iv) the State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations (SCDCs) are

being strengthened through increased outlays and also by enhancing the Authorized Share Capital (except for TRIFED) in some of the cases during the Ninth Plan. These Corporations are expected to play the role of catalytic agents besides extending both 'forward' and 'backward' linkages of credit and marketing facilities to the micro-level agencies, as per the details given below.

46. The National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) is functioning as a Government Company on a non-profit basis since 1989. NSFDC extends financial assistance at concessional rates for training for upgradation of skills and income generating activities for SCs and STs whose annual income is below double the poverty line. The Corporation provides term loans, seed loans, bridge loans etc. at concessional rates of interest. An amount of Rs.30.00 crore was provided during the Annual Plan 1999-2000 benefiting 13474 SC/ST persons. For the current year 2000-2001, an amount of Rs.35 crore has been provided. The NSFDC has, so far, sanctioned 1895 projects costing Rs.1112.91 crore with a share amount of Rs.790.34 crore, which on completion, are expected to benefit about 2.23 lakh SC/ST beneficiaries.

47. The National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) was incorporated in January, 1997 under Section 25 of the Companies Act of 1956 as a non-profit making Company. The same is expected to act as an Apex Institution responsible for the economic upliftment of the Safai Karmacharis and their dependents all over the country by extending concessional finance for taking up various income generation activities as an alternative means of vocation.

48. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED), set up in 1987 with the prime objective of extending marketing assistance and remunerative price to STs for their Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP), and thus help reduce/control exploitation of tribals by the private traders and middle-man. While the authorized share capital of TRIFED is 100 crore, an additional amount of Rs.5 crore is being provided annually to extend Price Support to TRIFED (Rs.4 crore) and for Investment in TRIFED (Rs.1 crore) in the Annual Plan 2000-2001, as against Rs.5.25 crore for the Annual Plan 1999-2000.

49. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for participating in the share equity of the Scheduled Castes Development Corporation (SCDCs) in the ratio of 49:51 was introduced in 1979. At present, SCDCs are functioning in 25 States/UTs, which including 2 SCDCs, which are common to SCs and STs. The main functions of the SCDCs include identification of eligible SC/ST families and motivating them to undertake economic development schemes, sponsoring the schemes to financial institutions for credit support, providing financial assistance in the form of margin money at a low rate of interest and subsidy in order to reduce the repayment liability and providing necessary tie up with other poverty alleviation programmes.

50. The SCDCs have been acting as guarantors as well as promoters for credit support and providing missing inputs by way of margin money loans and subsidy to the target group. The SCDCs mainly take up employment oriented schemes in the fields of (i) Agriculture and allied activities including minor irrigation; (ii) Small Scale Industry; (iii) Transport; and (iv) Trade and Service Sector. Project assistance from banks is arranged by SCDCs besides providing margin money out of share capital assistance and subsidy out of Special Central

Assistance (SCA) funds. As on 31.12.1999, the Ministry has released Rs.13.38 crore out of Rs.20 core allocated during 1999-2000 to cover 5.32 lakh beneficiaries.

Special Strategies Of SCP, TSP And SCA To SCP & TSP

51. For the economic development of SCs and STs, special strategies of Special Component Plan (SCP) for SCs and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for STs have been in operation to ensure flow of funds in proportion to the population of SCs and STs from all other developmental sectors through earmarking in their Five Year as well as Annual Plans. The special strategies of SCP and TSP are being implemented only by 13 and 18 Ministries/Departments, respectively at the Centre in 1999-2000 (details of which are awaited). At the state level, 24 and 20 States/UTs are earmarking Rs.10278.30 crore (13.4 per cent) under SCP and Rs.5932.43 crore (8.4 per cent) under TSP during the same year. Further, to supplement the efforts of States/UTs towards economic development of SCs/STs, Special Central Assistance (SCA) is extended to fill the critical gaps in their SCP and TSP, especially through funding/supporting SC and ST families below the poverty line to take up various income generation and self-employment projects. While the funds under SCA to SCP has increased from Rs.437 crore in 1999-2000 to Rs.470 crore in 2000-2001, SCA to TSP has been increased from Rs.380 crore in 1998-99 to Rs.400 crore in 1999-2000 and 2000-01. The earmarking of funds under TSP and SCP by States/UTs during Ninth Plan (1997-2002) is given in Annexures 5.6.2.3 and 5.6.2.4.

