MINISTRY OF PLANNING

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
2024-25

FOURTH REPORT

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

December, 2024/ Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(2024-25)

(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF PLANNING

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2024-25)

Presented to Lok Sabha on 06 December, 2024
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 06 December, 2024

सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (2024-25)

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson

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4.   Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
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SECRETARIAT

1.   Shri Gaurav Goyal   Joint Secretary
2.   Shri Vinay Pradeep Barwa   Director
3.   Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana   Deputy Secretary
4.   Ms. Vandana   Committee Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, of the Standing Committee on Finance, having been authorised by the Committee, present this Fourth Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' of the Ministry of Planning.

2.   The Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Planning have been examined by the Committee under Rule Section 331E(1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

3.   The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Planning on 29 October 2024. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Planning for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the material and information which the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants (2024-25).

4.   The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their Sitting held on 04 December, 2024.

5.   For facility of reference, the Observations / Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold at the end of the Report.

6.   The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

New Delhi;   **Bhartruhari Mahtab,**
<u>**4 December, 2024**</u>   **Chairperson**
13 Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)   **Standing Committee on Finance**

PART - I

CHAPTER I

NITI AAYOG- AN INTRODUCTION

1.1   NITI Aayog ie. the 'National Institution for Transforming India', as an apex public policy think tank of the Government of India, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on 1st January 2015. NITI Aayog is mandated to provide institutional capacity to the Ministry of Planning. Prime Minister is the executive head of the Ministry of Planning. It is the nodal agency tasked with catalysing economic development, and fostering cooperative federalism through the involvement of State Governments in the economic policy-making process using a bottom- up approach.

1.2   Apart from designing strategic and long-term policies and programmes for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant strategic and technical advice to the Centre, States and Union Territories (UTs). NITI Aayog acts as the quintessential platform for the Government of India to bring States to act together in national interest and thereby foster cooperative federalism. Following are the key objectives and features of NITI Aayog:-

(a) To evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of States.

(b) To foster cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives and mechanisms with the States on a continuous basis, recognizing that strong States make a strong nation.

(c) To develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government.

(d) To ensure, on areas that are specifically referred to, the interests of national security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy.

(e) To pay special attention to the sections of our society that may be at risk of not benefiting adequately from economic progress.

(f) To design strategic and long-term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives, and monitor their progress and their efficacy. The lessons learned through monitoring and feedback will be used for making innovative improvements, including necessary mid-course corrections.

(g) To provide advice and encourage partnerships between key stakeholders, national and international like-minded think tanks, as well as educational and policy research institutions.

(h) To create a knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support system through a collaborative community of national and international experts, practitioners and other partners.

(i) To offer a platform for the resolution of inter-sectoral and inter-departmental issues in order to accelerate the implementation of the development agenda.

(j) To maintain a state-of-the-art resource centre, be a repository of research on good governance and best practices in sustainable and equitable development as well as facilitate their dissemination to the stake-holders.

(k) To actively monitor and evaluate the implementation of programmes and initiatives, including the identification of the needed resources to strengthen the probability of success and scope of delivery.

(l) To focus on technology upgradation and capacity building for implementation of programmes and initiatives.

(m) To undertake other activities as may be necessary in order to further the execution of the national development agenda, along with the objectives mentioned above.

1.3   NITI Aayog is supported by an attached office, Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) and an autonomous body, National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD). NITI Aayog's activities can be divided into four key areas:

1. Promoting knowledge and innovation
2. NITI for States (Cooperative and Competitive Federalism)
3. Driving transformational change
4. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

1.4   The different programmes, subjects, attached offices, and autonomous bodies of NITI Aayog provide the requisite coordination and support framework needed to carry out the above mandate. Ministry of Planning through NITI Aayog runs the following Central Sector Schemes:

(a) Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU).
(b) Ongoing Programmes and Schemes through Research and Study (R&S).
(c) Programme for Aspirational Districts (ADP)
(d) State Support Mission (SSM).

1.5 **Governing Council of NITI Aayog**

The Governing Council of NITI Aayog, comprising of Chief Ministers of all the States and UTs with legislatures and LGs of other UTs, came into effect on 16 February, 2015 vide a notification issued by the Cabinet Secretariat. The Governing Council was last reconstituted vide a notification dated 19 February 2021 by the Cabinet Secretariat. The Governing Council is the premier body tasked with evolving a shared vision of national priorities and strategies, with the active involvement of States, in shaping the national development narrative. The Governing Council, which embodies the objectives of cooperative federalism, presents a platform to discuss inter-sectoral, inter-departmental and federal issues to accelerate the implementation of the national development agenda. So far, eight meetings of the Governing Council have been held under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister with CMs/LGs of the States/UTs and other members of the Governing Council.

1.6 The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Planning, NITI Aayog on 29.10.2024 in connection with examination of DFGs of Ministry of Planning (2024-25). In response to a specific query, the Ministry of Planning informed about the initiatives exclusively incubated by NITI Aayog since its inception, which have also been adopted by the Central/State Governments. These are as stated below:-

"NITI Aayog was set up in January 2015 as a premier think tank of Government of India. Over the last nearly a decade, a number of initiatives have been taken by NITI Aayog, some of which are subsequently being implemented by the respective Ministries. Some of the key initiatives conceived in NITI Aayog are as follows-

(i) Production Linked Incentive (PLI)

To enhance India's manufacturing capabilities in critical sectors, the Production Linked Incentive was conceptualised in NITI and have been introduced in 14 key sectors with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 1.97 lakh Crore. The scheme is now being implemented by different Ministries.

(ii) Asset Monetisation Programme
NITI Aayog was mandated with creation of the National Monetization Pipeline (NMP). NITI Aayog formulated the asset pipeline of 12 central line ministries to serve as a medium-term roadmap for Monetisation of Core Infrastructure Assets.

The progress is monitored periodically by the core group of secretaries under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary.

(iii)Aspirational Districts/ Blocks Programme

NITI Aayog conceptualized Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme with focused interventions across different sectors. Various Central Ministries and States have been closely involved in these initiatives including for saturation of certain indicators through Sampoornata Abhiyan launched in July 2024.

(iv)Lifestyle for Envirnoment (LiFE)

NITI Aayog designed and curated the Mission LiFE as a mass movement to nudge people towards adopting sustainable lifestyles. MoEFCC is now implementing Mission LiFE.

(v) Circular Economy

NITI Aayog identified 11 areas to facilitate transition from a linear to circular economy and finalised 10 sectoral Circular Economy action plans for implementation by stakeholder Ministries. This is now implemented by MoEFCC.

(vi)Transformative Mobility

National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage is chaired by NITI Aayog to build an ecosystem for proliferation of electric vehicles in India. Many Ministries and State Governments have been closely working with NITI for promotion of electric vehicles.

(vii) **Powering India's participation in Global Value Chains**

NITI Aayog has released a report emphasising specific interventions needed for India to emerge as a global manufacturing hub for electronics and has shared the report with MeitY for implementation of the recommendations. It is also working on another initiative to increase the country's penetration in automobile Global Value Chains.

(viii)   City-region Growth hub initiative

To pioneer a transformative shift in urban development, NITI Aayog has taken up the 'Growth Hub (G-Hub) Initiative' prioritizing economic master planning as cornerstone for accelerated economic growth. The economic master plan report for two city regions, the Surat Economic Region (SER) and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), have been launched.

