**GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

In India – a country where the **majority of people living in rural areas,** rural development programme is **necessary aspect.** **Over 60-70% of the people** are living in rural areas **neither have adequate land holdings nor alternative service opportunities** to procure basic needs.

**>SELF-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES:**

Almost everyone in rural India is involved in some or the other kind of works, but these are typically subsistence activities characterized by very **low productivity.** The Planning Commission for the **10th Five year Plan** had pointed out that about **36 to 40 per cent** of the **rural population still required casual or wage employment.** Obviously, programmes for **self-employment of the poor** have been an important component of the **anti-poverty programmes** implemented through government **initiatives in rural India.** Through these programmes **lots of poor unemployed people can engage themselves in the unskilled works.**

1. **MGNREGS:** Evolving the design of the wage employment programmes to more effectively fight poverty, the Central Government formulated the **National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2005.** The main objective of the scheme is to provide **100 days employment** **to rural unemployed people.** In this scheme, **employment to women is also provided.** **Employment generation** under MGNREG is also **much higher** than under any other wage employment program in the past – it provided nearly 43 person days of employment per household in its first year compared to 26 person days generated by the pan-India **Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)** in 2005-06. However, **unfulfilled demand for work is high** and the **program does not guarantee 100 days of work per rural household.**
2. **DEENDAYAL ANTYODAYA YOJANA-NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION (DAY-NRLM):** It is imperative for the Government **to expand livelihoods in rural areas in agriculture, small enterprises and formal sector employment.** In 2011, **National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)** was launched to realize this and **renamed as, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** with the **objective to organize all rural poor households** of the country and **continuously nurture and support them till they come out of miserable povertyarantee 100 days of work per rural household.**

* **HOUSING:**

**Housing,** like food and clothing, satisfies one of the **fundamental needs of human being.** **How to own a house** is the **biggest challenge** for a common man, **especially in the rural India.** Further empirical evidences revealed that **qualitative and quantitative growth of rural housing** always has **positive impacts on the rural people** in terms of health, employment, income, wealth, productivity and welfare as well. Considering the above fact, the **Government has taken a series of initiatives to fulfil the rural housing needs in particular.**

* **SANITATION:**

**Individual Health and hygiene** is largely dependent on adequate **availability of drinking water** **and proper sanitation.** **Dirty surroundings** **cause many diseases** like malaria, dengue, jaundice, diarrhoea, cholera etc. This **increases our public health expenditure.** For example, between 2006 and 2012, India reported an annual average of 20,474 dengue cases, with direct medical cost of about Rs.3500 crore per annum. Thus **ensuring cleanliness would make a significant impact on public health,** and in **safeguarding income of the poor** and ultimately **contributing to the national economy.**

* **DRINKING WATER:**

**Safe drinking-water is essential to sustain life** – it is the **basis for human health, survival, growth and development.** Therefore, **access to safe drinking water is a basic for human right.** Recognition of this right **contributes to the survival of human beings** and disease prevention, because **water is used not only for drinking, but also for many other purposes** such as hygiene, food production, agriculture, cooking and industry. **Unsafe water, blended with inadequate sanitation and hygiene,** still contributes to some **842,000 deaths every year,** representing **58 percent of deaths caused by diarrhoea.** About 361,000 of these deaths occur in children under five years. Safe water supply is essential not only for health, but also for people’s livelihoods, economic growth and development.

* **ROAD CONNECTIVITY:**

Rural road connectivity is a **key component of rural development** and a **holistic approach** of promoting **access to economic and social services** thereby, generating **increased agricultural incomes and productive employment opportunities.** In the **absence of road connectivity,** schools had local children but where beyond the reach of the appointed teachers, at Primary Health Centres (PHC), patients kept waiting for the arrival of the doctors and medical staff.