

## **Journey of RD Department in Tripura and Impact**

Since, 1952 Rural Development activities started in Tripura under Community Development Program with a skeleton infrastructure in the form of Community Development Blocks.

The Community Development Program was launched with a view to obtain people's participation in the development process. But this objective of the CDP was not materialized. To ensure the involvement of the people in the development of villages, the Government of India appointed a committee headed by Balwant Rai Mehta in January 1957. Consequent upon the recommendation of the committee, the Panchayati Raj through the organization of Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad received special attention of the committee.

The Community Development Blocks were renamed as Rural Development Blocks after 1972. At that periods, activities of RD department was very much confined to creation of earthen roads, Earthen Dam, reclamation of land, creation of Kachcha well, other permanent infrastructures like, school buildings, Panchayat ghars, etc. In the year 1974 RD Engineering wing started functional with 3(three) nos. Division offices set up at Agartala, Kumarghat and Udaipur.

Several poverty alleviation programs have been launched over the years by the government for the rural poor, comprising small and marginal farmers, landless labourers and rural artisans. Some of which are:

### **1. IRDP:**

The Integrated Rural Development Program signifies a program for improving the living standards of the poorest of the poor living in rural areas and for making the process of rural development self-sustaining. Initiated in 1978-79, the program was extended to all development blocks in the country in 1980-81.

### **2. NREP:**

National Rural Employment Program was launched in October, 1980 as a centrally sponsored scheme on 50:50 sharing basis between centre and states. Generating additional gainful employment opportunities, creating durable community assets and improving the overall quality of life in rural areas constitute the three -fold objectives of the program.

### **3. JRY:**

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana was launched in April, 1989. It was pre-eminently a wage employment programme. Under the scheme, it was expected that at least one member of each poor family would be provided with employment for 50 to 100 days in a year at a work place near his / her residence. About 30 per cent of the jobs under this scheme were reserved for women.

### **4. IAY:**

Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is a sub scheme of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) which was launched as independent scheme on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1996 with a main objective to provide a grant for the construction of rural houses to members of SC/ST, freed bonded labours and to non-SC/ST category below the poverty line. The scheme continues up to FY-2014-15 with maximum financial Assistance Rs.75,000/- for a new house construction. **260539 houses under IAY have been sanctioned to individual poor rural households in Tripura.**

### **5. MGNREGS:**

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was launched in the year 2005 with the aim to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. In Tripura, journey of MGNREGS started with Dhalai district in 2006, Erstwhile South Tripura & West Tripura in 2007 and Erstwhile North Tripura in 2008. During the initial phase the focus was put on creation of wage employment. 2014-15 onwards paradigm shift to creation of durable assets with a purpose of providing sustainable livelihood opportunities.

- a. **5713.85lakhs Wage employment** generated (Person days) in rural Areas of Tripura under MGNREGA since inception (2006).
- b. **6.52lakhs Job Card** issued for empowerment of rural households in Tripura.
- c. **10.83lakhs Assets** created in rural areas under MGNREGA to generate livelihood, natural resources and rural infrastructures.

### **Major Achievements in last 3 years:**

## 6. PMAY-G:

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G) was launched in 2015-16 financial year with an aim to provide housing for all by 2022. To provide pucca house to all houseless rural people or living in kutcha house with 1 or 2 rooms and beneficiary should be enlisted under SECC-2011. The financial assistance under the scheme is Rs.1,30,000/- per house. **53827 houses** have been sanctioned to individual poor rural household under PMAY-G during 2016-19.

### Major Achievements in last 3 years:

- i) As per the initiatives of the State Government **in 2018**, the **definition of Kutcha House under PMAY-G** has been amended by the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India after inclusion of GCI sheet roofing as a Kutcha material. As a result **159913 houses** in FY 2021-22 under PMAY-G have already been sanctioned involving a budgetary outlay of Rs.2067crores. The target sanctioned during 2021-22 is more than 300% of the target allocated during 2016-19. Such huge sanction of houses in a single financial year never been received by the State which may be treated as biggest achievement of RD Department.
- ii) **2.73 lakhs** additional beneficiaries identified for housing under AWAAS plus in 2018-19.
- iii) Rural Mason Training under PMAY-G has been initiated and **190 rural youths were trained as Rural Masons under NSDC, Govt. of India**

## 7. TRLM:

Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission (TRLM) started its journey since April, 2013 onwards with the following aims-

- a. 'Universal Mobilization'– one woman each from all poor households to be mobilized into SHGs.
- b. Promotion of Federations of SHGs for long term support & sustainability.
- c. Continuous capacity building and 'remain engaged'- continuous handholding support to poor households for 6 to 8 years.
- d. Shift from subsidy regime to capital formation.
- e. Promotion of multiple livelihoods – farm; non-farm; skill based.

**30942 Women SHG promoted** in rural areas under TRLM for empowerment of women with community fund mobilization and **bank loan support around 600Crore** to take up various incomes generation activities.

### **Major Achievements in last 3 years:**

- i) 23151 Women SHGs promoted in last 3 years which was earlier 4061 from FY 2014-15 to 2017-18.
- ii) Expanded the TRLM activities from 18 Blocks to 58 blocks after enhancing the budget in FY 2018-19.
- iii) Reduction of NPA (Non-Performing Asset) value 9.84% in 2018-19 to 2.47% in 2021-22.
- iv) Reduction of loan interest from 12% to 7% in SHG federations which helped the SHG members to get loan from SHG federations @ 7% interest in 7days.
- v) Rs.282.18Crore Bank loan has been disbursed to Women SHGs from 2018-2021 whereas only 9.96Crore bank loan was disbursed from 2014-2017.

Major housing schemes like Indira Awaas Yojna (**IAY**) and subsequently Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojna- Gramin (**PMAY-G**) are also launched by the Government to provide housing benefits to the rural households over the years.

Scheme like Shyamaprasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission (**SPMRM**) is introduced to provide basic amenities to the rural areas upto the standard of the urban areas.

Recently schemes like Tripura Aspirational Block Project (**TABP**) and Mukhyamantri Tripura Gram Samridhi Yojna (**MTGSY**) are launched to ensure the availability of basic amenities to the rural areas on saturation mode.