

# FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

# Lecture-29



# **Poverty Alleviation Policies and Programs**

## **National Rural Employment Guarantee Act**

Also known as **NREGA**, this is the flagship programme of Government directly touching lives of the poor and promoting inclusive growth. It aims at enhancing the general livelihood of the rural people by guaranteeing at least 100 days of employment in a financial year to adults of the household who are willing to do unskilled labour. It was enforced on 2nd February 2006 and implemented in phases. Today it is indeed one of the largest employment generating scheme of the government.

## **Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojna**

SGRY was launched in the year 2001 by way of merging two ongoing schemes- EAS and JGSY. The objective was to provide additional food security and wage employment to the rural sector. It also helped in creating durable community assets for the rural people. The program targeted poor with special emphasis on women, SCs, STs and parents of children withdrawn from hazardous industries.

## **National Food For Work Programme**

This programme was launched in November 2004 in 150 backward districts of the country that were identified by the Planning Commission. The aim of this project was to offer additional sources for rural employment apart from SGRY to these 150 districts. This scheme was entirely sponsored by the Central Government. Since then the program has been merged with NREGA, identifying in total 200 districts to implement the scheme.

## **Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojna**

PMGSY launched on 25th December 2002 was a fully Central Sponsored Scheme. The objective of this scheme was to construct roads connecting the rural and urban centers through quality roads. This generated employment for rural labourers and lead to infrastructure development.

## **Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojna**

Launched in 1999, JGSY aimed at creating demand-driven infrastructure in the village, for the use of village community. Secondly, it aimed at creating an additional source of employment for the rural populace. The scheme is prepared and implemented by Village Panchayat.

## **Indira Aawas Yojna**

This is the flagship rural housing scheme introduced by the Government. Under this scheme, states were to provide shelter to those below the poverty line. The objective was to create new accommodation for the poor construction of new houses as well as by converting the unserviceable kuchha houses into *pucca* and semi-pucca houses.

## **Credit-Cum-Subsidy Scheme For Rural Housing**

The houses that could not be covered under the IAY because of some reason were included in this scheme. Under this scheme, the houses were constructed for the families who could afford a certain amount of repayment capacity. The families could apply for a loan at a highly subsidized rate and get a home under this scheme. All those poor who could not be included in IAY were included in this scheme.

The objective behind initiating all these and many more similar schemes was to gradually rid the nation of the plague of poverty, once and for all. The schemes were designed in such a way as to offer not just financial health but means of employment by which the poor could continue to feed their family and gradually raise their standard of living.

The schemes aim at a sustained development. While the schemes have benefited many poor people and helped change the face of several rural villages. But there is still a very long way to go before the country can be rid of poverty. Probably, things will get better in the coming future.