Kurukshetra Magazine Summary

Topic: Rural Infrastructure

July 2021

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KURUKSHETRA MAGAZINE SUMMARY: JULY 2021

TOPIC: RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

1. RURAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH BOLSTERED INFRASTRUCTURE

- As far as the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat initiative is concerned, Infrastructure is one of the intrinsic pillars of it. With majority of Indian population residing in rural areas, rural infrastructural development becomes a necessity. The grave issues like poverty and job uncertainties can be best addressed by such a development and moreover, it can provide as an alternative to boost the economy which has been severely affected amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

Government Initiatives:

I. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - For the rural road construction.

II. Production Linked Incentive Schemes - Outcome based schemes expanding to multiple sectors viz. automobiles, pharmaceuticals, IT hardware, textiles, food processing etc.

III. Kisan Rail - For the transportation of perishable agricultural products.

IV. National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) - For the integration of Mandis across India.

V. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana - For the creation of processing and cold storage facilities.

VI. Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) - For electrification of poor households.

VII. BharatNet Project - For rural broadband connectivity.

VIII. Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan - For providing livelihood opportunities in rural India.

IX. MGNREGA

X. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin) - For providing pucca houses to rural households.

2. RURAL IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER PMKSY

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), started in 2015, is an umbrella plan, comprising of two significant components being executed by the Ministry of Jal Shakti- Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Program (AIBP) and Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP). Moreover, PMKSY also comprises of two other components- Per Drop More Crop and Watershed Development, which are implemented by Department of Agriculture and Department of Land Resources respectively.
- According to the GOI, the yearly water potential in the nation is 1,869 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) while the utilizable water accessibility is just 1,137 BCM per annum that includes 690 BCM of surface water and 447 BCM of replenishable groundwater. PMKSY targets improving agrarian water productivity by providing irrigation facilities as well as enhancing efficiency of rain fed agrarian activities. The water use efficiency is ensured through Micro Irrigation (MI). MI is a modern irrigation technique through which surface or sub-surface of soil is irrigated through drippers, sprinklers etc. This technique not only saves water by eliminating over irrigation but also prevents soil run-off and reduces electricity consumption as well.

PMKSY Targets in Budget 2021-22:

Creating additional-

I. 20 lakh hectares of land under minor irrigation.

II. 25,000 micro water collecting structures.

III. 2 lakh hectare culturable command area.

IV. 1 lakh hectare area covered under Minor Irrigation in water-intensive crops.



3. POTENTIAL IN FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

- As far as India is concerned, more than 50% of Indian population work in Agriculture related activities. Thus, creation of robust Food Processing Industries can inevitably reform the domestic as well as foreign (through exports) food consumption. The Food Processing Industry acts as the link between agriculture and manufacturing.
- There are multiple effects of the food processing sector on the economy ranging from empowering farmers and building primary processing capabilities, to ensuring smooth supply which further results in price stablization. Food processing sector also plays a major role in creating novel entrepreneurial and employment opportunities.

Government Initiatives:

I. Creation of the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF)

II. Launch of Animal Husbandry Development Fund and the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana under Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan

III. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana

IV. PM —Formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises (PM-FME) Scheme

V. One District One Product (ODOP) Scheme

VI. 100 percent FDI is allowed under automatic route in food processing industries.



4. PMGSY: ROAD TO PROSPERITY

- The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), was launched in 2000 by the Govt. of India to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations as part of a poverty reduction strategy. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Since 2015-16, 90% of the funding is borne by the Central Govt. and 10% by the State Govts. (in the North Eastern and Himalayan States) & 60% of the funding is borne by the Central Govt. and 40% by the State Govts (in other States).
- The National Rural Road Development Agency (NRRDA) was set up in 2002 to give the executives and specialized help to the states in carrying out PMGSY. At the state level, the State Rural Road Development Agencies (SRRDA) screen PMGSY works, which are executed by Public Works Departments (PWD), or Rural Development Department and similar organizations.

