

income in 1999 amounted to 5,815 yuan, having increased 7%. The gap between the high – income families and the low – income families apparently widened. The proportion of the income of the highest income families to the income of the lowest income families turned from 4.5:1 in 1998 to 4.86: 1 in 1999. The directions of the residents' expenditure changed, the expenditure on instruments, service, traffic, communication, housing, education and medical care increased. In 1999 the actual per – capita expenditure was 6,109 yuan, having increased 6.7%. In the actual expenditure, the proportion of the consumption expenditure to the non – consumption expenditure turned from 76.4: 23.6 to 78.6: 21.4.

The peasants' income slightly increased. In 1999, the peasants' per – capita disposable income was 2,144.58 yuan, having increased 4% and actually 5.5% with the price factor taken into consideration. The peasant' income from the first industry decreased 47.74 yuan, and that from the second and third industry increased 37.07 yuan. The family management expenditure amounted to 645.82 yuan, having decreased 11.5%, and the total life expenditure reached 1,920.15 yuan, having increased 1.6%.

The housing condition of both the urban and rural residents kept improving. In 1999, city resident's per – capita housing area reached 11 square meters, having increased 1.3 square meters; the rural resident's per – capita housing area was 29.88 square meters, having increased 1.1 square meters.

The systems of social ensuring were gradually established, and the social welfare and labor insurance developed quickly. There were 36.7 thousand beds in the welfare house, having increased 0.5%; the social welfare houses received 27.9 thousand orphans and widows, having increased 0.4%. 6,450.8 thousand people received social relief, the money spent on social relief reached 638 million yuan, having increased 8.2%. 27.5% of the towns of the province established social guarantee network, having increased 6.6% over the year before. There were 237 commune service centers, having increased 11.4%. Social medical insurance cause developed quickly, and the coverage of penalty and unemployment insurance expanded. 200 thousand workers of the cities and towns participated in the medical insurance, and 3,456 thousand workers participated in unemployment insurance.

Environment protection was reinforced. The laws and regulations about environment protection were