

# **RAJASTHAN**

Rajasthan evokes colourful images of a land of chivalrous rulers, brave and beautiful women, bedecked camels dotting the desert landscape, rich folklore and friendly people. In the last fifty years, it has emerged as a major tourist destination in India, both for the domestic and foreign tourists. Jaipur, the Pink City; Udaipur, the City of Lakes; Jaisalmer, the Dream City of 'Sonar Kila', (the Golden Fort), Bharatpur with its Keoladev Bird National Park, all these and more are all a part of the legend of the State.

The State, in its present form, is a conglomeration of 19 princely States and 3 chiefships, which varied in size, population, administrative efficiency, and the level of socio-economic development. Administratively, Rajasthan is divided into 32 districts, which are further sub-divided into 241 tehsils and 237 development blocks. The State has an area of 3.42 lakh sq. kms., and after bifurcation of Madhya Pradesh and formation of the new State of 'Chhattisgarh', has become the largest state in the country.

Geophysical disadvantages faced by the State act as major bottlenecks in achieving accelerated development. Though the State accounts for 10.4% of country's area, 5.2% of its population and 10.6% of the area under cultivation, yet it has barely 1% of its water resources. The limited water resources available are also characterised by excessive dependence on ground water. The ground water potential of the State is limited and is under stress in many blocks on account of overdrawal. It is nevertheless the mainstay for irrigation in many parts of the State, contributing to 55% of the area under irrigation. For surface irrigation, the State is dependent on a network of rain dependent tanks, the Banas, Mahi and Chambal river systems and its share in inter-State waters.

Over 60% of State's area covering 11 districts and containing 40% of its population lies west of Aravallis in the Thar Desert. This area is characterised by extremely deficient and erratic rainfall. Although the State's normal rainfall is 58 cm, the rainfall is erratic and often fails. In the last three years recurring drought has adversely affected the State's economy.

The salient features of Rajasthan vis-à-vis the Country are as follows:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Rajasthan</b>	<b>India</b>
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
1.	Geographical area	2001	000 sq.km.	342	3287
2.	Population	2001	lakh No.	565	10270
3.	Annual Rate of Growth of	2001	%	2.83	2.13

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	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
	Population				
4.	Density of Population	2001	Per Sq.Km	165	324
5.	Proportion of SC Population	1991	%	17.29	16.33
6.	Proportion of ST Population	1991	%	12.44	8.01
7.	Literacy	2001	%	61.03	65.33
8.	State Income at Current Prices	1998-99	Crore Rs.	65144	1601065
9.	Per Capita Income				
	a. at Current Price	1999-00	Rs.	12533	16047
	b. at Constant Price	1999-00	Rs.	8272	10204
10.	Area under Foodcrops	1999-00	Lakh Ha.	109.59	1230.59
11.	Production of Foodgrains	1999-00	Lakh Tonnes	106.85	2088.78
12.	Consumption of Fertilisers-per Hectare of Gross Cropped Area	1999-00	Kg.	39.49	95.33
13.	Total Livestock	1982	Lakh No.	547	4709
14.	% of Forest Area to Total Area	1995-96	%	7.18	20.93
15.	Registered Working Factories-Manufacturing sector	June 1990	No.	10038	196068
16.	Net Value Added by Factory sector	1988-89	Rs.	208	429
17.	Value of Mineral Output	1988	Crore Rs.	1445	37652
18.	Per Capita Consumption of Power	1997-98	Kwh	294.9	349.1
19.	Villages Electrified	March 99	%	92.2	86.0
20.	Railway Route Length per 1000 sq.km. of Area	March 99	Kms.	17	19
21.	Number of Banking Offices per lakh of population	Sept. 2001	No.	5.8	6.4

## **Status in 1998**

Financial management becomes a challenge. Situation started taking a turn from bad to worse with the dawn of the year 1998-99. Following decisions are mainly responsible for this:-

- (i) Implementation of Fifth Pay Commission.
- (ii) Abolition of Octroi.
- (iii) Removal of State Lotteries.
- (iv) Additional outgo in pursuance of recommendation of the State Finance Commission.
- (v) Direct remittance of Funds by GOI to User agencies such as Panchayati Raj Institutions, DRDAs. As a result of this procedure states are paying unnecessarily interest on Ways and Means and overdraft advances whereas DRDAs and PRIs are earning interest on balances in their bank account.

