

SWARNJAYANTI GRAM SWAROZGAR YOJANA

GUIDELINES

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEW DELHI

I

ACTIVITY CLUSTERS – PLANNING AND SELECTION

Para 1.1 : The objective of the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the Poverty Line by ensuring appreciable sustained level of income over a period of time. This objective is to be achieved by inter alia organising the rural poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs) through the process of social mobilization, their training and capacity building and provision of income generating assets. The SHG approach helps the poor to build their self-confidence through community action. An interaction in group meetings and collective decision making enables them in identification and prioritization of their needs and resources. This process would ultimately lead to the strengthening and socio-economic empowerment of the rural poor as well as improve their collective bargaining power.

Para 1.2: SGSY lays stress on the cluster approach. What this means is that instead of funding diverse activities, each block should concentrate on a few select activities (key activities) and attend to all aspects of these activities, so that the Swarozgaris can draw sustainable incomes from their investments. These key activities should preferably be taken up in clusters so that the backward and forward linkages can be effectively established. This would facilitate not only monitoring but more importantly provision of various services required by the Swarozgaris.

Selection of key activities

Para 1.3: The success of SGSY will therefore depend, to start with, on the choice of activities. The key element is that the choice of activity should be based on the local resources, the aptitude as well as the skill of the people. It is also necessary that the products have ready market.

Para 1.4: The choice of key activities should not be an arbitrary or an adhoc decision but should be a carefully thought out process. The Block SGSY committee has a very important role to play in it. For identifying the key activities that can be taken up, the committee should ensure that this selection takes place through a participative process. For selection of key activities, a profile of the poor families, as reflected in the BPL Census should be analyzed. There will be poor families with assets, such as land. Efforts should be made to see that small and marginal farmers living below the poverty line are assisted for land development activities and creation of irrigation facilities i.e. dugwells, borewells, mini lift irrigation schemes etc. to increase productivity of land and bring more area under assured irrigation which would enable them to cross the poverty line. The experience over the years as well as Evaluation Studies have shown that investments on land based activities have resulted in generation of income on a more sustainable basis. The Block SGSY committee should therefore, analyze the potential for farm activities on priority. Care must be taken to see that they also have access to short term credit and other inputs required in the farm sector to supplement the efforts under the Scheme. The next priority may be given to those who have an inherent skill. These would primarily be the rural artisans who form a significant segment of the rural society. Under the SGSY, rural artisans should be covered in a significant manner. Another category would be the unemployed educated youth. A number of them would have been trained under the erstwhile TRYSEM Programme. An inventory may be taken of such people to find out which activities are best suited for the area. Generally, the people who are asset-less and skill-less are poorest of poor and get left out under the Programme. Such category of people may require small doses of multiple credit over a period of time coupled with emphasis on awareness creation, training and capacity building. The activities which are easier to handle and product is easily marketable could be identified for such category of people to ensure sustainable income, so that, they do not fall into debt trap.

Para 1.5: The Block SGSY Committee may also look at the potential link plans prepared by NABARD as well as any other survey carried out by various banks, industrial/technical organizations, etc. The local Khadi & Village Industry officials as well as the District Manager of District Industry Centre may also be consulted.

Para 1.6: The Block SGSY Committee must interact with as many sarpanches as possible and also discuss with groups of the rural poor such as the landless labour, the educated unemployed, those rural poor with lands, the artisan groups etc. Where self-help groups are in position, they should also be consulted. In their discussions, the Committee should explore various opportunities that are available (provided credit, technology, skill up gradation and marketing are assured) to enable the poor to cross the poverty line. While conducting this dialogue, the Block SGSY committee should be equipped with information relating to the performance of various activities in the village whether such activities are taken up under government programmes or otherwise. The committee should use that knowledge to supplement the traditional knowledge of the poor households and to facilitate the identification of suitable activities. In this process, the traditional wisdom of the poor families acquires value and the Block committee builds upon the traditional knowledge of the poor families with its knowledge base. It must be ensured that the consultation process is genuine and not perfunctory or token in nature.

Para 1.7: In so far as on-farm activities are concerned, provision of irrigation facilities continues to be important. These facilities can be provided either in the form of open dug wells or bore/tube wells or through lift irrigation or check dams etc. In other words, the nature of source is not important for providing irrigation facilities under SGSY. Effort may be made to bring in as much of the land of the rural poor as possible under irrigation so that they can have sustainable incomes. Minor irrigation investment will include cost of well, lifting device and land development – a composite investment. Working capital requirement can also be considered.

Para 1.8: Minor irrigation projects may be group oriented or individual oriented. It is preferable to adopt as far as possible, a project approach under minor irrigation instead of spreading the investment in a scattered manner. Minor irrigation can also be the basis for activity clusters or formation of SHGs.

Para 1.9: As regards the non-farm activities, care must be taken to identify only those activities which result in the production of goods/services that have a ready market or market potential. While identifying about 10 key activities per block care must also be taken to cover non-farm activities keeping in view their market potential, demand, availability of raw materials, skill and training facilities for skill upgradation. In order to ensure success of non-farm activities, selection should be based on market survey and demand corroborated with availability of raw material, skill technology etc. In different part of the country, traditionally large number of artisans have been working in various trades which might require inputs for production, processing, improvement in quality design, skill upgradation etc. Such dominant trades could be identified for assistance under the SGSY to ensure enhanced sustainable income from the activity. Tie up with private business houses, corporate sectors or even local retailers, sellers could be crucial for the success of such activities. The guideline also provide for utilizing the services of professionals/experts in the field of marketing for selection of activity through market survey and research, preparation of viable projects, product design, value addition, packaging, production quality monitoring etc. Appropriate training institutes and master craftsman/trainer may be identified which could be used for implementing skill development and entrepreneurship development. Most of the activities may require hand holding for a period of time till an institutional setup created/established for production and marketing. It has been seen from the past experience, that for marketing of products various marketing channels at local, district, state and national level should be utilized and product should be also designed and priced accordingly to cater to the needs of the various sections of society. In marketing of products, swarozgaris/stake holders themselves should be involved, this would ensure sustainability. The role of DRDAs should be to facilitate access to technical and professional input which could help in better product design, development of market linkages, etc. there by help in increased demand / market for the goods being produced by the swarozgaris and enhanced sustainable income from the activity.

Para 1.10: Based on this consultation process, the committee may identify about 8-10 activities, which they may rank in the order of preference. This list should then be placed before the general body of the Panchayat Samiti (Block Panchayat). The

Panchayat Samiti should be asked to give its recommendations. The list of selected key activities, along with the recommendations of the Panchayat Samiti, should then be forwarded by the BDO to the District SGSY committee for consideration. Before sending the list to the District SGSY Committee, the Block Committee should prepare a brief project report, keeping in view the guidelines.

Para 1.11: The District SGSY committee will receive the block-wise proposals and will vet them. The committee will select about 10 activities per block. However, focus should be on 4-5 Key activities which are identified for training and micro-enterprise development in a cluster approach for larger number of Groups. In the process, scope for other potential activities should not be excluded. In doing so, the District SGSY committee will ensure that the infrastructure already available in the district – in terms of production, service, training facilities as well as market are utilized and that the choice of activity does not require a new effort in all directions – production as well as marketing. In other words, at least some of the key elements of the economic chain of the selected activity should be present and it is only the missing link that needs to be provided. Secondly, in choosing the activities, the district level committee will also ensure that Swarozgaris taking up the activity can realize appreciable incremental income sustained over a period of time which will help them to effectively cross the Poverty Line. DRDAs may ensure that the anticipated income as stipulated in the project is realized during the project period in order to enable the Swarozgaris to cross the Poverty. Generally, one time assistance /credit injection might not help the Swarozgaris to cross the poverty line. Therefore, multiple dose of credit would be necessary which should be ensured through continuous monitoring and follow up. The Committee will ensure that the views of Line Departments are taken into consideration so that the Line Departments have a commitment to the key activity being taken up in the respective blocks and provide required services to the Swarozgaris.

Para 1.12: The District SGSY committee should scrutinize the proposals for each key activity separately in consultation with the concerned experts including the line department officials. In fixing the unit costs for the farm sector, the costs fixed by the regional committees of NABARD should be taken into consideration. With regard to the loans for various purposes falling under ISB sector of SGSY, the responsibility of fixing the unit cost and other techno-economic parameters is of the committee.

1.13: It must be noted that identification of activities is critical for the success of the SGSY. It is therefore necessary that it should be done in careful manner. Care should however be taken that the market is either readily available or there is a potential for market creation for the products. This may require engaging the services of professionals in the field for market research and survey. A detailed timetable may be drawn up by each DRDA for each Block and the schedule publicized so that everyone is aware of the selection of key activities.

Para 1.14: The District SGSY Committee is empowered to add or delete any activity in the list of selected key activities with due justification. Any of the selected activities can be replaced by a new one, if the scope of the former has been exhausted. The procedure for replacement will be the same as it is for making the original list of key activities. However, the number of selected key activities should not ordinarily exceed

10 in a block. The DRDAs shall prepare directory of selected key activities in the District, which will be consolidated at the State level for preparation of directory of selected key activities.

Preparation of Project Reports

Para 1.15: For each key activity there should be a project report indicating various elements such as training, credit, technology, infrastructure and marketing. The project report should indicate how many people could be covered economically in a block under a key activity. The tendency to provide finance to a large number of similar units must be avoided so as to prevent creation of excess capacity.

Para 1.16: The project report should also include the balancing infrastructure that needs to be provided and the costs involved. The district level committee should ensure that it is well within the limits of the money that is likely to be available under SGSY infrastructure. Care should be taken to avoid any attempt to create infrastructure for line departments without concomitant benefit to Swarozgaris. The test of SGSY will be in additional incomes accrued to Swarozgaris, the additional infrastructure being only an enabling factor. The project report should specifically include a chapter on the levels of investment required at individual Swarozgari's level or by a group. The economics for group lending should be shown distinctly from that of individual lending. The Project report shall be prepared for each activity and for each block separately. The project report should indicate that whether the key activity selected is for individual or group or both. The economics should also be clearly spelt out for each of these. The economics should indicate the details of investment required, the details of returns, the repayment schedule and the net income accruable to the Swarozgari.

Para 1.17: The Committee should undertake the entire exercise in a careful manner and not as a routine exercise. All expenses relating to this exercise will be borne by the DRDA from its administrative expenses, which are provided for separately under the head 'DRDA Administration'.

Para 1.18: The line departments have an important role to play in the entire exercise, for they will be responsible for implementation and monitoring of respective sectoral activities. SGSY would need a very close collaboration between the implementing agencies and the line departments. Presently, this is lacking or at least is not taking place to the desired extent. This collaboration must start with the identification of key activities and preparation of project reports. The line departments will be responsible for planning and creation of the infrastructure required for making the key activities successful. In addition, once the bank has sanctioned the loan, the line departments must ensure that all facilities including technical guidance are provided to the Swarozgris. The line departments may also verify whether the Swarozgaris have the necessary skill requirement and take steps to train them. The line departments should also satisfy themselves about the quality of training that is being imparted. They should assist the DRDAs in ensuring that the Swarozgaris are duly trained in appropriate institutions. It shall be their responsibility to monitor the

progress and whether Swarozgaris are able to derive the expected levels of income. In other words, the line departments must recognize that promotion of self-employment in their sector is as much their responsibility as that of

DRDAs/Panchayati Raj Institution/Banks and it should be an integral part of their day-to-day functioning.

Para 1.19: On approval by the District SGSY committee, the list of selected key activities as well as the project report of each key activity in respect of each block should be placed before the governing body of the DRDA. Where no DRDA exists, it should be placed before the Zila Parishad. On approval, it should be circulated to the BDO and all the banks in the concerned blocks as well as the concerned line departments. All the banks in the district would be expected to follow the model set out in the respective project reports. Under any circumstances, under-financing of the key activity should not be allowed. This should be reviewed in the Block SGSY Committee constantly.

Para 1.20: The focus under the Scheme should be on the development of activity clusters with emphasis on key activities identified in the block, both for the Group as well as for individuals assistance. The activity clusters would be in geographical clusters of neighbouring villages within reasonable radius. These could be strengthened by developing inter linkages between producers, suppliers, buyers and financial institutions for Credit support. However, assistance is not prohibited for other activities. There may be stray instances where a Swarozgari may like to take up an activity by himself/herself and where the nature of activity is such that its economic return is assured. It must be noted that this is only an enabling provision for exceptional cases and it is expected that the funding of key activities will be the norm.

Clusters

Para 1.21: The key activities may be taken up for implementation preferably in clusters. It must be noted that the clusters are not mere geographic agglomerations but units where the backward and forward linkages can be effectively established. This will facilitate greater control of the progress of the programme, including setting up of infrastructure, raw-material distribution, technology transfer as well as quality control. It is not essential that SGSY should be implemented in each and every village of the Block. Advantage may be taken of the infrastructure already built up so that the results may be more definite. At the same time, care must be taken to see that maximum number of villages are covered under one or the other of the activity clusters.

Para 1.22: the clusters will be taken up for each activity separately. The idea is to select a few villages every year under a key activity and concentrate the effort so that necessary linkages are available and also the monitoring becomes easy. It is not necessary that if a cluster of villages is taken up in a year, it should be given up the

next year. More swarozgaris can be brought each year under the key activity in the identified clusters. However, in doing so, care must

be taken to see that there is no undue concentration of a programme in only a few villages.

