

## CHAPTER XI : MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### Department of Rural Development

#### 11.1 Idling of funds

**The Ministry had failed to obtain refund of Rs. 93.32 lakh lying with the District Rural Development Agency, Daman for want of applicants eligible for subsidy under the Centrally sponsored Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana launched in April 1999 to assist families below poverty line.**

With the objective of helping the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families to cross the poverty line, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) was launched in April 1999 as a Centrally sponsored scheme by restructuring the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and several other schemes. SGSY envisaged organizing the rural poor into Self Help Groups (SHG) through a process of social mobilization, training and capacity building and provision of income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and Government subsidy disbursed through the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA).

Scrutiny of records of DRDA, Daman revealed (November 2007/October 2008) that it had kept Rs. 93.32 lakh unutilized as of 31 March 2008 under this programme. This include the balance of Rs. 64.61 lakh brought forward from 2000-01 and interest of Rs. 34.37 lakh earned of which only Rs. 5.66 lakh had been spent.

DRDA had informed the Ministry (September 2000) that there were very few eligible families and due to heavy demand in industrial sector, most of them got employment easily in industries, and as such they did not prefer to work as labourers or to take loan for self-employment. Thereafter, the Ministry had not sanctioned any grants. Through DRDA had requested (September 2000) for review and upward revision of criteria for classification of families as BPL from Rs. 266.97 to Rs. 600 so as to cover more rural households, it did not pursue the matter with the Ministry. Nevertheless, it had retained the grant of Rs. 93.32 lakh unutilized.

DRDA stated (October 2008) that the Scheme has since been implemented in full swing during 2008-09 as evident from 14 applications received. This would not justify the retention of grants unused for over eight years.

The matter was brought to the notice of the Ministry in June 2008; their reply was awaited as of September 2009.