

Bharat Nirman

**A time-bound plan for rural infrastructure by the
Government of India in partnership with State Governments and
Panchayat Raj Institutions**

2005-2009



*“**Bharat Nirman** will be a time-bound business plan for action in rural infrastructure for the next four years. Under Bharat Nirman, action is proposed in the areas of irrigation, road, rural housing, rural water supply, rural electrification and rural telecommunication connectivity. We have set specific targets to be achieved under each of these goals so that there is accountability in the progress of this initiative.”*

- Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister

Bharat Nirman: Tasks

- Every village to be provided electricity: remaining 1,25,000 villages to be covered by 2009 as well as connect 2.3 crore households
- Every habitation over 1000 population and above (500 in hilly and tribal areas) to be provided an all-weather road: remaining 66,802 habitations to be covered by 2009
- Every habitation to have a safe source of drinking water: 55,067 uncovered habitations to be covered by 2009. In addition all habitations which have slipped back from full coverage to partial coverage due to failure of source and habitations which have water quality problems to be addressed
- Every village to be connected by telephone: remaining 66,822 villages to be covered by November 2007
- 10 million hectares (100 lakhs) of additional irrigation capacity to be created by 2009
- 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. These investments in rural infrastructure will unlock the growth potential of rural India.



I. ELECTRICITY

Goal: Every village to be provided electricity: remaining 1,25,000 villages to be covered by 2009

The Ministry of Power has the responsibility of providing electricity to the remaining 1,25,000 villages through the programme instrument of Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana. In addition it will also provide 23 million households with electricity. As per the Census of 2001, 1,25,000 villages remained uncovered.

• **Components of Infrastructure**

To be able to achieve this objective, Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone with at least a 33/11 KV sub-station would be set up in each block, at least one Distribution Transformer in each habitation of every village or hamlet as Village Electrification Infrastructure, Stand-alone grid with generation where grid supply is not feasible. These Stand-alone grids would be set up in partnership with the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy also.

• **Norms of village electrification**

A village will be deemed electrified if the following conditions are met.

- “ basic infrastructure such as distribution transformer and distribution lines are provided in the inhabited locality as well as the dalit basti/hamlet where it exists. (For electrification through non-conventional energy sources a Distribution Transformer may not be necessary)
- electricity is provided to public places like schools, panchayat offices, health centres, dispensaries, community centres, etc. and
- number of households electrified should be at least 10% of the total number of households in the village”.

• **Management**

Rural Electrification Corporation would be the agency for implementation.

The Management of Rural Distribution will be franchisees that could be Users Associations, individual entrepreneurs, Cooperatives, Non-Governmental Organizations, Panchayat Institutions.

Services of Central Services undertakings like National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL), National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) will be made available for the execution of rural electrification projects. These CPSUs have been allocated districts in each state wherein they will implement the rural electrification network.

- **Finances**

90% capital subsidy will be provided for overall cost of the projects under the scheme. The capital subsidy for eligible projects under the scheme will be through the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, which will be the nodal agency. Electrification of unelectrified below-poverty-line households will be financed with 100% capital subsidy at Rs.1500 per connection in all rural habitations. Others will be paying for the connections at prescribed connection charges and no subsidy will be made available.

- **Prioritisation**

For creation of village electrification infrastructure, first priority will be given to un-electrified villages. Preference for electrification will be given to Dalit Bastis, Tribal settlements and habitations of weaker sections.

STATE WISE TARGET FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Sl. No.	State	Total No. of inhabited villages as per 1991 census	Total No. of villages electrified	Balance un-electrified villages	% age of electrified villages
1	Andhra Pradesh	26586	26565	(21)\$	100
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	2335	1314	64
3.	Assam	24685	19081	5604	77.30
4.	Bihar	38475	19251	19224	50
5.	Jharkhand	29336	7641	21695	26
6.	Goa	360	360	-	100
7.	Gujarat	18028	17940	(88)\$	100
8.	Haryana	6759	6759	-	100
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	16891	106	99.38
10	J&K	6477	6301	176	97.28
11.	Karnataka	27066	26771	295	98.91
12.	Kerala	1384	1384	-	100
13.	Madhya Pradesh	51806	50474	1332	97.43
14.	Chattisgarh	19720	18532	1188	94
15.	Maharashtra	40412	40351	(61)\$	100
16.	Manipur	2182	2043	139	93.63
17.	Meghalaya	5484	3016	2468	55
18.	Mizoram	698	691	7	99
19.	Nagaland	1216	1216	-	100
20.	Orissa	46989	37663	9326	80.15
21.	Punjab	12428	12428	-	100
22.	Rajasthan	37889	37276	613	98.38
23.	Sikkim	447	405	42	90.60
24.	Tamil Nadu	15822	15822	-	100
25.	Tripura	855	818	37	95.67
26.	Uttar Pradesh	97122	57042	40080	58.73
27.	Uttaranchal	15681	13131	2550	83.73
28.	West Bengal	37910	31705	6205	83.63
	Total (States)	586463	47382	11241	80.80
	Total UTs	1093	1090	(3)\$	100%
	All India	587556	474982	112401	80.80%