Para 1.23 : After the District SGSY committee communicates the list of selected key activities for the Block, the Block SGSY committee will identify the villages to be covered under each activity. This is an exercise that needs to be taken up before the beginning of each financial year. This process is for identification of geographical clusters of neighbouring villages for taking up each activity in a focussed manner. The list of cluster villages so selected may be placed before the Panchayat Samithi, so that members of the Panchayat Samithi are aware of the selection and also the principles that underline the selection of villages.

II

PROGRAMME INFRASTRUCTURE

Para 2.1: Proper infrastructure is essential for the success of micro enterprises. The infrastructure may be either for production, processing, quality testing, storage or marketing. The lack of proper attention to this item has been one of the drawbacks of IRDP. Although provision had been made for expenditure on infrastructure, the investments made did not necessarily correspond to the needs of the self-employed.

Para 2.2: SGSY will seek to ensure that the infrastructure needs for the identified activities are met in full, so as to enable the Swarozgaris to derive the maximum advantage from their investments. Planning for infrastructure will be made in close concert with the banks. As indicated earlier, the project report for each key activity should clearly identify the existing infrastructure and the additional infrastructure that needs to be created. It should be noted that the creation of additional infrastructure should be meaningful and should only be in the nature of providing the missing critical links. The proposals for infrastructure development should be drawn up by DRDA in consultation with Bankers and form part of the Annual Plan of the Block and District.

Para 2.3: The provision of infrastructure is essentially the responsibility of the State Governments. Therefore, the States will strive to provide for necessary investments as part of their plan efforts of the respective departments. Where the plan funds of the

line departments do not have adequate provision, funds available under SGRY Stream I and II could be utilized to supplement the requirement. Similarly, funds under any other State or Centrally sponsored schemes can also be used for the creation of infrastructure. Resource to SGSY infrastructure fund should be as a last resort and only critical gaps in investments will be made under the SGSY.

Para 2.4: The District SGSY Committee should review the infrastructure gaps and identify the areas of intervention for financing projects in activity clusters. Infrastructure needs and their fulfillment will be constantly and closely monitored by the DRDA, particularly the Governing Body of DRDA, to ensure that the infrastructure needs are met as per plan. Financing in sectors should be restricted where infrastructure is inadequate.

Para 2.5: It should be noted that the funds available for providing infrastructure support under SGSY are primarily to bridge small gaps in infrastructure which can make the programme implementation more effective and not for creation of an altogether non-existent infrastructure in the area.

Funds for infrastructure development should, in no case be used to augment resources of the State Government for development of general infrastructure.

Para 2.6: In order to meet expenditure on such critical infrastructure, SGSY will provide for a fund, which will be known as 'SGSY-Infrastructure Fund'. 20% (25% in the case of North Eastern States) of SGSY allocation for each district will be set apart for this fund. DRDAs will maintain this fund in a separate account. The DRDAs are advised to utilize this fund to generate additional funding wherever feasible.

The following principles may be kept in view while framing the infrastructure proposals:

- (a) The infrastructure activities should enable SGSY Swarozgaris' to make full utilization of their assets. Marketing linkages should be given priority.
- (b) The proposals should emerge out of the specific activities being taken up by the Swarozgaris and the location decisions should be made by the Blocks/DRDAs in consultation with Bankers.
- (c) Only village or block or district level infrastructure should be planned. In no case should the proposals envisage development of infrastructure at the State or regional level.
- (d) Only the fixed cost and not the recurring expenditure should be met out of SGSY funds. There should be an undertaking that the State Government or the organization concerned would meet the recurring expenditure on staff and other items.
- (e) In the case of assistance for development of infrastructure to cooperative societies, it should be ensured that at least 50% of the members are SGSY Swarozgaris.

Para 2.7 : The proposals should clearly spell out the time span envisaged for building up the infrastructure, its impact on the activities of the Swarozgaris in

particular and economic environment in general, the agency charged with the implementation of the project and the monitoring system provided to see that projects are executed in given time at the given cost. The funds to the executing agency should be given in phases depending on the progress of the work. The decision on the phasing of the release should be taken by the DRDA.

Other Admissible items of Expenditure under the Programme Infrastructure

- (i) Expenditure on account of premium for insurance and risk fund to cooperatives could also be met under this head.
- (ii) Expenditure on account of commissioning studies for the purpose of local resource and skill based integrated projects, for the SGSY subject to a maximum of Rs.50,000/- per annum per District approved by Governing Body of the DRDA could also be made.

Monitoring of expenditure on infrastructure projects

Para 2.8 : Given the magnitude of funds allocated for infrastructure development, it is imperative that expenditure under this head be monitored more rigorously. Accordingly, suitable formats will be prescribed for monitoring purposes. The Districts are required to send information in this format to the States every quarter. The data will be consolidated for all the districts by the State Government and sent to the Central Government on a quarterly basis.

III

SWAROZGARIS

Para 3.1: Under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), the beneficiaries are known as Swarozgaris. The Swarozgaris can be either individuals or groups. SGSY lays emphasis on the group approach, under which the rural poor are organized into Self Help Groups. In either case, the list of BPL households identified through BPL census, duly approved by the Gram Sabha will form the basis for identification of families for assistance under the SGSY. The Self Help Groups should also be drawn from the BPL list approved by the Gram Sabha.

This chapter is about the Swarozgaris and the linkages with the banks. Part 'A' of this chapter is about the SHGs. Part 'B' is about individual Swarozgaris.

A. SELF HELP GROUPS (SHGS)

Para 3.2: SGSY will focus on organization of the poor at grassroots level through a process of social mobilization for poverty eradication. SGSY's approach to organize the poor stems from the conviction that there is a tremendous potential within the poor to help themselves and that the potential can be harnessed by organizing them. Social

mobilization enables the poor build their own organizations (Self Help Groups) in which they participate fully and directly and take decisions on all issues concerning poverty eradication. Simultaneously, SHGs have the advantage the assistance – be it in terms of credit or technology or market guidance etc. thus reaching the poor faster and more effectively.

Self Help Groups go through various stages of evolution

Para 3.3 : Social mobilisation is not a spontaneous process; it has to be induced. DRDAs are expected to initiate and sustain the process of social mobilisation for poverty eradication by formation, development and strengthening of the Self Help Groups (SHGs). Issues that are key to poverty eradication should become entry points for DRDAs to organise the poor into SHGs. There could be different entry points for different SHGs depending on the local situation. The groups that are formed with thrift and credit as an entry point have demonstrated that the poor can secure greater access to credit and other support services for enhancing their income levels.

The process of SHG formation could be divided into phases . While the process of SHG formation cannot be standardized, a few Guidelines could be useful to the field level functionaries.

Self Help Groups go through various stages of evolution

- **Group formation** (formation, development and strengthening of the groups to evolve into self-managed people's organisation at grassroots level. In our society, members are linked by various common bonds like community, blood relation, place of origin, activity, economic status, etc. The facilitators must identify these natural groups which are commonly called 'Affinity Groups'. Identification of such Affinity Group is critical for the progress and success of the Self Help Group. This would require staying with the people for some period to facilitate proper understanding and establish rapport with them. Therefore, while forming Groups, facilitators must recognise the natural bonds and affiliations existing within the society.
- **Group Stabilization** through thrift and credit activity amongst the members and building their Group Corpus . The group takes up internal loaning to the members from their Group Corpus . The groups should save regularly and begin to lend to members. This provides the members with opportunities to acquire the skills to prioritize scarce resources, to assess the strength of each member , to time the loans and schedule of repayments and fix interest rates. The group institutionalizes the need to introduce sanctions for deviant behaviour, which could include delay in repayments, arriving late or absenting from meetings etc.
- **Micro credit**, the Group Corpus is supplemented with Revolving Fund sanctioned as cash credit limit by the Banks or the group could also have access to credit under the Self Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme of NABARD.
- **Micro enterprise development**, Group takes up Economic Activity, of their choice for income generation. This phase would include Entrepreneurship Development as well as Skill Development training of the members of the Group to enable them to successfully implement the chosen activity. All the Groups,

particularly Groups formed with members who are skill less, asset less, destitute and living under abject poverty might not graduate to the stage of Micro-enterprise within the time frame indicated in the Guidelines. Such groups may continue to remain in the Micro-Finance stage for a longer period of time and may require intensive training and capacity building inputs to enable them to reach higher levels of income generation.

Formation of Self Help Groups

Para 3.4.: SHG is a group of rural poor who have volunteered to organise themselves into a group for eradication of poverty of the members. They agree to save regularly and convert their savings into a Common Fund known as the Group corpus. The members of the group agree to use this common fund and such other funds that they may receive as a group through a common management. The group formation will keep in view the following broad guidelines :

- i) Under the SGSY, generally a self-help group may consist of 10 to 20 persons. However, in difficult areas like deserts, hills and areas with scattered and sparse population and in case of minor irrigation and disabled persons, this number may be from 5-20. The difficult areas have to be identified by the State Level SGSY Committee and the above relaxation in membership will be permitted only in such areas.
- ii) Generally all members of the group should belong to families below the poverty line. However, if necessary, a maximum of 20% and in exceptional cases, where essentially required, upto a maximum of 30% of the members in a group may be taken from families marginally above the poverty line living contiguously with BPL families and if they are acceptable to the BPL members of the group. This will help the families of occupational groups like agricultural labourers, marginal farmers and artisans marginally above the poverty line, or who may have been excluded from the BPL list to become members of the Self Help Group. However, the APL members will not be eligible for the subsidy under the scheme. The group shall not consist of more than one member from the same family. A person should not be a member of more than one group. The BPL families must actively participate in the management and decision making, which should not ordinarily be entirely in the hands of APL families. Further, APL members of the Self Help Group shall not become office bearers (Group Leader, Assistant Group Leader or Treasurer) of the Group.
- iii) The group should devise a code of conduct (Group management norms) to bind itself. This should be in the form of regular meetings (weekly or fortnightly), functioning in a democratic manner, allowing free exchange of views, participation by the members in the decision making process.
- iv) The group should be able to draw up an agenda for each meeting and take up discussions as per the agenda.

- v) The members should build their corpus through regular savings. The group should be able to collect the minimum voluntary saving amount from all the members regularly in the group meetings. The savings so collected will be the group corpus fund.
- vi) The group corpus fund should be used to advance loans to the members. The group should develop financial management norms covering the loan sanction procedure, repayment schedule and interest rates.
- vii) The members in the group meetings should take all the loaning decisions through a participatory decision making process.
- viii) The group should be able to prioritise the loan applications, fix repayment schedules, fix appropriate rate of interest for the loans advanced and closely monitor the repayment of the loan instalments from the loanee.
- ix) The group should operate a group account preferably in their service area bank branch, so as to deposit the balance amounts left with the groups after disbursing loans to its members.
- x) The group should maintain simple basic records such as Minutes book, Attendance register, Loan ledger, General ledger, Cash book, Bank passbook and individual passbooks. The sample proforma for maintenance of above records by the group is in the Annexure I for guidance. These could be used with necessary changes/ modifications wherever required.

Para 3.5: 50% of the groups formed in each block should be exclusively for the women. In the case of disabled persons, the groups formed should ideally be disability-specific wherever possible, however, in case sufficient number of people for formation of disability-specific groups are not available, a group may comprise of persons with diverse disabilities or a group may comprise of both disabled and non-disabled persons below the poverty line.

Para 3.6: By and large, the SHG will be an informal group. However, the groups can also register themselves under the Societies Registration Act, the State cooperative Act or as a partnership firm. The SHGs can be further strengthened and stabilized by federating them at, say village or cluster of villages or block or District level depending upon the number of Self Help Groups and their spatial distribution. DRDAs may facilitate in planning of network of SHGs by federating them at appropriate level, once SHGs have reached the stage of maturity and have stabilized. This would facilitate regular interaction ,pooling of surplus with the groups, exchange of experiences including flow of information from DRDAs and other departments, bulk access to Credit from various Micro- Finance Institutions and help them to plan for desired backward and forward linkages including marketing of their products.

Para 3.7 : Social mobilization and community organization is a process oriented approach as different from target oriented approach. The group formation should not be driven by any targets but lend itself to a 'process approach'. The members of the SHGs should fully internalise the concept of self help.

A large number of DWCRA groups have been formed and assisted by DRDAs in the past. Likewise, there are a number of Self Help Groups formed by NABARD, other Banks, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Women and Child Development Department under the Swa-Shakti and Swayamsidha etc. The DRDAs should put in concerted efforts to strengthen and consolidate these groups as some level of synergy already exists and then take steps to form new groups. Further, there is a need to develop data base on the Self Help Groups formed and existing under various programmes in the district. The DRDAs may act as nodal agency for developing the data base, which should include Self Help Groups formed under all the schemes. This would ensure convergence of various Scheme as well as better planning for training and other requirements of SHGs.

