

CHAPTER - V

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

5.1 Tank Rehabilitation Project (Extension)

In Pondicherry Region, there are 84 minor irrigation tanks, having a total ayacut of 6456 Ha. Except routine maintenance works, no major improvement works were undertaken in these tanks for decades, with the result, most of the tanks have become defunct. Further, due to over exploitation of ground water for agriculture for all the three crops, the ground water level had lowered considerably resulting intrusion of saline water.

In order to rehabilitate the irrigation tanks mentioned above, a scheme costing about Rs.34.73 crores was formulated with financial assistance from the European Union. Necessary Financing Agreement between the European Union and Government of India was concluded on 27th February, 1997. Out of the total project cost of Rs.34.73 crores, the European Union's contribution will be Rs.28.13 crores. Government of Pondicherry contributes Rs.4.40 crores and the Farmers contribution is 2.20 crores.

Under this project, it was proposed to stabilize the existing registered ayacut of 6456 Ha. With assured irrigation thereby restoring agricultural income from irrigated crop production, diminish reliance on underground water resources and halting the process of saline water intrusion into sweet water aquifers through an institutional framework with the involvement of farmers in the form of Water User's Associations duly registered under the Societies Registration Act.

Based on the Inception Work Plan formulated for Rs.47.70 lakhs for the startup year 1999-2000, the European Union released Rs.32.10 lakhs in January, 2000 directly to the Project Account. Under the Inception Work Plan, office infrastructure was created at a total cost of Rs.40.00 lakhs. An amount of Rs.23,92,731 was advanced by Government of Pondicherry during 1999-2000.

The Overall Work Plan and the First Annual Work Plan (for Pilot Tanks) were approved by the European Union in February 2000. European Union released Rs.172.56 lakhs towards the First Annual Work Plan in July 2000 directly to the Project Account. The advance amount of Rs.23,92,731 received from Government of Pondicherry during 1999-2000 was refunded in October, 2001 (vide Challan No.8411, dated 16.10.2001). Under First Annual Work Plan, rehabilitation works in 3 Pilot Tanks at Vadhanur, Keelparikalpet & Kariamanickam villages were taken up by the respective Tank Associations and completed in all respects. The actual expenditure incurred towards the First Annual Work Plan was Rs.129.55 lakhs (upto 31.3.2001) as against the budgeted provision of Rs.244.40 lakhs.

13 Tanks were identified as First Batch of Tanks under Second Annual Work Plan for rehabilitation during 2001-02 and necessary Water Users Associations in 12 Tanks were formed and registered with the Registrar of Companies under the Societies Registration Act. (Tank Association could not be formed in one tank (Sathamangalam) due to conflict between 2 groups in the Village). The European Union approved the Second Annual Work Plan in April 2001 and released Rs.346.13

lakhs in June 2002 through Govt. of India, which is received by Government of Pondicherry and to be adjusted against Rs.290.00 lakhs advanced by Govt. of Pondicherry in the year 2001-2002. Physical works in these 12 tanks have been completed through respective Tank Associations. The actual expenditure towards Second Annual Work Plan was Rs.123.31 lakhs (upto 31.3.2002) as against the budgeted provision of Rs.439.30 lakhs.

27 Tanks were identified as Second Batch of Tanks under Third Annual Work Plan for rehabilitation during 2002-03 and necessary Water Users Associations were formed. The European Union approved the Third Annual Work Plan in June 2002 and released Rs.214.90 lakhs in December, 2002 through Govt. of India which is received by Government of Pondicherry and to be adjusted against Rs.551.04 lakhs advanced by Govt. of Pondicherry in the year 2002-2003. Physical works in these tanks commenced from May 2002 and at present 100% of the works have been completed. The actual expenditure towards Third Annual Work Plan was Rs.193.27 lakhs (upto 31.3.2003) as against the budgeted provision of Rs.653.26 lakhs.

25 Tanks were identified as Third Batch of Tanks under the Fourth Annual Work Plan for rehabilitation during for 2003-04 and necessary Water Users Associations were formed. The European Union approved the Fourth Annual Work Plan in June, 2003 and has released approx. **Rs.290** lakhs towards 80% of 4thAWP to the DEA, MoF, Government of India and is yet to be realized by the Govt. of Pondicherry. But works are being executed utilizing the amount advanced by Government of Pondicherry. During 2003-04 the Govt. of Pondicherry has released an amount of Rs.114.47 lakhs. Physical works in these tanks commenced in May 2003 and at present 90% of the works have been completed. The actual expenditure towards Fourth Annual Work Plan is **Rs.366.89 lakhs** (upto 31.3.2004) as against the budgeted provision of Rs.506.70 lakhs.