52. As part of the Mid-Term Appraisal, Planning Commission made a review of the implementation of these special strategies and found that they have become very routinised and effective steps to improve the same are required to be taken urgently. As a follow-up, a Standing Tripartite Committee was set up in the Planning Commission in September, 1999 with the following Terms of References - (i) to look into the reasons for not implementing the Guidelines concerning SCP and TSP and to suggest specific measures for their compliance; (ii) to identify specific schemes which would benefit SCs and STs under various development sectors, their prioritization along with earmarking of funds for them; (iii) to review the process of implementation, impact assessment and monitoring of SCP and TSP and utilisation of Special Central Assistance (SCA) to SCP and TSP and the Grant-in-Aid (GIA) under Article 275 (1) and advise the Planning Commission on measures which would serve the interests of these communities more effectively; (iv) to recommend allocations/earmarking of funds under SCP and TSP as also specific/additional schemes consistent with the Guidelines, where necessary, for various Central Ministries and State Governments which would be taken into account while finalizing their Annual Plans each year; and (v) to suggest institutional and advocacy arrangements for participation of beneficiary groups in the preparation and implementation of schemes under SCP and TSP and Central allocations referred to above, taking into account, among others, priorities of the 73rd and 74th Amendments and other Legislative measures flowing therefrom.

53. The Central Tripartite Committee thus set up could so far review the formulation as well as implementation of SCP and TSP of 14 Central Ministries/Departments viz., Agriculture and Co-operation, Environment and Forest, Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Rural Development, Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Water Resources, Public Enterprises, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Sugar and Edible Oils, Drinking Water Supply, Statistics and Programme Implementation, Food Processing and Power and made certain recommendations based on

which the concerned Ministries/Departments are expected to revise their SCP and TSP and submit the same to the Planning Commission. The same are still awaited. The State Governments and UT Administrations were also advised to set up similar Standing Committees to review the implementation of SCP and TSP at State/UT level and report back to the Standing Tripartite Committee at the Centre as all the States/UTs are the Members of the Central Committee. So far 6 States/UTs viz., Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and West Bengal reported to have been set up State level Standing Tripartite Committees. These special strategies of SCP, TSP and SCA to SCP and TSP will continue to be the main instruments throughout the Ninth Plan to ensure that all the other general development sectors do not by-pass SCs and STs.

Other Backward Classes (OBCs)

54. The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) set up in 1992 assists OBCs in a wide range of income generating activities through both wage and self employment ventures in the areas of agriculture and its allied activities viz., dairying, fisheries, animal husbandry; traditional and other artisan occupations; small scale and cottage industries; transport services; small business; and petty shops etc. The NBCFDC is functioning with an authorised share capital of Rs.700 crore at present and had sanctioned loans amounting to Rs.771.07 crore benefiting 4,26,326 beneficiaries. Out of this sanctioned loan, Rs.392.82 crore has been disbursed to 3,00,151 beneficiaries. Against the outlay of Rs.100 crore provided in the Annual Plan 1999-2000, an amount of Rs.76.50 crore is allocated to the Corporation during 2000-2001.

Minorities

55. As part of the efforts for economic development of Minorities, the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) set up in 1994 with an authorised share capital of Rs.500 crore, continues to extend concessional finance to eligible beneficiaries for employment and income-generation ventures with a special focus on those who are living below poverty line including women. Of the total paid up share capital of Rs.186.69 crore, while the Government of India's contribution is to the tune of Rs.157 crore, the States and UTs have paid Rs.29.69 crore against their total share of Rs.130 crore. During 1999-2000, the Corporation has disbursed Rs.164 crore benefiting 44,381 minorities.