\$ Balance villages are not feasible for electrification.

* As per the new definition of village electrification (effective from 2004-05) total number of unelectrified villages is estimated to be around 1,25,000.

Source: Ministry of Power



II. ROADS

Goal: Every habitation over 1000 population and above (500 in hilly and tribal areas) to be provided an all-weather road: remaining 66,802 habitations to be covered by 2009

The Ministry of Rural Development has the responsibility of ensuring that every habitation over 1000 population and every habitation with more than 500 in hilly and tribal areas is connected with an all-weather road by 2009. This is expected to generate multiplier effects in the rural economy of linking production to markets and services. This work which is being undertaken under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana since 2000, has been modified to address the above goals within the stipulated time-frame.

- **Magnitude of the Task**

To achieve the targets of Bharat Nirman, 1,46,185 Kms road length is proposed to be constructed by 2009. This will benefit 66,802 unconnected eligible habitations in the country. To ensure full farm-to-market connectivity, it is also proposed to upgrade 1,94,132 kms. of the existing Associated Through Routes.

- **Management**

A district and rural roads plan has been prepared listing out complete network of all roads in the district that has village roads, major district roads, state roads and national highways. The concept of core network has been operationalised to focus on those set of roads, which are considered essential to provide connectivity to all habitations of the desired size. The Core Network is the basic instrumentality for prioritization of construction and allocation of funds for maintenance. Action has been initiated to develop GIS-based applications to further enhance the utility of the Core Network.

The programme is implemented through a framework of consultation with public representatives ranging from the panchayat level up to Parliament. A Rural Roads Manual guides the implementation of the programme. A separate Book of Specification and a Standard Data Book have been prepared. As per this, standard bidding documents are to be adopted by the states. For MIS there is a computerized Online Management and Monitoring Accounting System.

- **Finances**

Approximately Rs.48,000 crores is proposed to be invested to achieve this objective. 100% of the funds of this programme is being provided by the Central Government.

- **Work Done**

27,059 road work covering 76,566 kms have been completed benefiting 36, 659 habitations so far.

Bharat Nirman - Habitation Details				
Sl.No	Name of the State	Habitations		Total
		1000+	500-999	
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	92	206	298
3	Assam	5182	3950	9132
4	Bihar	9956	0	9956
5	Chhattisgarh	1848	4461	6309
6	Goa	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	0	978	978
8	Haryana	0	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	138	487	625
10	Jammu & Kashmir	614	854	1468
11	Jharkhand	1894	1983	3877
12	Karnataka	0	0	0
13	Kerala	0	0	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	4303	3529	7832
15	Maharashtra	0	0	0
16	Manipur	71	110	181
17	Meghalaya	36	119	155
18	Mizoram	24	109	133
19	Nagaland	9	31	40
20	Orissa	2312	2135	4447
21	Punjab	0	0	0
22	Rajasthan	30	3922	3952
23	Sikkim	6	114	120
24	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
25	Tripura	175	635	810
26	Uttar Pradesh	3738	1164	4902
27	Uttaranchal	76	637	713
28	West Bengal	9932	942	10874
	Total	40436	26366	66802

Source: Ministry of Rural Development

Bharat Nirman Physical Targets for Upgradation

(Length in Kms)