(ix) Mining Reforms

A High Level Committee (HLC) was constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog in 2019 for enhancing exploration and mineral production, reducing imports and achieving rapid growth in exports. Based on the recommendations of the HLC, amendments were carried out in the last three years of the MMDR Act, 2015 to facilitate ease of doing business. Recommendations of the Report played an important role in subsequent reforms in the mining sector.

(x) Health Sector

A number of initiatives have been taken by NITI Aayog in the health sector which have subsequently been adopted by Central Ministries and/ or State Governments. These include Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), orphan drugs for rare diseases, reforms in National Organ Transplant Programme, Increase in post graduate seats, upgradation of district hospitals to medical colleges, telemedicine guidelines, etc. Besides, NITI Aayog also played a major role in Covid-19 pandemic management through Empowered Groups 1, 5 and 7 headed by Member and CEO, NITI Aayog. NITI Aayog also contributed to legislations such as National Medical Commission Bill, Indian Nursing Council Act and National Dental commission Bill."

1.7 The subsequent chapters in Part-I deals with the following topics:-
    (a) Analysis of Demands for Grants (2024-25)
    (b) Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)
    (c) Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) & Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU)
    (d) Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)
    (e) State Support Mission (SSM)
    (f) Sustainable Development Goals

CHAPTER II
ANALYSIS OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2024-25)

2.1 The Ministry of Planning presented their detailed Demands for Grants (2024-25) to Lok Sabha under Demand No. 77. The total allocation of Ministry of Planning for the year 2024-25 was to the tune of Rs. 837.26 crore. This comprises of an outlay of Rs. 205.26 crore for expenditure other than centrally sponsored and central sector schemes and Rs. 632.00 crore for Central Sector schemes/projects expenditure. The Revenue section is of Rs. 818.30 crore and Rs.18.96 crore is the Capital share. There is only a nominal increase of 1.56% in the Revenue Section for the year 2024-25 over the previous year, whereas in Capital Section the increase is 1.60%. There was a massive increase of Rs. 502.97 crore in BE 2023-24 over BE 2022-23, this was approximately 156% in percentage terms. The Actuals 2023-24 registered sharp decline to the tune of Rs. 290.81 crore as against BE 2022-23. For establishment related expenditure Rs. 193.96 crore has been allocated as BE 2024-25 as against Rs. 181.09 crore allocated as BE 2023-24. Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) has been shifted under major Head-3451 from Financial Year 2024-25 and an allocation of Rs.19.76 crore as BE 2024-25 against an earlier allocation of Rs.17.00 crore has been made. Rs.11.30 crore have been allocated as BE 2024-25 to National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD) with no budget enhancements from that of previous financial year. Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister received an increased allocation of Rs. 4.3595 crore as BE 2024-25 against BE 2023-24 of Rs.3.00 crore.

2.2 There is no change in the allocations for all 04 Central Sector Schemes/Projects and Rs 632 crore have been allocated as BE 2024-25 as well. In respect of Atal Innovation Mission(AIM), no enhancement over BE-2023-24 has been provided and Ministry has agreed to allocate Rs.155.00 crore as BE 2024-25 subject to the approval of the Cabinet for continuance of AIM Scheme. Further, Rs.433.00 crore as BE 2024-25 has been allocated under Official Development Assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs), again registering no change in the allocations over BE 2023-24.

2.3 Details with regard to analysis of Demands for Grants in various heads during last three years of Ministry of Planning can be seen at **Annexure I.**

2.4 The allocation for Ministry of Planning for the last three years is given below:

(in Rs. crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actuals	% Increase/ decrease in BE from previous year
2022-23	321.42	1031.53	847.14	-69.76%
2023-24	824.39	514.19	290.81	+156.48%
2024-25	837.26	-	-	+1.56%

2.5 When the Committee wanted to know about the justifications for Increase of 156.48% in the BE 2023-24 over BE 2022-23 and thereafter underutilization of the already curtailed RE during FY 2023-24., the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated as under:-

"Since, 2nd phase of ADP Scheme was approved in FY 2022-23 ₹ 433 Crore was allocated for FY 2023-24 and additionally, fund of ₹ 40 Crore was also allocated for newly launched SSM Scheme, hence, BE 2023-24 was increased considerably over the BE of FY 2022-23. There was a decline in expenditure of Aspirational District Programme/Aspirational Blocks Programme because of slower utilization of funds at district level. Expenditure on AIM has also come down owing to the ongoing process of recasting the AIM program. Ministry of Finance has permitted Ministry of Planning to incur expenditure with certain restrictions on creating fresh committed liabilities. Hence, Savings occurred over and above the curtailed RE during FY 2023-24."

2.6 Revenue and Capital Sections of the allocation of Ministry of Planning for the last three years are given below:

(in Rs. crore)

Year	BE		RE		Actuals	
	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
2022-23	310.67	10.75	1011.23	20.30	846.84	0.30
2023-24	805.73	18.66	496.76	17.43	284.83	5.99
2024-25	818.30	18.96	-	-	-	-

2.7   When sought clarifications regarding decrease in RE as against BE in Revenue and Capital section during 2023-24, the Ministry of Planning in written reply stated the following:-

"The allocation of ₹805.73 Cr under revenue section was reduced to ₹ 496.76 Cr and capital section from 18.66 Cr to ₹ 17.43 Cr because of slower than expected expenditure on Aspirational District Programme leading to a reduction in the allocation of ADP scheme from ₹ 433 Cr to ₹ 113 Cr in RE 2023-24. The reduction of ₹ 1.23 Cr under Capital Section was very nominal because of less purchase of computers etc. under ICT as anticipated earlier."
    ."

2.8   As regard the percentage share of administrative and development expenditure in the total budget allocations, the Ministry of Planning in their written replies apprised as under:-

"

Administrative or Development Expenditure	Allocation/ BE for 2024-25 (Rs. In crore)	Percentage of Budget 2024-25
Administrative Expenditure (Establishment + Other Central Expenditure)	205.26	24.52%
Development Expenditure (Central Sector Schemes)	632.00	75.48%

Activities proposed during the Financial year 2024-25

2.9   Various activities proposed to be undertaken in the Financial Year 2024-25 in terms of the Expenditure projected are as follows:

(A) Establishment Related Expenditure

(i) Department of Planning

Under this, the expenditure to be incurred to meet salary and allowances and other related expenses on travel and other administrative expenditures, as well as professional services expenditures in respect to the Office of the Minister of State for Planning, are being projected.

(ii) NITI Aayog

Under this, the expenditure to be incurred to meet Salary and allowances and other related expenditures on Travel and Other Administrative Expenditures, as well as Professional Services related expenditures in respect of the Vice Chairman, Members, CEO and other Officials of the NITI Aayog and also the

Expenditure to be met in respect of various activities being carried out by various verticals/ divisions of NITI Aayog, are being projected.

(iii) Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

Under this, the expenditure to be incurred to meet salary and allowances and other related expenses on travel and other administrative expenditures, as well as professional services expenditures for the chairman and other officials of the council, are covered.

(iv) Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office(DMEO)

As the apex Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) office of the Government of India and an attached office of NITI Aayog, DMEO during 2024-25 would carry its mandated and emerging activities in Monitoring and Evaluation to strengthen evidence-based policy making both at the Centre and State levels, in line with the larger objective of cooperative and competitive federalism.