56. Under the scheme of Multi-Sectoral Development Plans for the 41 districts with a conciliation of Minorities, action has been initiated to undertake Needs-Assessment Surveys and identify the credit, marketing, training and technological needs, and formulate economically viable projects for the development of Minorities. The cumulative amount released so far amounts to Rs.1.29 crore. Reports, thus received, in respect of 29 Minority Concentration Districts, have already been processed by the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation for translating these reports into viable projects.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

57. The major initiative of setting up of an exclusive Ministry of Tribal Affairs to strengthen the existing national machinery for the welfare and development of the socially disadvantaged clearly reflects the firm commitment of the Government in ensuring social justice to these disadvantaged groups. In addition, the on-going special efforts will continue

to be taken to ensure effective implementation of the two Special Legislations viz. the Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955 and the SCs/STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and thus prevent the increasing problems of social discrimination, exploitation, untouchability and violence/atrocities against SCs, STs, OBCs and Minorities including sexual exploitation of women and the girl children belonging to these Groups. As per the mandate, 98 Special Courts/Mobile Courts have been set up so far in seven States. Central Assistance is also extended to States/UTs on 50:50 basis (100 per cent to UTs) under a scheme called the Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955 and the SCs/STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

58. In addition to the above listed legal protection, there are four National Commissions to safeguard/protect the rights and interests of SCs/STs, OBCs, Minorities and Safai Karamcharis through a constant vigil besides investigating into the individual complaints/grievances in close co-ordination with both the Central and State machineries including the enforcement machinery.

Efforts Of NGOs

59. Besides the above governmental interventions, a wide spectrum of projects which are of direct benefit to SCs/STs are being implemented by the NGOs sector with the grant-in-aid/financial assistance from the Government. They include ashram/residential schools, hostels, mobile medical unit, balwadi/crèches, vocational training centres, employment-cum-income generation activities, etc. While the grant-in-aid is generally restricted to 90 per cent of the approved total cost of the projects, the balance of 10 per cent is to be borne by the voluntary organisations. An amount of Rs.60 crore was provided for the year 1999-2000 to support 515 NGOs all over the country working for the welfare and development of the socially disadvantaged groups. In the current plan of 2000-2001, an amount of Rs.33.5 crore has been made available for supporting the voluntary sector.

5.6.3 SOCIAL WELFARE

60. The three-pronged strategy of Empowering the Persons with Disabilities; Reforming the Social Deviants; and Caring for the Other Disadvantaged - which has been the major strength of various social welfare services during the first three years of the Ninth Plan (1997-2000) will continue during 2000-2001.

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61. A total outlay of Rs.993.65 crore was provided for the Social Welfare Sector in the Annual Plan 1999-2000, which includes Rs.253 crore for the Central Sector and Rs.740.65 crore for the State Sector. Against this, the revised estimate for the year was Rs.214.68 crore in the Central Sector and Rs.797.72 crore in the State Sector, making a total of Rs.1012.40 crore.

62. Similarly, a total outlay of Rs.300.68 crore has been earmarked for the Social Welfare Sector at the Centre in the Annual Plan 2000-2001. This includes Rs.292.68 crore for the welfare of the disabled and for Social Defence under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (M/SJ&E); Rs.7.0 crore for the scheme of Modernization of Prison Administration under the Ministry of Home Affairs and Rs.1.0 crore for the implementation of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act of 1988 under the Department of Revenue. Thus, out of the total Ninth Plan outlay (Central Sector) of Rs.1248.95 crore, Rs.773.34 crore is expected to be spent during the first four years, leaving Rs.475.61 crore for the remaining period of the Ninth Plan. While the year-wise details of the outlays (1998-2001) are given below IN Table 5.6.3.1, the scheme-wise details for the Centre and State-wise details (1998-2001) are given at Annexures 5.6.3.1 and 5.6.3.2.