Role of NGOs

Para 3.8: The experience across the country has shown that group formation and development is not a spontaneous process. A facilitator working closely with the communities at grassroots level can play a critical role in the group formation and development. The quality of the groups can be influenced by the capacity of the facilitator. The facilitator may or may not be an official. In some cases, NGOs can not only work as the facilitator but also help in training and capacity building of facilitators being used by DRDAs. DRDAs may support such sensitive support mechanisms in the shape of NGOs or Community Based Organisations(CBOs) or Network of Community coordinators / Animators or a Commercial Bank/Regional Rural Bank/Cooperative Banks functioning in rural areas or a team of dedicated functionaries of the Government who are fully engaged in the task of initiating and sustaining the group development process. The Community coordinators / Animators could be from the community or may be from outside the area. They could be leaders / members of SHGs, or persons having experience or training in the field of community organisation and social mobilisation. With regard to involvement of Commercial Bank/Regional Rural Bank/Cooperative Bank branches functioning in rural areas as Facilitator Self Help Promoting Institution (SHPI), effort should be to involve only such Bank Branches who are committed and have shown keen interest in social mobilization of poor people and could take the responsibility of social mobilization, group formation and development of Self Help Group. Accordingly, such rural bank branches could be involved as facilitators/SHPIs for social mobilization, formation, training and capacity building of SHGs formed under the Scheme. Further involving banks as Self Help Promoting Institutions (SHPIs)/Facilitators would helped in credit linkage of groups which is one of the major objectives of organizing SHG and crucial for economic empowerment and sustenance of groups. The selection of Facilitator / Community Coordinator and their training and capacity building for involvement in formation, development and training of SHGs is critical for the success of the Programme. The District SGSY Committee may therefore select suitable Organisations / Societies / Individuals as

facilitators/Community Coordinators in the Programme based on their past experience in SHG formation, community organisation or any other similar work involving participatory approach, communication skill, ability to stay with the people in the rural area etc. They would have to stay for a period of 2-3 years with the Group to ensure continuity as well as to enable the Groups to mature into a self managed peoples organisation. Facilitators involved in the process of group formation and development should have a well defined exit policy and by which time community should either become self reliant or be willing to pay for their services for further continuance and management of the Group. The emphasis should be to form groups in geographical clusters to facilitate better training and management. A community coordinator / Animator could take up the responsibility of managing 10-15 SHGs in a geographical cluster consisting of 4-5 villages with in a radius of 4-5 Kms. The DRDAs may organise training and exposure programmes for the facilitators and should interact with them regularly to get feed back about groups.

The DRDAs may devise a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or contract to be used for entering into an agreement with NGOs / CBOs / Community Coordinators / Animators being involved as facilitators for group formation, development and training. The MoU should clearly define the role of facilitator in group formation and development. Further, payment to the facilitator should be specifically linked to the stage of development of the group and overall performance. The DRDA shall regularly monitor the progress of groups through periodic evaluations. The involvement of facilitators in the programme will be purely on contractual basis and DRDAs shall take all precautions to ensure that there are no legal obligation on the Government in future. A detailed instruction on operationalization of involvement of facilitators in the process of social mobilisation and group formation is being issued separately.

Para 3.9: Whether the support machinery (SHG promotion institutions) is offered by NGOs or Banks or Individuals or DRDA itself, what is critical is the capacity of the support machinery. DRDAs will have to play a very crucial role in facilitating development of the capacity to nurture and strengthen the groups.

Linkage with the Banks

Para 3.10: During the stage of group formation, the SHG should be brought into contact with the local banks through opening of savings Bank account preferably in their service area branch. This has a dual purpose. The SHG begins to realise the opportunities and also the mode of dealing with the banks. Likewise, the bankers get to familiarise themselves with the SHGs. Establishment of these linkages at the early stages will ensure the formation of strong SHGs, which will be mutually beneficial. Further, the group could also avail credit from the Bank as per their requirement under the Self Help Group – Bank Linkage Programme of NABARD. The BDO and the banker may visit the SHG as often as they can and explain to the members the opportunities for self-employment. They may also explain to them about the process of graduation into taking up full-fledged self-employment activity. Training and capacity building programmes for the SHGs in different stages of development may be organised periodically on a continuous basis at different levels (i.e. at the village, cluster of

village, Block and District) . For this ,besides inviting experts in the relevant field from outside, the District should have their own team of trained resource persons taken from different fields. The DRDA should involve the Bank functionaries also in the training programme of SHGs.

Grading of the Self-Help Groups

Para 3.11. The formation stage may last for about six months or more depending upon the literacy, awareness levels, socio- economic background of the people being organised, as well as the capacity of the facilitator involved in the process of social mobilization and Group formation. At the end of the formation stage, which may be about six months or more, it is necessary to subject each Self Help Group to a test to assess whether it has evolved into a good group and is ready to go into the next stage of evolution. This is done through a grading exercise. The objective of this exercise is to identify the weaknesses, if any, and help the group to overcome the same through training and capacity building inputs, so as to develop into a good group. Grading exercise thus should help to focus attention on weak groups so that DRDAs can assist them to overcome weaknesses and graduate into good groups. Grading of the group should also enable the DRDAs to establish linkages for the good groups with the Banks. In case the Self Help Group has been in existence prior to the SGSY under other Programmes and have completed six months from the date of formation and it is being brought under the SGSY, such groups may be subjected to first grading immediately, without waiting for another six months.

Para 3.12: The DRDAs will have to play an effective role in grading exercise. The capacity of DRDA personnel will have to be enhanced to take this exercise professionally. Grading of the Self Help Groups could be done by the same agency that is involved in the promotion and development of SHGs or any independent agency contracted to undertake the grading exercise. The cost incurred for conducting grading exercise through an independent agency may be incurred under the Scheme. It is desirable that the grading exercise is undertaken by an independent agency as it will have objectivity and acceptance by financial institutions etc.

Para 3.13: A number of Government and Non-Government Organizations, working with SHGs across the country have evolved very effective strategies for grading the SHGs. The grading criteria should be consistent with the characteristics that are agreed to be essential for strong, self-managed and vibrant SHGs. In other words, clarity on the features to be promoted in an SHG should become the starting point for any grading exercise.

Following are the various processes that are involved in the grading:

- Development of exhaustive list of characteristics of a good group by DRDA in consultation with its partners if any, involved in promotion and development of SHGs.
- Development of criteria for grading of the groups with appropriate weightage for various parameters.
- Identification of a suitable agency to undertake the grading exercise.

- Intensive training to the investigators who will interact with the members of the group to assess the group on various parameters. This training can either be conducted by the agency identified for grading or by DRDA.
- Facilitate the agency to visit the groups for assessing the status of the groups.
- Obtain SHG-wise reports with the rating awarded and the reasons.
- Develop an appropriate SHG-wise action plan for strengthening the groups identified as 'weak' or average.
- Pursue with bankers for securing SHG linkage with such SHGs that are rated as 'good'.

Proformas which may be used for grading of Self Help Groups with suitable modifications wherever required as per the local situation are at Annexure III.

Para 3.14: Grading exercise should not be a questionnaire-oriented exercise where the members become passive participants. It should provide an opportunity for the members to assess their own performance to a participatory approach and the investigator assumes the role of the facilitator to the process.

Para 3.15: DRDAs should ensure active participation of the bankers in the grading exercise. In this context, NABARD and local banks will have to be involved very closely right from the development of criteria for grading the groups. The criteria, the strategy and operational details of the grading exercise should be discussed in the District SGSY Committee.

Para 3.16: Right from the beginning, it is necessary that the SHGs should be nurtured carefully. The grading exercise must therefore be carried out at different stages. To start with, the objective of the SHG in the first six months is to evolve as a viable group. Accordingly, the grading at the end of six months should be with reference to the objectives in the first stage of the evolution of the Self Help Groups. Grading exercise should be undertaken every quarter till such time that all the groups obtain good grade.

Capacity building of the Self Help Groups

Para 3.17 : SHGs that are in existence for about 6 months and have demonstrated the potential of a viable group enters the third stage, wherein it receives the Revolving Fund of Rs.25,000 from bank as cash credit facility and also embarks on further capacity building of its entire team. DRDAs will arrange to provide the revolving fund to such groups, meeting their share from out of the SGSY Fund. Of this a sum of Rs.10,000 will be given to the Bank by the DRDA. Banks may charge interest only on the sum exceeding Rs.10,000. The subsidy of Rs.10,000 released by DRDA will be adjusted against the loan at the end of cash credit period on the request of the group. In case of default in the payment of loan or the group becoming defunct or dissolution of the group and in case the Bank fails to recover the entire dues inspite of all possible measure i.e. personal contact, organisation of joint recovery camps with district administration, legal action etc. the process of forfeiture of subsidy for adjustment against dues may be taken up. After getting the approval of District SGSY Committee the concerned Bank may adjust the subsidy against the Swarozgaris dues. If the

Bank is able to realise any amount subsequently over and above the amount due to it, the same may be returned to the DRDA.

The groups shall keep the following principles in view concerning the management of the Revolving Fund:

- The revolving fund is provided to the groups to augment the group corpus so as to enable more number of members to access loans and also to facilitate increase in the per capita loan available to the members.
- As the revolving fund become part and parcel of the group corpus, the groups should follow same norms for utilization as in the case of their own saving fund.
- The group should discuss the credit requirement of the members and advance loans from out of the corpus (savings + interest + revolving fund) to a few members and fix repayment schedule and interest rates. From the amounts recovered from the loanees, new members could be covered.
- The revolving fund imparts credit discipline and financial management skills to the members, so that they become creditworthy and bankable in the eyes of the bank.
- On receipt of the revolving fund, the group shall utilise the fund in the manner and for purposes it deems fit. The idea is that the group should develop the capacity to utilise funds it has received from outside. The revolving fund can be used by the group for purchase of raw materials, marketing or infrastructure support for income generating activities. It can alternatively be used for lending to individual members for their own purposes. The members shall inculcate the habit of prompt and full repayment of the loans taken by them from the revolving fund.

Para 3.18 : Those groups that have received fund under DWCRA or any other programme shall not be eligible to receive the revolving fund under the SGSY. However, there is no bar on such groups receiving credit and subsidy under group loaning under the SGSY, after they have demonstrated their functioning as a viable group.

At the end of six months from the date of receipt of the revolving fund the SHG will be subjected to another grading test to see if it has been functioning effectively and is capable of taking up an economic activity through higher levels of investment. However, for Minor Irrigation Schemes, relaxation of time for the second grading could be allowed if the group is found creditworthy and the project is viable. The decision in regard to the relaxation may be taken by the Block level SGSY Committee. In case the Self Help Group has been in existence prior to the SGSY under other programmes and has completed one year from its date of formation and it is being brought under the SGSY, the group may be subjected to second grading directly to assess its eligibility for economic activity without subjecting it to first grading. It is important that the Bank should be satisfied about the grading of the SHG at this stage. Therefore, the choice of the agency carrying out the grading as well as the criteria should be to the satisfaction of the bank. In fact, it would be desirable that Bank functionaries are involved in the grading exercise of groups functioning in their service area.

At the end of the third stage, the SHG is broadly expected to demonstrate the following attributes :

1. The per capita loan amount availed by its members increases gradually over the years.
2. There is a shift from consumption loans to production loans.
3. The group is able to clearly identify its training needs to the members and give value to the training input received by its members.
4. The members are able to investigate into their poverty situation and are able to articulate clearly the opportunities for overcoming their poverty.
5. The group is able to develop a portfolio of opportunities (investment opportunities) for the members and has a clear plan of action for meeting the credit requirement of its members.
6. The group acquires the capacity to undertake participatory monitoring of assets created from the loans advanced to its members.
7. The group has implemented some community action programmes and is capable of continuing to do so independently.
8. The dependency on outside facilitating agency or matters related to group management would gradually come down and the groups emerge as self-managed in terms of managing various aspects of group and financial management.
9. All members have total clarity on the activity, including the economics of the activity.
10. The members have clarity on the responsibility of each and every member and the management of the common activity.
11. The members have clear assessment of their training needs.
12. The members have evolved effective strategy for participatory monitoring of the common activity.

Taking up of economic activities

Para 3.19: Once the SHG has demonstrated that it has successfully passed through the second stage, it is eligible to receive the assistance for economic activities. This is in the form of loan and subsidy. There are two ways in which a SHG can receive this assistance:

- 1) Loan-cum-subsidy of SGSY to the individuals in a group, provided the prospective Swarozgaris in the group are capable of an willing to take up income generation activities under these sectors.

2) Loan-cum-subsidy to the group where all the members in the group want to take up a group activity. Ideally, under the group loaning, the group should take up single activity but if there is a necessity, the group could also take up multiple activities under the group loaning. In either case, loan will be sanctioned in ;the name of the group and the group stands as guarantee to the Bank for prompt repayment of loan.

Loan-cum-subsidy to the members of the Group

Para 3.20: Through a few individuals are identified as beneficiaries under loan-cum-subsidy, it is essentially the group that is standing guarantee for the prompt repayment of the loan to the bank. The group also undertakes responsibility to closely monitor the asset management and income generation. The group also is expected to access services from the line departments concerned to enable the members to derive the expected income from the activities undertaken. Since the groups are constantly interacting with the banks, their initiatives to secure continuous line of credit to the Swarozgaris to access multiple dose of loan become critical. In any case, the members of the group who are assisted under SGSY's loan-cum-subsidy assistance want to avail the back-end subsidy nothing should prevent the members to do so. Considering multifarious support services Swarozgari is receiving by being member of a group it is natural that the group may like to charge a part of the subsidy provided to the Swarozgaris as individual contribution to the group corpus. The Swarozgari is expected to repay all the loan instalments to the banks through the group and the group may keep to itself part of subsidy component. In any case, this is an issue that has to be left to the decision of the group.

