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# *Chapter - 2*

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## **Chapter-2 Planning and Capacity Building**

### **2.1 State Annual Plan**

The State Annual Plan process for the implementation of IAY scheme revolves around the district. District-wise targets are set annually by the MoRD, GoI based on the funds available. On receipt of sanction/release order from MoRD, the district authorities set the annual physical target of houses to be constructed by the beneficiaries selected out of the permanent wait list (PWL) of BPL families. Indira Awaas Yojana was an ongoing process for meeting the housing needs of the rural poor.

During audit, several shortcomings/irregularities in implementation of the scheme *viz.*, excess/double allotment, instances of allotment outside PWL/BPL list, allotment to different beneficiaries with same family identity number (FID) etc., were noticed. These could have been avoided had there been a comprehensive planning process in place for periodic updation of PWL/BPL list on regular basis.

MoRD, GoI decided (January 2011) that every state should prepare Annual Plan from 2012-13 *inter-alia* highlighting issues like budget, eradication of shelterlessness in a time-bound manner, access to appropriate technological solutions and skills, convergence, monitoring of houses constructed by the beneficiaries and complaints redressal etc. The State Government, however, did not prepare the Annual Plan for 2012-13 for reasons not on record.

### **2.2 District Annual Plan**

The guidelines envisaged preparation of the Annual Action Plan (AAP) at the district level for smooth implementation of the scheme. The AAP is required to be approved by the Zilla Parishad or the Governing Body (GB) of DRDA before commencement of the year. None of the selected districts, however, prepared AAP during 2008-13.

Failure in preparation of the AAPs as well as the State Plan before commencement of the year had affected the smooth and timely implementation of the programme.

On this being pointed out, the Commissioner, P& RD Department, Assam stated in the exit conference held on 11 November 2013 that the Government is attempting to prepare the plan from 2013-14 onwards.

### **2.3 Training**

Guidelines of IAY provided that all the Officers/officials dealing with the IAY at the State, District and Block levels must be trained in various disaster resistant features to be adopted in construction of the IAY houses and they should ensure its compliance during their field visits. In addition, local carpenters and masons should

also be trained for skill upgradation and use of low cost technology and local material.

The Commissioner, P& RD, Assam on the basis of data obtained from State Institute for Rural Development (SIRD), informed that during 2008-12, 20 programmes were conducted where 832 officers and staff including BDOs, JEs, EOs, Chairpersons of Gaon Panchayats and GP Secretaries were imparted training on IAY. There was, however, nothing on record to show that local carpenters and masons were trained in the institute. Also in the 10 test-checked districts, no officers/officials were deployed to participate in the training programme as envisaged in the guidelines for reasons not on record.

Thus, failure of the district authorities to impart training to the officers/officials had frustrated the very objective of familiarising them with various features of disaster resistant houses and skill upgradation of masons and carpenters to use low cost technology and local materials.

#### **2.4 Information, Education and Communication (IEC)**

According to the guidelines of IAY, awareness campaign through seminars, workshops, exhibitions etc., is to be organised in the districts and blocks to create awareness among the beneficiaries about the disaster resistant and environment friendly low cost technologies and incentives available for low cost sanitary latrines under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) programme. The guidelines also provided that IEC material on TSC should be included in IAY publicity material.

None of the test-checked development blocks and the districts, however, organised any awareness campaign as envisaged in the guidelines leaving the targeted beneficiaries unaware about the incentives available under the scheme for the construction of sanitary latrine under TSC. Thus, the objective of introducing IEC remained largely unachieved.

On being pointed out, the State Government stated (November 2013) that as there was no contingency provision in IAY, there was no specific programme of IEC organised. However, sufficient material had been published through SIRD utilizing DRDA Administration fund. Awareness also generated through Gram Sabhas and by holding weekly 'GP Divas'. No records in this regard were, however, made available in support at any level. The beneficiary surveys conducted also did not corroborate the statement of the Government.