Financial parameters distorted with the implication of these decisions. Revenue deficit of the State as well as fiscal deficit rose by 41.5% and 102% respectively in the year 1998-99 as compared to 1997-98.

# Policies, Initiatives & Achievements

From December 1998 onwards, Rajasthan has come a long way through various steps initiated by the State Government. In spite of the scarce resources, the State Government has created a position through various initiatives where along with rapid development, **Rajasthan** is among **top five states in terms of GDP** growth rate. The major thrust areas are –

- **Fiscal Reforms**
- **Drought Proofing**
- **Infrastructure Development** – Power, Road, Telecommunication, Irrigation, Drinking water, Mining and Tourism.
- **Social Sector** – Education, Medical & Health, Women & Child Development, Social Security Schemes.
- **Good Governance** – Transparency & Efficiency
- **Approach** – Missions & Task Forces

## **1. Fiscal Management**

- Increase in Tax Revenue – **Tax reforms and levy of service tax, turnover tax and entry tax resulted in a revenue increase from Rs 3939.34 crores in 1998-99 to Rs 6163.58 crores by 2001-02.**
- **Increase in Non Tax Revenue** – Through sale of land in command area and Nazool properties and increase in mining fees, irrigation rates, land conversion rates.
- **Reduction in expenditure** - Reduction in facilities of government functionaries and a ban on ad-hoc appointments (RAPSAR Act) form the cornerstones of this effort.
- The Revenue Deficit position as a percentage of Revenue Receipts has come down by over 15%.

## **2. Drought Proofing**

Though the State suffered 3 consecutive droughts, still relief works were initiated in such a way as to supplement the process of development. The approach taken laid emphasis on the following:-

- Dovetailing drought works for development projects and schemes.

- Emphasis on "Drought Proofing" so as to reduce the adverse effects of future droughts.

The following table illustrates this approach: -

<b>Samvat</b>	<b>Roads (kms.)</b>	<b>Schools</b>	<b>Water Harvesting</b>	<b>Revival of Traditional Water Resources</b>	<b>Afforestation &amp; Soil Conservation</b>	<b>Anganbadi Centres</b>	<b>Others</b>
2055	7780	3243	2300	823	254	173	10300
2056	11700	3259	13706	11700	384	57	12500
2057	13730	1841	19400	3035	470	1370	7000
<b>Total</b>	<b>33210</b>	<b>8343</b>	<b>35406</b>	<b>15558</b>	<b>1108</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>29800</b>

### **Highlights: -**

- Over Rs 2000 crores spent in 3 years.
- 52964 out of a total of 127721 (around 50%) works were related to water harvesting structures.
- Of the above 3561 works were related to traditional water harvesting structures so as to maximise the potential of tried and tested water sources.
- Arrangements for cattle through over 2000 fodder distribution centres and 700 cattle camps.
- Drinking water was provided both through the creation of new sources, (wells and hand pumps) and transport of water by tankers and rail.

## **3. Infrastructure Development**

### **3.1 Power**

- The **Power Sector Reforms Act, 1999** was brought into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2000 and the State Electricity Board was unbundled into five companies.
- Rajasthan is one of the first states in the country to restructure the State Electricity Board, that too without opposition from employees.
- **Power Regulatory Commission** formed in January 2000.
- Increase in generation from 3356 MW to 4105.56 MW in last 3 years.
- Reduction in transmission losses.
- Reduction in revenue gap.

### **3.2 Transport**

- **BOT Policy** – Through BOT, the state has been able to get 36 works worth over Rs 850 crores sanctioned.
- **RUP** – Under the Road Upgradation Programme, work on around 1524 roads of 6882.25 Kms length and involving an outlay of Rs 202.62 crores was undertaken. Funding was arranged from NABARD, the Agricultural Marketing Board and the State Plan.
- **CRF** – Under the Central Road Fund, 109 works on 1411 Kms road length with an outlay of Rs 147.33 crores were undertaken.
- **Maintenance** – Repair works were undertaken in 32,000 Kms of road length in the year 2001-02 with an investment of Rs 66.69 crores.
- **PMGSY** – Rajasthan is presently leading all the other states in this programme. During 2001-02, 535 works of 2020.84 Kms length and an outlay of Rs 263.05 crores and during 2002-03, 154 works of 547.52 Kms length for Rs 58.68 crores have been sanctioned and are being taken up.