Loan-cum-subsidy for the Group Activity

Para 3.21: Group activities stand a better chance of success because it is easier to provide back up support and marketing linkages for group activities. The SGSY will primarily follow the group approach. The groups should demonstrate minimum levels of group dynamism, as detailed above, before considering for assistance with the loan-cum-subsidy for the group under the SGSY. The group is entitled to Subsidy of 50% of the project cost subject to per capita subsidy of Rs.10,000/- or Rs. 1.25 lakhs, whichever is less. DRDAs should conduct training programmes to the members and the representatives of the groups so that the groups become fully self-managed and evolve into strong self managed groups .The cost of the group formation and development should be met from the funds provided under the SGSY. Considering the experiences of the NGOs involved in the development of SHGs in the country , it is estimated that an amount of Rs. 10,000/- per group would be the investment required over 3 –4 years. Rs.10,000 per group as mentioned above for formation and development of Self Help Group, is the maximum ceiling, however, the actual amount may be decided by the District Level SGSY Committee based on the local prevailing situations.

Payment of the amount to the NGOs/ CBOs/ Community Coordinators /Animators will be made in four installments in the manner given below :

- a) 20% of the funds at the beginning when the formation of Self Help Group is commenced by the NGO/ CBOs / Community Coordinator / Animator. This money could be utilised during the formation stage. During this period the group should open an account in the service area Bank Branch and they should be imparted Basic Orientation training on the concept of Self Help Group, Group dynamics, maintenance of records and books of accounts, conducting group meetings and financial transactions.
- b) 30% after the group qualifies for Revolving Fund or get linked to the Bank by way of availing Credit and continue to work satisfactorily.
- c) 40% after the group take up an economic activity and
- d) 10% after the start of economic activity by the group and adherence to repayment schedule of the loan sanctioned by the Bank.

Where banks are involved as Facilitators/Self Help Promoting Institutions the amount towards the cost of social mobilization, training and capacity building of groups may be decided in the State Level SGSY Committee keeping in view the local need and requirements.

Further, payment of the cost of social mobilisation should be based on the stage of development of the group on the pattern as mentioned above in this Para.

B. INDIVIDUAL SWAROZGARIS

Identification and selection

Para 3.22: In the case of individual Swarozgaris, their selection will be as follows: Once the list of villages is finalized by the Block SGSY Committee every year, the concerned Sarpanches should be intimated. The individual Swarozgaris are to be selected in the Gram Sabha. It is possible that the Gram Sabha held at the Panchayat headquarters may not have the participation of all the BPL families. Therefore, in order to afford the maximum participation for the poor, a 3-member team consisting of the BDO or his representative, the banker and the Sarpanch should visit each of the habitation in the Panchayat according to a schedule drawn up for this purpose and duly published. In each habitation, the team must then ascertain from the BPL families, the persons who can be covered under the designated key activity. This process of identification of the potential Swarozgaris should be done carefully.

Para 3.23: The selection of the Swarozgaris must be done in an open and transparent manner. The poor should have the confidence that if they fulfill the requisite conditions they would be able to avail of the facilities under the programme. It is possible that the number of such potential Swarozgaris would be more than the programme available to the bank/BDO. In such a case, the fact may be made known and the best of the potential entrepreneurs can be taken up for the final say. While SGSY is not a programme that targets only the poorest of the poor, it should be the

endeavour of the committee to cover the relatively poorer among the BPL families provided however they are otherwise eligible.

Para 3.24: In case the Committee is not sure of sufficient number of potential Swarozgaris being sanctioned the loan, it is open to the Committee to select a higher number and leave the final selection to the bank. The effort in this exercise is two-fold. On the one hand, while the bank is to be free to choose the swarozgaris, the effort is also to see that this is done in a transparent manner.

Para 3.25: After the selection is made, the BDO shall arrange to have the applications filled by the selected persons. Since most of the potential Swarozgaris are illiterate and some of them would be very poor, it is necessary that the proforma prescribed by the banks should be simple, while, however satisfying the legal requirements. It should also be in the local language. The DRDAs should particularly look into the matter and also take steps to familiarize the BPL families with the loan sanction process and the proforma so that the poor are not overawed by the process.

Para 3.26: Once the banks have received the applications, they should sanction the application normally in 15 days and at any rate not later than one month. Every year the process of sanction by the banks should normally be over by July. Further details are given in Chapter-IV.

Para 3.27: The list of Swarozgaris finally selected (for the year) should be got printed by the BDO and the copies made available to the Gram Panchayat for placing it before the next Gram Sabha. This list shall also be made available to the DRDA, other block officials, bankers and all other concerned agencies.

Para 3.28 : Safeguards for the weaker Section : The SGSY will particularly focus on the vulnerable groups among the rural poor. Accordingly, the SC/STs will account for a minimum of 50%, women for 40% and disabled for 3% of the total swarozgaris assisted during the year.

IV

FINANCING THE INVESTMENTS – BANK CREDIT AND SUBSIDY

Para 4.1: Financial assistance to Swarozgaris under SGSY comprises of two components viz. loan and subsidy. SGSY is a credit-linked scheme and credit is the key element. Subsidy is only a minor and enabling component. The major part of investment consists of bank credit from financial institutions comprising commercial banks, cooperative banks and regional rural banks. This chapter deals with the various aspects of the flow of credit and subsidy to the Swarozgaris.

Norms of Lending

Para 4.2: The size of loan for project depends on the nature of project. The loan should, however, be a composite loan comprising both fixed and working capital. **SGSY has not investment ceiling other than the unit cost (i.e. investment requirement) worked out for the project.** The loan amount would be equal to the total project cost including the amount of subsidy admissible to the Swarozgari. Interest rates for SGSY loans will be as notified by RBI/NABARD from time to time.

Security Norms: The security norms will be as prescribed by Reserve Bank of India from time to time.

Sanction of Loans by the Banks

Para 4.3: As indicated in Chapter III & IV, the BPL families that are best suited for taking up a particular key activity are identified each year. From the date the applications are received in the bank, the bank shall not take more than fifteen days to sanction the loan. The Bank will thereupon communicate this list to the Gram Panchayat, which shall place it before the Gram Sabha in its next meeting. The bank shall also communicate this list to the BDO as well as the concerned line department.

Para 4.4: The bank will also consider the Groups for lending for a given activity. In such case too, the bank shall communicate the name of the selected group to the Gram Panchayat and others for action as above.

Para 4.5 : While sanctioning projects, the Bank Managers should ensure that the unit costs, terms of the loan and repayment schedule are as indicated in the project profiles for the concerned key activity. Part-financing and under financing should not be resorted to under any circumstances. However, where the nature of the activity is such that the loan is to be released in stages, the disbursement may be made accordingly. If some cases are rejected, the reasons for rejection should be clearly recorded on the application form itself and the relevant application should be returned to the sponsoring authority immediately for their information and further action as they deem necessary.

Para 4.6: As soon as the selection is made and the list communicated to the line departments, the latter will proceed to test whether the Swarozgari has the necessary skill or not (refer to Chapter VI).

Para 4.7: As soon as the Swarozgari completes the basic orientation or the skill-training programme, the bank shall proceed to disburse the loan and subsidy amount to the Swarozgari. This shall invariably be done immediately, so that the money is available to him/her for purchase or creation of the asset. The entire amount sanctioned shall be disbursed unless the amount is to be disbursed in designated instalments. The Bank shall disburse the subsidy amount also as per the guidelines governing the back-ended subsidy.

Asset creation by Swarozgaris

Para 4.8: Swarozgaris will be given the full amount (Loan and Subsidy) and they will have the freedom to procure the asset themselves. The Swarozgari shall procure the asset within one month from the date of release by the bank of the money. He/she shall inform the BDO and the Bank of the fact of procurement of the asset. The Swarozgari should subsequently furnish to the bank a receipt of the items purchased. The assets procured should be of standard quality, and at economic prices. Both DRDA and banks should ensure through proper monitoring and verification that that quality assets have been procured.

Para 4.9: In the case of Swarozgaris under the ISB sector , when a number of sundry items are to be bought, disbursement upto Rs.10,000 may be made in cash. This can be done either in one lump sum or in stages depending upon the items to be purchased. This will give the Swarozgaris requisite freedom to negotiate and settle the price for the asset and will also give him the satisfaction that he has purchased goods of his own choice. In all cases, necessary documents relating to acquisition of assets should be obtained by the bank and also followed up through visits by the field staff of bank within one month of disbursement.

Para 4.10: In the even the Swarozgari does not inform the bank of the fact of procurement, the bank shall inform the BDO who shall enquire into the reasons. If the non-procurement is due to the negligence of the Swarozgari, the bank, in consultation with the BDO, shall afford him reasonable opportunity of doing so after which the bank shall be free to cancel the loan and recover the money. The Swarozgari will be liable for civil as well as criminal proceedings that are likely to arise in such a case. In case of the SHGs, all the members will be liable.

Para 4.11: On receipt of the news of procurement, the line department as well as the Bank shall verify the asset and satisfy themselves of its quality. Thereafter, the assets should be marked to check the misutilization or transfer of the assets. This is also necessary in the eventuality of filing insurance claim and physical verification of assets etc.

Para 4.12: While providing for a key role to the Gram Panchayats, SGSY accords certain discretion to bankers in the selection of Swarozgaris. The bankers are, therefore, expected to associate themselves in the entire gamut of activities so that development banking concept is taken to its logical end. The aptitudes of the Swarozgaris and their endowments should be weighed properly while selecting them for credit support. The Subsidy-Credit Ratio proposed by the Ministry from time to time should be taken as a floor ratio rather than an upper limit for credit sanction. In fact, SGSY guidelines do not provide for any ceiling for investment. The investment requirements have to be assessed based on the unit cost and the Swarozgari's needs and viability of the scheme.

Multiple Credit and Multiple doses of Credit

Para 4.13: SGSY will seek to develop close linkages with credit mechanism in such a manner as would promote multiple credit rather than a one time credit injection. Multiple doses of credit would mean assisting a Swarozgari over a period of time with a second and subsequent dose(s) enabling him/her to access higher amount of credit. The Swarozgari should have the confidence that so long as he/she proves her credit worthiness by way of proper utilization of the asset and prompt repayment, the bank will stand by him/her and will provide additional credit, whether or not this is backed by subsidy. As already indicated, while SGSY is a credit-cum-subsidy programme, the subsidy is only an enabling element and credit is the key component. The Swarozgaris will be allowed to stabilize and improve their credit absorption capacity and to increase their credit intake over the years either for the same activity or a new activity. The second/ subsequent dose can be given even during the currency of first/earlier loan provided the bankers is satisfied about the financial discipline of the first/earlier dose. Subsidy entitlement for all doses taken together will not exceed the limit prescribed for that category.

Further Loan to inadequately Assisted beneficiaries under IRDP

Para 4.14: As already indicated, assistance under the SGSY should be on multiple doses and not a one-time activity. This will facilitate gradual improvement in the income earning capacity of Swarozgaris. Such second and subsequent doses of credit can be extended to IRDP beneficiaries if they have failed to cross the poverty line because of no fault of theirs. The second and subsequent loans may be granted by the same bank that gave the initial loan or any other bank.

Principles and Procedure for Disbursement of Assistance

Para 4.15: The funds received by the DRDAs will be kept in saving bank accounts. The DRDAs can open these accounts with the principal participating bank branches in the field. The funds deposited in the savings bank account will earn interest at the usual rates till the amount is disbursed to the Swarozgari. After assistance is disbursed to the Swarozgari, the participating bank will provide the particulars of the Swarozgari, the project and the amount of subsidy adjusted in his/her favour for the record of the Block/DRDA. These details should be made available in the monthly report on the adjustment of subsidy prepared by the bank and sent to the Blocks/DRDAs. While computing the figures of advances and recoveries, the banks are to exclude the amount of subsidy received so as to reflect the factual position. The banks are to report separately the amount of recoveries under SGSY. The accounts of the Blocks/DRDAs with the participating banks should be reconciled every three months and a bank reconciliation certificate should be issued by the Chartered Accountant in this regard at the end of the year.

Subsidy

Para 4.16: Subsidy under SGSY will be uniform at 30% of the project cost, subject to a maximum of Rs.7500/-. In respect of SC/STs, however, these will be 50% and Rs.10000/- respectively. For groups of Swarozgaris (SHGs), the subsidy would be at

50% of the project cost subject to per capital subsidy of Rs.10,000/- or Rs.1.25 lakhs, whichever is less. There will be no monetary limit on subsidy for irrigation projects.

Back-end Subsidy

Para 4.17: Subsidy will be back-ended. Banks would disburse the full project cost including subsidy to the Swarozgaris as loan. The benefits of subsidy will also be available to Swarozgaris who prefer to avail themselves of required working capital in the form of cash credit. The operation of subsidy amount by the bank will be as follows:

- a) The subsidy admissible to the Swarozgaris under SGSY should be kept in the Subsidy Reserve Fund Account Swarozgari-wise instead of in term deposit in the name of the Swarozgari. Banks should apply no interest on the Subsidy Reserve Fund Account. In view of this, for the purpose of charging interest on the loan, the subsidy amount should be excluded. The balance lying to the credit of subsidy Reserve Fund Account will not form part of DTL for the purpose of SLR/CRR.
- b) In the case of Working Capital advances also, subsidy may be kept in the Reserve Fund Account as stated above without any interest being offered. However, the amount standing to the credit of the account should be withdrawn and credited to a Cash Credit Account of the SGSY Swarozgaris after a period of 5 years.

Para 4.18: The repayment schedule of loan would be drawn in such a way that the subsidy kept under Subsidy Reserve Fund would be sufficient for adjustment towards that last few instalments. Swarozgaris will not be entitled for any benefit of subsidy, if the loan is fully repaid before a certain fixed period specified by NABARD depending upon the activity. The availability of the benefit of subsidy to Swarozgaris would be contingent on their proper utilization of loan as also its prompt repayment and maintaining the asset in good condition.

