

Note on Mission Antyodaya

In India, 8.88 crore households are found to be deprived as per Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) of 2011 from the perspective of multi-dimensional deprivations such as landlessness, households headed by single women, SC/ST household or disabled member in the family. These households require targeted interventions under government's various schemes and programmes in areas such as wage employment, skill development, social security, education, health, nutrition and livelihood creation. Already financial resources to the tune of about Rupees four lakh crore are allocated annually to impact the lives of rural poor by various government ministries/departments including Ministry of Rural Development in schemes spanning rural wages, rural roads, skill development, health, education, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, environment etc.

In this context, 'Mission Antyodaya' seeks to converge government interventions with Gram Panchayats as the basic unit for planning by following a saturation approach by pooling resources – human and financial - to ensure sustainable livelihoods. It is a State-led initiative for rural transformation to make a real difference based on measurable outcomes in the lives of 1,00,00,000 households in 5,000 rural clusters including 50,000 Gram Panchayats in 1,000 days.

'Mission Antyodaya' encourages partnerships with network of professionals, institutions and enterprises to further accelerate the transformation of rural livelihoods. Self-Help Groups (SHG) may be enablers to convergence approach due to their proven capacity for social mobilisation. The thrust is not only on physical infrastructure but also on social infrastructure with strengthening of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry activities with utmost priority given to SHG expansion in Antyodaya clusters. Capacity for financial and social audit would also be built at grassroot level. This would be accomplished by convergence of frontline worker teams, cluster resource persons (CRPs) and professionals at the Gram Panchayats / Cluster level. Cluster facilitation team would also be provided at the block level.

'Mission Antyodaya' is thus, based on convergence, accountability and measurable outcomes to ensure that resources are effectively managed in providing sustainable livelihoods for every deprived household based on SECC, 2011.

The framework makes use of information and communication technology to ensure the benefits reach those who are most deserving as per SECC Date. Backed by a robust MIS linked to schemes' date bases using a common Local Governance Directory (LGD) code, it would be possible to ensure end-to-end targeting against defined set of indicators to measure progress against the baseline. Periodic monitoring of such indicators and course correction is expected to lead the households to a threshold level of development trajectory. Over 25 departments and ministries of Central and State Governments will be participating in this mission through their specific programmes and

schemes. The data from different schemes will also share Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) which would be put in public domain for complete transparency.

Wide range of consultations were held on the framework for 'Mission Antyodaya' with Panchayat representatives, SHGs, NGOs, corporate, State Government representatives, NITI Aayog, start-ups and young CEOs apart from field visits. All these efforts culminated in a National-level Consultations on 10th October, 2017 in which thematic suggestions were made for 'Mission Antyodaya'. Based on these consultations, experiences, field visits and studies such as that by IRMA which shows that convergence reduces poverty and raises incomes of the households, the framework indicates the roadmap for implementing 'Mission Antyodaya'.

The states have selected Gram Panchayats / Clusters under 'Mission Antyodaya' which are either GPs with achievements like ODF, crime / dispute free GPs, Award Winning GPs or are covered under schemes such as DAY NRLM, Mission Water Conservation, SAGY/Rurban Cluster or specific purpose GPs. Most of these GPs are also in the backward districts of the country.

'Mission Antyodaya' is expected to unleash the latent potential of participating GPs through convergence and concerned actions of all the stakeholders and propel these GPs to a virtuous cycle of development.