The annual plan activities will be accomplished by the team of lateral and government staff led by the Director General, DMEO. DMEO would procure consultancy and survey services from external agencies to carry out its mandate efficiently and effectively. DMEO's budgetary expenditure goes towards the salaries and professional fees of personnel engaged through various modes to carry out its Monitoring and Evaluation mandate, apart from essential office expenditure towards the maintenance of dashboards, information technology and others.

(v) National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD)

NILERD is an autonomous institute under NITI Aayog, which is supported through Budgetary grants in the form of Grants-in-Aid Salaries, Grants-in-Aid General and Grants-in-Aid for Creation of Capital Assets. During 2024-25, NILERD will undertake training activities for senior and middle-level officials of different countries under the ITEC scheme of the Ministry of External Affairs, training programmes for officials of different States/UTs and undertaking research and evaluation studies. NILERD has been appointed as Central Nodal Agency (CNA) by NITI Aayog for their central sector schemes viz, Atal Innovation Mission, Aspirational Districts Programme and State Support Mission. It also publishes a quarterly peer-reviewed journal.

(B)   Scheme-related Expenditure:

(i) Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), including Self Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU)

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog is the Government of India's flagship initiative to promote the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the county and was set up in 2016. Towards this end, AIM has taken a holistic approach and is ensuring the creation of a problem-solving, innovative mindset in schools and creating an ecosystem of entrepreneurship in universities, research institutions, and corporate and MSME sectors

AIM is focused on developing the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem via its various Programmes such as Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Incubation Centres, Atal New India Challenges, Applied Research for Small Enterprises, Atal Community Innovation Centres and ecosystem development activities etc., all these coupled together provide the plan of action for AIM.

(ii) Ongoing programs and Schemes

Under this, the expenditure regarding Research & Study is being met. The Research & Study is a Central Sector Scheme, and the scheme has a Budget Estimate (B.E.) of Rs. 4.00 cr for the year 2024-25. The scheme's objective is to stimulate research on issues of economic/social development and need assessment, which directly affect the formulation or implementation of government policies and schemes. The Scheme is primarily utilised to meet the expenditure involved in funding extramural research conducted by NITI Aayog by payment of a consultation fee. In addition, seminars/conferences/workshops, etc., organised by reputed organisations are supported under the Scheme.

(iii) The Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme

The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), launched in January 2018, is an initiative aimed at transforming 112 of India's relatively underdeveloped districts by focusing on 49 key indicators across five critical sectors: Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure. The program employs a robust

monitoring system, and districts are ranked monthly based on incremental progress to encourage a competitive environment among districts. The next phase of the program aims for saturation of relevant Government schemes, ensuring that all citizens in these districts benefit from the targeted interventions. The program's effectiveness is bolstered by a collaborative framework involving Prabhari Officers and development partners.

Expanding on the ADP's framework, the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) was launched in January 2023, targeting 500 underdeveloped blocks nationwide. ABP aims to achieve comprehensive development by focusing on essential government services in Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Allied Services, Social Development and Basic Infrastructure.

One of the main strategies for the current year is to deploy a targeted approach through initiatives like Sampoornata Abhiyaan, which aim to saturate key indicators, ensuring comprehensive coverage and maximising the impact of interventions. This focused strategy not only boosts the delivery of essential services but also actively involves local communities in their development journey, paving the way for sustainable growth and better quality of life in these regions.

(iv) State Support Mission

State Support Mission (SSM), announced in the Union Budget of FY 2023-24, is an initiative of NITI Aayog to expand its ongoing engagement with the states/UTs to achieve national priorities. Under the Mission, financial and technical support is provided to the interested States/UTs to establish State Institution for Transformation (SIT) or strengthen their existing Planning Departments/Boards so that these institutions can steer development strategies in the States/UTs to achieve their socio-economic goals. The Mission will also support States/UTs to strengthen their Monitoring & Evaluation ecosystem and leverage the expertise of knowledge institutions, development partners, multi-lateral agencies, academia, etc. Following are the progress/achievements of the Mission:

State Institution for Transformation (SIT)

As of date, 20 States/UTs have notified their SITs, and these SITs are at various stages of their operationalisation, which includes hiring technical resources, setting up an M&E and data analytics unit, etc.

NITI-State Workshop Series

The NITI-State Workshop series was launched under SSM to bring States/UTs together to deliberate on themes relevant to the socioeconomic development of the States/UTs and other emerging national and global interest areas. So far, 20 such workshops have been organised in various States/UTs. Another 40 workshops under the NITI-State Workshop Series were planned for 2024-2025.

NITI for States Platform

To facilitate cross-learning and evidence-based decision-making through the sharing of best practices, policies and data sets, a NITI for State (NFS) Knowledge Platform, comprising of a NITI for States Portal and an experience room called Viksit Bharat Strategy Room (VBSR) has been launched by NITI Aayog in March 2024 under the Mission. A set of knowledge products have been put together on the NITI for States Portal for various socio-economic sectors, including Agriculture, Education, Energy, Health, Livelihoods and Skilling, Manufacturing, MSME, Tourism, Urban, Water resources & WASH across two cross-cutting themes-Gender and Climate. VBSR is a digitally immersive experience that enables rich visualisation and engagement with insights, information and knowledge to enable effective in-person decision-making. The strategy room is an interactive space where users can visualise data, trends, best practices and policies in an immersive manner, allowing them to make a holistic assessment of any problem statement.

CHAPTER III

DEVELOPMENT MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICE (DMEO)

3.1 Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) is the apex monitoring and evaluation office of the Government of India. Under NITI Aayog's mandate of cooperative and competitive federalism, its scope of work also includes technical advice to States. DMEO is headed by the Director General (DG). The role of DMEO is:

(i) to monitor the progress and efficacy of strategic and long term policy and programme frameworks as well as initiatives to facilitate improvements, including the necessary mid-course corrections; and

(ii) to actively monitor and evaluate the implementation of programmes and initiatives to strengthen the probability of success and scope of delivery.

3.2 DMEO undertook following major projects during 2023-24:-
(i) Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF)
(ii) Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI)
(iii) Monitoring of Global Indices for Reforms and Growth (GIRG)
(iv) Evaluations
(v) Sector Review
(vi) Project with States
(vII) Capacity Building

3.3 DMEO undertakes evaluation of schemes of Government of India enabling evidence based public policy-making. The evaluations are conducted suo motu or at the request of the Ministries. These evaluations based on comprehensive literature review and survey data analysis provide critical insights to improve the functioning of schemes/programmes and facilitate it to achieve its intended objectives and outcomes. The evaluations are conducted with the aim to understand what works, why, for whom, and under what circumstances based on which the programmes/schemes are refined, adapted and mid-course correction are undertaken for the schemes/programmes to achieve their desired objectives

Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF)

3.4   Monitoring and Evaluation of schemes under the Central Government is an ongoing process. the Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office (DMEO) actively monitors and evaluates schemes/programmes. Since (2019-20), DMEO, NITI Aayog has been undertaking a rigorous process annually to improve the Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework to strengthen outcome-based monitoring of Central Sector(CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes(CSS) of the Government of India. This document is laid out in Parliament alongside the Union Budget every year as an Outcome Budget for all schemes with an annual outlay of Rs. 500 crore or more. The respective Ministry/Department in the Parliament lays the framework for rest schemes along with their Detailed Demand for Grants (DDGs). These key outputs and outcomes for respective schemes, along with their key indicators, are identified and finalized under the approval of the respective Secretary of the Ministry/Department. Each Ministry/Department sets targets for each of those indicators for the upcoming year, and the same are shared with DMEO. The same exercise has just been completed for FY(2024-25).