Para 4.19: Banks will issue loan passbooks to Swarozgaris. These pass books should, inter-alia, contain details such as the date of sanction of loan, amount of loan sanctioned, subsidy to be adjusted in the final instalment of repayment, rate of interest, amount due under each instalment, due dates of instalments, etc. The banks may issue loan books to Swarozgaris in regional languages. Banks should ensure that the branch managers fill in all the columns in the passbooks, as otherwise the purpose of issuing the passbooks will be defeated.

Repayment of Loan

Para 4.20: All SGSY loans are treated as medium term loans with minimum repayment period of five years. Loan instalments will be fixed as per the unit cost approved by the NABARD/DLCC and there will be a moratorium on repayment of loan during the gestation period. Repayment instalments should not be more than 50 per cent of the incremental net income expected from the project. Number of instalments

will be fixed in accordance with the principal amount, the interest liability and the repayment period.

Para 4.21: Swarozgaris will not be entitled for any benefit of subsidy if the loan is fully repaid before a certain fixed period known as the lock-in period. The lock-in period for various activities under SGSY can be categorized broadly into three categories depending on the loan repayment period for 5, 7 and 9 years. The lock-in period corresponding to these repayment periods would be 3,4 and 5 years respectively. If the loan is fully repaid before the currency period, the Swarozgaris will be entitled only to pro-rata subsidy.

Measures for Affecting Recovery

Para 4.22: Prompt recovery of loans will be an important aspect of SGSY, not only to ensure a discipline but more importantly as it reflects the success of the self-employment programme. All concerned must therefore ensure that the recovery is hundred per cent. To ensure this, the following measures shall be undertaken:

Para 4.23: The Block SGSY Committee shall monitor, every month, the progress of different Swarozgaris. In particular, it should be seen whether the schemes have been grounded and whether they are giving the Swarozgari the

intended income and also whether the Swarozgari is repaying the loan. Prompt action in case of defaults cannot be overemphasized. The bank shall furnish every month the list of defaulters, and the Block SGSY Committee shall go into the reasons. The line departments and the BDO shall contact the Swarozgari and take such remedial measures as are necessary. In case of groups, there shall be a periodic meeting of the SHGs to monitor the performance. In addition, the Gram Panchayats will also be given the list of defaulting Swarozgaris and requested to take suitable measures to see that the loans are repaid. In Panchayats with high default rates, the BDO/DRDA shall organize recovery camps. It is necessary that the DRDA keep a close watch over the repayment position in each Panchayat. In addition, the District administration shall assist the banks in the recovery through designated legal processes, including appointment of Special Recovery Officers. Enactment of the Model Bill as recommended by the Talwar Committee may be expedited.

Para 4.24: The banks would take all possible measures, i.e., personal contact, organization of joint recovery camps with District Administration, legal action, etc. In case, even after this, the bank fails to recover the entire dues, the process of forfeiture of subsidy for adjustment against dues will be taken up. For this purpose, a notice will be issued to the Swarozgaris and he/she will be provided reasonable opportunity to show cause why his/her subsidy should not be forfeited. Thereafter, the concerned banks will place before the District SGSY committee a complete report on action taken and a proposal for forfeiture and adjustment of subsidy. After getting the approval of the Committee, the concerned bank will adjust the subsidy (including interest earned) against the Swarozgari's dues. However, if the bank is able to realize any amount

from the Swarozgaris subsequently over and above the amount due to it, the amount will be returned to the DRDA.

Para 4.25: Constant flow of information about every Swarozgari is necessary to ensure full recovery. Since the banks are also understaffed, they may engage the services of NGOs or individuals (other than government servants) as Monitor-cum-recovery facilitators, on a commission basis. A processing cum monitoring fee of 0.5 per cent of the loan amount may be charged to the Swarozgaris to meet this expenditure.

Para 4.26: In order to ensure recovery discipline, with effect from 1.1.2001, any Panchayat that registers a recovery of less than 80% under SGSY will not be eligible for consideration under SGSY. Likewise, any Panchayat Samithi registering a recovery of less than 80% will see the further programme suspended in the Samiti.

Para 4.27: In order to ensure that Panchayats/Panchayat Samithis do not meet with such a situation, they shall keep a close watch over the situation. The report of the Block SGSY Committee shall be placed by the BDO before the

Panchayat Samiti. The District SGSY Committee shall also review the recovery position every month and ensure that steps are taken to recover the loans.

Incentives and Disincentives for Recovery Performance

Para 4.28: In order to promote credit discipline among Swarozgaris and also to bring about a sense of accountability of the community, the following incentive and disincentives system is introduced.

- a) At the Swarozgari's level, prompt repayment will entitle him/her to waiver of the 0.5% processing cum monitoring fee.
- b) At Gram Panchayat level and block level – a minimum of 80% recovery should be ensured by Panchayats and block. Those Gram Panchayats and blocks that do not fulfill the required recovery performance will not be eligible for any allocation under SGSY in the subsequent year.

“Observance of SHGs Banking/Non-banking Day”

Para 4.29: Banks are required to observe one day in a week as non-banking day to enable the bank officials to go to the field and attend to the problems of Swarozgaris.

At least one day in a week should also be earmarked exclusively as the SHGs Banking Day for interface with the representatives of SHGs and block functionaries with the banks to sort out their credit related problems. The day fixed for the purpose should be given wide publicity to create awareness among the SHGs, so that they can take advantage of this arrangement.

Refinance for SGSY Loans

Para 4.30: Commercial banks (including Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks) are eligible to get refinance from NABARD for the loans disbursed under SGSY, as per their guidelines. The eligibility for refinance is related to the recovery position of the banks. In addition, insurance cover to Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks is also available through the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.

Service Area Approach

Para 4.31: The RBI has introduced Service Area Approach with effect from 1.4.1989. It is applicable to rural and semi-urban branches of Commercial and Regional Rural Banks. Under this scheme, each Bank branch has a designated service area comprising certain villages in which it will concentrate its activities for productive lending. The financing for SGSY in those villages is, therefore, to be done by the Bank Branches to which they have been allocated.

Para 4.32: RBI has clarified that if some RRBs are not in a position to sanction the applications sent to them on account of constraint of funds, inadequacy of staff, etc., the designated branch of the Commercial Bank should extend financial assistance in such cases.

INSURANCE

Marking of Assets

Para 4.33: The assets should be marked to check the misutilization or transfer of the assets. This is also necessary in the eventuality of filing insurance claim and physical verification of assets etc.

Insurance Cover for Various Assets

Para 4.34: Insurance Cover at present is available for livestock assets given under IRDP (now SGSY). The General Insurance Corporation has agreed to provide this cover on the terms and conditions as reflected in the specimen Master Policy and Long Term Master Policy Agreement signed between the GIC and the State Government.

(I) Livestock Insurance

The coverage and premium rates are to be fixed in accordance with the Mater Policy Agreement.

(ii) Scope of Cover

The live stock policy provides indemnity in the even of death of animal/bird due to accident inclusive of fire, lightning, riot and strike, flood, cyclone, earthquake, famine or due to any fortuitous cause of disease contracted or occurring during the period of insurance subject to certain exclusions.

(iii) Sum Insured

The cost of the asset shall be treated as the sum insured for the settlement of claims. For permanent total disablement (PTD) claims 75% of the sum insured shall be payable.

(iv) Claim Procedure

The claim procedure is simplified to secure expeditious disposal of claims. The Bank/DRDA shall forward a death certificate given jointly by any two of the following within 30 days from the date of occurrence:

1. Sarpanch/Upsarpanch of Village;
2. President or any other officer of the cooperative credit society;
3. Official of Milk Collection Centre or Government Veterinary Surgeon/Veterinary Assistant;
4. Supervisor/Inspector of Cooperative Central Bank;
5. Authorised nominee of DRDA;
6. Secretary of Panchayat;
7. village Revenue Officer;
8. Village Accountant
9. Head Master of Primary School

(v) Adjustment of Insurance Claim Money

The procedure of adjustment of insurance claim of animals will be as follows;

a) Where the borrower has been regular in payment of interest/repayment of instalments and is willing to receive a replacement animal, the claim proceeds may be utilized to purchase a new animal.

b) Where the Swarozgari was a willful defaulter and has additional dues to the bank by way of interest, the claim proceeds would be adjusted to the bank loan liability and the balance may be paid to the DRDA. However, if the default was not willful, replacement animal may be provide out of claim proceeds.

c) Where the Swarozgari has been regular in payment of loan and interest but is unwilling to take a replacement animal he may be offered assistance for some other activity and claim proceeds utilized for financing the same. If he is unwilling to take any other activity, the claim money may be utilized by giving to the bank an amount equal to the balance outstanding in the loan account. The DRDA will also get subsidy amount

proportionate to the balance loan outstanding and balance, if any, may be given to the beneficiary. Here, the Swarozgari is entitled to share the claim proceeds to the extent of loan repaid by him because he has utilized the asset properly and has paid the banks dues until the death of animal and has fulfilled the programmes objective to that extend.

(vi) Other facilities

The General Insurance Corporation of India have informed that if any IRDP (now SGSY) beneficiary has other milch animals where not loan or subsidy is involved, such milch animals could also be insured at the concessional rates of premium i.e. 2.25% per annum or 1.69% for three years. It has also intimated that IRDP (now SGSY) beneficiaries who have closed their loan account can insure the animals acquired by them through loan and subsidy at the concessional rates of premium for a further period of three years after closing the loan account it animals do not exceed the insurable age limit.

Expenditure on Premium

The expenditure on the premium is to be shared between the Government, bank and the beneficiary in the following proportions:

	When the banks do not participate	When the bank agrees to participate
Swarozgaris	1.25%	1.00%
Government	1.00%	0.75%
Bank	Nil	0.50%

The expenditure to be borne by the Government will be shared between the State and the Centre in the ratio of 75:25. It should be met out of SGSY funds but should not be included in the individual subsidy ceiling applicable to the beneficiary.

Group Life Insurance Scheme

Para 4.36: A group life insurance scheme for Swarozgaris aged not less than 18 years and not more than 60 years was introduced w. e. f. 1.4.1988. This scheme is operative from the date on which the asset is disbursed to the Swarozgari till the Swarozgari completes the age of 60 years or a period of 5 years from the date of commencement of the cover, whichever is earlier. A sum of Rs.5000 shall become payable by LIC to the nominee of the deceased in case of natural death. In the event of death due to accident a sum of Rs.10,000 shall become payable by LIC.

Para 4.37: The DRDAs should obtain the list of released bonded labourers and rescued sex workers from the District authorities. Such persons/workers should be assisted on an over-riding basis. The responsibility to provide SGSY assistance will be on the DRDA in whose jurisdiction these categories choose to settle after their release.

SGSY benefits would be in addition to the benefits that such categories may get under other programmes of the Government.



SKILL UPGRADATION

Para 5.1: It has been well recognized that for success of self-employment endeavours and also for their sustainability, the required skill to successfully run the enterprise is a pre-requisite. SGSY proposes a number of measures for upgrading the capacity of Swarozgaris both in individual as well as group oriented activities.

Para 5.2: While developing the project profiles for the identified key activities, the District SGSY Committee should in consultation with concerned technical personnel determine the Minimum Skill Requirement (MSR), in terms of both the technical and managerial skills. Once the person or group of persons has been identified for assistance, their training needs also should be ascertained with reference to MSR. The assessment regarding technical skills may be made by the line departments while that of the managerial skills may be made by the banker while scrutinizing the loan application. Such an exercise along with the Swarozgaris will help in identifying those who have the MSR and therefore need only a basic orientation and those who need skill training. Keeping this in mind two types of training are contemplated under SGSY.

Basic Orientation Programme

Para 5.3: Where the Swarozgari possesses the required skills, he/she may be put through a basic orientation programme after the loan is sanctioned and before it is disbursed. This mandatory programme may be organized at the block headquarters, not far from the place of residence. This basic orientation programme will seek to familiarize the Swarozgaris with SGSY and its objectives, the responsibilities of the Swarozgari, as well as the behavioural aspects. It will also seek to infuse confidence in the Swarozgari by drawing his/her attention to the success stories in the given key or allied activity, as well as alert him/her to the possible risks. This programme will include elements of book keeping, knowledge of market, identification and appraisal, acquaintance with produce costing and product pricing, familiarization with project financing by banks as well as some basic skills in the key activity identified. It will be of a very short duration, and should not normally be more than two days. BDOs, Bankers and line departments can act as resource persons for this training. Training expenses like training material, honorarium to resource persons, travel and food expenses of Swarozgaris can be met by DRDA from SGSY Training Fund. No stipend will be admissible.

Skill Development Training

Para 5.4: For the identified activities, Swarozgaris who need additional skill development/upgradation of skills appropriate training may be identified and suitable training programmes organized. Government institutions like engineering colleges, it is, Polytechnics, Universities and NGOs may be approached to imparting training. The objective of this training is to ensure that the Swarozgaris possess the Minimum Skill Requirement (MSR). Swarozgaris will be eligible for assistance only when they possess MSR and loans will be disbursed only when they have satisfactorily completed skill training.