TABLE 5.6.3.1

Plan Outlays and Expenditure incurred – Social Welfare during 1998-1999 to 2000-2001

Ministry/Department	Annual Plan 1998-99	Annual Plan 1999- 2000		Annual Plan 2000-2001
	Actual	BE	RE	BE
I. Centre	162.93	253.00	214.68	300.68
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment	153.55	245.00	207.50	292.68
Ministry of Home Affairs	8.38	7.00	7.00	7.00
Department of Revenue	1.00	1.00	0.63	1.00
II. States/UTs	621.72*	740.65	797.72	**
Total I+II	784.63	993.65	1012.40	

* Revised Estimate

** Being finalised.

EMPOWERING THE DISABLED

64. To ensure social justice to the disabled on equitable terms, and to make as many disabled as possible active, self-reliant and productive contributors to the national economy, implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 continued in an effective manner. As a result of this, there

has been a shift in policies towards disabled persons from the welfare and charity approach adopted to that of empowerment through protection of rights, equal opportunities and full participation in various developmental activities of the country. Towards fulfilling the commitments of the Act, efforts are being made not only to expand the on-going schemes but also launching of new infrastructure while the efforts of Artificial Limb Manufacturing Company (ALIMCO) was strengthened by opening four Auxiliary Production Centres. Also two new schemes viz., setting up of six Regional Composite Resource Centres and four Rehabilitation Centres for the Spinal Injured and other Orthopaedic Disabilities were launched during 1999-2000. Further to improve and strengthen various provisions and institutional framework of the Act and to remove the anomalies in the original statute and to make the Act more flexible, a Cabinet Note was moved on the amendments of the PD Act. To consider the proposed amendments, the Cabinet Secretariat has constituted a Group of Ministers.

65. To provide a complete package of welfare services to the physically and mentally disabled and also to deal with the multi-dimensional problems of the disabled, the six National Institutes specialised in different areas of disabilities continued to expand their activities in close collaboration with the concerned organisations both governmental and non-governmental. These Institutes viz., (i) National Institute for Visually Handicapped, Dehradun; (ii) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta; (iii) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai; (iv) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad; (v) National Institute for Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Cuttack; and (vi) National Institute for Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, lay special thrust on the development of long-term and short-term training programmes and service models specially suited to the demands and needs of the disabled in rural areas. One of the major initiatives taken was to provide multi-professional-rehabilitation services to the slums, tribal belts, foot-hills, semi-urban and rural areas through community awareness programmes and community rehabilitation facilities. To act as the extended arms of the existing National Institutions, a project to set up six Regional Composite Centres covering all areas of the disability in various regions of the country was approved during 1999-2000. These Centres would undertake a package of functions including manpower development, research and technology inputs as well as modern rehabilitation services for catering to the needs of the disabled. For running these National Institutes, a total outlay of Rs.16.91 crore was made available during 1999-2000. For 2000-2001, an outlay of Rs.16.00 crore was earmarked for these Institutes.

66. The 11 District Rehabilitation Centres (DRCs) continued to provide a package of comprehensive rehabilitation services to the rural disabled. The rehabilitation services include prevention and early detection, medical intervention and surgical correction, fitment of artificial aids and appliances, therapeutical services like physio-therapy, occupational and speech therapy, etc. These Centres were funded through Non-Plan budget.

67. The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) continued to manufacture artificial limbs and rehabilitation aids for the disabled. As stated earlier, the efforts of ALIMCO were being expanded by setting up of four Auxiliary Production Centres to augment its manufacturing capacity of wheel chairs and tri-cycles. ALIMCO is in the process of manufacturing 1000 sets of below-knee Floor Reaction Orthosis Kits of Composite Plastics for the polio affected disabled. Composite fitment and Rehabilitation Centres would be set up in 100 districts in partnership with ALIMCO/National Institutes/DRCs and District

Administration of State Governments. During 1999-2000, the outlay for the Corporation was Rs.6.35 crore. For the year 2000-2001, an outlay of Rs.6.75 crore was provided.