Out of the balance 17 Tanks, 14 Tanks were been proposed (in the 7th Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 18th February, 2004) as Fourth Batch of Tanks for rehabilitation during the Fifth Annual Work Plan up to the end of December 2004. Water Users Associations have been formed in all the 14 Tanks. The remaining 3 Tanks and spill over works were proposed for the year 2005. The 80% Claim of EU Contribution on Fifth Annual Work Plan amounting to Rs.526.40 lakhs has been sent to the EC. Physical works in these 14 tanks are under good progress. The expenditure towards Fifth Annual Work Plan up to **31st December, 2004 is Rs.594.62 lakhs** as against the budgeted provision of Rs.658.00 lakhs.

The terminal date of the Project was 31st December 2004. The proposal for extension of the Project period by 2 years up to December 2006 (sought on account of 2 years' start-up delay) forwarded to the European Union through the Ministry of Finance, Government of India had not been accepted as per Lr.No.TB/vv/dev./681, dated 18th August, 2004 of the Head of Operations, Delegation of the European Commission, New Delhi addressed to the DEA, MoF, Government of India (Communicated to the Project Director, TRPP by DEA, MoF in D.O.No.9/7/92-EEC-I/(EC), dated 6/9/2004. Thus, the Tank Rehabilitation Project Pondicherry funded by the European Union came to an abrupt halt during December, 2004. This resulted in non-completion of many of the ongoing works supposed to have been completed through this project. Therefore, as an immediate measure Government of Puducherry funds and approved for extension of the Project for 3 years and 3 months upto March, 2008 vide G.O.Ms.No.14, dated 18.3.2005 of LA & PW Secretariat, Puducherry with a financial requirement of Rs.7.56 Crores. At the

closure of the EC funded project on 31.12.2004 the total expenditure incurred was Rs.14,39,40,102/- but only Rs.10,70,43,395/- had been transferred by EC to the Govt. of India A/c. Therefore, an amount of Rs.3,65,31,980/- is still due to be released by EC to Government of India (as on 11.12.2006).

During the continuance of the TRPP with Government of Puducherry funds, the 6th AWP was approved for the year 2005-06 for Rs.7.72 Crores proposing to take up the remaining 3 tanks – Thirubuvanai, Sathamangalam and Murungapakkam as new tanks and additional new allied works in addition to the ongoing works of the preceding AWP's. Only an amount of Rs.2.50 Crore was released by the Government of Puducherry to the Project Account in 2 spells viz., G.O.Rt.No.47, dated 13.6.2005 for Rs.1.00 Crore and G.O.Rt.NO.429 dt.28.2.2006 during 2005-06 for settlement of the outstanding bills of EC funded project and implementation of the 6th AWP works as against the budget requirement of Rs.4.00 Crores upto 2005-06. Hence, expenditure incurred during 2005-06 was Rs.189.20 lacs exclusively for 6th AWP Physical works in ongoing tanks were under good progress and formation of Tank Association in the 3 new tanks were initiated.

In the 7th AWP (2006-07), Tank Association has been formed in Murungapakkam Tank and the remaining 2 tanks are under Community Organisation process. The AWP was proposed and approved for Rs.11.56 Crores. The expenditure incurred is Rs.128.72 lacs upto 31.12.2006 for 2006-07. Physical works and allied training, community organization, Agricultural extension etc. are in good progress. Only an amount of Rs.50.00 lakhs has been sanctioned for release by Govt. of Puducherry to the Project vide G.O.Rt.No.368, dt. 23.1.2007 as against the budget requirement of Rs.200 lakhs as per the extension proposal. However, work estimates to a tune of Rs.175 lakhs have been sanctioned so far and other expenses to a tune of Rs.25 lakhs are expected to be made upto March, 2007, hence an additional fund allocation of Rs.150 lakhs is required for implementation of 7th AWP.

Meanwhile it is proposed to create an autonomous agency named as "Water Resource Management Agency of Puducherry" (WARMAP), instead of TRPP. This Agency will periodically monitor and maintain the rehabilitated tanks, desilted feeder channels and irrigation, drainage channels and desilted ponds. It also aims at the sustainability of Tank Associations. The gradual deterioration of TA's, Clusters and Federation may be halted for the benefit of farming community by creating an autonomous body registered under Societies Act. The grant will be extended by Government of Puducherry and will be implemented under a full time Project Director.