Identification of training institutions

5.5 Data on the available training Infrastructure should be collected so as to make an optimal use of the existing Infrastructure facilities at the District as well as the block levels. The facilities may include institutions such as it is, Polytechnics, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Khadi and Village Industries Boards, State Institutes of Rural Development, Extension Training Centres, reputed voluntary organizations and any departmental facilities available in that area. Private institutions shall not normally be used for training, unless they are well known and have excellent infrastructural facilities that are otherwise not available. There is however no bar to utilize the private sector industrial units for appropriate training. The selected training institutions should have adequate facilities in terms of faculty, buildings, etc. The DRDA will be entitled to meet the expenses, incurred by the training institution for conduct of the training programme, from out of the SGSY fund.

Training of trainers

Para 5.6: The role of facilitators/SHPIs, field level functionaries of Banks and development functionaries is critical in successful implementation of the Scheme. It has been noticed that wherever functionaries have been trained in the concept and functioning of SHGs, group dynamics, guidelines of the scheme, marketing and entrepreneurship development etc., the quality of groups as well as overall implementation of the programme has been qualitatively better. It has also been observed that large number of development functionaries do not have access to well organized training programme.

State Government may send proposals for conducting training of trainers(TOTs) with details of numbers of persons proposed for training, amount required for boarding/lodging, supply of reading material, honorarium to resource persons, venue identified for training, resource persons and their background etc. to the Ministry.

Ministry will earmark separate budget for organising training programmes for training of trainers (TOTs), facilitators/SHPIs, bank officials and development functionaries at various levels.

Exposure visit to area with successful SHGs

Para 5.7 : Exposure visit of officials as well as SHGs to areas where SHG movement and micro-credit campaign has evolved quite strongly may be organized. The officials as well as SHGs can draw practical lessons from the experience of the implementing agencies, banks and SHGs operating in those areas and utilize this knowledge to improve the quality of implementation of the scheme in their own areas. The cost of arranging exposure visits of the SHGs to the successful areas of SHG movement/micro credit campaign may be met out of the training component.

VI

TECHNOLOGY

Para 6.1: The effort under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana is to ensure the development of sustainable micro enterprises. The self-employment referred under SGSY is moving away from provision of some additional income generation to a well-defined goal in terms of output, incomes and the time within which the assisted family comes above the poverty line. For any successful enterprise, appropriate technology of paramount importance.

The issues involved in technology management are primarily as follows:

- (a) what technologies to be identified.
- (b) Who will be responsible for technology management, including issues of technology transfer, technology upgradation and most importantly, monitoring of the technology absorption.

Para 6.2: The technology identified for each key activity should be such that it can be managed comfortably by the Swarozgari and at the same time leads to a quality products, either in terms of goods / services. More importantly, it should be something that has been tested on the field. For, it is always possible to have an exhaustive list of technologies fit for rural areas but these may or may not have been proven commercially. Care should be taken to avoid giving unproven technologies to the rural poor, since they do not have the capacity to suffer losses arising out of experimentation. It is not as if technology has to be introduced afresh into each and every activity. Any given activity there is a certain level of technology. It is possible that introduction of certain technology may substantially alter the economics of working, in which case such new technology needs to be introduced. There could be in other cases where the technology can be upgraded to produce better economic results. In any case the technology introduction/ upgradation should be such as to suit the needs of rural poor for the given key activity.

Para 6.3: The process of technology identification is closely inter-linked with the identification of key activity itself. The technology itself should be such that support services and infrastructure are adequately available. The project profiles of the key

activities should clearly state the present status of technology, feasibility and potential for technology upgradation. Technology options may be explored in the area of:

- Processing value addition and packaging
- Linkages with agricultural and animal husbandry extension services
- Productive enhancement, efficiency improvement, cost effectiveness, drudgery reduction etc.

Para 6.4: Under SGSY, it is expected that the assisted family would come out of poverty line in three years. It is therefore, necessary that during this period the swarozgaris be closely monitored. In the earlier self-employment programmes the lack of such nurturing has been acutely felt. Typically in a block about 300-600 people would be assisted in one year. In other words about 900-1800 families need to be nurtured at any point of time. Since SGSY focuses on the group approach, the number of groups would not be far too many. Besides the swarozgaris either individually or in groups would be distributed over the four or five key activities in the block. For each key activity it is necessary to have an institution capable of transmitting technology ensuring skill upgradation and monitoring the performance in terms of the quality of output as well as the recovery. The choice of such agency can vary depending on local situation. They can be the line departments themselves or any of the technical institutions such as Engineering Colleges, Polytechnics, etc., having competence in the relevant field or an NGO having the necessary competence. This can even be a research institution, a Krishi Vigyan Kendra or even a major private sector unit. All the institutions that are available in a block/district should be considered and the best available option exercised. In this regard, there are a number of community polytechnics (442) in the country with the avowed objective of promoting employment in the rural areas. Each of these community polytechnics has five extension centres. Similarly, there are 18 technology resource centres established by CAPART. The National Research & Development Corporation (NRDC) also has 52 rural technology demonstration cum training centres. In addition under TRYSEM itself a number of exclusive training centres have been established. Besides, the KVIC has also a number of training as well as research institutions. In the field of agriculture, a large number of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Farmers Training Centres and regional centres of Agriculture Universities are available. Thus, a considerable knowledge already exists in the districts. The DRDAs must therefore strive to gather the existing knowledge and channelise this only into identification of key activities but also into immediate transfer of technical knowledge to entrepreneurs, so long as its commercial viability is not in question.

Para 6.5: the manner of communicating the technology, either in terms of introduction or upgradation would be important and this should be done in such a manner that the swarozgaris could fully understand the same. Since skill upgradation is already provided for the costs incurred in respect of technology management can be incurred from the SGSY training fund. Any assistance to be provided to an institution identified for transfer of technology should only be nominal and should not be such that it supports the institution as such. The expenditure is meant essentially for swarozgaris.

VII

MARKETING SUPPORT

Para 7.1: For any goods or services that are produced, existence of a suitable market is essential. Traditionally, the self-employment programmes concentrated on the inputs rather than the outputs and their marketing. It was not uncommon to find production strategies in place overlooking the market aspects. One often finds that the recommendation of an activity is not preceded by the much needed market survey. There is a false notion that market surveys are not required in case of the self-employment opportunities for the rural poor. In fact, it is as critical, if not more, for the poor. For, he/she cannot sustain the loss arising out of a lack of market even for short period. It is, therefore, necessary that the project profile of every key activity identify the market availability. The forecast of the incomes to be earned by the Swarozgari must take into account this factor and forecast the incomes only on the basis of an assured market. This would be a critical factor in the choice of the key activity itself.

Para 7.2: It is possible that this might appear to be formidable proposition and that the field functionaries might feel that they are unequal to the task. Happily, this is not so. While to most of us, market mechanism may appear unintelligible and a complex task, in reality it means checking out what sells and what does not. Goods and services are traded every day in all parts of the country. What is needed is to see what sells in the local markets. A study conducted some years ago for the Ministry of Rural Development indicated that the rural Haats (Markets) play a significant role. An analysis of these markets therefore reveals the opportunities. Secondly, an analysis of the daily requirements, either for personal use or in agriculture and exploring ways of meeting the demand locally ;can lead to some useful results. At times, the product concerned might require some promotional activity in order to raise demand.

Para 7.3: A study of the local markets might reveal that what the villagers purchase can as well be produced locally. The opportunities must be fully explored. At the same time, it must be remembered that it is neither feasible nor desirable to produce all goods in all places. The choice of activity therefore must be governed by the possibilities that exist on account of the resources of an area, the available skills and the market. It is always possible to develop the skills or even the markets but this must be weighed against the fact that it would require time and effort.

Para 7.4: Next in the importance are the markets in urban areas. There is an increasing trend towards urbanization in the country alongwith a change of consumer tastes and demands. The goods in demand could be in the primary sector or otherwise. An analysis of these urban markets would reveal the consumer preferences and the potential for the rural entrepreneurs. There can be a good potential for value added items, such as cleaned and packaged food items, such as cleaned and packaged food items, processed fruit and vegetables etc. The emerging urban markets can be a

good area for developing clientele for the rural products. Provision of marketing infrastructure in these areas can go a long way in enabling the rural poor to market their goods and at the same time building an identity for the products. The Self Help Groups can be encouraged to try out these markets on their own so that they slowly develop marketing skills. They can also start marketing the goods of the individual Swarozgaris. Infrastructure fund can be use for strengthening marketing infrastructure and related activities.

Para 7.5: The marketing of goods outside the districts requires an intermediary agency. This can be in the governmental, non-governmental or private sector. The one aspect that requires to be taken care of is the stability of the agency, their own competence and their capacity to ensure that the rural producer is getting his/her fair share of the profits. Care should be taken to see that only such agencies that do not exploit the rural producers and are well established in the business are chosen for the purpose. These agencies may market the products in the national or international markets.

Para 7.6: Some State Governments have established District Supply and Marketing Societies (DSMS) to provide non-credit inputs like procurement or purchase of raw-material and also for sale of products. Wherever these societies are doing good work, they can be suitably strengthened. Similarly, in States such as Orissa and Kerala, there are marketing societies at the State level. Their capacity and product range can be suitably expanded. However, it is not always necessary to establish new agencies. It should be a felt need after a careful analysis of the existing infrastructure, and should be part of a strategy for promotion of marketing support to products under SGSY.

Para 7.7: Organizations like Handicrafts Boards and Handloom corporations and also KVIC/KVIB can play a prominent role in promotion of SGSY. The marketing outlets of KVIC/KVIB must be made use of for SGSY products. Keeping the market trends in view, linkages with apex bodies can ensure a stable market at remunerative prices. Such a link will also result in quality improvements while reducing the market risks to the poor. Bankers can also encourage such initiatives that liberal credit delivery since the loan recovery can be built into the project. There are several NGO and other independent institutions to market products from rural artisans/craftsmen across the country. DRDAs should strive to develop linkages with such groups.

Para 7.8: A few States have organized Melas to give publicity to the range of products produced by the Swarozgaris. Such efforts need further encouragement so those SGSY Swarozgaris will be integrated with the regional markets. Organizing of Exhibitions periodically in urban centres will offer better price to the goods of SGSY Swarozgaris. This also serves as forum for sensitizing the SGSY group to the demand patterns of the market. The State level organizations and boards have to develop an organic link professional bodies can guide the poor in supply of designs and in quality assurance. Attempts to establish State emporia for display and sales of SGSY Products in major urban cities need to be given a fair trial.

Para 7.9: Quality of products is vital not only for the development of entrepreneurs but also for the nation as a whole. It must be the responsibility of the marketing agencies to ensure that the Swarnjayanti are trained in quality control. The goods marketed must conform to a minimum and uniform quality so as to be able to develop a brand image. This is important even in respect of the goods that are produced for local consumption. The DRDAs must organize periodic meets of the Swarozgaris and ensure that they are given the necessary guidance in quality control. There must also be a system of the experts in the relevant fields visiting the work places and guiding the Swarozgaris.

VIII

IMPLEMENTATION

Para 8.1: A close involvement of different agencies is essential for the success of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) SGSY is implemented by District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) through the Panchayati Samithis and, with the active involvement of other Panchayati Raj Institutions, the banks, the line departments and the NGOs.

Para 8.2: The DRDAs are expected to co-ordinate the implementation of the programme. In particular their role will be critical in organization of the Self Help Groups and their capacity building as well as in terms of coordination with the technical institutions for technology and training, the banks for planning and credit mobilization, the line departments for infrastructure and technical follow up as well as in coordinating the marketing activities.

Para 8.3: The Gram Panchayats will play a crucial role in SGSY. The Gram Sabha will first approve the list of BPL families. Besides, at the beginning of each year, the potential Swarozgaris for taking up the designated key activities would be identified in each habitation by a 3-member committee including the Sarpanch. The list of Swarozgaris who are sanctioned the loan by the banks would be placed before the Gram Sabha. The Gram Panchayat would also take steps to provide from its funds under JGSY or any other programme, the common infrastructure necessary for the key activities. The Gram Panchayat would actively monitor the performance of the Swarozgaris and in particular whether they are repaying the loan regularly.

Para 8.4: The Panchayat Samiti (Block Level) will approve the key activities that are identified for the blocks before the list is sent to the BDO through the

District Level Technical Group. The Panchayat Samiti would review every month the reports sent by Block SGSY Committee. In particular, the Panchayat Samiti would review the recovery performance. The Zilla Parishad will be reviewing the performance under the SGSY in its general meetings.

Para 8.5: The Bankers play a very critical role in the implementation of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana. SGSY is a credit-cum-subsidy programme. Credit is the key component and subsidy is only a minor and enabling component. SGSY envisages the close association of bankers at all stages of the programme implementation, right from the identification of key activities, clusters, self help groups, identification of individual Swarozgaris as well as planning for all the elements of the key activities. The bank has the final say in the selection of Swarozgaris. An elaborate mechanism has been put in place to ensure post-credit monitoring as well as for loan recovery.

Para 8.6: The line departments have an important role to play in the entire exercise, for they will be responsible for implementation and monitoring of respective sectoral activities. SGSY would need a very close collaboration between the implementing agencies and the line departments. This collaboration starts with the identification of key activities and preparation of project reports. The line departments will be responsible for planning and creation of the infrastructure required to make the key activity successful. In addition, once the bank has sanctioned the loan, the line departments must ensure that all facilities including technical guidance are provided to the Swarozgaris. The line departments may also verify whether the Swarozgaris have the necessary skill requirement and take steps to train them. The line departments should also satisfy themselves about the quality of training that is being imparted. They should assist the DRDAs in ensuring that the Swarozgaris are able to derive the expected levels of income. The line departments will treat promotion of self-employment in their sector as much their responsibility as that of DRDA/Panchayati Raj Institutions / Banks and it should be an integral part of their day-to-day functioning.

