

## **Ministry of External Affairs of India**

### **Brief on India's Assistance Programme in Afghanistan**

India has played a significant role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan. The present level of our total assistance is over US\$ 100 million annually. During the visit of our External Affairs Minister to Afghanistan in 2007, India pledged additional assistance of US\$ 100 million, thus, making the total amount of our assistance over US \$ 750 million. Of this, US\$ 400 million have already been disbursed so far.

2. India has undertaken projects virtually in all parts of Afghanistan, in a wide range of sectors including hydro-electricity, power transmission lines, road construction, agriculture and industry, telecommunications, information and broadcasting, capacity development, humanitarian assistance, education and health, which have been identified by the Afghan government as priority areas for development. All the projects are undertaken in partnership with the Government of Afghanistan (GoA), and in alignment with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and with focus on local ownership of assets.

3. Major projects include: Construction of Transmission Line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul and a sub-station at Kabul under the North-East Power System project which will bring power from neighbouring countries to Kabul; humanitarian food assistance of 1 million tons of wheat in the form of high protein biscuits under School Feeding Programme in Afghanistan supplied through World Food Programme; construction of 218 km road from Zaranj to Delaram that will facilitate movement of goods and personnel from Afghanistan to Iranian border; reconstruction and completion of Salma Dam Power Project (42 MW) in Herat province; construction of Afghanistan's Parliament Building; reconstruction of Indira Gandhi Institute for Child Health in Kabul in various phases including reconstruction of surgical ward/polyclinic/ diagnostic centre; reconstruction of Habibia School; digging of 26 tube wells in north west Afghanistan; gifting of vehicles (400 buses, 200 mini-buses, 105 municipality and 285 army vehicles); setting up of 5 toilet-cum-sanitation complexes in Kabul; telephone exchanges in 11 provinces to connect them to Kabul; national TV network by providing an uplink from Kabul and downlinks in all 34 provincial capitals; rehabilitation of Amir Ghazi and Quargah Reservoir dams, solar electrification of 100 villages, etc.

4. Skills development and capacity building has been identified as another key area of priority, expected to become the vanguard in tackling the mammoth challenge of institutional building in Afghanistan. In furtherance of this, the Government of India (GoI) has offered 500 Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) long-term university scholarships and 500 short-term Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) training programmes for Afghan nationals annually from 2006-07 onwards. 30 Indian civil servants are also being deputed under the GoI/GoA/UNDP Tripartite MoU for Capacity for Afghan Public Administration programme envisaged to build capacity in various Afghan Ministries. Other major skills development projects include CII project for training 3,000 Afghans in the trades of carpentry, plumbing, welding, masonry and tailoring, as well as SEWA project for technical assistance to Women's Vocational Training Centre in Bagh-e-Zanana. Since 2002, around 2215 Afghans have trained/studied in India under the various GoI sponsored training programme.

5. 15 Indian doctors and 15 paramedics have been deployed for Medical Missions (IMMs) in Kabul, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat. Each IMM is treating several hundred patients daily. In addition, patients are also provided free medicines supplied by India.

6. India is also implementing numerous community-based, small development projects in the fields of agriculture, rural development, education, health, vocational training, water and

sanitation etc. These projects, with short gestation periods, have direct and visible impact on community life, and focus on local ownership and management.

7. It has been India's endeavour to act in conformity with the best aid-effective principles, taking fully into account the local government priorities, in co-ordination with the other donors, using local sub-contactors and material as practical. The cost effectiveness of Indian aid is greatly appreciated by the Afghan government and the people on the ground.

***May 2008***

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