68. To equip more and more disabled persons with scientifically manufactured aids and appliances, the scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Fitting of Aids & Appliances gets expanded during the year under reference. Financial assistance was also extended to 97 NGOs located in different parts of the country. To develop appropriate and innovative technological appliances for the Disabled, a Science and Technology Project in Mission Mode continued its research and development activities for generating cost effective and easy to handle technologies for development of aids and appliances for the disabled. Financial support was also extended to researchers, engineers, doctors, scientific departments and autonomous bodies, etc. Through these special efforts, more than 30 aids and appliances were developed. Continued efforts were also being made to explore high-tech areas for more effective technology transfer and reaching aids and appliances to the users. The outlay for the year 1999-2000 for the scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Fitting of Aids & Appliances was Rs.30 crore. For 2000-2001, an outlay of Rs.28.70 crore was provided. The outlay for the scheme of Science & Technology in Mission Mode Project during 1999-2000 was Rs.1.00 crore and the same amount was earmarked for the year 2000-2001.

69. To provide comprehensive treatment, rehabilitation services and vocational training and guidance to patients with spinal injury, the Indian Spinal Injury Centre (ISIC), which was set up in 1991, continued its efforts to extend out-door and in-door specialised services to persons with spinal injuries. A large number of patients (12322) with various types of spinal injuries and problems benefited from the free services offered by ISIC. As a new initiative, four Rehabilitation Centres for the Spinal Injured were approved as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (90:10) for providing long term specialised rehabilitation services and management for life. These Centres would be run by the State Governments while the Indian Spinal Injury Centre and the Central Government will provide technical inputs. During 1999-2000, as against the outlay of Rs.7.0 crore, the revised estimate was Rs.5.15 crore. For the year 2000-2001, an amount of Rs.2.25 crore was provided.

70. To extend credit/financial assistance at concessional rates for a wide range of activities including training, up-gradation of skills, self-employment ventures, etc. to the disabled, the National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) continued its activities as an Apex Organisation for routing funds through the channelising agencies authorised by the States and UTs. To help the disabled in getting gainful employment, 50 Special Cells in normal Employment Exchanges and 39 Special Employment Exchanges have been functioning all over the country. Efforts were also continued to implement the policy of 3 per cent reservation of vacancies for the blind, deaf and orthopaedically disabled in Group A, B, C & D posts in Central Services and in the Public Sector Undertakings. During 1999-2000, as against the outlay of Rs.20.0 crore, the revised expenditure for NHFDC was Rs.10.0 crore. For the year 2000-2001, Rs.12.0 crore was provided. For the scheme of Employment of the Handicapped, as against the outlay (1999-2000) of Rs.1.45 crore, the revised expenditure was Rs.1.69 crore. For the year 2000-2001, an amount of Rs.1.60 crore was provided.

71. Towards 'Reaching the Unreached', a National Programme for Rehabilitation of the Persons with Disabilities (NRPD) was launched as a State Sector Programme envisaging rehabilitation services right from the village level. The scheme envisages support to the State

Governments for setting up of District Level Rehabilitation Centres and State level Apex Institutions for extending rehabilitation services besides training and manpower development. During 1999-2000, an amount of Rs.5.0 crore had already been provided to the States/UTs as Additional Central Assistance (ACA). During 2000-2001, an amount of Rs.43.00 crore was allocated for extending ACA to the States/UTs.

72. The Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) has registered 10,572 rehabilitation professional/personnel in the Central Rehabilitation Register and also issued certificates to them. To provide training to the rehabilitation professionals, the RCI has recognised 117 institutions. RCI has also developed 12 short-term and 41 long-term training courses. To provide trained manpower in disability rehabilitation in the entire country, RCI has also launched 2 new schemes viz., Bridge Course for Special Teachers and Para Medical Staff and Training of Primary Health Centre Doctors. In order to enable the RCI to function effectively, a proposal for construction of a separate building for RCI has been approved. As against the approved outlay of Rs.15.50 crore during 1999-2000, the revised expenditure of RCI was Rs.5.0 crore. For the year 2000-2001, an amount of Rs.7.00 crore was provided.

73. As envisaged, a National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability was set up to up-hold the rights, promote the development and safeguard the interests of persons with these disabilities and also their dependent families. The Trust will inter-alia also protect the interests of the persons belonging to the above mentioned categories, after the death of their parents or guardians. Finalisation of Rules/Notifications, constitution of Boards, etc. are in process. Further, voluntary organisations continued to play an important role in the delivery of services for the persons with disability. The Scheme to promote Voluntary Action continued to be implemented and programmes for prevention, detection, intervention, education, vocational training, employment, counselling, manpower development, etc. were being funded through the medium of NGOs. During 1999-2000, against the approved outlay of Rs.10.0 crore, the revised expenditure was Rs.1.0 crore. During 2000-2001, an amount of Rs.44.0 crore was provided as Corpus Fund.