Para 8.7: The NGOs have also an important role to play. They can be used in the formation and nurturing of the SHGs as well as in the monitoring of the progress of the Swarozgaris. Where feasible, their services can also be utilized for provision of technology support, quality control of the products. What the NGOs can do would depend on the nature of the NGO and its competence. Care must therefore be taken to ensure that only those NGOs are utilized in the programme as are capable of supporting the programme. At the same time, every effort must be made to ensure that all resources available in the district are made use of.

Para 8.8: Similarly, care must be taken to ensure the participation of the technical resource available in the district, in the form of technical institutions. These technical institutions may not always have ready solutions to the problems but if they are properly oriented, they can come up with solutions to different problems. If they are made part of an ongoing process, their own capacity ;will be built up, with long-term benefits. The District SGSY Committee must pay particular attention to this aspect.

Co-ordination Mechanism

Para 8.9: A close coordination between different agencies responsible for implementation of SGSY is critical for the success of the programme. The programme should be treated as a joint programme with all agencies being conscious of their respective roles. In order to ensure the coordination the following committees are constituted under SGSY.

Block Level SGSY Committee

Para 8.10: There shall be a Block Level SGSY Committee in each block. Its composition will be as follows:

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|----------|
| 1. | Project Director – DRDA | - | Chairman |
| 2. | Project Officer (Self-employment) | - | Member |
| 3. | Branch Managers of all implementing bank branches in Block | - | Members |
| 4. | Block Level / Sub-Division Level officers of the concerned line departments | - | Members |
| 5. | NGO representative (one) | - | Member |
| 6. | Block Development Officer | - | Convenor |

The meetings of this Committee shall be convened by the BDO. The Lead Bank Officer, DDM, NABARD and the Lead District Officer, RBI may attend the meetings as special invitees. They may attend as many meetings as possible in each block, so that they are familiar with the ground level problems and can help in sorting them out.

The main functions of Block Level SGSY Committee are:

- a) Selection of key activities at the beginning of the programme;
- b) Selection of villages and number of Swarozgaris to be covered each year;
- c) Distribution of the work among the bank branches;

- d) Monitoring of the performance by different agencies;
- e) Co-ordination issues in respect of infrastructure, credit, technology and marketing;
- f) Review of incomes being earned by Swarozgaris;
- g) Review of the recovery performance; fixing dates for recovery camps etc.
- h) Conduct of sample checks for verification of assets;
- i) Drawing up of the monthly report (the monthly report may be drawn by BDO based on information furnished by the banks. A review of the report in the monthly meeting will help the block level committee in identifying different problems. It is, however, not necessary to hold up the preparation of the report in the absence of this monthly meeting);
- j) Review of progress of Swarozgaris in crossing the poverty line.

The block level committee shall meet between 5th & 10th of every month. It must be ensured that meetings are held regularly. Branch Manager of financing institutions should report in a pre-determined format about the SGSY financing in the Block and the same should be compiled by BDO. The proceedings of the Block Level SGSY Committee shall be sent to Panchayat Samiti for information and necessary action, if any. A copy should also be sent to the PD, DRDA and to the Lead Bank Officer.

District Level

Para 8.11: At the District Level, there shall be a District SGSY Committee under the Chairmanship of the District Collector / Chief Executive Officer. This Committee meets every month to review the progress of SGSY and suggest corrective action wherever necessary. The composition of District Level SGSY Committee will be as under:

- | | | |
|--|---|----------|
| 1. District Collector/ Chief Executive Officer | - | Chairman |
| 2. DDM of NABARD | - | Member |
| 3. LDO of RBI | - | Member |

- | | | |
|--|---|----------|
| 4. District level Coordinators of the implementing banks | - | Member |
| 5. Concerned Heads of district level line departments | - | Member |
| 6. General Manager, DIC | - | Member |
| 7. District KVIB Officer | - | Member |
| 8. Project Director, DRDA | - | Member |
| 9. 2-3 NGO representatives | - | Member |
| 10. Lead Bank Officer | - | Convenor |

The functions of the District SGSY Committee include:

- i) Review of SGSY Plan
- ii) Monitoring and review of the overall progress in physical and financial terms
- iii) Sorting out inter-agency differences and to prepare items for consideration of State Level Committee
- iv) Assessing training needs of Swarozgaris and also to review the arrangements for training including identification of appropriate institutions and also
- v) Monitor the recovery position bank-wise and block-wise so as to initiate corrective measures where necessary.

State Level

Para 8.12: The Department of Rural Development or any other Department to which the subject of Rural Development has been allocated should be responsible for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme at the State Level. A State level SGSY Committee has been provided to oversee the functioning and the performance under SGSY. Its composition is as under:

- | | | |
|---|---|----------|
| 1. Chief Secretary/Development Commissioner | - | Chairman |
|---|---|----------|

2.	Secretary, D/o Institutional Finance	-	Member
3.	Secretary, D/o Planning	-	Member
4.	Secretary, In-charge of Women's Development	-	Member
5.	Concerned Heads of the Line Departments as Member and when required	-	
6.	Secretary In-charge of Welfare of SC/STs	-	Member
7.	Representative of NABARD (local Head of Regional Office)	-	Member
8.	Representative of RBI	-	Member
9.	Representatives of concerned implementing Banks at State Headquarters	-	Member
10.	A representative of the Government of India, not below the rank of Deputy Secretary	-	Member
11.	Director, SIRD	-	Member
12.	Convenor, SLBC	-	Member
13.	Secretary, In-charge of Rural Development	-	Member Secretary

Functions of the State Level SGSY Committee are as under:

- i) To provide leadership and guidance in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the programme.
- ii) To review the district-wise progress under SGSY and suggest remedial actions.
- iii) To monitor and evaluate the implementation of the programme with reference to the objectives of the programme.
- iv) To review the involvement of reputed NGOs in the SGSY and provide directions if necessary.

v) To provide a forum for a meaningful dialogue between the policy makers at the State level and the implementers at the field as well as the bankers.

vi) To discuss any other issue relating to SGSY.

The State level SGSY Committee should meet every quarter to ensure proper follow up and effective implementation.

Central Level

Para 8.13: The Department of Rural Development in the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi has the overall responsibility of policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme and for release of central share of funds. A Central Level Coordination Committee (CLCC) has been constituted as under to assist the Department. The CLCC will meet once in six months.

1	Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development	Chairman
2	Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India	Member
3	Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation	Member
4	Secretary, Department of Expenditure	Member
5	Special Secretary, Banking Division, Ministry of Finance	Member
6	Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development	Member
7	Secretary, Department of Small Scale & Agro-related Industries	Member
8	Secretary, Department of Science & Technology	Member
9	Secretary, Ministry of Welfare	Member
10	Secretary, Department of Tribal Welfare, Ministry of Tribal Welfare	Member
11	Secretary, Dept. of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Ministry of Planning & Programme Implementation	Member
12	Managing Director, NABARD	Member
13	Adviser (Rural Development), Planning Commission	Member
14	Additional Secretary & FA, Ministry of Rural Development	Member
15	State Secretaries of Rural Development	Member
16	Chairman-cum-Managing Director of all commercial sector banks	Member
17	Director General CAPART	Member
18	Director General, NIRD	Member
19	Chairman, Indian Banks Association	Member
20	Joint Secretary (SGSY) – Department of Rural Development	Member Secretary
21	NGOs, nominated by the Ministry of Rural Development	Member

Other officials/non-officials may be invited to the meetings of this Committee if their presence is felt necessary.

The functions of CLCC are as under:

- (i) To review and ensure effective implementation of the programmes.
- (ii) To review linkages for support services for SGSY.
- (iii) To review progress of these programmes in physical, financial and qualitative terms including credit assistance.
- (iv) To consider concurrent evaluation reports.
- (v) To provide a forum for a continuous dialogue with the State Governments and Bankers.
- (vi) To review the credit arrangements and recommend changes and improvements as and when necessary.

Setting up of SGSY Cells in Banks

Para 8.14: For the purpose of effective monitoring of the implementation of SGSY, the banks may set up SGSY cells in their controlling offices such as Zonal/Regional Offices. These cells should make periodical review of the flow of credit to SGSY Swarozgaris, ensure the implementation of the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India and the Government of India, collect data from the branches and make available consolidated data no to the Head Office of the Bank.

IX

FUNDING PATTERN AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURE

Criteria for Allocation of Funds to the States

Para 9.1: Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the financing of the programme will be shared between the Centre

and the States in the ratio of 75:25. The Central allocation earmarked for the States will be distributed in relation to the incidence of poverty in the States. However, additional parameters like absorption capacity (based on past trend in utilization of SGSY funds) and special requirement will also be taken into consideration during the course of the year. Devolution of funds to the districts will be indicated by the States and approved by the Government of India. Government of India will release the funds directly to the DRDAs. Devolution to the Blocks may be decided by the Governing Body of the DRDA based on level of poverty and other local factors. Re-allocation may be made by the DRDA within a district. This can be made during January for the remained of the financial year.

Eligible Items of Expenditure

Para 9.2: Each DRDA may incur expenditure on the following items from the funds provided under the SGSY:

- i) Training
- ii) Infrastructure
- iii) Revolving Fund to SHGs
- iv) Subsidy for economic activities

The SGSY is a process oriented scheme, therefore, formation of the Self Help Group (SHG) passes through different stages and the timeframe for each stage may vary from District to District and State to State depending on spatial distribution and capacity of facilitators, literacy, awareness and socio-economic status of the people being organized etc. The States/UTs may be in different stages of the implementation of the Scheme. Therefore, the fund required for training and capacity building including basic orientation, skill development, entrepreneurship development, revolving fund to SHGs and subsidy for economic activity may vary from State to State. Therefore, DRDAs may prioritize the expenditure on different components i.e. training and capacity building, revolving fund and subsidy for economic activity, based on the local requirements and different stages of group formation.

The DRDAs may, however, ensure that there is a balance between the expenditure proposed for different items. The prioritization may ;be done at the commencement of the year and the expenditure monitored on this basis. However, the expenditure on infrastructure will not exceed 20% of the total annual allocation (25% in case of NE States). Asset creation for the Swarozgaris is one of the core objective of the SGSY. The prioritization of expenditure on the various items should therefore be done in such a manner that the amounts earmarked towards subsidy for asset creation are sufficient to meet the requirements not only of the SHGs which are ready for economic

activities but also of the individual swarozgaris for whom viable projects are to be identified.

An amount upto Rs.5 lakhs annually may be spent from the funds available under the scheme on management of professional input related to marketing research, value addition or product diversification or any other input which would facilitate marketing of the produce ultimately resulting in additional income to the Swarozgaris.

Release of Funds

Para 9.3: The Centre releases funds in two instalments. In the case of cold snow bound District viz. Lahul and Spiti, Leh and Kargil where the working period is limited to a few months, the entire Central share of assistance can be released in one instalment. These releases should be immediately followed with the releases by the States.

Release Procedure for Central Share of SGSY Funds

A. NORMAL AREAS

(i) Release of First Instalment

The release of first instalment of SGSY subsidy amount can be made without any formal request if the second instalment in the previous year had been released without any condition. If this instalment was not released at all or was released with some conditions, formal requests for release of first instalment are required from the DRDAs after the conditions have been fulfilled/reasons for non-release of the second instalment have been met.

The release of the first instalment should ordinarily be completed by the end of the second month of the financial year.

(ii) Release of Second Instalment

The second instalment of Central funds is released on the request of the DRDAs in the prescribed proforma on fulfillment of the following conditions:

1. Budget provision for the current year may be indicated by the State Governments. The Central release will not exceed it proportionately.

2. The State Government should have released its contribution during the previous year. Deficiency in release of its share will be deducted from the second instalment.
3. The opening balance of the DRDAs should not exceed 15% (20% for the year 1999-2000) of the allocation of the year in which funds are being released. In case, the opening balance exceeds this limit, the Central share of the amount by which it exceeds this limit will be deducted at the time of release of second instalment.
4. Available funds including carry forward funds should have been utilized at least to 60%.
5. Audit reports, utilization certificates for the previous year should be furnished.
6. Annual Plan should have been approved by the Governing Body of the DRDA.
7. Any other terms and conditions imposed at the time of the last release should have been met.
8. The States should ideally get the release of second instalment latest by the end of December. The quantum of second instalment releases while seeking the second instalment will be made dependent on the time of reporting of utilization. Depending on the receipt of complete proposal for second instalment, the quantum will be governed as follows:

Proposals Received

by the end of December	:	50% of allocated funds
by the end of January	:	40% of allocated funds
by the end of February	:	30% of allocated funds
In March	:	20% of allocated funds

B. COLD DESERT DISTRICTS

Funds will be released in one instalment but the following conditions should be satisfied before next release:

- (a) Conditions laid down at the time of release of funds during the previous year should have been satisfied.
- (b) Budget provisions for the current year should have been indicated and Central releases should not exceed it.
- (c) State Government should have released its share during the previous year. Deficiency in the release of the State contribution would be deducted from the current year's release.
- (d) Carry forward balances should not exceed 15% (20% for the year 1999-2000) of the last year's allocation. Excess carry forward would be deducted from the current year's release.
- (e) 75 percent utilization of available funds including carry forward funds.
- (f) Annual Plan should have been approved by the Governing Body of the DRDA.
- (g) Audit Report, Utilization Certificate and Bank Reconciliation Certificate for the previous year should have been received.