It was launched in 3 Phases:

I. Phase-I (launched in 2000) - Initially it was a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

II. Phase-II (launched in 2013) - The National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency issued detailed 'Guidelines on Technology Initiatives' in 2013 to adopt Green Technology.

III. Phase-III (launched in 2019) - the Ministry launched Electronic Maintenance of Rural Roads under PMGSY (eMARG) in all the states.

Advantages:

I. Increase in Rural Accessibility.

II. Livelihood Opportunities have grown.

III. Improvement in Health Sector.

5. DIGITAL INDIA: TOWARDS A CONNECTED NATION

- Digital India is a Government of India's flagship programme with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. The journey of e-Governance initiatives in India took a more extensive measurement in mid 90s for more wider sectoral applications with an emphasis on citizen driven administrations. National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) was launched by the Government of India in 2006 through which 31 Mission Mode Projects covering various domains were initiated. Later, it was felt that much more push was needed to guarantee e-Governance in the nation's comprehensive development that covered electronic services, products, goods etc. Thus, in order to change the whole biological system of public administrations using information technology, the Government of India, in 2015, launched the Digital India Program with the vision to transmogrify India into a digitally empowered society.

Government Initiatives:

I. Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS)

II. Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

III. Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)

IV. Indegenous Payment Systems eg. BHIM-UPI

V. Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

VI. National Mission in Education through ICT (NMEICT)

VII. NCERT's e-Pathshala Platform

VIII. Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS)

IX. Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG)

X. Khoya Paya (for missing and found children)

6. DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE RURAL ENTERPRISE

- The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector, which also consists of Self Help Groups (SHGs) contributes essentially to the rural economy, both as far as output and livelihood is concerned. In a country of surplus labour and scarce capital resources, MSMEs with their labour intensive structure, provides a better employment objective. The MSME sector generates job opportunities with the least capital investment and thus acts as a boon for rural India. Entrepreneurship advancement which emerges out of the MSME sector guarantees feasible livelihoods for local individuals.

Government Initiatives:

I. Credit Guarantee Trust Fund for Micro & Small Enterprises (CGTMSE)

II. Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) Scheme

III. A Scheme for Promoting Innovation, Rural Industry & Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE)

IV. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

V. Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme (ESDP)

VI. Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS)

VII. Udyog Aadhaar Memorandum (UAM)

VIII. MSME Samadhaan Portal

IX. Udyamimitra Portal

X. National SC & ST Hub Scheme

7. AUGMENTING RURAL HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE

Majorly, the classification of the physical healthcare infrastructure can be done into 3 categories :

I. Primary Care - Primary Health Centres (PHCs)

II. Secondary Care - District Hospitals

III. Tertiary Care – Multi-Speciality Hospitals

Rural Healthcare in India can be divided into 3 Tiers :

I. Sub Centres

II. Primary Health Centres (PHCs)

III. Community Health Centres (CHCs)

- In India, nearly 3/4th of the healthcare infrastructure is concentrated in urban India which only consists of about 1/4th of the population resides. The Economic Survey 2020-21 mentions that the overall out-of-pocket expenses in India on healthcare are 60 percent of the total expense on public health.

Government Initiatives :

I. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)

II. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)

III. PM AatmaNirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana

IV. Mission Indradhanush

V. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)

8. DEVELOPING RURAL INDIA

- With majority of population living in rural areas, rural development is additionally unavoidable for supportable and comprehensive improvement of India. Without the all-round growth in the villages, no meaningful economic or social progress can take place in India.

Government Initiatives :

I. Swachh Bharat Mission

II. Ujjwala Yojana

III. Pradhan Mantri Awas YojanaGramin (PMAY-G)

IV. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana

V. Soil Health Cards (SHCs)

VI. PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN)

VII. PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

VIII. Mudra Yojana

IX. Skill India and Stand Up India Programme

X. Kaushal Vikas Yojana