Sl.No	Name of the State	2005-06 length	2006-07 length	2007-08L length	2008-09 length	Total Length
1	Andhra Pradesh	1821.494	2258.652	2258.652	2258.652	8597.45
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	0	2005.71	2269.808	2219.843	6495.361
4	Bihar	0	2393.617	3510.638	3390.958	9295.213
5	Chhattisgarh	0	1986.063	3240.418	3222.996	8449.477
6	Goa	190.114	190.114	190.114	190.114	760.456
7	Gujarat	0	1557.971	1557.971	1413.043	4528.985
8	Haryana	229.358	1146.789	1146.789	1238.532	3761.468
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	1515.923	1694.268	1503.185	4713.376
10	Jammu & Kashmir	0	1007.584	920.91	1007.584	2936.078
11	Jharkhand	0	2108.433	2123.494	1987.952	6219.879
12	Karnataka	2573.529	2573.529	2573.529	2573.529	10294.12
13	Kerala	524.109	628.931	524.109	524.109	2201.258
14	Madhya Pradesh	0	5189.543	6614.379	6823.53	18627.45
15	Maharashtra	4334.365	4334.365	4334.365	4334.365	17337.46
16	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	0	587.583	587.583	665.189	1840.355
18	Mizoram	0	257.998	257.998	216.718	732.714
19	Nagaland	0	246.914	246.914	370.371	864.199
20	Orissa	0	4438.574	4663.144	5059.445	14161.16
21	Punjab	423.729	1483.051	1483.051	1680.791	5070.622
22	Rajasthan	0	4764.543	4653.74	3656.51	13074.79
23	Sikkim	0	196.85	137.795	98.425	433.07
24	Tamil Nadu	1297.71	2824.427	2824.427	4167.939	11114.5
25	Tripura	0	373.737	383.838	414.141	1171.716
26	Uttar Pradesh	0	7158.962	6956.031	14408.12	28523.11
27	Uttaranchal	0	889.454	1283.354	1270.648	3443.456
28	West Bengal	0	2549.942	2878.965	4054.053	9482.96
	Total	11394.41	54669.26	59316.28	68750.74	194130.7

Source: Ministry of Rural Development

Bharat Nirman - Physical Targets for New Connectivity

Sl. No	Name of the State	(Length in Kms, Habitations in Numbers)											
		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		Total			
		Length	Habs	Length	Habs	Length	Habs	Length	Habs	Length	Habs	Length	Habs
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	162.5	22	637.5	85	646.875	86	671.875	105	2118.75	298	2118.75	298
3	Assam	605.852	421	2864.063	1988	3889.845	2701	5793.46	4022	13153.22	9132	13153.22	9132
4	Bihar	1665.831	896	3928.75	2062	6121.425	3214	7230.306	3784	18946.31	9956	18946.31	9956
5	Chhattisgarh	1501.365	478	4367.606	1310	6450.644	2007	8255.181	2514	20574.8	6309	20574.8	6309
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	402.955	230	429.723	246	438.675	251	438.675	251	1710.028	978	1710.028	978
8	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	464.583	127	795.833	209	638.542	166	479.167	123	2378.125	625	2378.125	625
10	Jammu & Kashmir	169.972	57	1059.49	352	1781.869	593	1405.099	466	4416.43	1468	4416.43	1468
11	Jharkhand	1051.779	526	2594.39	1295	1812.298	901	2319.31	1155	7777.777	3877	7777.777	3877
12	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	2602.139	768	6162.451	1760	8326.848	2399	10470.17	2905	27561.61	7832	27561.61	7832
15	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Manipur	100	11	460.714	48	464.286	48	719.048	74	1744.048	181	1744.048	181
17	Meghalaya	123.609	35	135.971	39	140.091	40	144.211	41	543.882	155	543.882	155
18	Mizoram	82.746	12	274.819	39	277.884	39	306.498	43	941.947	133	941.947	133
19	Nagaland	93.318	9	104.529	10	109.507	10	114.485	11	421.839	40	421.839	40
20	Orissa	1055.95	493	1985.609	874	2524.021	1087	4427.774	1993	9993.354	4447	9993.354	4447
21	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Rajasthan	2153.615	743	3629.519	1252	3554.217	1225	2123.494	732	11460.85	3952	11460.85	3952
23	Sikkim	75.031	22	104.042	30	108.043	31	132.053	37	419.169	120	419.169	120
24	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Tripura	94.774	66	261.74	183	354.701	248	447.661	313	1158.876	810	1158.876	810
26	Uttar Pradesh	1966.416	1236	2390.632	1504	2059.213	1295	1378.701	867	7794.962	4902	7794.962	4902
27	Uttaranchal	380.609	95	422.008	106	1025.641	257	1020.299	255	2848.557	713	2848.557	713
28	West Bengal	739.378	787	2572.767	2738	3265.307	3473	3643.359	3876	10220.81	10874	10220.81	10874
	Total	15492.42	7034	35182.16	16130	43989.93	20071	51520.83	23567	146185.3	66802	146185.3	66802

Source: Ministry of Rural Development



III. DRINKING WATER

Goal: Every habitation to have a safe source of drinking water: 55,067 uncovered habitations to be covered by 2009. In addition, all habitations which have slipped back from full coverage to partial coverage due to failure of source and habitations which have water quality problems to be addressed.

The Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Drinking Water Supply is responsible for meeting this goal in partnership with State Governments. The programme instrument of the Government of India is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under implementation since 1972-73 which is funded on a 50% matching share basis between the Government of India and the State Government. Since 1972, over 37 lakh hand pumps and 1.5 lakh pipe water supply systems have been set up to provide safe water to over 15 lakh habitations in the country at a cost of over Rs 50,000 crore.

- **Norms for coverage**

- 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd) of safe drinking water for human beings
- 30 lpcd additional for cattle in the Desert Development Programme Areas
- One hand pump or stand post for every 250 persons
- The water source should exist within 1.6 km in the plains and within 100 metres elevation in the hilly areas

- **Current Backlog**

The backlog for coverage is under estimation based on a habitation survey for the categories of uncovered villages, slipped- back villages and villages affected with a problem of water quality. 55,067 villages remain uncovered and are targeted for coverage as first priority. The category of slipped-back villages estimated by the Planning Commission at the beginning of the Tenth Plan as 2.8 lakh habitations. These are so on account of a number of factors like

- Sources going dry or lowering of the ground water table
- Sources becoming quality affected

- Systems outliving their lives
- Systems working below rated capacity due to poor operation and maintenance
- Increase in population resulting in lower per capita availability
- Emergence of new habitations

According to the data received from State Governments based on a survey undertaken in 2000, 2,16,968 habitations are affected due to a variety of water quality problems with the following break-up:

excess fluoride: 31,306; excess arsenic: 5029; excess salinity:23,495; excess iron:1,18,088; excess nitrate: 13,958 and multiple quality problems: 25,092.

The Government of India has decided that under Bharat Nirman names of habitations would have to be provided by State Governments for availing funds from Government of India. This would give maximum transparency to the programme. State Governments would be required to place the habitations proposed for coverage and covered on this site in course of time.

- **Finances**

The scheme is funded on a 50% basis by the GoI and expenditure of Rs.4050 crores is expected for the current year. The actual requirement will be worked out based on the names of habitations supplied by the states and funded.

STATUS OF REMAINING UNCOVERED HABITATIONS

S. No.	State/UT	STATUS OF HABITATIONS AS ON 1-4-2005		
		NC	PC	Total
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	0	0	0
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	158	510	668
3	ASSAM	238	7137	7375
4	BIHAR	0	0	0
5	CHHATTISGARH	0	0	0
6	GOA	0	6	6
7	GUJARAT	0	36	36
8	HARYANA	0	0	0
9	HIMACHAL PRADESH*	0	6891	6891
10	JAMMU & KASHMIR*	660	2551	3211
11	JHARKHAND	0	0	0
12	KARNATAKA	0	5618	5618
13	KERALA*	0	7573	7573
14	M.P.	0	0	0
15	MAHARASHTRA	327	17411	17738
16	MANIPUR	0	0	0
17	MEGHALAYA	12	239	251
18	MIZORAM*	0	112	112
19	NAGALAND*	41	690	731
20	ORISSA	0	0	0
21	PUNJAB	803	1128	1931
22	RAJASTHAN	2300	0	2300
23	SIKKIM	0	74	74
24	TAMILNADU	0	0	0
25	TRIPURA	0	0	0
26	UTTAR PRADESH	0	0	0
27	UTTARANCHAL	30	242	272
28	WEST BENGAL	0	0	0
29	A & N ISLANDS*	0	102	102
30	DADRA NAGAR HAVELI*	19	41	60
31	DAMAN & DIU	0	0	0
32	DELHI	0	0	0
33	LAKSHADWEEP*	0	10	10
34	PONDICHERY	0	108	108
35	CHANDIGARH	0	0	0
	TOTAL	4588	50479	55067

Source: Department of Drinking Water Supply, M/o Rural Development

NC: Not Covered, PC: Partially Covered

Note1: Only States/UTs marked with * have furnished figures for status of habitations as on 1-4-2005 For rest of the States/UTs the figures for status of habitations are as on 1-11-2004



IV. TELEPHONE

Goal: Every village to be connected by telephone: remaining 66,822 villages to be covered by November 2007

The Department of Telecom in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has the responsibility of providing telephone connectivity to the 66,822 villages that remain to be covered.

• Current Status

A statement indicating the break up of the uncovered villages, number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) to be provided on satellite and other technologies and the VPTs already provided up to 30th September, 2005 is given below-

SlNo	Name of the Service Area	Total No. of uncovered villages	VPTs to be provided on Satellite Technology	VPTs to be provided on other Technology	VPTs provided upto 30.09.05
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1074	115	959	208
2.	Assam	8931	279	8652	1976
3.	Jharkhand	1694	1694	0	30
4.	Gujarat	4144	0	4144	1657
5.	H.P.	1002	275	727	234
6.	J&K	1755	465	1290	206
7.	M.P.	11894	443	11451	3454
8.	Chattisgarh	5043	88	4955	675
9.	Maharashtra	6441	496	5945	1844
10.	North East – I	2128	578	1550	76
11.	North East – II	1550	1289	261	30
12.	Orissa	4899	4899	0	0
13.	Rajasthan	12386	18	12368	2493
14.	Uttaranchal	3881	3544	337	195
	Total	66822	14183	52639	13078

Source: D/o Telecommunications, M/o Communications & IT

• **Funds**

The resources for implementation of universal services obligation are raised through a Universal Service Levy which has presently been fixed at 5% of the adjusted gross revenue of all telecom service providers except the pure value added service providers like internet, voice mail, e-mail service providers. The rules also make a provision for the Central Government to give grants and loans to the Fund. The balance to the credit of the Fund does not lapse at the end of the financial year.

USO Fund 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.

• **Additional Incentives**

Telecom service providers are being assisted through the USOF to penetrate into the rural areas for the following activities:

- Maintenance of existing village public telephones (VPTs).
- Provision of an additional rural community phone in villages with a population of more than two thousand and where no public call office exists.
- Replacement of village public telephones installed on Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) technology.
- Telephone lines installed in household in specified rural areas.

• **Increasing Rural Teledensity**

Rural teledensity will be significantly enhanced during the period of Bharat Nirman.

• **Knowledge Connectivity**

The Government is committed to expanding rural connectivity through a slew of measures so that rural users can access information of value and transact business. This will include connecting block headquarters with fibre optic network, using wireless technology to achieve last mile connectivity and operating information kiosks through a partnership of citizens, panchayats, civil society organizations, the private sector and Government.



V. IRRIGATION

Goal: 10 million hectares (100 lakhs) of additional irrigation capacity to be created by 2009

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.

• **Current Status**

The ultimate irrigation potential for the country has been estimated as 139.88 million hectare (Mha), which include potential through Major and Medium irrigation projects (58.46 Mha), surface water based minor irrigation schemes (17.42 Mha) and ground water development (64.00 Mha). So far, the irrigation potential of 99.36 Mha has already been created. However, the created potential has not been fully utilized and the gap between created and utilized potential has been estimated to be of the order of 14 Mha.

(a) Major and Medium Irrigation (MMI) Projects

For the country as a whole, 66% of the ultimate irrigation potential of major and medium projects has been created. 388 Major and Medium irrigation projects which were taken up prior to or during the IX Plan are still ongoing which would result in creation of 12.1 Mha of additional irrigation potential. In addition, the States have proposed 204 Major and Medium projects during X Plan and the potential likely to be created is of the order of 4.99 Mha.

So far, 173 major and medium, 4169 minor and 21 Extension, Renovation and Modernization (ERM) projects have been provided Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation benefit Programme (AIBP). The potential creation through projects supported under AIBP has been found to be 0.35 Mha per year with about 0.47 Mha per year in the last two years. As per existing Plan, the projected creation of irrigation potential through AIBP is 0.50 Mha per year in the remaining period of X Five Year Plan.