### **3.3 Telecommunication**

- **Free Right of Way** – Communication Backbone has been developed by multiple private vendors. This has been possible as a result of the State Government's policy of providing free right of way to all the interested parties.

### **3.4 Irrigation**

- The “**Water Resources Vision 2045**” has been prepared for sustainable development and optimal utilisation of precious and limited natural water resources.
- A law on “**Rajasthan Farmers Participation in Management of Irrigation System**” has been passed for implementing participatory irrigation management.
- A **State Water Resources Plan** has been formulated with a basin-wise approach.
- Major Projects undertaken-
  - a. Bisalpur – 20000 Hect. additional potential.
  - b. Siddhmukh Nohar – 84000 Hect.
  - c. Gang Canal – Modernisation.
  - d. RWRCPP – World Bank assisted – costing Rs 733.59 crores

### **3.5 Drinking Water**

- Projects worth Rs **2452 crores** have been sanctioned and taken up in the last three years. These include the following major projects -
  - a. Bisalpur project
  - b. Chambal river project
  - c. Javai Dam project
  - d. Churu Bissau project
- In addition schemes for areas which are fluoride affected and have brackish water have also been taken up.

### **3.6 Tourism**

- MOUs have been with Gujarat tourism, ITDC and the World Travel & Tourism Council for achieving the necessary promotional synergies.
- ADB funded project for 6 Divisional Head Quarters plus 6 other cities of tourism importance - outlay projected is Rs 1529 crores.
- Project for establishing an international airport at Jaipur.
- Road repair/construction linking places of tourist/religious importance.
- Building rural and urban "haats" in order to promote the marketing of handicrafts and other rural non-farm produce.

### **3.7 Information Technology**

- I.T. Policy announced – April 2000.
- E-Governance Projects –
  - a. Land Record Computerisation - An ambitious programme of public - private partnership allowing for supply of authenticated land records through kiosks at panchayat level has been envisaged.
  - b. LokMitra – Access platform for citizens in urban areas.
  - c. JanMitra - Access platform for citizens in rural areas.

### **3.8 Industry**

- To attract investment from non-resident Rajasthanis outside the state and abroad, an **International Rajasthani Conclave** was organised in September, 2000. The Rajasthan Foundation has since been constituted as a registered society in order to carry forward this initiative.

- A **Single Window Clearance Scheme** has been introduced in the year 2000 to make investment easier for potential investors. Till date 795 projects worth Rs 4899.31 crores have been cleared.
- An “**Economic Development Board**” has been constituted in to provide suggestions on infrastructure development and other policy decisions for infrastructure and industrial development.

## **4. Social Sector Development**

### **4.1 Education**

- **Highest percentage increase in literacy in country in the last decade.**
- Over eighteen thousand **Rajiv Gandhi Pathshalas** opened covering 8 lac children at primary level.
- A “**Shiksha Darpan**” survey was undertaken to track each child and find out the status of enrolment.
- A “**Shiksha Aapke Dwaar**” programme has been launched to achieve 100 % enrolment.

Through these steps the number of children not going to school has already come down from 23 lacs to 10.66 lacs between 1999 and 2002.

- **Free Textbooks** have been distributed to 68.81 lac children since 1999.
- **Madarsa Education for Minorities** – 754 para teachers have been earmarked for madrasas.
- Each of 32 districts are being covered either under the DPEP or Lok Jumbish programmes.
- Liberalisation of policies for giving **NOCs** have facilitated the opening of more **technical educational institutions** in the **private sector**.

### **4.2 Social Security**

- **Rate of pension** - Increased from **Rs.100** for old age pensioners and Rs.125 for widows and disabled to **Rs.200** per month.
- The budget provision on this account has also increased from **Rs.22.67 crores** in 1997 to **Rs.187.83 crores** in 2002-2003.
- The number of pensioners has gone up from **2.20 lacs** in 1997 to over **8.00 lacs**.
- **Medicare Relief Cards** - All 23.5 lac persons living below the poverty line are provided free medical treatment.