Accordingly, necessary meetings were held at different levels draft Memorandum of Associations and Rules and Regulations for the proposed Society were finalized and a proposal seeking approval of the Govt. for forming the society was submitted to the Govt. vide I.D.Note No.169/PA/PD/TRPP/A6/IP/385/05-06 through the Chief Engineer, PWD., Puducherry. The proposal is under process of approval by the Govt. The Society is expected to be formed at the very earliest.

5.2 Externally Aided Projects

5.2.1 Hydrology Project – II in Pondicherry Region with World Bank Loan assistance

An amount of Rs.16.02 crores, inclusive of contingencies, has been approved as loan for implementation of Hydrology Project II in Pondicherry region by the World Bank for a period of 6 years from January 2005. The main object of the project is to bring all information relating to surface water, water quality, ground water and hydrometeorology under one roof, throughout India for better water resources planning in future. Under this project, all necessary infrastructures for the collection of data will be created and technical guidance from multinational institutions will be provided. The Minutes of Negotiation for Hydrology Project II have been signed.

As per the guidelines of the World Bank and the Ministry of Water Resources for the implementation of the Project, two committees, an Organization and a Project Secretariat have been formulated, which are as detailed below:

- i) State Level Steering Committee – Chaired by the Chief Secretary to Government of Pondicherry
- ii) State Hydrological Information System Coordination Committee – Chaired by the Superintending Engineer-II, Public Works Department, Pondicherry.
- iii) State Hydrology Organisation – Responsible for the implementation of the project, headed by the Superintending Engineer II, Public Works Department, Pondicherry.
- iv) Project Secretariat – Chaired by the Superintending Engineer II, Public Works Department, Pondicherry.

The Planned year wise expenditure towards the implementation of the project, inclusive of contingencies as approved by the World Bank and the Ministry of Water Resources is as follows.

Year	I	II	III	IV	V	IV
Rs. In Crores	1.38	3.67	4.25	3.34	1.79	1.59

As per the scheme pattern, the expenditure has to be initially met out from the State Government funds and will later be reimbursed by the Ministry of Water Resources, an amount of Rs.1.00 crore was provided by the Government of Pondicherry for the project under the Minor Irrigation sector during the financial year 2004-05 itself. But, due to delay in the signing of Project Agreement and Finance Agreement between the World Bank and Government of India, the project could not be implemented during the financial year 2004-05 and the amount was diverted to other Plan Schemes. Subsequently, the Government of Pondicherry, once again provided an amount of Rs.3.00 crores towards the implementation of the Hydrology Project-II during the financial year 2005-06. But, due to want of approval of the Central Cabinet and Planning Commission, the implementation of the Hydrology Project-II was delayed. An amount of Rs.0.10 crore is kept for implementation of the Project with current Annual Plan.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Water Resources, in its letter No.12/107/2005-HP & MI / Part-III/2855-71 dt. 19.10.2005 has informed that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Hydrology Project-II.

5.3. TWENTY POINT PROGRAMME

The 20 Point Programme forms an integral part of Plan/Non-Plan/Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes. 20 Point Programme is being implemented in this Union Territory to uplift the vulnerable group and other weaker sections of society. Adequate financial allocations are made under each point/item and efforts are taken to achieve the targets in a phased manner. Monthly progress reports are regularly sent to various Central Ministries including the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The following points are implemented and progress report are periodically sent to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Table – 5.1

Sl. No.	Point Number	Name of the Item	Unit	Target for 2005-06	Achievements	Target for 2006-07
1.	1B	SJRY	Lakh Mandays	Target free	1.23	Target free
2.	5A	Distribution of Surplus Land	Acres	40	--	40
3.	7A	Drinking Water Problem (Villages/Habitation covered)	Numbers	71	71	64
4.	8C	Immunization of Children				
		(i) D.P.T	Numbers	18084	16185	18000
		(ii) Polio	Numbers	18084	16185	18000
		(iii) B.C.G.	Numbers	18084	36182	18000
5.	9C	I.C.D.S. Blocks	Numbers	5(cum)	5	5 cum
6.	9D	Anganwadis	Numbers	677 cum	677 cum	688
7.	11A	S.C. Families Assisted	No. of Families	2500	3198	2500
8.	11B	S.T. Families Assisted	No. of Families	Nil	--	There is no. S.T. families in the U.T. Pondicherry
9.	14C	Indira Awaas Yojana(New construction)	Unit	600	233	655
10.	14D	EWS Houses	Unit	140	32	210
11.	14E	Low Income	Unit	120	Nil	180