The average rate of creation of irrigation potential through Major and Medium projects from 1951 to 1997 has been found to be of the order of 0.51 Mha per year. During the year 1997 to 2005, the rate for creation has been found to be 0.92 Mha per year. The pace of creation of new irrigation potential through Major and Medium projects has increased in the recent past. This is probably due to fruition of projects started much earlier, which have been expedited due to increased support through AIBP.

The projects for extension, renovation and modernization (ERM) of major and medium irrigation schemes are also being implemented with arrangement similar to that for completion of ongoing major and medium schemes. The implementation of ERM projects along with Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD and WM) help in sustaining the created facilities and in improving the utilization.

(b) Minor Irrigation Schemes

There is considerable variation in creation of irrigation potential through minor irrigation (both surface and ground water) schemes from State to State. While full potential through minor irrigation has been tapped in some of the States, it is relatively very low in others.

Minor irrigation through surface water covers water sources (tanks and small reservoirs) with a culturable command area (CCA) of less than 2000 ha. About 70% of the ultimate potential through surface water based minor irrigation schemes has since been created. The Report of the National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development points out that the carrying capacity of tanks has decreased over time for a variety of reasons and that the restoration and renovation of tanks and other local sources is a priority task.

Since 2004-05, a pilot scheme for “repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies directly linked to agriculture” has been taken up by the Government as a state-sector scheme in the 16 districts of the country which is proposed to be expanded.

(c) Ground Water Development

From the surveys conducted for estimation of availability and status of ground water, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has identified areas that are over-exploited (where exploitation is more than natural recharge of ground water) and areas that are “critical or dark” (where draft is between 70% to 100% of the natural recharge of ground water). The recent survey indicates that out of 7414 identified units (blocks/talukas/watershed), 471 are “Overexploited” and 318 are “Critical or Dark” units. Thus less than 11% of the total units fall under the category of “over-exploited” and “critical”. The ultimate irrigation potential to be created is based on the assessed replenishable groundwater after duly accounting for the domestic and industrial uses (about 10%). It has been assessed that ground water is still available for utilization in many parts of the country, particularly in the eastern parts of the country, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and in specific pockets of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Jammu & Kashmir. In Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, the rechargeable quantum of ground water has been exceeded and mining of static reserves has commenced. This reinforces the need to take urgent steps to increase recharge and conservation.

• **Targets under Bharat Nirman**

Sl. No.	Component	Target
I	Completion of ongoing Major & medium Irrigation Projects	4.2 Mha
II	Minor irrigation schemes	2.8 MHA
	• Surface water	1.0 Mha
	• Ground Water	1.8 Mha
III	Enhancing utilization of completed projects	2.0 Mha
	• ERM of major & medium projects	1.0 Mha
	• Repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies/ERM of minor irrigation schemes.	1.0 Mha
IV	Ground water development in area with unutilized ground water potential (for benefit of small and marginal farmers and Tribals & Dalits) ¹	1.0 Mha

¹ Creation of potential of 1 Mha through ground water development in areas with unutilized ground water potential would primarily benefit small and marginal farmers who are mostly tribals, dalits and weaker sections of society. The scheme envisages full involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in implementation of the schemes.



VI. HOUSING

Goal: 60 lakh houses to be constructed for the rural poor by 2009

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.

- **Task**

The 2001 Census places the rural housing shortage figure in India at around 149 lakhs. Construction of 60 lakh houses over the next four years across the country is envisaged, starting from 2005-06 to address a significant portion of this backlog.

- **Criteria**

The criteria adopted for allocation of financial resources between the States/UTs give greater emphasis to the states with higher incidence of shelterlessness. 75% weightage is given to housing shortage and 25% to the poverty ratios prescribed by the Planning Commission for State-level allocations. For district-level allocations, 75% weightage is given again to housing shortage and 25% to SC/ST population of the districts concerned. Grant assistance is provided to the extent 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.

- **Prioritisation**

Implementation guidelines of the scheme specifically target the rural below poverty line (BPL) households. The respective Gram Sabha does the selection of beneficiaries from the BPL list and no higher approval is required. The guidelines also clearly specify that the house allotment should be in the name of the female member of the family as a first priority. While seeking to empower the rural women, the scheme also provides priority to physically and mentally challenged persons, ex-servicemen, widows and freed bonded labourers. It is stipulated that at least 60% of the beneficiaries should belong to the SC/ST communities. 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.