- The "**Chief Minister's Jeevan Raksha Kosh**" provides financial assistance to those who are living below the poverty line and are **suffering from serious diseases** such as Heart disease, Cancer, Kidney failure etc.
- A **Commissioner Disabilities** has been appointed so as to focus both attention and efforts in the area of welfare of the disabled. Budgetary allocation increased 5 times, from Rs 5.5 crores to Rs 25.36 crores in last 3 years.
- The reservation quota has been increased for SC, ST and OBC in Medical, Engineering and other technical institutions in the State.

#### **4.3 Women and Child Development and Nutrition**

- **Women's Commission** set up.
- Women's reservation increased from 20% to 30%.
- Children below six years of age, pregnant women and lactating mothers totalling nearly 2.7 million in all have been provided with supplementary food through a network of 35710 Anganwadi centres in the State.

#### **4.4 Poverty alleviation**

- **Chief Minister's Employment Scheme** launched in October, 1999 with a target of constructing *kiosks* for unemployed youth so as to offer them self-employment opportunities in urban areas.
- The **District Poverty Initiative Project (DPIP)** has been launched with financial assistance from the World Bank.
- Minimum wages in the State have been increased from **Rs.44 to Rs.60** per day.

### **5. Agriculture Sector Development**

#### **5.1 Agriculture**

- 80,000 quintals of barley was purchased at the support price entailing an outlay of Rs 30 crores.
- 4113 Watershed development schemes were undertaken in 23,74,272 hectares of area.
- A **Gandhi Gram Yojana** has been initiated in 237 villages (one village in each block). This is a new scheme based on the water conservation based model provided by Ralegaon Siddhi. In this scheme community effort and involvement is the central theme in the developmental effort.

## 5.2 Dairy

- Production of milk has gone up by around 27 % up even during the drought period.
- Profits have also improved even after NDDDB has handed over the management of the Dairy Federation to State authorities.
- 14 out of 16 dairy unions have come out of the red under the new management.

## 5.3 Co-operatives and Self-Help Groups.

- A revised **Rajasthan Co-operative Societies Act, 2001** has been introduced in the State Assembly.
- “**Sahakar Apke Dwar**” – In January 2001, this campaign served to increase both membership and use of the co-operative network in the State.
- 1799 women's co-operatives and over 30 thousand other Self-Help Groups have been set up benefiting 4.50 lac women.
- Sugam credit card scheme.
- Credit to the tune of Rs 216 crores has been advanced through 14 lac Kisan Credit Cards

## 6. Good Governance

### 6.1 Initiatives

- Law relating to “**Right to Information**” has been enacted in the state.
- **Citizen Charters** of 32 departments dealing with the public have been issued.
- **Vigilance Officers** have been nominated in all the main departments (32) having public dealing with a view to eradicating corruption.
- A **State Administrative Reforms Commission** has been set up.
- Provisions for checking absenteeism through transfer of erring officials out of their home district have been made in a manner such that the order cannot be modified by any authority other than the Cabinet.
- **Prashasan Gaon Ke Sang** and **Prashasan Shaharon Ke Sang** - Through these campaigns in rural and urban areas respectively, a whole host of activities related to the interface between citizens and the local and State Governments has been taken up in open camps so as to reduce pendency and delay and also bring about greater transparency and accountability in governmental functioning.

- **Convergence through Policies, Missions & Task Forces –**

Policies relating to Industry, Women, Tourism, Wind Energy, Information Technology, Minerals, BOT (Roads) and Population have been finalised and issued, to name but a few.