REFORMING THE SOCIAL DEVIANTS

74. In order to revise the Act and to bring it in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child, a Committee comprising of eight Experts on the subject has been formed. The Committee is examining the present Act with a view to bringing qualitative improvement in the services provided under the Act. Further, a Chair on Juvenile Justice has also been instituted at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore, to review the Juvenile Justice Act constantly.

75. To provide full coverage of services contemplated under the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986. The Scheme of Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustments was continued. To implement the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986, assistance was provided to the State Governments under the scheme for Establishment and Maintenance of Observation Homes, Juvenile Homes, Special Homes and After-care Institutes for neglected and delinquent juveniles. During the year 1999-2000, grant in aid of Rs.9.75 crore was released to the State Governments/UT Administrations for implementation of the programme. Under the scheme, 290 Observation Homes, 261 Juvenile Homes, 36 Special Homes and 46 After-Care Institutions were established so far. In addition to this, there are 189 Juvenile Courts and 271

Juvenile Welfare Boards operating in different parts of the country. During 1999-2000, as against the outlay of Rs.10 crore, the revised estimate was Rs.11.0 crore. For the year 2000-2001, an amount of Rs.12.12 crore was approved.

76. To deal with the problem of alcoholism and drug abuse, the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse continued to extend a variety of services like counselling, screening of addicts, de-addiction, awareness generation, and rehabilitation. About 432 non-governmental organisations were assisted out of which 176 were Drug Awareness, Counselling, Assistance Centres and 256 were Treatment-cum-Rehabilitation Centres. As a result of the impact of the implementation of the programme, during the year 1999-2000 (upto September, 1999), 1.46 lakh drug addicts were registered and 62,812 were detoxified in these Centres. To give wider coverage, de-addiction camps were held in those urban and rural areas where treatment-cum-rehabilitation Centres did not exist. Keeping in view the increasing rate of drug-abuse and its related problems, a three pronged strategy of (i) training and enhancing the capabilities of the NGOs working in the area of drug-abuse prevention programme; (ii) extending the out-reach of drug abuse prevention scheme; and (iii) creating awareness generation in the North East with a special focus on the younger generation was adopted. Five training programmes for trainers (TOT) and 15 training courses for Service Providers in the North-East were organised. To explore the possibilities for opening new Centres and to identify Service Providers for the purpose of training, a Committee was constituted for reviewing the working of the existing NGOs in the North East. During 1999-2000, as against the outlay of Rs.20 crore, the revised estimate was Rs.19.0 crore. For the year 2000-2001, an amount of Rs.18.50 crore was approved.

77. Towards improving training facilities, the M/SJ&E has taken up a number of projects which include Community Drug Rehabilitation and Work Place Prevention Programme in collaboration with United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and International Labour Organisation (ILO). Under this programme 20 NGOs have been identified in different parts of the country with an objective to train at least 4000 Service Providers in rehabilitation of drug addicts. In addition, 2 more projects viz. Community Wide Drug Demand Reduction in India and Community Wide Demand Reduction in the North Eastern States of India were launched for demand reduction and to develop the capacity of the programmes and the institutions involved for addressing the increasing incidence of alcoholism and drug addiction in the country. To provide authentic information on the actual dimension of the problem and facilitate appropriate need based interventions to address the problem of alcoholism and drug abuse in the country and to assess the extent, trend and pattern of alcohol and drug abuses, a first ever National Survey has been initiated in collaboration with the UNDCP.

