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CHANGES AND PROBLEMS IN THE SOCIAL SITUATION OF THE RURAL POPULATION IN THE FIRST YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

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ABSTRACT

In this article, the reforms implemented in the agrarian sector during the years of independence and its results and problems are analyzed from a historical point of view.

KEYWORDS

Agriculture, market economy, reforms, private entrepreneurship, socio-economic processes.

INTRODUCTION

In the early years of independence, special attention was paid to the development and progress of the agricultural sector, which is considered an important sector in the economy of our country. Because during the period of Soviet power, agriculture fell into a difficult situation, and the livelihood of agrarian specialists decreased. The reforms carried out in the first years of independence to raise the standard of living of the population began to bear fruit. Benefits were introduced in the provision of wages, pensions, stipends, and various allowances, and in 1991-1996, the minimum wage and pensions were tax-free. The work of social protection of the rural population took a special place in the state policy. Attention was paid to the importance of the state's stratified approach to

providing social assistance to the rural population and the importance of taking into account the needs of the population for material assistance.

In the transition to a market economy, there are specific reasons for the state's social protection of the rural population, which is primarily due to the rapid growth of the rural population, the high number of dependents in the family, and the lag in creating new jobs compared to the city. was evident in the cases. I.A. Karimov, the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, said that "it is impossible for the village to stand on its feet without the help of the state" [1].

Based on the demand of the time, serious attention was paid to the allocated funds in order to improve the

work of the sector in all regions of our republic. For example, in the first quarter of 1993, 35 billion was spent on social protection in the republic. 78.2 million soums were spent from the local budget of Surkhandarya region to provide free services to public education and culture workers in the first half of this year. soums were allocated [2]. For example, according to the program of the Angor district social welfare department, all opportunities were used to improve the social condition of 12,132 citizens with disabilities. In 1993, 190,000 soums were allocated to provide them with free medicines in the ambulatory-polyclinic conditions, and this amount was spent 2 times more [3]. 1994 was a turning point in the social protection policy of the country. Since October of this year, low-income families began to receive state aid. Financial assistance was provided through community gatherings. In 1995, 48,912 low-income families were given financial aid in Surkhandarya region, and in January of this year, 6 million were given to 30,590 families. 542 thousand 100 soums of financial aid was provided.

In the Surkhandarya region, a large part of the local budget was allocated to improve the work of the social sector. For example, in 1995, 61.6 percent of the local budget or 1803.8 million. Soum funds were spent on social and cultural events [4]. During the years of independence, the number of pensioners increased year by year, and the conditions created for them improved. In 2004, there were 3224.8 thousand pensioners in Uzbekistan, and by 2007, their number reached 3286.3 thousand. Also, in these years, the average allowance increased from 22,099.9 thousand soums to 67,252.5 thousand soums. In 2007, 224,500 pensioners were registered in Surkhandarya region [5].

The main condition for improving the living conditions of rural residents is the improvement of residential,

communal and household services. In the conditions of independence, the decisions taken by the government regarding the improvement of rural residents' housing, street beautification, continuous energy supply, clean drinking water and gas supply and their implementation were studied in detail. One of the main factors in improving the living conditions of the population was the provision of clean drinking water and gasification to rural households. In 1991-1993, 25,750 households were supplied with gas in the villages of Surkhandarya region. However, in some villages of the district, a number of shortcomings were made in this regard. For example, in the first half of 1994, instead of 8.6 km, 7.5 km of gas pipelines were laid in Kyzirik. During this period, it was noted that the level of water supply of rural residents in the region reached 56.7% [6]. Measures taken by the state to improve public utility services have begun to show results. There were a number of reasons for the shortcomings in the field. This situation can be explained, firstly, by the material difficulties during the transition to the market economy and secondly, by the irresponsibility and lack of education of the employees of the sector.

On June 28, 1994, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued Decree No. 36 "On measures to improve the provision of clean drinking water and natural gas to rural residents of the Republic of Uzbekistan" [8]. 207.7 km of gas pipeline was laid in Surkhandarya region in 9 months of 1995 in order to ensure the implementation of this Decree, 96.2 km of which were implemented at the expense of state capital funds. 8.5 thousand households were planned to be gassed, and 11.5 thousand households were actually gassed.

From the first days of independence, the issue of solving housing problems of the rural population was

given importance at the state level. In rural areas, residential constructions were carried out on the basis of special projects, and the housing stock grew continuously. For example, in 1995, the housing fund in rural Uzbekistan was 169.4 million. sq. meters, by 2004 it will be 231.4 million. sq. reached a meter. This is 14.3 million in Surkhandarya region. sq. 18.6 million per meter. sq. increased by a meter. In 1999, the housing fund in the villages of Surkhandarya region was 16.3 million. sq. meters, in 2000 it was only 16.4 million. sq. meter [9]. In the villages of Surkhandarya region, the work of increasing the pace of residential construction was not up to the demand.