The following Missions, each headed by the Chief Minister have been set up so as to bring about a holistic convergence of policies and efforts in the following areas: -

- Water management
- Population control
- Tourism development
- Social security
- Primary Education & Literacy

In addition Task Forces have been set up to address policy and implementation related issues in the following areas: -

- Financial Management
- Agriculture, rural development and rural labour
- Information Technology and telecommunication
- Strengthening of Panchayati Raj and Urban Local Bodies
- Sustainable Development

## ***6.2 Decentralised Planning & Strengthening of PRIs***

- Planning has been decentralised to the district level through District Planning Committees headed by Zila Pramukh and involving other public representatives.
- Planning and execution of local level schemes is being increasingly done through a three-tier Panchayati Raj structure.
- In keeping with the Article 40 of the Constitution and the 73rd amendment the following **16** subjects have been **transferred to the Panchayati Raj Institutions:-**

- Medical & Health
- Family Welfare
- Ayurved
- Renewable Energy
- Forest
- Animal Husbandry
- Fisheries
- Rural Development
- Agriculture

- Food & Civil Supply
- Social Welfare
- ICDS
- Irrigation
- PHED
- Primary Education & Literacy
- Industries

# **Post Liberalisation Reforms**

Apart from taking steps towards development through various new schemes, the State government has taken various other measures by way of procedural changes and initiations which have started showing results in form of equitable development. A sector wise summary of the reforms is given here.

## **1. Fiscal Management**

After making a SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threat) analysis of the financial sector, decisions were taken to enhance state's revenue as well as to curtail avoidable expenditure. Noteworthy steps are:-

- (i) Introduction of new measures of tax revenue- profession tax, turnover tax and entry tax on tobacco, sugar, and cloth. rationalisation of existing tax structure.
- (ii) Self-assessment scheme introduced in assessment of sales tax and land and building tax.

### ***Reforms in the Non Tax Revenue Sector***

- Irrigation rates were revised by almost 100%
- Departmental fees and various license fee have also been revised.
- A system of entering into MOU with Universities introduced to bring these institutions under financial discipline.
- Surplus land in command area was allotted speedily.
- With a view to provide infrastructural facilities to residents of colonies which were constructed on agricultural land and to bring revenues for both the state as well as local bodies, conversion of agricultural land to non agricultural use was simplified and conversion of land was executed on a campaign basis.
- Superannuation age of working employees reduced from 60 to 58 years.
- A system of employing para teachers on honorarium basis was introduced with a view to observe economy in expenditure and to provide primary education through teachers who can reside in the village.

### ***Measures undertaken for Control on Expenditure***

- Payment of encasement of earned leave and bonus to serving Government employees has been deferred till further orders.

- Facility of Staff car withdrawn and pool system introduced in departments.
- Posts falling vacant due to retirement of existing Government servants were not allowed to be filled up in a routine manner. A high power committee was appointed to review such issues and see that existing persons can be re-deployed so that same work can be performed at lesser cost.
- Air travel, training and journeys outside headquarters were restricted.
- Instead of purchasing new vehicles, a system of rental services has been introduced.
- Computer Technology is changing very fast. Therefore, instead of purchasing computer a system of hiring of services and computer personal along with hardware has been introduced.

As a result of the above measures financial Parameters have improved.

## **2. Infrastructure**

### ***Power***

Rajasthan is one of the few states to have taken up reforms in the Power Sector in a substantive manner by unbundling the Rajasthan State Electricity Board into five companies, one for generation, one for transmission and three for region-wise distribution of power. Inter-alia, this incorporates the following steps: -

- Approval of the Policy Reform Statement in May, 99
- Passage of Power Sector Reforms Bill 99 in Sept., 99.
- Establishment of Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC) in January 2000.

### ***Transport***

A BOT (Build, Operate, Transfer) policy has been finalised so as to encourage private participation and investment in the roads and bridges sector.

### ***Drinking Water***

- Water supply has been extended to a number of residential colonies situated on agricultural land through 'public – private' partnership under the JAN SAHBHAGITA scheme. Here a certain proportion of the costs is met by the beneficiary.

- Privatisation of the operation and maintenance of supply systems has been introduced in four major cities in order to reduce establishment costs and consequent burden on the State exchequer.
- In some of the urban areas, billing and collection functions have been privatised.

### ***Industries***

- With a view to speed up private investment and to encourage increased private sector participation for industrial and infrastructure development, a single window system has been established in the state till March 2000, three empowered committees have been constituted:
  1. Board of Infrastructure Development and Investment Promotion under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister.
  2. State Level Empowered Committee for Industrial and Infrastructural development under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary.
  3. District level empowered committees under the chairmanship of District Collectors.

