



Vision

Institutionalising the gains of decentralisation and the Peoples Plan Campaign initiated under the imaginative leadership of E.M.S. Namboothirippad, the architect of modern Kerala, during the 9th Plan was the main objective of the activities of the Local Self Government Department over the last three years. We have been successful to a great extent in stabilising and carry forward the spirit of decentralisation and making the LSGIs responsive to the local needs. The decentralisation experiment of Kerala has given a prominent position for local government institutions with regard to the development of local economy. Besides LSGIs are also the providers of a good number of services to the public. The department aims at enabling the LSGIs to become active players in local economic development and to strengthen their service delivery system. This has to result in transforming the LSGIs into people friendly institutions with a high degree of transparency and efficiency.

Paloli Mohammed Kutty



Experience The Efficiency

MAJOR PROJECT
on the Anvil

EMS Total Housing

EMS total housing scheme launched by Government of Kerala aims at providing house sites and houses to all landless families and houses to all houseless families coming under the BPL category. The scheme will be implemented by the local bodies with the support of the Government. Housing support will be provided at the following rates. General Category Rs. 50,000/-, Scheduled Castes Rs. 75,000/-, Scheduled Tribes Rs. 1,00,000/-. It is estimated that there are about 2 lakh landless families and a total of 5 lakh houseless families in the state as on 2008. House sites will be provided from Government land if available or will be purchased by the local bodies. The scheme also aims at repairing of the Kutcha Houses including those built under the 1 lakh housing scheme. The scheme is estimated to cost over 4000 crore. The funds needed will be borrowed by local bodies to be repaid in ten years from their development fund. Government of Kerala will bear the interest. It is proposed to complete construction of houses during 2009-2011.



The **priority** is given to solve the housing problem of the weaker sections of the society. Under this scheme 2,38,376 houses have been constructed during 2006-09 by panchayaths and urban local bodies.

Emphasis is given to enhancing agricultural production in the annual plans of local bodies. During 2008-09 grama panchayaths were able to bring an additional 45150 acres under paddy cultivation.

Kudumbashree units are given support to take up. Production Ventures- "Samagra Projects" based on a "theme" or a "Product" has been launched in 5 districts.



Mode of implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is received national acclaim and is projected as a model to be copied by other states. 6.92 lakh families were given employment during 2008-09.

State witnessed record progress in the implementation of

centrally sponsored rural development schemes.

"Malinya Muktha Keralam" Programme aimed at making the state totally clean has been started in 824 out of 999 grama panchayaths and has received the "Nirmal Grama Puraskar" from Government of India.

City Development Plans were prepared for

the major cities and schemes estimated at over 3500 crore for developing urban infrastructure receives financial support from GOI.

Plan monitoring of all the local bodies are computerised.

Computerised registration of birth and death is introduced in all municipal bodies and in hospital kiosks. This is being extended to panchayaths also.

An engineering wing, exclusively for the LSGIs have been set up. Rural Development Department is integrated with LSG department.

5 OTHER PROJECTS Envisaged

- 1 EMS Total Housing Scheme to provide houses to all houseless and landless.
- 2 Implementation of *Malinya Muktha Keralam* Project to achieve a Clean Kerala.
- 3 Infrastructure development activities to the tune of Rs. 3150 crore under various Urban Development Projects.
- 4 To expand Paddy Cultivation to further 1 lakh acres of land.
- 5 To install people friendly front offices and complete computerisation in all the LSGIs during the plan year.

Action Plan for a Clean Kerala named "Malinya Muktha Keralam" was launched in 2007 and is being implemented by the local bodies. As a result 826 out of 999 grama panchayaths, 90 block panchayaths and 4 districts received Nirmal Grama Puraskar from Government of India.



Labour Bank

Facing a grim shortage of farm workers, Kerala Government has drawn up a project to set up 'labour banks; in panchayaths to supply workers for farming and allied activities. The first labour bank has already been launched at Akathethara Panchayath in Palakkad district as a pilot project linked to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP). It is a three-pronged concept. First of all, it will ensure work for labourers all through the year. It will also guarantee supply of sufficient workers in agricultural and allied areas and would eliminate middlemen in labour sector. The idea was to create teams of workers organised in a

three-tier structure. At the base will be workers' neighbourhoods, followed by ward-level labour committees and panchayat-level labour banks. The first layer will comprise 10 to 20 workers, both men and women. There would be panchayat level committees elected by the workers themselves who would help the management of labour banks. The labour bank in Akathethara will enroll 700 workers, who would be made available for the jobs in and around the village. Though initially, this is meant for rural area with its focus on the farm sector, the plan is to include all types of skilled workers in the scheme including construction labourers.



People's Plan back on rail

The first and foremost task of the department was to put the process of decentralisation and Peoples Plan Campaign on rail which was quite out of place during the previous five years of UDF rule. Corruption and nepotism were rampant in all sphere of activities of the department during the previous rule. For this a good number of administrative and disciplinary actions have been taken. The allocation for productive sector for the Eleventh Plan was brought back to 40 per cent of the development plan and the misappropriated funds for SCP and TSP totalling Rs. 134 crore were compensated. The department of Rural Development was integrated with the Local Self Government Department and the DRDAs were converted as Poverty Alleviation Units of



the District Panchayaths. The functions and responsibilities of the administrative sections of the Secretariat of the LSGD were also rearranged accordingly. An Engineering wing solely for the Local Self Government Department was brought into force integrating the Engineering staff of Panchayath Department, Municipal Common Service and those deployed from the PWD and Irrigation Department. All the defunct local authorities were abolished and the functions thereto were transferred to the LSGIs concerned. A central office for housing all the departments under Local Self Government

Department named "Swaraj Bhavan" is under construction. The activities of the Kudumbashree were also revamped in such a way so as to effectively involve in the agriculture sector. "Samagra" projects based on a product was evolved for each district. Action Plan for a Clean Kerala named "Malinya Muktha Keralam" was launched in 2007 and is being implemented by the local bodies. As a result 826

out of 999 grama panchayaths, 90 block panchayaths and 4 districts received Nirmal Grama Puraskar from Government of India. Government is hoping for Nirmal status for the State during this year. A model guideline for the transfer of employees of LSGD was made operational with the concurrence of the Employees Organisations and the same is in operation without any interference.

Corruption and nepotism were rampant in all sphere of activities of the department during the previous rule. For this a good number of administrative and disciplinary actions have been taken.

SUCCESS STORY

Rural Empowerment Works Better

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) was passed by the Parliament in 2005. The act guarantees hundred days of labour to a family willing for manual labour. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was started in Kerala in February 2006 in the districts of Wayanad and Palakkad. The UDF Government then in power formulated the scheme focusing on the formation and maintenance of roads. As this went against the spirit of the act Central Government rejected the scheme in toto. Till the left democratic front Government assume power in May 2006 nothing worth mentioning was done in this regard. The LDF Government at the outset itself seriously took the task of implementing NREG Act for which an action plan was prepared in June 2006. The highlight of the implementation of this scheme in Kerala is that the same is done through the Grama Panchayaths with the active involvements of the Kudumbasree units. The implementation in our state particularly that of Wayanad and Palakkad districts received national attention and Palakkad district was selected for the best implementation award for 2008. The scheme was extended to Kasargode and Idukki districts during 2007 and the remaining districts during 2008. 6.94 families were provided jobs and a total of 224 crores distributed as wages till 31.03.2009.