Nevertheless, socio-economic problems in Surkhandarya villages have not yet been fully resolved. The work on providing the population with natural gas and drinking water did not meet the requirements of the time. In 2001, the level of household gasification was 58% in the region, and 51% in rural areas. This situation was the lowest in comparison with other regions of the country. During 2001, the pace of gas and water network commissioning decreased further and decreased by 2-3 times in Bandikhon, Kyziriq, Kumkurgan, Sherabad districts. Not a single alternative enterprise was established in the field of public utility services in the province. At a time when the population growth was 33,000 people per year, not enough attention was paid to the creation of new jobs. As a result, the number of unemployed citizens reached about 40,000. The situation in the labor market in Bandikhon, Denov, Termiz, Uzun districts remained tense[10].

The poor situation in agriculture did not allow solving socio-economic problems. In 1999, 26% of the population of the region was not provided with clean drinking water, and 42% with natural gas. In 2000, natural gas was supplied to only 21 out of 56 villages

planned by the government, and drinking water was supplied to only 6 out of 45 villages [11]. In such a difficult situation, the arduous task of radically changing the entire economic system and rapidly implementing agrarian reforms was an urgent task on the agenda. All efforts and attention were focused on raising the country's economy, increasing the welfare of the people and increasing the volume of the gross domestic product.

The announcement of 2011 as the "Year of Small Business and Private Entrepreneurship" by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was of great importance in improving the legal culture of the rural population of the Surkhandarya region, raising the standard of living of the rural population, and ensuring the daily needs of the population [12]. The program adopted in this regard allowed village youth to engage in crafts, homemaking, business, and to organize craft enterprises in every household. In the Surkhandarya region, the necessary funds were allocated for the training of agricultural specialists, prevention of unemployment, creation of new jobs, introduction of a modern management system into rural life.

Due to the development of agriculture, the volume of agricultural products increased by 6.6% in Surkhandarya region in 2012. According to the employment program, 65 thousand 955 jobs were created, of which 58 thousand 894 were opened in rural areas. Among them, 40,100 jobs related to the activities of agricultural specialists were created. About half of them were in the livestock sector. An important factor in this was the special attention paid to small business and private entrepreneurship. Houses were built in the villages on the basis of model projects, and the road transport and communication networks in the villages were further developed. New

jobs were created in the villages, and social employment of the population was strengthened[13].

The announcement of 2013 as the "Year of Prosperous Life" by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the state program developed based on this, the conditions for creating material and moral conditions for agricultural specialists and improving the rural lifestyle creation was given special importance. Because it was clear that existing problems cannot be eliminated without improving the socio-economic lifestyle of the villagers. In order to improve the life of the villages of the Surkhandarya region, further development of the transport and communication sector, timely handover of the houses being built according to model projects for the population, construction of social sphere and production infrastructure facilities, drinking water, natural gas, practical measures aimed at providing electricity have been implemented.

In accordance with the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 15, 2013 "On the 2014 program of construction of single-family houses according to model projects in rural areas", PQ No. 2068, in 24 massifs of Surkhandarya region construction of a model residence was determined[14]. Commercial and household service facilities, schools, kindergartens, hospitals, rural medical centers (QVP) and other social facilities were launched in these massifs in accordance with the requirements of urban planning [15].

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we can say that in the years of independence, serious changes were made in the social infrastructure of the villages of Surkhandarya region, and the social protection of the poor sections of the rural population became one of the important

tasks in the focus of the state policy, as well as the issue of providing the rural population with modern housing. importance was given. The level of provision of drinking water and gas to the villagers improved, and the living conditions became easier.

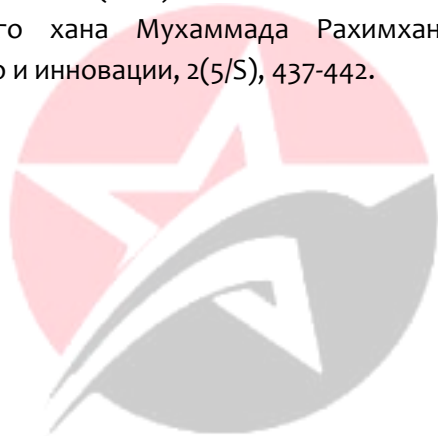
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