The decisions of the above committees are binding upon all the departments concerned. The Rules of Business have been amended in order to ensure this. Thus, this mechanism is functioning as a 'single window system' for encouraging industrial investment in the State.

- To attract private sector investment into various infrastructure projects in the state, a dedicated project development company, PDCOR Ltd. has been set up in association with the financial institutions.

### ***Information Technology***

- In order to improve citizens access to information, information Kiosks are being set up under an ambitious and complementary 'Jan Mitra' and 'Lok Mitra' projects in rural and urban areas respectively. The attempt is to provide a 'one stop' location for delivering a number of services in areas as diverse as the payment of taxes and dues, accessing land records, (in rural areas), and providing other services such as booking of bus tickets, grant of 'learner' driving licences etc.
- Land record computerisation has been taken up to maintain and standardise the land records and to facilitate all stakeholders in obtaining copies of relevant records (jamabandi etc.) and other related information.
- Free right of way has been given since August 2000 for the laying of optical fibre cable network by private parties. This has endowed the State

with a strong communication backbone and improved communication facilities.

### **3. Agriculture Sector**

#### ***Co-operatives***

New progressive and liberal 'Rajasthan Co-operative Society Act, 2001 has been passed by the State Assembly in November 2001. Salient features of new Co-operative Act:-

- Regular Elections made inevitable.
- State Election Commission to conduct elections.
- Uniform fixed term of elected boards.
- No administrators to be appointed at the end of term.
- Eradication of Inspector Raj.
- Liberty in audit co-operative tribunal strengthened.
- Free from bureaucratic interference.
- Reservation for women SC/ST and OBC in the Board of Management.

### **4. Social Sector**

#### ***Education***

- As a major initiative towards the goal of universal primary education, Rajiv Gandhi Pathashalas have been opened in rural Areas. A 'Shiksha Mitra' programme for imparting primary education to girls through the aegis of a private tutor is being implemented through agencies such as the PRIs and NGOs.
- Engineering colleges, Medical colleges and other technical education institutions have been opened in the private sector to promote technical education. This has been rendered possible through a liberalisation of the policies for issuing NOCs for such ventures thus encouraging private participation in the sector.
- IT education has been introduced in the secondary curriculum with the involvement of private participation in the process.

#### ***Social Security***

A. The following **Commissions/Corporations** have been constituted:

1. Minority Commission
2. Minority Financial and Development Co-operative Corporation

3. OBC Financial and Development Co-operative Corporation
4. SC & ST Commission
5. Women Commission

#### **B Increase in Reservation Quota:**

- For admission to Medical and Technical Colleges in the State reservation quote has been increased from 8% to 16% for SC, 6% to 12% for ST student and 21% for OBC.
- In Sahariya tribal area 25% of Government posts are reserved for the local sahariya tribals.
- In Government services the reservation quota for women has been increased from 20% to 30%. This has been extended to Police recruitment as well.
- Three percent posts in services and 3% seats in educational institutions are reserved for the disabled persons.

#### **C Welfare of Women & Children:**

- The Government have amended its rules to provide employment on the post of LDC/Class IV to a woman who has been incapacitated by her in-laws on account of dowry torture.
- To protect the working women from harassment, the women Rajasthan Civil Service Conduct Rules have been amended to deal sternly with those male employees who harass or misbehave with women employees.
- State's Women Policy announced on May 8, 2000.
- State's Women Commission constituted on May 15, 1999 and accorded constitutional status.
- Rajasthan in the first state where maintenance allowance for women has been raised from Rs. 500 to Rs, 2500 per month.
- The State Government has decided to include the name of the wife in the 'Patta' issued after land in Kacchi Basti as well even in the cases of allotment of land to the landless persons. This will have a far-reaching impact in ensuring security and safety to women.
- The State Government has made a provision to appoint widow and deserted women as teacher in iii grade if they are qualified upto 10 +2 standard and in second grade if they are graduate with 45% minimum marks and simultaneously provision has also been made for their training in STC/B.Ed. which takes place within three years from the date of appointment.
- Widows, divorced, deserted and other exploited women shall be helped for self-employment through loan facilities of Khadi and Gramodyog.
- Self help groups are being encouraged in the State with a view of uplift the women economically by providing loan facilities. As many as 30,683 women self help groups has been formed in State.