3.5 During 2023-24 DMEO completed Evaluations of the following 9 Central Sector Schemes:-

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Current Status
1	Evaluation of schemes under Tea Board	Completed
2	Evaluation of schemes under Coffee Board	Completed
3	Evaluation of schemes under Rubber Board	Completed
4	Evaluation of schemes under Spices Board	Completed
5	Evaluation of schemes under Central Silk Board	Completed
6	Evaluation of Khadi and Gramodyog Vikas Yojana (KGVY)	Completed
7	Evaluation of Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)	Completed
8	Evaluation of Coir Vikas Yojana (CVY)	Completed
9	Evaluation of Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU)	Completed

The final evaluation reports, along with the recommendations/suggestions, were shared with the respective administrative/line Ministries/Departments, and also with the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

3.6   Since inception in the year 2015, DMEO has completed 153 studies, and currently 79 evaluation studies are ongoing, when asked to provide year-wise details

of the number of schemes evaluated till date by DMEO, the Ministry of Planning in their written reply furnished following details:-

"DMEO is mandated to actively monitor and evaluate the implementation of programmes and initiatives, including the identification of the needed resources so as to strengthen the probability of success and scope of delivery. The list of CS and CSS schemes is not maintained by DMEO, NITI Aayog. It can be obtained from the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. A brief of Evaluation Studies done by DMEO since its inception is given below:

1.   Since its inception in Sept. 2015, DMEO has completed 153 studies, and 79 evaluation studies are ongoing.

2.   **2015-2018:**

In the first few years of its inception, very few studies were conducted as it was a transition phase from Planning Commission to the newly constituted NITI Aayog (around 5 studies were conducted during 2015 to 2018)

2019-2021

1. In 2019, five quick assessment studies were conducted *in-house* by DMEO, based on a thin sample and interviewed by DMEO staff. These generated brief reports of 15-20 pages. These quick assessment studies also pertain to Centrally Sponsored Sector (CSS) Schemes.

2.   In 2019, the evaluation of all the CSS schemes was also conducted by DMEO - 126 schemes under 28 Umbrella CSS. These evaluation studies were completed by the beginning of 2021.

3.   It may be noted that conducting data collection for these evaluation studies was a major challenge during this time period due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

2022-2024:

1.   After completion of the CSS evaluation study in 2021, DMEO based on the direction of DoE also conducted the Central Sector (CS) Scheme evaluation. The list of such CS schemes to be evaluated was provided by DoE. In the last three years from 2022 to 2024 (till date), DMEO completed the evaluation of 16 Central Sector (CS) schemes.

2.   Presently, out of six ongoing studies, 5 are from the CS and one is CSS.

A year-wise number of schemes evaluated by DMEO, NITI Aayog since its year of inception is given in the table below.

Year	No. of CS	No. of CSS	Total No. of Schemes
Completed			
2015		1	1

2016	3		3
2017		1	1
2018	-	-	-
2019	-	5*+126 (CSS package)	131
2020	-	-	-
2021	1*	-	1
2022	1	-	1
2023	6	-	6
2024	9	-	9
Ongoing			
2024	5	1+73 (CSS Package)	79
Total	25	207	232

These studies were conducted in-house by DMEO with a very thin sample and short reports"

3.7 To have complete functional autonomy, a separate budgetary allocation has been provided exclusively to DMEO. The allocation to DMEO for the last four years are given below:

(In Rs Crore)

Year	BE			RE		Actuals	
	Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
2021-22	16	-	16	-	-	15.73	-
2022-23	17	-	17	-	-	15.13	-
2023-24	16.69	.31	17	-	-	15.36	.52
2024-25	19.39	.37	19.76	-	-	-	-

Transforming Data Governance In India (DGQI)

3.8 To transform data governance DMEO in the year 2020 developed a 'Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI)' to assess the data preparedness levels and use of IT-based systems for scheme monitoring across Ministries/Departments on various parameters, The first phase of DGQI exercise was conducted in 2020 in self-assessment mode with 65 Ministeries/Departments, covering approximately 250 CS/CSS. Subsequently, DGQI 2.0 was launched in 2021 covering as a regular exercise for monitoring and directing reforms in the direction. The DGQI exercise focuses on 3 pillars bifurcate into six themes namely data generation, data quality, technology integration, analysis, dissemination, security, and encourages sharing of best practices. Till date 6 Rounds of the exercise have been concluded, and as part of the 7th ongoing round of DGQI 2.0 exercise, 75 M/Ds are in the process of submitting their responses across around 579 interventions.

Global Indices for Reforms and Growth (GIRG)

3.9 The primary objectives of the GIRG initiative are to drive India's performance across important social, economic, and development parameters for improving global perception of India and its global ranking, to drive reforms, and monitor the progress. For driving this exercise, DMEO, NITI Aayog has been designated as the knowledge partner and coordinator to engage with different stakeholders. The GIRG initiative of the Government of India aims at leveraging the monitoring of 27 Global Indices (GIs) for driving growth and reforms in the country. The 27 GIs selected for monitoring under GIRG are published by 18 unique global agencies (publishing agencies) which include Multilateral Organizations, International NGOs, Private Organizations, and Universities spread across four broad themes namely economy, development, governance, and industry. These 27 Indices have been allocated to 18 nodal Ministries in addition to the MoSPI, MEA, and MIB.

CHAPTER IV
ATAL INNOVATION MISSION (AIM) & SELF-EMPLOYMENT AND TALENT UTILISATION (SETU)

4.1   Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is the Government of India's flagship initiative to create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. AIM is an Innovation promotion platform involving academics, entrepreneurs and researchers and draw upon national and international experiences to foster a culture of innovation, R&D and Scientific Research in India. Self Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) is a Techno-Financial, Incubation and Facilitation Programme to support all aspects of start-up businesses, and other self-employment activities, particularly in technology-driven areas.Since its inception in 2016, AIM has established over 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs, 72 Atal Incubation Centres, 14 Atal Community Innovation Centres and has launched 50 Atal New India Challenges across sectors. AIM has also forged 76 domestic and international partnerships and 10 strategic programmes under AIM Ecosystem Development Programme. All the initiatives of AIM are currently being monitored and managed systematically using realtime MIS systems and through dynamic dashboards. To ensure continuous improvements, AIM has its programmes regularly reviewed by third-party agencies.

4.2   **Atal Tinkering Labs(ATLs)**

Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) are a state of-the-art space established in schools with the goal to foster curiosity and problem-solving innovative mindset, amongst high school students across the country,s through 21st century tools and technologies. AIM has established 10,000 ATLs in schools in more than 700 districts across all States/UTs in India.

To strengthen the ever growing ecosystem of ATLs, a comprehensive self-monitoring framework 'ATL Sarthi' has been established . The initiative has four pillars to ensure the performance enhancement of ATLs through regular process improvements like a self-reporting dashboard known as MyATL Dashboard and Compliance SOPs for schools to ensure financial and non-financial compliances, on-ground enablement of ATLs in collaboration with relevant local authorities through Cluster-based Approach and providing ownership to schools to analyze their performance through Performance-Enablement (PE) Matrix.

4.3   **Atal Incubation Centre(AIC)**

This programme was launched in 2017 with a vision to build an ecosystem of business incubators where entrepreneurs can gain access to a variety of facilities, including physical infrastructure, training and education, and access to key stakeholders including investors, other innovators, and mentors. Grant up to Rs 10 crores is given to the AICs/Established Incubator Centers over a 5-year period. Till now AIM has established 72 AICs in the 21 States and UTs of India in Academic and Non Academic Institutions. These centres have supported more than 3500 Startups and have generated 40,000+ jobs across the country which works in different sectors and focus.

