

## Rural infrastructure development fund

3.74 The Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) was announced by Government in 1995-96 to boost public sector investment in agriculture and rural infrastructure. The Fund was to be raised from the commercial banks to the extent of their shortfall in agricultural lending. The Fund has continued and the corpus is announced every year during the budget. So far, eleven tranches have been completed and RIDF-XII is on-going during the year 2006-07.

3.75 Though the initial thrust had been on irrigation projects, the development of rural roads and bridges has received a major boost since the time of RIDF-II. Subsequently, many other activities were gradually added to the list of eligible activities under RIDF. The activities, which have been made eligible for loans from RIDF, include rural roads and bridges; irrigation, mini and small hydel projects; community irrigation wells; soil conservation, watershed development and reclamation of waterlogged areas; flood protection; drainage; forest development; market yard, godowns, *apna mandi*, rural *haats* and other marketing infrastructure; cold storages; seed/agriculture/horticulture farms;

plantation and horticulture; grading and certifying mechanisms such as testing and certifying laboratories; fishing harbour/jetties; riverine fisheries; animal husbandry; modern abattoir; drinking water supply; infrastructure for rural educational institutions; public health institutions; construction of toilet blocks in existing schools and “pay and use” toilets in rural areas; village knowledge centres; desalination plants in coastal areas; infrastructure for information technology in rural areas; and construction of anganwadi centres.

3.76 The total corpus of RIDF (Tranches I to XII) aggregated to Rs.60,000 crore. The cumulative amount sanctioned and disbursed to State Governments up to January 25, 2007, was Rs. 58,795.36 crore and Rs. 34,643.87 crore, respectively. During 2006-07 up to January 25, 2007, amount sanctioned and disbursed was Rs. 7,810.85 crore and Rs. 3,306.60 crore, respectively. The first five tranches of RIDF (I to V), have since been closed and the phasing/period of implementation in respect of projects under RIDF VI to IX tranches has been extended up to March 31, 2007. The scheduled dates of closure of RIDF X, XI and XII are March 31, 2007, 2008 and 2009 respectively.