

## CHAPTER VIII :MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT

### Department of Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation

#### 8.1 Unfruitful expenditure on construction of IAY<sup>1</sup> houses

**Despite an expenditure of Rs 1.53 crore for construction of houses under Indira Awas Yojana, the houses remained incomplete after 10 years.**

Government of India launched IAY to provide houses free of cost, to members of scheduled castes/scheduled tribes, freed bonded labourers in rural areas and non-SC/ST rural poor below poverty line at cost ceiling per house varying from Rs 14000 to Rs 15800 fixed according to the location of the area. The scheme provides that houses are to be constructed by the beneficiaries themselves with technical assistance and supply of building materials from block level officers and payments should be released to the beneficiaries in instalments depending on the progress of work. The scheme also envisages formation of committee of the beneficiaries to co-ordinate the construction.

Scrutiny of records of eight BDOs revealed that during 1990-91 to 1997-98 they had received Rs 8.76 crore from DRDA Sundergarh, Jharsuguda and Sambalpur/Bargarh towards construction of 5278 IAY houses.

Of these, 1079 houses remained incomplete for which Rs 1.53 crore was paid to the beneficiaries in the shape of cash and materials against the sanctioned cost of Rs 1.80 crore during 1990-91 to 1997-98. Though construction of the houses was to be completed in two years, the reasons for non-completion had not been inquired into either by the officers of DRDA or Blocks, nor the matter had been reported to higher authorities for mid-course correction. No action was also initiated against the defaulting beneficiaries. None of the houses was allotted in the name of the female member of the beneficiary household or in the name of both wife and husband as required under the scheme. The evaluation and monitoring envisaged in the scheme was also not done. The value of works executed in these incomplete houses was not also assessed to satisfy that the moneys advanced were actually utilised on the construction. Though Beneficiary Committees were formed in all these blocks except in Subdega, they did not function to co-ordinate and monitor construction of the houses. From the information furnished by the BDO, Lathikata, it was noticed that out of 116 incomplete houses (1995-96), 11

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<sup>1</sup> Indira Awas Yojana

houses were not in existence, four houses collapsed and two houses were in dilapidated condition (total 17 nos.). The expenditure incurred on those 17 houses was Rs 1.93 lakh.

Of the total 1079 incomplete houses as of February 2000, construction of 605 houses commenced during 1990-91 to 1995-96 and possibility of their completion appears remote. Thus, the expenditure of Rs 1.53 crore incurred in those houses remains unfruitful.

On this being pointed out the concerned BDOs did not offer specific comments on non-completion. However, the matter was referred to the Ministry in August 2000 and the Ministry in its reply (October 2000) admitted delay in completion of houses and stated that it was due to paucity of field officials such as Village level worker and Junior Engineers. The stand of the Ministry is indicative of absence of any seriousness and accountability for the expenditure wastages.

**Department of Rural Development  
(DRDAs, Nuapada and Sundergarh)**

## 8.2 Wasteful expenditure

**Trees planted under various employment generation schemes were damaged due to poor maintenance and lack of monitoring, thus rendering the expenditure of Rs 41.44 lakh as waste.**

With a view to ensuring success of plantation programme taken up under different employment generation centrally sponsored schemes, MOA<sup>1</sup> issued (May 1983) instructions/guidelines which emphasised proper choice of species, size of seedlings, timely execution of plantation works and provision of adequate protection etc. to improve the survival rates. It was held that at least 75 *per cent* survival would be a successful plantation, lesser survival rates being waste of money and time. It was further instructed that monitoring of plantation might be carried out by some independent organisation/agencies like Universities etc. so that the achievements could be confirmed by these agencies.

Check of records (February 1999-January 2000) of Horticulturists, Khariar/Lahunipara revealed that for Mango, Litchi and mixed fruit plantations raised over 208 hectares in nine locations between 1994-95 and 1996-97 at a cost of Rs 41.44 lakh. Funds were released by DRDA Nuapada Rs 29.50 lakh and DRDA Sundergarh Rs 11.94 lakh, under SCA<sup>2</sup>, EAS<sup>3</sup> and

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Agriculture

<sup>2</sup> Special Central Assistance

<sup>3</sup> Employment Assurance Scheme

JRY<sup>4</sup>. The survival percentage was nil in six locations while in three locations it ranged only between 7 *per cent* to 27 *per cent* as per the joint verification reports. It was further observed that mixed fruit plantations in Khariar under DRDA Nuapada were handed over to beneficiaries after one year maintenance against provision of maintenance for three years from the year of plantation. In Lahunipara, maintenance continued upto fourth year during which the plantations were damaged.

Thus, the survival percentage was far below the norms of the MOA due to non-observance of the directives rendering the major part of expenditure of Rs 40.36 lakh out of Rs 41.44 lakh thereon as wasteful.

On this being pointed out (February 1999/January 2000) the Horticulturist, Lahunipara and the Project Director, DRDA Nuapada did not offer any specific comments.

The matter was referred to the Ministry in July 2000; their reply was awaited as of February 2001.

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<sup>4</sup> Jawahar Rozgar Yojana