

BHARAT NIRMAN - A SUSTAINABLE & DURABLE RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Bharat Nirman Programme is one of the important Programme which Provide the basic amenities in rural areas of the country. Rural housing drinking water and Rural roads are the main component of Bharat Nirman Programme. The overall development of Rural areas through Bharat Nirman will help make our country a prosperous one. Our Government since its Bharat Nirman inception has put stress on its effective implementation that has resulted in establishment of quality and affordable infrastructure in rural areas and improvement of the quality of life of the rural citizens of the country. The Infrastructure sector has both backward and forward linkages with the agricultural and the Industrial sectors and therefore the development of this sector is a prerequisite for the overall development of the economy. Infrastructure in general and rural infrastructure in particular contributes to economic development both by increasing productivity and by providing amenities which enhance the quality of life. The Problem of inadequate infrastructure in rural areas can also be interpreted in terms of access rather than availability of services. Bharat Nirman with its time bound integrated approach can help build sustainable infrastructure which will help in asset creation for the Nation as well as to bridge the urban – Rural divide in the context development.

INTRODUCTION

Bharat Nirman is a branded programme. Accepting the Policy ‘a step towards villages’ Union Government launched a new scheme named Bharat Nirman Yojana on December 16 2005. It is now 8 years old, taking huge strides into rural development. Bharat Nirman Programme is the mixture of old and new schemes and flagship programmes based on the philosophies of Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda, Ambedkar, Rajiv Gandhi and other leaders. This scheme aims at developing rural infrastructure. In recognition of the role played by infrastructure in poverty removal, the Government launched a time bound programme of construction of rural infrastructure under the name Bharat Nirman for implementation during the four year period 2005-09. The first half of the programme was in Tenth Five year plan (2002-2007) and second half coincides with the first two years of Eleventh Five year plan period (2007-2012) This programme is being implemented in partnership with state Governments and Panchayat Raj Institution The duration of implementing this scheme has

been determined for four years with the expected expenditure of Rs 174000 crore. Although the Bharat Nirman registered considerable progress by 2009, non achievement of goals set under the programme prompted the government to expand the timeline for completion of targeted activities to 2012.

Bharat Nirman Programme is one of the important Programmes which provides the basic amenities in rural areas of the country. There is no denying the fact that a major chunk of population of our country live in rural areas. So the development of rural areas is urgently needed Bharat Nirman Program launched by the Government of India identified six core infrastructure sectors in rural areas viz rural housing, irrigation, drinking water, rural roads, rural electrification and rural telephone connectivity. The attention needs to taken for each and every sector. The overall development of rural areas through Bharat Nirman will help make our country a prosperous one. Our Government since its inception has put stress on its effective implementation that has resulted in establishment of quality and affordable infrastructure in rural areas and improvement of the quality of life of the rural citizens of the country.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To study the Tasks and achievement of Bharat Nirman
2. To identify the role of Bharat Nirman Programme in Rural Irrigation.
3. To study the role of Bharat Nirman Programme in Rural roads
4. To study the role of Bharat Nirman Programme in Rural Housing
5. To study the role of Bharat Nirman Programme in Rural water supply
6. To study the role of Bharat Nirman Programme in Rural Electrification
7. To study the role of Bharat Nirman Programme in Rural Communication

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design – On the basis of fundamental Objectives of research our study is a type of Descriptive Research :- Descriptive research also known as statistical research Method of data collection – Secondary Data:- Large amount of secondary data is available in the forms of articles, manuals and previously conducted researchers on the similar topic. Also the data the gathered will help in identifying key parameters to examine through further exploration and thus will help in defining the Objectives.

Bharat Nirman: Tasks and Achievement

The Six Components included under the programme are electricity, roads, drinking water, rural telephony, irrigation, and housing.

1. Every village to be provided electricity
2. Every habitation over 1000 population and above (500 in hilly and tribal areas) to be provided an all weather road.
3. Every habitation to have safe source of drinking water.
4. Every village to be connected by telephone : remaining

5. 10 million hectares of additional irrigation capacity to be created by 2009
6. 60 lakh houses to be constructed for the rural poor by 2009.

While the agenda is not new the effort here is to impart a sense of urgency to these goals, make the programme time bound, transparent and accountable. This investment in rural infrastructure will unlock the growth potential of rural India.