AIM has also launched an Assessment Framework for Startup Incubation Centres to monitor and benchmark the performance of AICs in the year 2021. The framework will become an annual exercise for evaluating the performance of incubators and envisages to be a standard framework for evaluating incubators across the country.

4.4   As regard the primary focus areas of the Atal Incubation Centres , the Ministry informed that AICs have been established to support startups across all areas of national importance. Over years, few focus areas have emerged out of these AICs, are mentioned below –

- Textile and apparels
- Defense technologies
- Handicrafts
- SDGs
- Climate Tech
- Women Centric
- Coffee based products
- Agri-technologies
- Medical technologies
- Education and livelihood

4.5   When asked about the contribution of AICs in the indigenization of technology and infrastructure and estimate of the foreign exchange (FOREX) savings attributed to the innovations developed through the AIC, the Ministry of Planning in their written reply furnished following information:-

"Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) are playing a pivotal role in indigenizing technologies and infrastructure in India by fostering a culture of innovation and supporting startups with resources and mentorship.

- Support for Indigenous Innovation: AICs provide a platform for startups working on region-specific challenges, helping them develop solutions that are culturally and economically suited to local needs. This approach promotes indigenous technology development, tailored to Indian markets, rather than adopting foreign models that may not be fully compatible with Indian requirements.

- Funding and Resource Access: Many AICs offer grants, seed funding, and investment access, which are crucial for startups with limited resources. This financial support helps young businesses in high-potential fields such as agritech, healthtech, and renewable energy gain a foothold, enabling them to develop homegrown solutions without reliance on foreign capital or technologies.

AICs are contributing towards indigenization of technologies, particularly in sectors such as – defence-tech, textiles and biotechnology. Cumulative FOREX savings attributed to innovations developed through AICs is estimated to be around Rs.250 crore. "

4.6.   In reply to a specific query of the Committee, Ministry of Planning has informed that since inception, more than 450 Patents have been generated by startups incubated under AICs.

4.7   The Committee wanted to know about the research facilities created in Universities and to facilitate the purpose, AICs established, to promote research and development, the Ministry of Planning intimated that AIM is mandated to establish 101 Atal Incubation Centers (AICs) nationwide. Till date, AIM has established 72 AICs and R&D centers in various Universities and remaining 29 AICs have been provisionally shortlisted.

Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACICs)

4.8   Atal Community Innovation Centers (ACICs) have been launched to encourage a spirit of entrepreneurship in the underserved/unserved regions of India by providing enabling infrastructure and facilitating environment for innovation. Till now, 14 ACICs have been operationalized across 9 States, with 36 more centres undergoing compliance check to establish ACIC. AIM intends to establish over 50 ACICs by the end of 2024. A total of Rs. 12+ crores has been disbursed to operationalise ACICs across India.

4.9   Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs) have been launched to encourage a spirit of entrepreneurship in the underserved/unserved regions of India by providing enabling infrastructure and facilitating environment for innovation. . AIM intends to establish over 50 ACICs. by the end of 2024 and till now only 14 ACICs have been operationalized across 9 States. When asked as to how Government propose to achieve this massive target with in the set deadline, the ministry in their written submissions provided as under :-

> "AIM intends to establish 50 ACICs across the country, out of which 14 have been operationalized. To establish the remaining 36 ACICs, AIM opened "Call for applications" through an online application portal followed by in-person presentation before a Screening-cum-Selection Committee. Through the committee's recommendations, 36 institutions have been identified for establishment of ACICs. AIM plans to disburse the grant-in-aid to the selected 36 ACICs as soon as it receives the necessary approvals for a recast AIM program."

Atal New India Challenge (ANIC)

4.10   Atal New India Challenge (ANIC) is a flagship programme of Atal Innovation Mission, . The programme aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance. The primary goals of the ANIC programme are to incentivize innovations in areas critical to India's development and growth – Education, Health, Water and Sanitation, Agriculture, Food Processing, Housing, Energy, Mobility, Space Application etc. ANIC solicits innovations in the prototype stage and supports the selected start-ups through to the commercialization stage over a course of 12 – 18 months by funding up to INR 1 crore and other associated support from the AIM innovation ecosystem.

ANIC launched 2nd phase of the programme titled "ANIC 2.0". Under ANIC 2.0 –36 challenges were launched in 2 phases covering 12 sectors. 120 start-ups/MSMEs have been selected under ANIC 2.0 for funding and other associated support from AIM.

AIM Ecosystem Development Programme (AEDP)

4.11   AEDP is strengthening the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem by building networks of relevant stakeholders to provide additional value to AIM beneficiaries beyond the framework of structured programs. AEDP has forged more than 70 domestic and international partnerships across various corporations, foundations engaging with industry leaders and faculty that support AIM beneficiaries

through infrastructure and technology, market and investor access, creation of modules, and adoption of ATLs.

To create a global narrative for supporting startups and enabling synergies between startups, corporates, investors, innovation agencies and other key ecosystem stakeholders a 'Startup 20 Engagement Group' has been initiated under G20 India presidency of 2023. The purpose of this group is to provide a common platform for startups from G20 member countries to come together to develop actionable guidance in the form of building of enabler's capacities, identification of funding gaps, enhancement of employment opportunities, achievement of SDGs targets & climate resilience, and growth of an inclusive ecosystem.

4.12   The Output and Outcome targets of AIM including SETU for the year 2024-25 can be seen at **Annexure II.**

4.13   The allocation to AIM including SETU for the last four years are given below:

(in Rs. Crore)

Year	BE			Actuals	
	Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital
2021-22	342	-	342	341.96	-
2022-23	145.31	10	155.31	169.42	-
2023-24	144.30	10.70	155	96.70	0.12
2024-25	144.30	10.70	155	-	-

4.14   When asked to specify reasons for the underutilizations of the allocated fund of Rs. 155 crores (BE) during the year 2023-24, the Ministry of Planning in their written reply stated as under:-

"The main reason for underutilization of allocated Budget is the ongoing recast of the AIM program to give it a new focus. Consequently, no new liabilities are being created till this exercise is completed. The expenditures will pick up once the AIM program is recast."

4.15   As per set targets, AIM has established over 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs across nation, when asked as to whether 10000 ATLs are sufficient to cater to the requirements of the student beneficiaries across country, the Ministry in their written submission stated as under:-

"The proposal to expand ATLs is currently awaiting the recast of the AIM program. Future ATLs are likely to be established by the Education Department.
    Currently, 10,000 ATLs serve less than 5% of secondary and senior secondary schools. The saturation of ATLs across the country is under discussion with Ministry of Education."