78. Under the scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for providing Social Defence services, assistance was continued to be provided for undertaking programmes which were not covered under the existing schemes of M/SJ&E. So far, financial assistance was provided to 29 projects. Under the scheme, a number of programmes were supported for rehabilitation of children of sex workers. Initiatives were also taken to support projects for rehabilitation of widows and for providing counselling and support to the traumatised children and women, particularly, those who were the victims of physical violence and sexual abuse. Assistance was also extended to the victims of super cyclone in Orissa. During 1999-2000, as against the outlay of Rs.2.0 crore, the revised estimate was Rs.1.0 crore. For the year 2000-2001, an amount of Rs.1.0 crore was approved.

79. The National Institute of Social Defence continued its activities in the areas of research and training and in extending technical advice to both the Central and State Governments in the field of prison administration, prevention of crime and treatment of offenders and drug abuse prevention. The mandate of the Institute was enlarged so as to cover areas of concern for Older Persons also. In collaboration with various governmental and non-governmental agencies at regional and local level, the institute has devised a 3-month Certificate Course on De-Addiction, Counselling and Rehabilitation and a 6-month course on Home-Care for Elderly Disabled Persons. To strengthen and provide technical inputs like capacity building, training, research and documentation, a National Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention was set up with assistance from UNDCP. The outlay and the revised expenditure during 1999-2000 was Rs.2.0 crore and Rs.1.78 crore respectively. The approved outlay for the year 2000-2001 was Rs.2.25 crore.

CARING FOR THE OTHER DISADVANTAGED

80. Because of increasing life expectancy, the proportion of Older Persons in the country has been increasing. Correspondingly, the magnitude of their problem is also increasing. In order to take care of the well-being of the elderly, an Integrated Programme for Older Persons continued to extend financial assistance to Voluntary Organisations for setting up/continuance of Day-Care Centres, Old Age Homes, Mobile Medicare Services, etc. Under the Scheme of Grant in aid to NGOs, financial assistance to NGOs was extended to establish 44 new Old Age Homes, 16 new Day Care Centres and 17 new Mobile Medicare Units. As a result of this initiative, 270 Old Age Homes, 403 Day Care Centres, 57 Mobile Medicare Units and 3 Projects for extending non-institutional services for Older Persons were functioning in different parts of the country. In addition, financial aid was also extended for construction of Old Age Homes and Multi-services Centres for Older Persons through the Scheme of Assistance to Panchanti Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self-Help Groups for construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Services Centres for Older Persons. During 1999-2000, as against the outlay of Rs.15 crore, the expenditure was Rs.10.0 crore. For the year 2000-2001, an outlay of Rs.9.0 crore was provided.

81. To prevent destitution amongst children and facilitate their withdrawal from life on the streets, an Integrated Programme for Street Children continued to be implemented in various cities of the country. Under the scheme, assistance was provided for a wide range of interventions including shelter, nutrition, health-care, sanitation and hygiene, safe drinking water, education, recreational facilities and protection. At present 134 projects were being implemented benefiting approximately 36300 children. To extend emergency assistance to the Child, a 24 hours free phone service called Child Line Service by dialing No. 1098, launched in 1998-99 in Mumbai, was extended to nine other Cities viz., Chennai, Delhi, Calcutta, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Jaipur, Bhopal and Patna. To monitor efficient service delivery at various locations, a Child Line India Foundation was established as an Umbrella Organisation. The outlay for 1999-2000 was Rs.9.0 crore. For the year 2000-2001 an outlay of Rs.9.50 crore was provided.

82. The Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) provides a detailed frame-work for regulating and expediting in-country and inter-country adoption in India. Seventy seven agencies in the country were given recognition for inter-country adoption. In addition, 293 foreign agencies were enlisted in more than 25 countries for sponsoring inter-country

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adoption of Indian children. Twenty agencies in India and six agencies abroad were given recognition for inter-country adoption. During 1995-99, a total number of 13632 children found homes through these agencies. Out of this, in-country and inter-country adoptions were 7681 and 5951 respectively. The Shishu Griha Scheme for in-country adoption was revised and grant-in-aid was provided to 28 NGOs. The outlay for CARA during 1999-2000 was Rs.1.00 crore. For the year 2000-2001 Rs.2.00 crore was provided. For the Shishu Griha Scheme the outlay for 1999-2000 was Rs.2.00 crore. An amount of Rs.2.70 crore was provided for 2000-2001.