X

MONITORING

Para 10.1: For ensuring the Swarozgari crosses the poverty line, it is not sufficient to provide him assets through subsidy and loan. The progress of management of his assets for generation of incremental income has to be continuously followed up, monitored and evaluated.

Para 10.2: The follow-up on the projects given to the Swarozgari should be done by the DRDA/Block officials, and bankers to see that the Swarozgari is properly managing his assets and is able to generate the projected income. All efforts should be made to remove any difficulties that the Swarozgari may be facing. Every Swarozgari should be given Vikas Patrika. Two copies of this

document should be prepared of which one copy should be given to the Swarozgari and the other should be kept at the Block Headquarters. Both the copies should be kept continuously updated regarding the health of the project.

Para 10.3: An annual physical verification of assets may also be undertaken on a drive basis at the end of every year. The results of such verification should be incorporated in the Annual Plan for the next year.

Para 10.4: Follow –up and monitoring will also be done at the different levels and agencies like DRDA, BDO, Panchayats, Bank Branches etc.

Para 10.5: The performance of the implementation of SGSY is to be monitored continuously at all levels. At the Block and District levels this is done through reports and physical verification of the assets. At the Central Government level, the programme will be continuously monitored on the basis of monthly progress report. The States will send district-wise information received from the DRDA to the Centre as under:

(a) Monthly Progress Report

Monthly Progress Report should be sent so as to reach the Centre by the 20th of every succeeding month. The proforma for submission of above monthly progress report will be communicated to the States.

(b) Annual Progress Report

The Monthly Progress Report for the last month of the financial year i.e. March will be treated as the final Annual Progress Report for that year.

This annual progress report should be sent along with an analytical note on the implementation of the SGSY in the State particularly, on the following points:

- i) The physical and financial progress during the year
- ii) The linkages provided and availed of for various activities
- iii) General comments on the implementation of the programme including suggestions, if any.

Qualitative Monitoring of SGSY at Block/DRDA Level

Para 10.6: For effective implementation of the programme, physical monitoring through field inspections is important. Officers dealing with SGSY at the State headquarters shall visit districts regularly and ascertain through field visits that the programme is being implemented satisfactorily and is in

accordance with the prescribed procedures and specifications. Likewise, officers at the district, sub-division and block levels must closely monitor all aspects of the programme through visits in the interior areas.

Para 10.7: In order to develop a consistent system of monitoring the implementation of SGSY at Block/DRDA level through field visits and physical verification of assets as well as progress of the Swarozgari towards income generation the following schedule of inspection of families by the various levels of officers is suggested:

(i)	District Magistrate/Chairman DRDA	10 per month
(ii)	Project Director, DRDA	20 per month
(iii)	Project Officer & Project Economist	40 per month
(iv)	SDMs	20 per month
(v)	BDOs	20 per month
(vi)	ADOs	20 per month

Para 10.8: District Collector/Chairman DRDA should prescribe suitable number of field visits for the officers of the line departments and obtain their inspection reports. On the basis of these inspection reports the Monitoring Wing at DRDAs will prepare a consolidated report. These reports should be discussed in the meetings of the Governing Bodies of DRDAs. Necessary corrective action should be taken wherever necessary. DRDAs will also send consolidated report on quarterly basis to States along with summary of comments on salient observations and follow up action taken on these issues.

Para 10.9: The State Level SGSY Committee, should review quarterly the findings emerging out of qualitative monitoring of the programme as a standing agenda. Selected Chairmen/Project Directors should be invited to such meetings.

Evaluation Studies

10.10: The States/UTs should conduct periodical evaluation studies on the implementation of the programme.

Para 10.11: Evaluation studies may be given to the reputed institutions and organizations, on issues thrown up by the concurrent evaluation meriting details studies. These studies may be given by the centre as well as the

States/UTs. Copies of the evaluation studies conducted by the State should be furnished to the Central Government.

Para 10.12: Remedial action shall be taken by the States/UTs on the basis of the observations made in these evaluation studies and also in the Concurrent Evaluation conducted by the Government of India.

XI

Special Projects

Introduction

Para 11.1: Under SGSY, funds are released to the DRDAs and are utilized as per the decisions taken at the local level. Sometimes, the poverty reduction efforts requires coordinated action by different departments and it may call for planning and coordination which may extend beyond the individual districts. There may also be occasions when the different departments or DRDAs or State governments might want to try out new initiatives which are in the nature of pioneer projects, capable of triggering much needed growth impulses. Such projects, capable of triggering much needed growth impulses. Such projects would be indicators of possible alternative strategies. In order to take up such projects, 15% of the funds under SGSY will be set apart by the Ministry for such initiatives in conjunction with other departments, semi-government organizations such as, the Khadi & Village Industries Commission, Development Commissioner, Handicrafts, Commodity Boards, etc., or international organizations. This would include initiatives to be taken in the individual districts or across the districts. If during the course of the year, such funds cannot be fully utilized, the balance funds will be distributed among the States alongwith the programme funds whose redistribution during the year will keep in view the absorption capacity of different States.

Objective

Para 11.2: The objective of each special project would be to ensure a time-bound programme for bringing a specific number of BPL families above the poverty line through self-employment programmes. As per the programme guidelines, every assisted family must be brought above the poverty line within the project period. The projects may involve different strategies to provide long term sustainable self-employment opportunities either in terms of

organization of the rural poor, provision of support infrastructure, technology, marketing, training, etc., or a combination of these.

“Special projects should endeavour to validate alternative models of generating sustainable self employment for replication under the normal SGSY.”

Approval of Special Projects

Para 11.3: the State Governments or semi-government organizations at the National level or International Organizations may pose projects under this component. To consider the proposals received, there shall be a two-tier committee system.

a) Project Screening Committee

b) Project Approval Committee

(a) Project Screening Committee

The Projects submitted would be examined and considered by the Screening Committee before they are submitted to the Approval Committee with its recommendation. The composition of the Projects Screening Committee would be as under:

Joint Secretary (IRD), D/o Rural Development	Chairman
Director/Dy. Adviser(RD), Planning Commission	Chairman
Deputy Secretary (IFD), D/o Rural Development	Member
Director/Deputy Secretary/Joint Director dealing With the subject	Member Convenor

The Screening Committee would also be responsible for periodical review and monitoring of the projects sanctioned under the scheme.

The composition of the Projects Approval Committee would be as under:

Secretary, M/o Rural Development	Chairman
AS&FA, M/o Rural Development	Member

Adviser (RD), Planning Commission Member

Joint Secretary (IRD) Member-Convenor

A project being forwarded to Government of India under special projects of SGSY should inter-alia include the following details:

- (i) Likely beneficiaries/families of beneficiaries and year-wise details of long term and short term benefits (financial & in the nature of assets created and self-employment) expected to flow to the beneficiaries.
- (ii) An analysis of the activities proposed to be undertaken and the possibility of its replicability elsewhere.
- (iii) The approach proposed to be adopted for achieving the objective and the activities selected under the project proposal in relating to the available resources.
- (iv) Details of integration with other on-going rural development programmes in the area and arrangements for dovetailing funds from non-SGSY resources.

Period of Implementation of Project

Para 11.4: The period of implementation should not normally exceed three years.

Releases under the Special Projects

Para 11.5: Releases under the projects shall be made as per schedule of releases approved for each programme. Recurring expenditure such as creation of posts or vehicles or maintenance expenditure shall not be admissible in the projects.

Para 11.6: The reports and returns will be submitted to the Central Government by the implementing agencies as prescribed generally or for specific projects.

The Ministry of Rural Development vide its D.O. letter No. V-24015/4/2000-IRD-V dated 3rd May, 2002 has communicated all the States/UTs regarding the revised guidelines for Special Projects under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

The **revised guidelines** are as follows:

- (i) The maximum investment, inclusive of credit and State share, under each Special Project should not exceed Rs. 15.00 crores and the minimum project cost shall not be below Rs. 1.00 crore.
- (ii) Special Projects should be formulated/posed particularly with focus on backward districts having high incidence of poverty.
- (iii) Ordinarily one project shall be approved for one district at a time. In exceptional cases, Project Approval Committee (PAC) may approve a second project for the district. However under no circumstances there shall be more than two on-going projects in a district.
- (iv) No project will be approved for a State unless the State indicates its commitment to provide 25% of the project cost as its matching share.
- (v) There should be prior commitment from the banks for funding the projects.
- (vi) Credit component of projects may be arranged from the banks or other institutions such as SC/ST/Women Corporation etc.
- (vii) The release of funds to the Implementing Agency should be normally in three installments in the ratio of 40:40:20. However, if a release schedule is indicated in the proposal and approved, funds will be released according to the schedule
- (viii) Attempt should be made to cover maximum BPL families under the Project. At least 80% of the beneficiaries under the Project shall be from BPL families. The number of BPL families to be covered should be specifically indicated in the Project Proposal.
- (ix) The district specific Projects will be formulated by the DRDAs in consultation with the Line Departments so as to ensure desired linkage with the BPL families and technical support being provided by the line Department.
- (x) Special Project Proposals of Line Departments, which may cater to more than one district, shall also be considered. However, in such cases, the proposals would have to be routed through the Rural Development/Panchayati Raj Department, which is in charge of implementation of the SGSY in the State. This would ensure convergence of activities and their focus on BPL families.
- (xi) Special projects may also be sponsored by the Line Ministries of the Central Government, autonomous agencies working under the Ministries and also by reputed national level NGOs for field-testing potentially viable projects of self employment.

A list of points, which may be kept in mind, while formulating the proposals for special projects under the SGSY, is at Annexure-I.

ANNEXURE-I

MAJOR POINTS WHICH MAY BE KEPT IN MIND WHILE FORMULATING A SPECIAL PROJECT UNDER SGSY

1. **Name of the Project**
2. **Conceptual Background of the Project** and features which make it special for sanction under Special Projects of SGSY and not under normal SGSY. Possibility of replicability of the project.
3. **Project Objective**
4. **Strategy**
5. **Project Period and Action Plan** (year-wise) for implementation of the Project.
6. **Area of the Project and Area Profile** (how the key activity suitable for the area and the people).
7. **Key activities to be taken in the Project**
8. **Beneficiaries' details:** in terms of numbers/categories and their linkage with the activities taken in the Project.
9. **Implementing Agency:** DRDA or a body of the SHGs, or if it is a Project which involves more than one DRDA than the name of the DRDA to whom the funds would be released for implementation.
10. **Role of line departments/NGOs/PRI**s
11. **Bench Mark Survey** for indicators on which the Success of the project would be monitored and evaluated
12. **Integration with other on-going Rural Development Programmes** in the area and arrangements for dove-tailing funds from non-SGSY resources.
13. **Raw material supply**

14. **Technical know-how**, if any. What arrangements have been made for flow of technical know-how like Memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed etc.
15. **Training** component Existing skill, training institutes identified, funds arrangements, duration of training etc.
16. **Marketing arrangement of the Produce:** existing markets, strategy for expanding the markets in future, details of forward and backward linkages
17. **Infrastructure Development:** Infrastructural facility, if to be built, then mention how it is linked with direct benefit of Swarozgaris. How the provision for staff, running cost etc. would be met.
18. **Benefits/Impact of the Project:** in terms of increase in income, year-wise income growth identified parameters etc.
19. **Risk factors** affecting the Project objectives of increase in income etc.
20. **Modalities to minimize risks**
21. **Criteria for monitoring and evaluation of Project:** mention various parameters on which the project is to be monitored and evaluated. How it will be monitored after the completion of the Project?
22. **State's commitment to match the share** of the project cost
23. **Bank's commitment for credit.** The amount of Bank Credit should clearly be indicated vis-à-vis the number of Swarozgaris.
24. **Technical scrutiny and technical feasibility** of the Project (Please indicate whether the concerned technical department of the State Government has vetted the Project, if yes, the comments thereof)
25. **Economic appraisal of the Project** (the Project may be got appraised and results of the appraisal indicated appropriately in the Proposal) i.e. viability of the project.
26. **Estimated cost** (Please indicates the Central and State share and the Credit component, if applicable, including contribution by the

Swarozgaris). The estimated cost should indicate the total cost and activity-wise/beneficiary-wise costs also.

27. Repayment schedule

28. Whether the Project or part thereof has been submitted to any other agency? If yes., the results thereof. If the project or its part had been rejected the reasons.

NEXURE – I

**State Specific Poverty Line (1999-2000)
(Rupees Per Capita Per Month)**

Sl. No.	State	Rural	Urban
1	Andhra Pradesh	262.94	457.40
2	Assam	365.43	343.99
3	Bihar	333.07	379.78
4	Gujarat	318.94	474.41
5	Haryana	362.81	420.20
6	Himachal Pradesh	367.45	420.20
7	Karnataka	309.59	511.44
8	Kerala	374.79	477.06
9	Madhya Pradesh	311.34	481.65
10	Maharashtra	318.63	539.71
11	Orissa	323.92	473.12
12	Punjab	362.68	388.15
13	Rajasthan	344.03	465.92
14	Tamil Nadu	307.64	475.60
15	Uttar Pradesh	336.88	416.29
16	West Bengal	350.17	409.22
17	Delhi	362.68	505.45
	All India	327.56	454.11

The poverty line (implicit) at all-India level is worked out from the expenditure class-wise distribution of persons and the poverty ratio at all-India level. The poverty ratio at all India level is obtained as the weighted average of the state-wise poverty ratio.