Sl. No.	Point Number	Name of the Item	Unit	Target for 2005-06	Achievements	Target for 2006-07
		Group(LIG) Houses				
12.	14F	Indira Awas Yojana (Up gradation)	Unit	--	--	--
13.	15A	Slums Improvement	Population	8000	10,588	11646
14.	16A	Tree Plantation on Private Lands	Numbers	1 Lakh	100000	1 Lakh
15.	16B	Area covered under Public & Forest lands	Hectares	100	150	100
16.	19A	Villages Electrified	Numbers	No Target	Villages have been Electrified	All Villages have been Electrified
17.	19B	Pump sets Energized	Numbers	--	57	--
18.	19C	Improved Chullahs	Numbers	--	5000	--
19.	19D	Bio Gas	Numbers	--	--	--

5.4. SCHEDULED CASTE SUB-PLAN

Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan is prepared as an integral part of Five Year Plan/Annual Plan showing sectorwise schemewise outlays earmarked for Scheduled Castes and corresponding physical targets. According to the guidelines received from Government of India, flow of funds to SCs in States and Union Territories should be equivalent to percentage of Scheduled Castes population to total population of the States and Union Territories. As per 2001 census, the population of SCs in this territory is 1,57,771 which is 16.19% of the total population of 9,73,345. Hence 16.19% of total Plan allocation should be earmarked for SCs in this Union Territory.

The yearwise plan outlay and flow of funds for SCs are given below.

Table – 5.2

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Approved Outlay/proposed outlay	Flow of funds to SCSP	%
Annual Plan 2006-07(AO)	1,410.00	178.74	12.68
Annual Plan 2006-07(RO)	1,335.55	219.40	16.43
Eleventh Plan 2007-12(PO)	10,000.00	1,619.00	16.19
Annual Plan 2007-08(PO)	1,600.00	259.04	16.19

It is also decided to nominate Adi-dravidar Welfare department as nodal department for formulation and monitoring of Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan in the UT of Puducherry and Secretary(Welfare) will be nominated as nodal officer for allocation of funds for various Scheduled Castes development schemes and monitoring the implementation of Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan from the Annual Plan 2007-08, which is first year of the Eleventh Plan. Periodical review meetings will also be held to ensure that funds allocated for development of Scheduled Castes are fully spent. The High Level Committed constituted under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister will also review the implementation of Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan in the UT of Puducherry.

5.5. BHARAT NIRMAN PROGRAMME (BNP)

Bharath Nirman Programme is the flag-ship programme of the Government to upgrade Rural Infrastructure in a time bound manner.

The programme seeks to provide electricity in un-electrified villages, provide every habitation with safe drinking water, provision of all-weather roads to villages about 1000 population, telephone connectivity to un-connected villages, increase irrigation capacity by 10 million hectares and 60 lakh more houses to the homeless.

The details of actual expenditure during 2005-06 and funds allocated for various components of Bharath Nirman Programme in the Annual Plan 2006-07 and outlay proposed for the Eleventh Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 2007-08 are given below:

(Rs. Lakh)

Table – 5.3

Name of the Programme	Annual Plan 2005-06 Actual Expenditure	Annual plan 2006-07		Eleventh Plan 2007-12 Proposed Outlay	Annual Plan 2007-08 Proposed Outlay
		Agreed Outlay	Revised Outlay		
Irrigation	1426.50	1709.00	1504.00	15190.00	1933.61
Rural Drinking Water Supply	913.85	1030.00	1723.00	13861.90	3257.15
Rural Roads	1328.58	1356.47	1356.47	16754.30	2360.00
Rural Housing	596.14	821.34	695.99	5455.00	1235.00
Rural Electrification	54.00	54.00	54.00	275.00	55.00
Total	4319.07	4970.81	5333.46	51536.20	8840.76

5.6 KARAİKAL – BAKWARD REGION

Planning Commission have recently launched a scheme viz. “Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana” for the development of Backward Districts. 100 districts have already been identified under this scheme. Karaikal district, being a new district meets the requirements prescribed for availing funds.

Karaikal district is about 135 kms south of Puducherry on the East Coast. It is surrounded by the Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu. The Karaikal District has an area of 161 sq. kms. out of 480 sq. kms. of the Union Territory.