Table 1. Achievement of Bharat Nirman at Glance from 2005-06 To 2009-10

Components	Target Variable	Overall Achievement [In %]
Roads : Pradhan Mantri Gram sadak yojna (PMGSY) [2005-06 to 2009-10]	New construction	62.17
	Upgradation	93.35
	Coverage Habitation	58.74
Housing : Indira Awaas Yojana IAY [2005-06 to 2009-10]	Houses constructed for Rural BPL families	60
Telecommunication : Village Public Phones	Villages Covered	92.5
Irrigation : Accerelated Irrigated benefit Programme[AIBP]	Irrigation Potential	73.0
Drinking Water: Accelerated Rural water Supply programme[ARWSP]	Un-covered habitations	98.86
	Slip back Habitations	108.07
	Quality Efected Habitation	142.85
	Total	119.73
Power : Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana : [RGGVY]	Electrification of Un/De-Electrified villages	61.9
	Intensive Electrification	29.7
	Rural Households	25.7
	Below Poverty line Household	38.4

Source: Lalwani [2010] Economic and political weekly

Role of Bharat Nirman Programme In Rural Irrigation

The Ministry of water resources in collaboration with State Governments is responsible for creation of additional 10 million hectares of irrigation capacity by the year 2009 through major, medium and minor irrigation Projects complemented by ground water development . The Bharat Nirman ambitiously targeted created of an additional 10 million hectare irrigation potential by 2009-10. At the end March 2010, the country could achieve creation of additional irrigation capacity of 73 lakh hectares, thereby leaving a gap of 27 million hectares irrigation potential. It was during the second phase (i.e 2010-2011 and 2011-2012) in which the creation of irrigation potential surpassed the original target fixed for this component by 1.16 million hectares. While the achievement of targets on creation of additional irrigation potential is praiseworthy , it is desired that the irrigation potential so

created over the years should be fully utilized and gap between the potential created and the actual utilization narrowed. Fully utilization of irrigation potential required actions like timely completion of field channels and drains, appropriate land leveling and shaping and involving of farmers in taking decisions on usability of such created potential. External assistance for restoration of lost potential by restoring tank irrigation would be utilized. Ground water potential would be utilized in the states where there is still scope for development. Close monitoring of the projects with remote sensing and completing the projects on a fixed cost turn key mode is required to achieve the Bharat Nirman targets.

Role of Bharat Nirman Programme In Rural Roads

Rural connectivity is the key component of rural development and poverty alleviation in India. Rural roads provide accessibility for the rural habitations to market and other facility centres. In order to give a boost to rural connectivity a rural roads programme, pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak yojana(PMGSY) was launched as a 100 percent Centrally sponsored scheme in December 2000. Bharat Nirman envisages a massive scaling up of the programme in terms of habitation connectivity coverage, construction targets and financial investment. To achieve the targets of Bharat Nirman 1,46,185 kms of rural roads are proposed to be constructed to benefit 66,802 unconnected eligible habitation in the country . It is also proposed to upgrade nearly 1,94,132 kms of the existing rural roads which are identified through routes of the core network. Bharat Nirman envisaged providing connectivity to all habitation of 1,000 and above (500 and above in the case of Hill states including North East, Tribal and Desert Areas) by 2009. Up to March 2010 around 34,000 villages were provided all weather road connectivity through construction of 96,000 kms of roads. Systematic District Rural roads plans were prepared listing out the completer network of all roads in the district i.e village Roads, Major District Roads, State Roads and National Highways and construction and allocation of resources were prioritized . To ensure quality control measures were followed backed by independent quality checks and measurements. The inbuilt clause of five years maintenance within the construction contract has helped in maintenance of the newly created assets. Up to June 2011, as many as 40,712 habitation were provided connectivity under this programme. The achievement in case of new connectivity and upgradation of roads infrastructure were 68.5 and 90.7 percent respectively as in June 2011.

Table 2. Progress of Rural Road Infrastructure under Bharat Nirman

Activity	Target(2005-2009)	Achievement(cumulative)	
		March 2009	June 2011
1	2	3	4
Habitations(in No.)	54,648	31,924 (58%)	40,712 (74.5%)
New Connectivity(Length in km)	1,46,185	85,405 (58%)	100209 (68.5%)
Upgradation (in kms)	1,94,131	1,55,019 (80%)	176111 (90.7%)