4.16 When asked for the state-wise details of the total number of Atal Tinkering Labs established, the Ministry provided following details :-

State-Wise Details of Atal Tinkering Labs set up by Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog	
STATE / UT	ATLs
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLAND	10
ANDHRA PRADESH	713
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	32
ASSAM	352
BIHAR	97
CHANDIGARH	22
CHHATTISGARH	368
DADRA AND NAGARHAVELI	4
DELHI	198
GOA	20
GUJARAT	614
HARYANA	435
HIMACHAL PRADESH	112
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	127
JHARKHAND	126
KARNATAKA	798
KERALA	369
LADAKH	2
MADHYA PRADESH	601
MAHARASHTRA	1,033
MANIPUR	119
MEGHALAYA	13
MIZORAM	26
NAGALAND	26
ODISHA	331
PUDUCHERRY	19
PUNJAB	230
RAJASTHAN	511
SIKKIM	27
TAMIL NADU	975
TELANGANA	379
TRIPURA	27
UTTAR PRADESH	955
UTTARAKHAND	87
WEST BENGAL	242
TOTAL	10,000

CHAPTER V

ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME (ADP) AND ASPIRATIONAL BLOCKS PROGRAMME (ABP)

Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)

5.1 The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) is an initiative aimed at transforming 112 relatively underdeveloped districts of India by focusing on 49 key indicators across five critical sectors: Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure. This pioneering initiative has been instrumental in addressing critical gaps and fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders, showcasing a model that goes beyond individual districts to contribute to nationwide inclusive and sustainable development. The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), marked its six years of implementation in January 2024, as a testament to a pragmatic and data-driven approach to socio economic development in relatively underdeveloped regions of India. The impact of the ADP extends beyond individual districts. It offers a blueprint for scaling up initiatives across the nation, showcasing a model that can be replicated in diverse socio-economic contexts. By providing practical solutions to challenges faced by different regions, the programme contributes to the broader goal of inclusive and sustainable development in India.

5.2 The 'Champions of Change (CoC)' is a real-time data collection and monitoring dashboard. The name emphasizes the critical role played by the DM/DC and their teams in the progress of districts. ADP hinges on inducing competition among 112 districts through regular ranking, which is dynamic and reflects the incremental (delta) improvement made every month. Districts are encouraged to improve their data collection and maintenance mechanisms to enter up-to-date data on the dashboard. The Champions of Change portal 2.0 has been upgraded to further empower the District Administrations towards data-driven governance and evidence-based policy making. CoC 2.0 hosts many new features such as Citizen Reports, Citizen Feedback, Advanced Analytics, Project Management, Geo-Spatial Maps and other AI/ML Solutions. The automated system generated mailers on data quality and monthly performance are sent to the districts highlighting any discrepancies in data entered by them, based on pre-configured logics in the system.

Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)

5.3   Expanding on the ADP's framework, the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) was launched in January 2023, targeting 500 underdeveloped blocks nationwide, These Blocks were selected on the basis of the Antyodaya data (MoRD), by by inter-ministerial Committee in consultation with states. 160 blocks out of 500 are from Aspirational Districts. ABP aims to achieve comprehensive development by focusing on essential government services in Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Allied Services, Social Development and Basic Infrastructure. The objective is to ensure a tailored approach to development, allowing for context-based strategies that address the specific needs of each region, bringing decision-making closer to the grassroots. This holistic approach not only targets inequalities but also catalyses economic development, aligning with SDGs. ABP emphasizes last-mile service delivery, raising awareness, and providing a common platform for block administrations to showcase best practices and share learnings.

5.4   One of the major initiatives under ABP was capacity building workshops for block-level officials and preparation of Block Development Strategy (BDS). Over 4,500 block-level officials underwent Leadership training in 10 centres across the country during August and September 2023. A key outcome of this training has been the preparation of a robust BDS by all the Aspirational Blocks. The BDS outlines the priorities in each sector of the Block and the services that will be offered to the citizens while making the best possible use of the existing resources to achieve saturation of the identified socio-economic indicators. The strategy maps out targets for the forthcoming year and lays down a clear plan of action to achieve these objectives. All blocks under this programme have successfully crafted their BDS and are working towards achieving the set objectives.

5.5   In a concerted effort to drive rapid and effective development in India's most underdeveloped regions, the Government launched a 3 month (July to September' 2024) focused campaign 'Sampoornta Abhiyaan' on 4-8 July, 2024 to ensure saturation of 6 identified indicators across the themes Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Social Development/ Financial inclusion and Skill Development. The objective was to focus on a few critical indicators and saturate these in a time-bound manner in all Aspirational Districts and Blocks. Under the programme Distrticts/ Blocks were were required to develop 3-month Action Plan to implement awareness and

behavior change campaigns and other outreach events as per chalked out campaign calendar. So far, 21 Aspirational Districts and 90 Aspirational Blocks have saturated all 6 indicators.

5.6   Considering the efficacy and achievements under ADP/ABP, the Committee sought to know, if the Government is contemplating any increase in number of Aspirational Districts/Blocks, the Ministry of Planning in their written reply stated the following:-

> "The main objective of the ADP is to achieve saturation in the identified 49 Key Performance Indicators within the Aspirational Districts, which is an ongoing effort. To ensure that available resources are effectively targeted where they are most needed, no increase in the number of districts is currently envisaged.
>
> The Aspirational Blocks Programme is in the early stages of implementation. Any changes to the list of blocks will be based on performance. The focus currently is on effectively implementing the programme in the identified blocks and monitoring their progress."

5.7   The progress of district and blocks in 49 key performance indicators under ADP and ABP can be accessed through following dedicated public portals:

1. ADP- http://championsofchange.gov.in/site/coc-home/
2. ABP- https://abp.championsofchange.gov.in/

5.8   As The emphasis on data is a strategic acknowledgment that substantial improvements in socio-economic outcomes are contingent upon identifying and addressing challenges through rigorous data analysis, the Committee sought to know about the methods for ensuring the correctness and quality of data on which the success of the ADP/ABP is dependent, the Ministry of Planning in their written replies submitted the following :-

> "NITI Aayog collects data at both district and block levels as part of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP).
>
> **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)**
>
> Under the ADP, most of the data is sourced directly from the districts, where the district administrations upload the data. In order to ensure that ground level

data are reflected accurately, NITI Aayog uses a three-stage verification strategy.

Stage 1 – Administration-led verification - District and state administrations already adhere to scheme-specific guidelines for sample-based data checks, overseen by supervisors and senior officers.

Stage 2 - Analytics-based verification - After the data is verified by local supervisors, it is uploaded to the *Champions of Change* dashboard (championsofchange.gov.in), which uses in-built analytics to detect any anomalous data patterns. If irregularities are identified, alerts are sent to the concerned District Magistrates for immediate action.

Stage 3 - Third-party Survey - NITI Aayog has conducted third party survey of relevant indicators under ADP.

Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)

Unlike ADP, under the ABP, data is not filled directly by the blocks; instead, it is sourced from the databases of relevant central ministries. This improves the data accuracy and reduces the reporting burden on local administrative units."

5.9 Asked about the measures taken to improve performance of States/UTs lagging behind on designated key indicators, the Ministry in their written submission stated the following:-

"The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) target underdeveloped pockets within states and union territories, focusing on district and block-level disparities rather than addressing State/UT wide performance. These programmes represent a model for good governance by focusing on localized development through real-time data monitoring and promoting governance reforms at the ground level. These initiatives were launched to address inter- and intra-state disparities by emphasizing the following guiding principles:-

(a) Convergence

ADP and ABP emphasize convergence between various Central and State Government schemes to ensure that resources are utilized efficiently and that the full potential of various welfare programs is realized. This alignment helps districts and blocks integrate sectoral interventions, improving outcomes in areas such as health, education, and infrastructure.

