

**JOINT EVALUATION OF EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME
OF MAHARASHTRA - TALUKA LEVEL NOTES - 1977**

This volume, containing the Taluka Level Notes of the evaluation study on the Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) of the Government of Maharashtra conducted during 1976-78, was published in 1977. This paper was prepared to review the current status of the employment Guarantee Scheme and contained the Taluka Level Notes relating to the 8 selected talukas of the 4 selected districts, Barshi and Karmala in Sholapur district, Georai and Ambejogai in Bhir district and Salekasa and Sakoli in Bhandara district. Taluka Level notes, supported by blue print tables and information compiled for selected works as well as workwise observations on selected works, were made for each of these 8 talukas and presented in this document to serve as a working paper. The details of the joint evaluation study are presented in PEO Study No.113.

Main Observations

1. Baglan taluka of Nashik district had 86 per cent of its working population dependent, directly or indirectly, on agriculture. The master list of works (MLW) prepared for Baglan, as on 1-4-76, included 209 works with EGS component of Rs.170.51 lakhs. Out of 209 works, 70 were completed, 31 were in progress and 6 were temporarily stopped. The taluka level co-ordination of works was not very effective due to the fact that most of the decisions were taken at the district level.

2. Kalvan taluka of Nashik district, even with about 90% of its population dependent on agriculture, does not have any agro-based industry. The blue-print for the taluka included 293 works, of which 23 were spill overs from scarcity works and 7 were transferred from the State Plan Scheme. The blue-print was predominated by percolation tanks. As on 1.4.76, 57 works were in progress, 6 works temporarily stopped and 12 were completed. Effective co-ordination and detailed workwise review was arranged only at the district level.

3. Barshi taluka of Sholapur district, with its predominantly agricultural population, had only 3.77 per cent of its net sown area under irrigation in 1974-75. The blue-print, meant for 1975-77, contained 597 works of various categories costing about Rs.3.62 crores. Out of

the 602 works, listed in the M.L.W as on 1.4.76, 218 were completed, 260 were not started, 8 were temporarily stopped and the remaining 116 works were in progress. Adequate provisions were made to finance the works in progress. Completion of works was not scheduled effectively, partly because of the unassured labour attendance. The taluka level co-ordination committee was discontinued. The lists of employment seekers were maintained at village level, but these were defective and were never referred for assessing the labour demand of the village.

4. Karmala taluka of Sholapur district, which had only 4.69% of the net sown area under irrigation in 1974-75, was declared as 'drought prone area' by the Sukhatankar Committee. The blue-print for the taluka, valid for 1975-77, contained 433 works of different categories, costing about Rs.1.83 crores. Scarcity spill over works covered 42.98% of the total cost of the blue-print. 274 out of 433 works were soil conservation works covering only 11.9% of the total cost of the blue-print. As on 1.4.76, 171 works were completed, 87 were not started, 151 were temporarily stopped and the remaining 24 were in progress. The taluka level co-ordination Committee was replaced by the Taluka Co-ordination and Review Committee.

5. The blue-print for Georai taluka of Bhir district consisted of 497 works with a total value (E.G.S component) of Rs.331.01 lakhs. Of these, as many as 423 were scarcity spill over works. 78.7% of the blue-print was claimed by 20 canal excavation works. There were no instances of stoppage of works due to inadequate provision under the EGS.. The Taluka Level co-ordination and Review Committee had performed little of its task.

6. Classified as 'assured rainfall zone' by the fact finding committee appointed by the government in 1960 and the Sukhatanker Committee, Ambejogai taluka of Bhir district had a cultivable area of 88% of its total geographical area. The blue-print, as on 1.4.76, contained 710 works of which 137 were in progress. There was no difficulty in getting labour in seasons other than the kharif harvesting season. Though the Co-ordination and Review Committee had been formed at the taluka level, no information was obtained at that level regarding the progress of expenditure of employment generated during a certain period. There was little co-ordination of works at the taluka level.

7. No complete blue-print was prepared for alekasa taluka of Bhandara district. Out of the total of 307 works, 77 were completed upto 31.3.76, 16 were not started, 4 were temporarily stopped and 5 were abandoned. There was no instance of stoppage of works due to non-availability of funds. Man-power budgeting was not done at any level. The Tahsildar did not have any independent mechanism for reviewing Panchayat-wise man-power budgeting. There was, however, co-ordination among the implementing officers resulting in implementation of decisions taken at the taluka level.

8. Sakoli taluka of Bhandara district had 72.45% of its geographical area under cultivation and forests. Complete blue-print of EGS works was not prepared for the taluka. Emphasis was given on construction of minor irrigation tanks. Out of the total of 206 works, 58 works were in progress as on 1.4.76 and 20 were temporarily stopped. Unsurveyed works were also included on the suggestions of different departments as well as local non-officials. Taluka level co-ordination meeting was held only once in which a new Co-ordination and Review Committee was formed. Updated work-wise information was not maintained in the office of the Tahsildar.