

Chapter- 6

Assessment of the Physical Services provided by the Local Bodies

Level of Services Provided by PRIs

- 6.1 As per the Assam Panchayat Act, 1994, PRIs in Assam are expected to provide core civic Services like maintenance of rural roads, water supply, sanitation, rural parks and gardens, rural electrification, community halls, maintenance of ferries, fisheries and markets. PRIs in Assam are in a fledgling state as yet. Organisational set up is yet to develop fully and hence internal revenue generation is meagre. There is an all around constraint of fixed, manpower and physical infrastructure. Due to financial and physical constraints level of service provided by PRIs are only bare minimum. A quantitative assessment of services with regard to availability, access coverage and quality is difficult to make primarily because of the sporadic nature of services provided. Most of the services now being provided are funded under the centrally sponsored schemes or out of fund received through the award of Central and State Finance Commission. As reported by the department of Panchayat and Rural Development, Government of Assam the services that are centrally being provided by the PRIs with number of existing facilities, and service deficit with number of additional facilities required to be created are shown in Table- 1 below.

Table- 1
Services Provided by the PRIs

Sl. No.	Services Provided	No. of existing facilities	No. of additional facilities to be created
1	Daily Market	838	988
2	Weekly Market	574	1609
3	Ferries	294	601
4	Tourist Spot	100	299
5	Piped Water Supply	732	782
6	Guest House, Community Halls, Parks waiting sheds	4478	12369
7	Public Toilet	1284	3079
8	Play Ground	1194	1928
9	Drain (Km)	5114	5119
10	Cremation Ground	2151	2501
11	Burial Ground	1594	1830

- 6.2 Further, the department of Panchayat and Rural Development has estimated that for creation of additional facilities to make good the services deficit an amount of Rs.6161 crores will be required. They requested the Commission to consider this amount as grant for up gradation of physical infrastructure. Having regard to the financial position of the State government, it is difficult to entertain this proposal in

totality. However, a few items from the list like development of market, cremation and burial grounds have been considered for specific purpose grant.

Level of Services Provided by ULBs

- 6.3 The traditional services that are being provided by the ULBs included (i) Water Supply, (ii) Solid waste disposal, (iii) Street lighting, (iv) Sewerage and sanitation and (v) Storm water drainage. The service level to be attained in respect of all these services as prescribed by the Thirteenth Finance Commission is 100 per cent by the year 2015. In respect of water supply 135 litre per capita daily (LPCD) and continuity of supply during 24 hours has to be ensured. Besides, in terms of coverage, quality and metering water supply connection, 100 per cent achievement is targeted by 2015. Similarly, in regard to solid waste management the target set is 100 per cent by 2015 in terms household coverage, efficiency of collection, segregation and scientific disposal of solid waste. Likewise, 13th Finance Commission has prescribed 100 per cent achievement by 2015 in coverage, quality etc in respect of all other services. The present status of service delivery by the urban civic bodies leaves much to be desired.

Water Supply

- 6.4 Out of 71 urban civic bodies within the General Areas of Assam, at present 40 bodies have their own piped water supply schemes managed either by themselves or through Government through Assam Urban Water Supply & Sewerage Board and Public Health Engineering Department. The present coverage of water supply is only partial and continuity of supply is limited to a few hours during the day. The supply of water in per capita terms is far below the accepted norm of 135 LPCD. The total quantity of water supply from the existing sources is only 90.88 million litres per day covering nearly 11 lakhs people as per 2001 census. As such, per capita availability is only about 83 litres per day, which is far below the accepted norm.
- 6.5 As reported by Urban Development Department the present population in urban areas is roughly 25.24 lakhs. The total quantity of water required daily is 340.70 million litres based on the norm of 135 LPCD. Thus there is a deficit of about 249.82 million litres per day. The department has proposed a sum of Rs.1535 crores per installation of additional water supply plants to make good the present deficit and to attain 100 per cent coverage.

Solid Waste Management

- 6.6 The present level of urban household collection of solid waste is approximately 25 per cent. The extent of segregation at source and scientific disposal of solid waste is nil. At present collection and disposal of solid waste is done manually by the ULBs. Scientific method of disposal of solid waste is yet to be started in the ULBs. The Urban Development Department has proposed an additional sum of Rs.326 crores to ensure 100 per cent coverage.

Street Lighting

- 6.7 As per the present norm street lights is to be provided at a distance of 30 meters from each other. The reported road light of municipalities in Assam is 2697 Km. Accordingly, the requested number of street lights as per existing norm is 89900. As against this the number of street lights in place now is only 34000. However, Government of Assam has provided fund to the municipalities for installation of additional 68297 lights all over the State. Once it is implemented the existing deficiency will be fully met.