## **5. Decentralised Planning and devolution of powers and functions to Local Bodies**

- Following the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments, legislation was enacted in 1999 and 2000 amending the Panchayati Raj Act and modifying this for the purpose of extension to the Scheduled Areas of the State.
- 29 subjects were identified for transfer to panchayats under section 243 G of the 11<sup>th</sup> schedule of the Constitution. Out of these, in 16 subjects viz. Medical and Health, Family Welfare, Ayurved, Renewable Energy, Forests, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Rural Development, Agriculture, Food & Civil Supplies, Social Welfare, ICDS, Irrigation, PHED, Primary Education & Literacy and Industries local level institutions have been transferred to PRIs in Rajasthan.
- District Planning Committees have been constituted under the chairmanship of the Zila Pramukh for the purposes of undertaking decentralised planning looking to local needs. Chief Planning Officers posted in the districts will serve as Members-Secretaries of these committees with the overall function being overseen by the Panchayati Raj Department at State Level.
- Procedures have been evolved in order to ensure effective social audit of all developmental programmes through the meetings of Gram and Ward Sabhas.

## **6. Good Governance**

### ***Citizens' Charters:***

- To impart transparency in the system, the important Departments of the Government with a view of inform citizens about their rights have released Citizens' Charters. So far 32 departments have already issued such charters. An employee found negligent in implementation of these charters can be transferred by Divisional Commissioner.

### ***Right to Information:***

- Government has already enacted and published The Rajasthan Right to Information Act, 2000. Gramshabha and Wardshabha have been empowered to audit rural development works. An employee found negligent in implementing this act can be transferred by D.C.
- Display of information regarding rural development works carried out in a panchayat has been made compulsory at a prominent place at panchayat headquarter.

### ***Declaration of Properties:***

- All the Members of the Cabinet have given declarations about their properties. It has been made an annual feature.
- All India Service officers are black listed if they fail to submit property returns.

### ***Abolition of Inspector Raj:***

- The powers of the inspectors with regard to their arbitrary powers have been drastically curtailed particularly in the departments of Commercial Taxes, Food and Civil Supplies, Pollution Control Board, and Labour Departments.

### ***Accountability in the Government:***

- With a view to eradicate corruption in public life, a Chief Vigilance Commissioner has been appointed at the State Level. Besides, 32 Chief Vigilance Officers have been nominated in different departments mainly revenue earning departments—to keep an eye on errant and corrupt officials.

### ***Anti-corruption Bureau:***

- Re-structuring of Anti-Corruption Department into Anti-Corruption Bureau has been done with strengthening of the staff and greater autonomy. Officers from other departments have also been posted in the ACB to lend technical support/expertise. Detection and disposal of various offences is very encouraging.
- It has been decided to place all officials under suspension against whom sanction for prosecution has been issued. This decision also covers past cases.
- It is generally noticed that an official punished for dereliction in duty is posted in a positing having direct link with public. State Government have now decided that such officials should not be posted in post having direct link with public. Officers facing charges of financial irregularities are also not being posted in a position having direct link with public
- It may be relevant to mention that Chief Vigilance Commissioner, Government of India appreciated the efforts made by State Government to eradicate corruption from public life. He was of the view that “the State Government is no its way to corruption free Government.”

### ***Compulsory Retirement of Officials of Doubtful Integrity:***

- Employees/Officials of doubtful integrity and proven incompetence have been compulsory retired.

### ***Check on Absenteeism in Rural Areas:***

- Absenteeism in rural areas is seriously viewed and effectively tackled. A vigilance Committee under the chairmanship of Sarpanch has been formed at every Panchyat level to keep an eye on the officials who remain wilfully absent. On the recommendation of this committee, the concerned Divisional Commissioner is empowered to transfer such habitual delinquent employees out of district. Such transfers can be modified or reversed only by a Cabinet Sub-committee. Similar provisions have been made for urban areas.

### ***Public grievance Redressal System:***

There is an effective public grievance redressal system in the State. Chief Minister himself listens to public grievances in the morning from 9 to 10 a.m. on every working day. At district level also, the concerned Collector and Superintendent of Police listen to public grievances and take remedial actions. A system for the monitoring of redressal of public grievances has also been evolved.