The physiographic map of the Karaikal district presents more or less a flat land and there are no hills or forests. The district lies in the fag end of the Cauvery Delta and is irrigated by Canal system. The main source of irrigation is river water to be released from Mettur reservoir. The district consists of almost entirely coastal alluvial soil which is highly suitable for cultivation of paddy and pulses.

Karaikal district is made up of one Municipality namely Karaikal Municipality and five Commune Panchayats namely Kottucherry, TR Pattinam, Thirunallar, Neravy and Nedungadu. The district is spread out geographically with the Karaikal town located at the Centre and the Commune of Kottucherry on the North, Nedungadu on the North-west, Thirunallar on the West, Neravy on the south-west and thirumalairayanpattinam on the south. There are 29 Revenue villages 5 each in Nedungadu and Kottucherry, 11 in Thirunallar, 3 in Neravy and 5 in TR Pattinam.

The irrigation in Karaikal district depends on 80% of the canal irrigation system which ultimately depends upon release of Cauvery Water from Mettur dam. Due to the failure of monsoon and delay and inadequacy in the release of Cauvery water the agriculture in Karaikal district has been affected drastically during the last 10 years leading to poor income from the farm sector. The areas under cultivation has come down by 50% (from 12,000 Hectares to 6000 Hectares). The value of output per agricultural worker is only Rs.2000/- per year. The average rate of agricultural wage is very low as compared to agricultural wage in Puducherry region. The most affected are the agricultural landless labourers due to lack of employment. Thus the failure of agriculture is one of the major factors for economic backwardness of the district resulting in lower purchasing power.

Thus the failure in farm sector has led to heavy displacement of agricultural labourers. Due to lack of adequate income from the farm sector and due to lack of alternate employment in industrial sector the purchasing power of both farmers and landless agricultural labourers has come down. Almost every year they depend upon the compensation paid by the Government for loss of crop due to drought or flood.

Further the farmers and fishermen get lower prices for their meager farm products and fish catches as there is no preservation, processing or value adding units in Karaikal district. There is no adequate industrial infrastructural base in Karaikal district to absorb the displaced unemployed youth on a mass scale.

5.7 INDEX OF BACKWARDNES

(i) Value of output per Agricultural Worker :

Table - 5.4

Sl. No.	Description	2003-04	
		Puducherry	Karaikal
1.	Rice Production	51876 Tons.	12725 Tons.
2.	Agricultural Workers including cultivators	44569	12937
3.	Average production of rice	1.164 Tons	0.984 Tons.
4.	Value of output per agricultural worker	1225	1072

These data reveal that Karaikal is far below to Puducherry in terms of output per Agricultural Worker.

(ii) Agricultural wage rate in Rupees :

Table - 5.5

Sl. No.	Type of labour	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
		P	K	P	K	P	K	P	K	P	K
1.	Ploughman										
	Men	150	--	157	125	70	--	170	--	178	150
2.	Sowers & Transplanters	--	80	75	78	--	85	--	89	--	89
	Men										
	Women	41	30	43	35	45	35	50	38	55	40
3.	Weeders										
	Men	--	--	--	34	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Women	37	31	37	35	38	35	43	37	48	40
4.	Other Agricultural Labourers										
	Men	72	76	82	79	85	84	93	90	105	92
	Women	--	30	--	35	--	35	--	38	--	41

[P – Puducherry / K – Karaikal]

(iii) Percentage of SC population of the Districts :

Table - 5.6

(As per 2001 census)

Region	Total Population	SC Population	Percentage
Puduchery	735332	120980	16.45
Karaikal	170791	30868	18.07

Further, Tsunami has severely affected the economy of Karaikal district, 10 fishermen and 20 non-fishermen villages were severely affected. Karaikal is encircled by the Nagapattinam district which was also severely affected by Tsunami and already been declared as a Backward District.

Due to crisscross of canals and rivers the roads leading to Karaikal district are curved with narrow bridges and culverts. Almost all the raw materials and construction materials have to come from far off places. The Health care facilities in Karaikal district are also not adequate as certain life saving specialites are not available and in such cases the critical patients have to be either sent to Thanjavur or Puducherry or to Chennai for treatment. Karaikal is also backward in respect of transport sector as there is no proper railway or national highway linkage to Karaikal district. There is no single kilometer of railway line available in Karaikal district. The Karaikal-Sirkazhi road connecting Karaikal with Puducherry and Tamil Nadu districts is also in a bad condition.

Karaikal district may be treated as backward region and funds may be allocated under the scheme "Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana".