


WEDC
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Mid-Decade status in West Bengal

1. BASIC DATA

The State of West Bengal has been divided into two Parts so far as activities in the Water-Supply and Sanitation Sector are concerned. One part consists of the Calcutta Metropolitan District and the other part is comprised of the remaining area of the State. According to 1981 Census, there are 75 Municipal Towns (M), 100 Non-Municipal Urban Units (NM) and 35 Urban Outgrowths (OG) within the Non-CMD part of the State.

According to 1971 Census Report, there were 38074 numbers of inhabited villages in the State.

2. INTRODUCTION

The State Government has broadly approved the Programme for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade commencing on and from 1st April 1981. Service coverage at the beginning of the Decade is 40.30%, 16.24% and 7.42% for Urban Water Supply, Rural Water Supply and Urban Sanitation respectively. There was insignificant service coverage in the Rural Sanitation Sector.

3. PHYSICAL TARGET AND FUND REQUIREMENT

Physical Targets envisaged during Phase I (upto 31.3.85) and Phase II (upto 31.3.1991) in terms of Target population and estimated fund requirement therefor at 1980 Price Level in the different Subsectors are indicated in Table 1.

4. PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS ACHIEVED DURING PHASE I (1981-85)
Urban Water Supply

New Water Supply Schemes in 6 Municipal Towns and 12 Non-Municipal Towns and Augmentation Extension Schemes in 6 other Municipal Towns have been commissioned/completed. 0.06 crore persons have been benefitted through these schemes. Substantial progress have also been achieved in respect of execution of New Water Supply Schemes in 19 Municipal Towns and a part of one Municipal Town, 48 Non-Municipal Towns and Urban Outgrowths, and also Augmentation-Extension Schemes in 13 Municipal Towns.

Total expenditure for the Urban Water Supply Sector during Phase I of the Decade Programme was Rs.23.27 Crore of which Rs.7.87 Crore were available from the Life Insurance Corporation of India as Loan Assistance for seven New Schemes and four Augmentation-Extension Schemes.

Urban Sanitation

Efforts were made to utilise the fund available during the first four years of the Decade towards providing low cost sanitation facilities in the Municipal towns in Non-CMD part of the State. Planning and Monitoring of these Schemes are entrusted with the Municipal Engineering Directorate of the LG & UD Department while execution is done through the concerned local bodies. During the Phase I of the Decade Programme 35742 number of latrines were

Table - 1 : Physical Target and Fund Requirement

	Phase I (1981-85)		Phase II (1985-90)	
	Target Pop.	Fund	Target Pop.	Fund
			Target Population-crore Fund - Rs. crore	
Urban Water Supply	0.13	28.35	0.42	67.42
Rural Water Supply	1.78	67.54	2.41	416.89
Urban Sanitation	0.11	4.90	0.21	101.74
Rural Sanitation	-	-	1.21	60.61

constructed spread over all the 75 Municipal Towns with a total expenditure of Rs. 4.25 crore.

The execution of the Sewerage Scheme for Mirik Tourist Project (within Mirik Notified Area) and also conversion of dry latrines in Ranaghat Municipality were entrusted to the Public Health Engineering Directorate. Both these schemes are in progress. The expenditure during the first four years of the Decade for the conversion programme in Ranaghat Municipality was Rs. 0.05 crore. The expenditure for the Sewerage Scheme of Mirik Tourist Project was Rs.0.09 crore during the Phase I of Decade.

Rural Water Supply

At the beginning of the VI Plan there were 25243 numbers of uncovered problem villages. During 1980-81, 873 Problem Villages were fully covered (54 by piped water supply and remaining by spot source) and 1206 Problem Villages were covered partially with creation of one spot source in each village. During the Phase I of the Decade, 3782 Problem villages were fully covered (297 by piped water supply and remaining by spot source) and 9767 Problem Villages were partially covered with creation of one spot source in each village. Thus at the end of the 1st Phase of the Decade Programme, there are 9615 Problem Villages remaining uncovered and 10973 problem villages partially uncovered.

Out of 12831 other villages 436 have been provided by piped water supply upto the end of Phase I of the Decade Programme.

A population of about 1.6 crore could be covered during the 1st Phase of the Decade Programme. Substantial progress could be made in respect of 293 ongoing Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes aiming at covering 1924 villages (1358 Problem Villages) during 1st Phase of the Decade Programme. A total expenditure of Rs.77.80 crore was made during the period.

Rural Sanitation

In spite of financial limitations, some fund was made available. This has been utilised for construction of low Cost Pour Flush Twin Pit latrines in the rural areas. It has been possible to benefit about 22000 persons

by completing construction of 4238 numbers of latrines during the Phase I of the Decade with an expenditure of Rs. 0.40 crore.

Support Programmes

- i) Manpower Development and Training- During the Phase I of the Decade Programme, the Refresher Courses arranged by CPHEEO, Govt of India were utilised for manpower development and training. Institute of Local Govt and Urban Studies (ILGUS) had arranged various Training Courses for technical and managerial persons engaged by the Local Bodies.
- ii) Community participation and Health Education - In West Bengal, Panchayat Bodies in the Rural Areas and the Local Bodies in the Municipal Towns are very actively engaged in the Sector Development. Management Studies and Tariff Studies could not be initiated during Phase I of the Decade.

5. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

An overall augmentation to the extent of 22% has been achieved in the organisation of the two major Sector organisations of Public Health Engineering Directorate and Municipal Engineering Directorate.

6. MOBILISATION OF RESOURCES AND ANTICIPATED PHYSICAL COVERAGE DURING PHASE II (1985-91)

Annual Plan 1985-86

- i) In the Urban Water Supply Sector a total fund of around Rs. 12.72 crore may be available. It is expected that ongoing New Schemes in 18 Towns and Augmentation Schemes in 7 Towns would be commissioned/completed to benefit about 0.10 crore persons.
- ii) In the Urban Sanitation Sector around Rs. 0.15 crore would be available. The target is to cover 12,000 persons.
- iii) In the Rural Water Supply Sector around Rs.9.25 crore would be available. The target is to cover 1168 problem villages to benefit a total of 0.12 crore persons.

- iv) In Rural Sanitation Sector, about 6000 persons would be covered during 1985-86 by Low Cost Sanitation facilities with the fund of Rs. 0.12 crore to be available from the State Budget and assistance from the UNICEF in the Sub-Sector during 1985-86.

VIIth Plan (1985-90) :

- i) Estimated requirement of fund during the VIIth Plan as recommended by the Working Group of Planning Commission in Urban Water Supply Sector is Rs. 291.06 crore from different sources. The target is to provide Piped Water Supply facility to all the 75 municipal towns in Non-CMD part of the State and a population of about 0.24 crore would be benefitted during the VIIth Plan.
- ii) In Urban Sanitation Sector, the Working Group of Planning Commission has recommended an outlay of Rs. 4.00 crore for Sewerage and Sewage Treatment facilities in the Class I Towns and an additional outlay of Rs. 4.00 crore for Low Cost Sanitation in other Urban areas in Non-CMD part of the State. Thus, a total outlay of Rs.8.00 crore has been recommended in the Urban Sanitation Sector. The target is to cover a population of 0.04 crore.
- iii) In Rural Water Supply Sector, the Working Group has recommended an outlay of Rs.82.50 crore under Minimum Needs Programme by the VIIth Plan out of a total requirement of Rs.195.23 crore. The target during VIIth Plan is to provide drinking water supply facilities to a rural population of 1.60 crore and to cover all the Problem villages remaining uncovered at the end of the Phase I of the Decade.
- iv) In Rural Sanitation Sector, the Working Group has recommended an outlay of Rs.4.00 crore during the VIIth Plan to provide Low Cost Sanitation facilities to about 0.02 crore persons.

Expected physical coverage and requirement of fund during 1990-91

The requirement of fund during the Decade was estimated to be Rs 747 crore for Non-CMD part of the State

at 1980 price level. Considering price escalation during the Decade, the completion cost of the decade programme is likely to be enhanced by 50% in Water Supply and Urban Sanitation Sector. In Rural Sanitation Sector, the Unit cost was taken as Rs 50/- per capita. The completion cost of the rural sanitation programme during the decade may be four times of the initial estimate. As it stands now, during the last year of the Decade, in the Rural Water Supply Sector 24% of Target population has to be covered and an expenditure of Rs 453.62 crore has to be met. In the Urban Water Supply, Urban Sanitation and Rural Sanitation, similar figures would be 44%, 82%, 98% of Target population and Rs 18.33 crore, 147.56 crore and Rs 238.04 crore respectively.

The likely short fall in the Decade targets would depend on the availability of fund and manpower within the Decade. As there is no firm indication of the amount of fund which would be available within the decade, it is too early at this stage to make an assessment of the shortfall in the decade targets.

Plan of action

The main hurdle in fulfilling the objectives of the Decade Programme has been inadequate resources. Institutional finances are available for Urban Water Supply Sector to a certain extent. Similar arrangement for Institutional finances may also be made for financing rural water supply programmes. International and Bilateral Assurances also may be obtained for implementation of Rural Water Supply Programme.

The Sector Organisations are to be adequately strengthened to meet the demand of the Decade Programme.

7. CONSTRAINTS

During the Phase I of the Decade Programme, the following constraints were experienced,

1. Inadequate resources.
2. Insufficient manpower at different levels in the Sector Organisations.
3. Procedural delay in Land acquisition.
4. Socio-economic status of people to support self-financing Schemes.

During Phase II of the Decade Programme, it may not be possible to remove all the constraints. National policies are to be formulated for removal of the constraints of inadequate resources.

8. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Rural Piped Water Supply Scheme are operated and maintained by the P.H. Engineering Dte with funds available from the State Govt. Mobile Maintenance Teams for major repairs of India Mark II Hand Pumps fitted in Rigbored tubewells are placed with the P.H. Engineering Dte.

Maintenance of Schemes with ordinary and deepwell Hand Pumps of the hand-bored tubewells and minor repairs of the India Mark II hand pumps of the rigbored tubewells are done by the Panchayat Samitis with fund provided by the State Govt. Provision of fund for operation and maintenance of Rural Water Supply Schemes is made in the State Budget.

Municipal Water Supply Schemes are to be operated and maintained by the Municipalities after completion. In many cases, however, water supply schemes are being operated and maintained by the P.H. Engineering Dte as the Municipalities were not in a position to take over the schemes after completion for operation and maintenance.

Help of the Voluntary Organisations may be taken for motivating the rural people to make proper use of the sanitation facilities created under Low Cost Sanitation Programme.

9. HEALTH EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Health Education is given by the Directorate of Health Services in Health & F.W. Department. People have become conscious about the necessity of safe drinking water. It is, however, very necessary to create an awareness amongst all the rural people about the importance of sanitary disposal of human excreta.

In the rural sanitation programme, people are participating in construction of the Superstructure of the latrines within their premises.