Sources: 1) Mid Term Appraisal for Eleventh Five year plan

2) www.bharatnirman.gov.in

Role of Bharat Nirman Programme In Rural Housing

The Ministry of Rural Development through the Indira Awaas Yojana undertakes this activity as a Centrally Sponsored scheme where the cost is shared between the Centre and States on 75:25 basis. The criteria adopted for allocation of financial resources between the states/UTs give greater emphasis to the States with higher incidence of shelter less. 75 percent weightage is given to housing shortage and 25 percent to the poverty ratios prescribed by the planning commission for state level allocations. For district level allocations, 75 percent weighted is given again to housing shortage and 25 percent to SC/ST population of the districts concerned . Grant assistance is provided to the extend of Rs 25,000 per house for normal areas and Rs 27,500 for hilly areas. Funds are released to the DRDAs in two installments. The IAY scheme also lays emphasis on sanitation and health by incorporating the cost of a sanitary latrine and smokeless chulah into the per unit grant provided to the beneficiary for construction/Upgradation of the dwelling unit. Under Phase I of the Rural Housing Component of Bharat Nirman, 60 lakh houses were to be constructed through the Indira Awas Yojana during 2005-06 to 2008-09. Against this target, 71.76 lakh houses were constructed and during the financial year 2009-10 as against the target of construction. During the financial year 2009-10 as against the target of construction of 40.52 lakh houses, 33.87 lakh houses were constructed. It was proposed to double the earlier target and to construct 120 lakh houses during the next five year period starting from the year 2009-10 Against this 65.87 lakh houses have been completed by 31st March 2012

Vision for Rural Housing as formalized by the Ministry of Rural development is to ensure adequate and affordable housing for all and facilitate development of sustainable and inclusive habitats in rural areas by expanding government support promoting community participation, self help and Public private partnership within the framework of Panchayat raj. The planning Commission of India has constituted a working group on Rural Housing to provide a perspective and approach to rural housing under the Twelfth Five year plan . The Housing shortage in rural India was estimated at 40 million households until the end of the twelfth plan period. The Working Group advocated measures to address the need for sustainable housing by all segments of the rural population as part of a holistic habitat development approach which also includes sanitation, water supply, domestic energy and insurance cover. The target set for IAY under the XI Five year plan was 150,00,000 houses over a period of five years. As of 30th June 2011,10593557 were constructed with an achievement of 86.54%.

Table 3. Cumulative Performance of House Construction under Iay during the Xi Plan Period

Progress of Iay House Construction		
Year	Targeted Cumulative (Xi Plan)	Completed Cumulative
2007-2008	3000000	1992349
2008-2009	6000000	4126410
2009-2010	9000000	7512029
2010-2011	12000000	10227482
2011-2012	15000000	10593557

Source: MoRD

During the last three years of the Bharat Nirman Programme period Phase II approximately 85 lakh houses have already been constructed. Since inception of the IAY scheme about 286.88 lakh houses have been constructed with an expenditure of Rs 85141.13 crore.

Role of Bharat Nirman Programme in Rural Water Supply

The Ministry of Rural development, Department of Drinking Water Supply is responsible for meeting this goal in partnership with State Governments. Against 55,067 uncovered habitations to covered during the phase I of the Bharat Nirman period(2005-2009), 54,477 habitations were covered by March 2009. The remaining habitations of which many were in difficult areas lacking sustainable sources of drinking water, were covered by March 2012. The strategy adopted to cover uncovered habitation which include both Not covered and partially Covered habitation is to ensure that the rural population gets at least 40 liters per capita per day of safe water from sources lying within the village or nearby. The major challenge before the government is now to ensure safe drinking water in the slipped back habitations through vigorous restoration of defunct bore pumps, carrying out repairs to water supply pipelines, augmentation of quality water supply to areas covered under the Bharat Nirman Programme. Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme(ARWSP) was introduced in 1972-73 as a central scheme. Under this scheme 100 percent assistance was given to the states for extending water supply to villages or areas where the problem is acute. The Sector reforms project was transformed into the swajla dhara Programme in 2003. The Bharat Nirman plan implemented during 2005-2009 intends to build rural infrastructure including rural water schemes. The Urban population at the end of Tenth Five year plan was more than 28 percent of the total population of 1030 million in 2002. More than half of the population of states like TamilNadu, Maharashtra, Gujrat and Punjab would be living in urban area. A large percentage of the household in urban India depend on the municipal water supply for their daily needs. More than 70 percent depend on tap water. Access to underground sources of water is the next most important. Wells, tube wells and hand pumps together account more than 27 percent of the household's main water supply. The Eleventh Five year plan (2007-2012) has called for convergence of various rural development programmes of the government backed by a need based village-level water planning.

