

11. Other Rural Allied Services

11.1 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD

New Scheme

State Funded Scheme

AMB-01 Agricultural Marketing Board

Outlay – Rs.243.00 crore

11.1.1 Punjab State Agricultural Marketing Board was established on 26th May, 1961 under the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1961 and is being regulated under this act. The preamble of the act is “An act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the better regulation of the purchase, sale, storage and processing of agricultural produce and the establishment of the markets for agricultural produces in the State of Punjab”. There are 145 Agricultural Produce Market Committees in the state established under the Act. The primary object of Punjab Mandi Board and Market Committees is to establish modern markets for efficient marketing of agricultural produce by providing modern facilities in the mandis and to enforce the provisions of the Act, Rules and Bye-laws framed thereunder. Market Committees are service rendering agencies and their main source of income is market fee. The existing rate of market fee on purchase or sale transaction of all agricultural produce specified in the schedule is 2%. Timber and firewood has recently been added in the schedule of the Act and 0.50% fee is levied on the purchase or sale of the same.

11.1.2 The main thrust areas of the Board are:-

- Provision/Strengthening of Marketing Infrastructure in Mandis.
- Repair/Strengthening and Construction of New Link Roads.
- Incorporation of Punjab Agricultural Export Corporation.
- Establishment of Punjab Horticulture Post Harvest Technology Centre.
- Arranging Loans for Development works of Market Committees.

11.1.3 The Board of Directors of Punjab State Agricultural Marketing Board consists of a Chairman nominated by the State Government and sixteen other members, out of which 8 are official members and 8 non-officials. Secretary of the Board is appointed by the State Government from amongst the members of the Indian Administrative Services.

11.1.4 An outlay of Rs.1398.00 crore and Rs.243.00 crore has been provided under this new scheme for 12th Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 2012-13 respectively.

11.2 RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

RDF-1 Rural Development Fund

Outlay – Rs. 500.00 crore

11.2.1 Punjab Rural Development Board came into existence on 9th April, 1987 under Punjab Rural Development Act, 1987 and as per section 3 of the Act, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab is its Chairman and the following are the members of the Board:-

1. Finance Minister, Punjab
2. Agriculture Minister, Punjab
3. Revenue Minister, Punjab
4. Rural Development & Panchayats Minister, Punjab
5. Financial Commissioner, Revenue, Punjab
6. Financial Commissioner, Development, Punjab
7. Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Finance

11.2.2 As per section 5 of the Punjab Rural Development Act, 1987, the income of the Board is from Rural Development Fee which is levied on ad-valorem basis at the rate of Rs.2/- for every one hundred rupees in respect of agricultural produce, bought or sold in the notified market area.

11.2.3 As contained in section 7 of Punjab Rural Development (RDF) Act, 1987, the Rural Development Fund can be used for the following purposes-

- (1) To promote better agriculture for higher production
- (2) To grant relief for loss and damage to agricultural produce due to natural calamities
- (3) For augmenting storage facilities for storing agriculture produce
- (4) For providing well equipped rest houses for dealers and purchasers of agricultural produce
- (5) To promote and accelerate comprehensive rural development including the construction of rural roads
- (6) Establishment of medical and veterinary dispensaries in rural areas