(b) Collaboration

Collaboration is a key pillar of both programs, fostering partnerships between the Centre, State, District Administrations, Development Partners, and Citizens. These collaborative efforts create a unified approach to tackling the challenges

faced by underdeveloped areas. To ensure effective implementation, a Joint Secretary or Additional Secretary-level officer from the Government of India is appointed as the Central Prabhari Officer for each Aspirational District. These officers provide strategic guidance to district administrations. A significant component of this collaboration involves Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions from Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), which provide critical support for various district-level initiatives. Additionally, development partners provide technical and on-the-ground assistance, complementing government efforts to accelerate progress.

(c) Competition

Healthy competition is promoted between districts and blocks through monthly rankings based on their performance across Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). These rankings are based on incremental progress, ensuring that even districts/blocks starting from lower baselines have the opportunity to compete and improve. This competitive spirit incentivizes districts and blocks to continuously innovate and enhance their service delivery.

(d) Capacity Building

A crucial component of both programmes is capacity building for district and block-level officials. Under the ABP, a major initiative was launched in 2023-24, training nearly 5,000 block-level functionaries in leadership and sectoral topics. This training covers key sectors such as health, education, and livelihoods, directly empowering local officials to manage and implement development programs more effectively. Key strategies within the ABP include the Delta Ranking system, which rewards blocks for measurable thereby incentivizing continuous improvement. Deploying block fellows introduces fresh energy and innovative approaches to governance, helping tackle complex local challenges. Additionally, the program emphasises capacity building, training 5000 block officials in leadership and sector-specific skills to ensure effective policy implementation and drive progress. One of the main strategies for the current year is to deploy a targeted approach through initiatives like Sampoornata Abhiyaan, which aim to saturate key indicators, ensuring comprehensive coverage and maximising the impact of interventions. This focused strategy not only boosts the delivery of essential services but also actively involves local communities in their development journey, paving the way for sustainable growth and better quality of life in these regions."

5.10   The Output and Outcome targets of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the year 2023-24 can be seen at **Annexure III**.

5.11 Under Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Government of India provides fund to Aspirational Districts on challenge method. Under this programme, every month (beginning January 2019), Districts are to be provided additional allocation on the basis of rank secured by them depending upon the incremental progress in key performance indicators of Aspirational Districts Programme. In addition for Aspirational Districts Programme, Government of India has set up an Empowered Committee of Secretaries. This Committee is empowered to sanction critical projects for the Aspirational Districts in addition to taking up projects for monitoring and validating data pertaining to SDGs in India.The allocation to Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the last four years are given below:-

(In Rs. Crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actuals	%increase /decrease in BE from previous year
2021-22	581	-	580.96	+222.78%
2022-23	. 01	-	496.81	-100%
2023-24	433	-		+4329900%
2024-25	433	-	-	-

5.12 As it is evident from the details mentioned above that there is a massive Increase in the BE 2023-24 over BE 2022-23 and thereafter nil utilization of the allocated budget during FY 2023-24, when the Committee enquired about the reasons for the huge deviations, the Ministry of Planning in their written reply stated as under:-

"Under the EAP-SDG Phase II, a total allocation of Rs. 933 Crore was approved for the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) for the financial years 2022-24. This allocation was broken down into Rs. 500 Crore for FY 2022-23 and Rs. 433 Crore for FY 2023-24. Since the allocation for FY 2022-23 was Rs. 500 Crore, there is no massive increase in the Budget Estimates (BE) for FY 2023-24.

According to the Department of Expenditure (DoE), Ministry of Finance, in their OM No. F.No. 1(18) PFMS/FCD/2021 dated March 9, 2022, the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) Model-2 was introduced for the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) starting December 2022. As per the revised guidelines by

MoF, certain validations in PFMS were mandated for making new sanctions in FY 2023-24. These validations include:

(i) The bank account balance of the CNA must be less than 6.25% of the allocated budget for that CNA.

(ii) The sanction amount must be less than 25% of the allocated budget for that CNA.

A total amount of Rs. 496.81 Crore was sanctioned in FY 2022-23. The districts are given a time period of upto 2 years to complete the projects sanctioned as per EAP-SDG guidelines, resulting in a high CNA balance. Given this balance, generation of new sanctions is not allowed.

Consequently, only a token amount of Rs. 8 against the administrative approval of Rs. 178.23 Crore was issued during FY 2023-24, resulting in budget savings for that year. However, the EAP SDG Phase-II has already been extended by the Department of Expenditure for FY 2024-25, for full utilization of the budget under the scheme."

CHAPTER VI
STATE SUPPORT MISSION (SSM)

6.1 State Support Mission is an umbrella initiative of NITI Aayog announced in the Union Budget of FY 2023-24 aimed at fostering structured and institutionalized engagement of NITI Aayog with States and UTs. The mission facilitate States/UTs to develop a roadmap to achieve their socio-economic goals and facilitate their development strategies in alignment with national priorities, putting special focus on the core strength areas of the respective States/UTs. Under this mission, NITI Aayog support interested states to establish State Institution for Transformation (SIT) to act as a multi-disciplinary resource to steer the development strategies in the States/UTs. The States/UTs can either establish a separate institution as SITs or reimagine the role of their existing institutions, such as planning departments and boards.

State Institution for Transformation (SITs)

6.2 The States/UTs have established State Institution for Transformation(SIT) to reimagine the role of their existing institutions, such as Planning Departments and Boards, with the support of NITI Aayog. SIT being the most important component of SSM constitutes a multi-disciplinary Programme Implementation Unit (PIU), an embedded team consisting of sectoral experts including a Team Leader as required by the States/UTs, to facilitate establishment of SIT under the Mission. Till date a total 20 SITs have been notified under SSM that are actively working to identify state specific growth drivers and growth enablers to boost their socio-economic growth, thereby facilitating state and sector-specific implementation and development strategies.

NITI For States Platform (NFS) & Viksit Bharat Strategy Room (VBSR)

6.3   NITI Aayog has set up twin platforms NITI for States (NFS) and Viksit Bharat Strategy Room (VBSR) on 7th March, 2024. NITI for States (NFS) is meant to support government officials across States, Districts and Blocks to make evidence-based policy and administrative decisions. A set of knowledge products have been put together on the platform for various socio-economic sectors across two cross-cutting themes- Gender and Climate. The platform brings together a vast repository of governance best practices, policy resources and data insights across all States/UTs.

Viksit Bharat Strategy Room (VBSR) was also developed under NFS to enable rich visualization and engagement with insights, information and knowledge to enable effective decision-making. VBSR has been set up within NITI Aayog premises to engage top leaders across Central, State and District administration on critical insights, serving as a blueprint for further replication by States and UTs.

NITI-State Workshop Series

6.4 NITI Aayog has launched 'NITI-State Workshop Series' for fostering cooperative and competitive federalism. The workshops focus on themes relevant to socio economic development of the States/UTs and other emerging areas of national and global interest. It provides a unified platform for collaboration and knowledge sharing on key development issues concerning States/UTs by sharing policy insights and good governance practices, etc. across States/UTs.