Role of Bharat Nirman Programme in Rural Electrification

The Ministry of Power has the responsibility of providing electricity to the remaining 1,05,314 villages through the programme instrument of Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana. The Power infrastructure plays a vital role in sustained economic development of a country. Quality of power supply and power accessibility has been a matter of concern in rural India as capacity addition in this sector has been falling short of its targets/demand. For example the actual capacity addition as on 31st March 2010 was 22,301 MW. The policy of privatization of power sector in various states has not reaped desired results in raising efficiency in generation, distribution and transmission of electricity. Keeping in view the power availability and accessibility situation and the importance of electricity in rural agriculture and allied sector, the Bharat Nirman vowed to supply electricity to 2.3 crore household in 1.25 lakh un-electrified villages within four year i.e 2005-09. Under Rajiv Gandhi grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana(RGGVY), 576 Projects targeting to electrify 1.10 lakh un/de-electrified villages and intensive electrification of 3,48,987 partially electrified villages have been sanctioned in the country. In addition thirty three projects in 33 districts

have also been sanctioned under phase-II of the RGGVY. Further thirty six supplementary projects have also been sanctioned under phase II. The Bharat Nirman target of electrification of 1 lakh un-electrified villages and providing free electric connection to 1.75 crore BPL households has already been exceeded by achievement of electrification of 1,03,611 villages and 1.91 crore BPL household as on 22 March 2012. Under this scheme besides electrification of un- electrified BPL households financed with 100% capital subsidy as per norms of Kutir Jyoti Programme, provision also exists to provide access to APL household who are required to pay for their electricity connection at prescribed connection charges for obtaining household connections. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing Remote Villages Electrification Programme for providing financial support for lighting/basic electrification in those remote un-electrified census villages where grid extension hamlets of electrified census villages where grid extension is not found feasible by the State Government and are not covered under the RGGVY.

Role of Bharat Nirman Programme In Rural Communication

The Department of telecom in the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology has the responsibility of providing telephone connectivity to the 66,822 villages that remain to be covered . The resources for implementation of universal services obligation are raised through a Universal service levy which has presently been fixed at 5 percent of the adjusted gross revenue of all telecom service providers except the pure value added service providers like internet, voice mail, email service providers. The rules also make a provision for the Central Government to give grants and loans to the Funds. The balance to the credit of the Fund does not lapse at the end of the financial year. USO Funds assigns the task of providing VPTs on the basis of bids through open tender and in this case the work has been assigned to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Out of the 66,822 villages identified connectivity in 14,183 remote and far flung villages will be provided through digital satellite phone terminals. From the USOF, assistance is provided for both capital expenditure as well as operational expenditure. It is estimated that a total sum of Rs 451 crore would be required to provide VPTs in these 66,822 villages and the entire sum will be met out of USOF and no separate allocation from Government would be required. The Bharat Nirman Programme was expected to provide every Indian village with telephone access by end 2007. The Successful implementation of this programme has registered increased teledensity in rural areas. The rural teledensity in 2009-10 was 15.11 and rose by 17.88 percentage points to 32.99 as on 28th Feb. 2011. During phase II of Bharat Nirman the target has been fixed for connecting 2.47 lakh village panchayats with broadband. By March 2011 as many as 1,10,695 villages panchayats were connected with broadband facility. The policy of connecting village panchayat with broadband will ensure seamless transmission of information and empower these grass-root level democratic institution . Further , common services Centres(CSCs) , established as a part of National E-Governance programme(NEGP) has been repositioned through a network of panchayat level Bharat Nirman Common service Centres. This citizens in rural areas. CSCs have been and as on date 69,438 CSCs have been established.

CONCLUSION

The Investments made under the Bharat Nirman in Phase I and II would enrich the rural economy and narrow down the gap between rural and urban India by spreading growth benefits uniformly. To make this a reality a synchronized approach is required to cover the

infrastructure building initiatives of Bharat Nirman components with various other development oriented programmes already in operation like programmes for alleviating poverty, generating gainful employment, ensuring social security enhancing standard of health, hygiene, sanitation and education. Ministries/department Panchayat raj, expenditure, Rural development, drinking water and sanitation, water resources, Agriculture, information technology and Land resources etc. need to work out broad consensus for implementation of the main principles of these rural infrastructure building initiatives planning commission need to move in a coordinated and harmonious manners with various development ministries and undertaken periodic and close monitoring of the programme.

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