Sewerage and Sanitation

- 6.8 In the municipalities of Assam sewerage system is virtually non-existent till now. As proposed by the Urban Development Department a lump sum of Rs.326 crores will be required for bringing the municipalities under the coverage of sewerage system. In order to improve the sanitation facility within municipal areas 236 units of public toilets have been provided. It is estimated that an other 197 units of public toilets are required. The financial impact is estimated at Rs.10.20 crores at an unit cost of Rs.5.18 lakh.

Storm Water Drainage

- 6.9 It is reported that storm water drainage coverage is extended to a length of 355 Km. In order to achieve cent per cent coverage, it is required to be extended to a further length of 2577 Km. The approximate cost of construction per KM is roughly Rs.1 crore. Hence, the additional requirement of fund on this account is Rs.2577 crores.

(b) Inventory of Assets

- 6.10 In the absence of required information and data, it is difficult to make an inventory of assets with its valuation and current use.

(c) Basic Services to Slum Settlement

- 6.11 In Assam slum population was estimated at 5.14 lakhs during 1997 on the basis of 1991 census figure. And a total number of 205 slum pockets were identified in the urban areas. The number of slum population in the urban areas is estimated at 9.36 lakhs during 2002.
- 6.12 The programme for environmental improvement of urban slum was first taken up in Assam during the Sixth Five Year Plan under the 20 point programme. The basic objectives being to improve environmental conditions of urban slums through developmental schemes like paving of roads, construction of storm water drains, community latrines and bath, drinking water, street light etc. This programme continued till Tenth Five Year Plan. In financial term an allocation of Rs.905 crores was made during this period. However, the actual release of fund was limited to Rs.537 crores, and a total number of 67158 slum dwellers were benefitted from the

schemes. Thereafter, National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) was taken up since 1996-97. The main objectives of the programme are to provide drinking water, roads, drains, street lights, adult literacy centres and non-formal education centres, community toilets and baths, shelter improvement etc. for the urban slum dwellers. Against this scheme, Government of India released a total sum of about Rs.18.26 crores during the period 1996-97 to 2005-06. Different number of towns were covered in each year against this scheme.

- 6.13 Recently, Government of India has introduced a new scheme of Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). The new scheme will have an integrated approach in ameliorating the living conditions of urban slum dwellers living in a pitiable condition in indecent shelter. At present 16 town in Assam is covered under IHSDP.

Slum Settlement at Guwahati

- 6.14 Guwahati, the capital of Assam, and only premier city in the north-east is afflicted in a big way by the problems of urban slum. The Guwahati Municipal Corporation is the designated authority to look into this problem and to ensure ameliorative measures to relieve the slum dwellers of their pitiable living condition.
- 6.15 According to 2009-10 slum census, the total population of slum in Guwahati is nearly 1.6 lakhs with approximately 24400 families living in the urban areas of the city. It constitutes about 15 per cent of the total population of the Guwahati Metropolitan Area. The ever rising urban population has a tremendous impact on increase in the number of urban slum dwellers. This in turn puts tremendous pressure on urban basic civic Services and infrastructures making the task difficult for the civic body to handle properly.
- 6.16 With a view to ameliorating the living condition of urban slum dwellers, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA) introduced the scheme Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) under JNNURM. The basic objectives of the project are to ensure focused attention to integrated development of basic services, provision of such services to urban poor including security of tenure at affordable prices, improved housing, water supply and sanitation coupled with provision of social services like education, health and social security. Above all, it seeks to establish an effective linkage between asset creation and its management and maintenance thereafter. In Guwahati this project is implemented by GMC.
- 6.17 GMC started Slum Housing Project under BSUP in two phases. The first phase was approved by the MHUPA on 5th February, 2008 and project process started in June, 2008. The first phase includes construction of 1232 number of dwelling units, in G+3 buildings located at Fatasil 1104 units, Morasali 64 units and another 64 units at Solapara. Each unit contains two rooms with separate kitchen and both including other facilities. The approved cost of this phase is Rs.53.95 crores consisting of Rs.48.55 crores as Central share and Rs.5.40 crores as State share.

- 6.18 BSUP – Phase II was approved by the MHUPA on 11th February, 2009. It includes construction of 1028 number of dwelling units located at Amingaon. The design of building is G+3 and the specifications of units is the same as in phase I. The approved cost is Rs.54.49 crores and the share of GOI and State is Rs.49.04 crores and Rs.5.45 crores respectively. In respect of phase II, 80 per cent of State development work is completed.
- 6.19 Apart from BSUP, another programme viz, Rajiv Awaas Yojana (RAY) is being implemented under the aegis of MHUPA. The primary objective of this newly launched scheme is to have a slum free city. For Guwahati city a sum of Rs.76 lakhs is received to carry on the preparatory works under phase I of the scheme. The preparatory works include:
- Establishment of a RAY - City treatment cell.
 - Conducting Socio-economic survey of all slums through empanelled NGOs.
 - Preparation of slum MIS.
 - Mapping of all the slums through GIS.