6.5 State Support Mission (SSM) was announced in the Union Budget of FY 2023-24. This scheme was allocated a sum of Rs. 50 Lakh in 2022-23 (RE) and Rs. 40 crore each in 2023-24 and 2024-25 (BE). The mission is to be implemented from 2022-23 to 2024-25. The allocations to SSM till date have been mentioned below:-

(in Rs. Crore)

Year	BE			RE	Actuals	
	Revenue	Capital	Total		Revenue	Capital
2022-23	-	-	-	.50	-	-
2023-24	39.70	.30	40	-	21.57	-
2024-25	39.99	.01	40	--	-	-

6.6 Seeing the allocations, the Committee pointed out that out of the total allocated funds during 2023-24, only 53.92% of the allocated funds were utilized and sought reasons for the same, the Ministry of Planning in their written reply submitted following clarifications:-

"The scheme of SSM has the major objective of supporting interested States/UTs in establishing State Institutions for Transformation (SITs) or strengthening their existing Planning Departments/Boards.
In FY 2023-24, proposals/action plans of 15 States/UTs was approved by the Mission Implementation Committee (MIC) under SSM for disbursal of funds. However, due to lack of funds in the budget head Grant-in-Aid (GIA) General, the funds were not disbursed to all 15 States/UTs. With the available fund of Rs. 14.0 Cr. in the head of Grant-in-Aid (GIA) General, Rs. 12.8 Cr. was disbursed to the following States/UTs:

1. Karnataka
2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Chhattisgarh
4. Uttarakhand
5. Sikkim
6. Assam
7. Tripura
8. Puducherry

2. As SSM is a demand driven scheme and was in a nascent stage during FY 23-24, therefore, funds were utilised under some specific heads, only."

6.7 When enquired about the State Institutions for Transformation (SITs) established during 2023-24 against the projected physical targets, the Ministry of Planning in their written replies submitted following details:-

" A total of 20 SITs were notified and established during FY 2023-24 against the projected target of 7 SITs under this scheme, funds were disbursed to 8 SITs for a) hiring of Professionals under Programme Implementation Unit (PIU); b) administrative expenses for PIU; c) establishing and strengthening M&E System and Data Analytics Platform; and d) for undertaking studies, projects, workshops, conferences, etc. concerning priority sectors."

CHAPTER VII
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

7.1   NITI Aayog has the twin mandate to oversee the adoption and monitoring of the SDGs in the country and promote competitive and cooperative federalism among States and UTs. NITI Aayog not just periodically collect data on SDGs but proactively realise the goals and targets. In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the document titled 'Transforming our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', consisting of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets. In India NITI Aayog is the nodal agency for the 2030 Agenda. The SDGs were adopted as a universal call-to-action for people, worldwide, to address the five critical areas of importance by 2030: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. The 17 SDGs and 169 targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development i.e. economic, social and the environmental. The determined goals and targets were expected to stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet.

7.2   To achieve 2030 Target, NITI Aayog has developed monitoring tools such as the SDG India Index, NER District SDG Index and National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to evaluate the performance and rank States/Districts, thus promoting competitive federalism. While SDG India Index provides an aggregate assessment of the performance of all Indian States and UTs on various SDGs, NER District SDG Index provides insights into goal-wise performance at district levels in the North Eastern Region. The National MPI captures overlapping deprivations across the three dimensions of health, education and standard of living across 12 indicators. These indices help leaders and change-makers evaluate their performance on social, economic and environmental parameters.

7.3   The National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), released by NITI Aayog, is a comprehensive index which measures the simultaneous deprivations across key dimensions of health, education, and standard of living three, encompassing 12 indicators across all States and UTs. The first edition of the Index was published in 2021, while the second edition followed in 2023. The Index indicates the State/Union Territory-wise details of multidimensional poverty in India. The National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is closely aligned with the methodology used to

compute Global Multidimensional Poverty Index. Both indices assess poverty through a multidimensional lens, evaluating simultaneous deprivations in these three key dimensions. The National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) aims to utilize the monitoring mechanism and methodology of the internationally acknowledged MPI to meticulously assess both national and subnational performance, with the goal of initiating targeted programmatic actions and reforms. Subsequently, NITI Aayog in collaboration with UNDP, and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) also developed India's National MPI that offers a multi-dimensional perspective on poverty.

7.4 NITI Aayog released the second edition of the National MPI report titled 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: 'A Progress Review 2023' on 17 July,2023.   The report brings attention to the status of multidimensional poverty based on NFHS-5, outlining India's progress in reducing multidimensional poverty at national, state and district levels. The National Multidimensional Poverty Index (NMPI) measures simultaneous deprivations across three equally weighted dimensions of Health, Education and Standard of Living that are represented by 12 SDG aligned indicators. Following are the major highlights of the report:-

i) The proportion of India's multidimensionally poor has nearly halved from 24.85 percent to 14.96 percent between the 2015-16 and 2019-21 period, resulting in 13.5 crore individuals escaping multidimensional poverty during the 5-year period.

ii) The progress underscores that India is on track to achieve SDG Target 1.2 that aims to reduce "at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions" by 2030.

iii) The decline in multidimensional poverty was consistently noted at subnational levels as well. Uttar Pradesh demonstrated the most significant progress, with the highest number of individuals (3.43 crore) escaping multidimensional poverty between 2015-16 to 2019-21, followed by Bihar (2.25 crore) and Madhya Pradesh (1.36 crore).

7.5   NITI Aayog in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme recently published a discussion paper on the multidimensional poverty in India since the year 2005-06, This paper specifically focuses on the prevalence of

multidimensional poverty in India from 2005-06 to 2022-23. According to the discussion paper, India has experienced a substantial reduction in multidimensional poverty, decreasing from 29.17 percent in 2013-14 to 11.28 percent in 2022 23.

7.6 On being asked about the number of Sustainable Development Goals realized till date and steps taken to expedite implementation of SDGs, the Ministry of planning in their written replies furnished the following status:-

> "The progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is reported through the SDG India Index, developed by NITI Aayog. Since 2018, NITI Aayog has been consistently monitoring the implementation of SDGs through the SDG India Index and Dashboard. It ranks States and Union Territories across 16 SDGs with qualitative analysis of SDG-17. The Index indicates the state-wise score of each SDGs. This score is an indication of the overall position of the State/UTs in their journey towards achieving the SDGs. The index not only assesses progress but also motivates States to actively engage in SDG localization efforts.
>
> SDG Coordination Centres have been established in some states to ensure effective implementation of the SDGs. To advance this effort, NITI Aayog has proposed the creation of SDGCAC (Sustainable Development Goals Coordination and Acceleration Centres) to expedite the localization of the SDGs. In this endeavor, NITI Aayog stands prepared to support States and Union Territories, as required, in localizing the SDGs through the establishment of these centres. The States and UTs are expected to adopt a similar structure and focus on several key areas to enhance their efforts. NITI Aayog also extends its support to States/UTs in developing state-specific indices and dashboards to monitor their regional progress and customize SDG implementation according to local needs."

7.7 NITI Aayog and UNDP India have signed an MoU for five years, in August 2023 to formalise a framework of cooperation on a range of areas, including SDG localisation, data-driven monitoring, Aspirational Districts and Blocks, among others. NITI Aayog is the nodal Institution for coordinating the adoption and monitoring of SDGs at the national and sub-national levels. UNDP plays the integrator role in coordinating efforts to fast-track progress on the SDGs within the UN system.

PART - II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Analysis of Budget

1.   The Committee note that the total budget allocation of the Ministry of Planning for the year 2024-25 is Rs.837.26 crore. This comprises of an outlay of Rs. 205.26 crore for expenditure other than Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes and Rs. 632.00 crore for central Sector schemes/projects expenditure. There is only a nominal increase of 1.56% in the BE 2024-25 over BE 2023-24, which was pegged at Rs. 824.39 crore. The Committee note that actual expenditure for fiscal 2023-24 was to the tune of Rs.290.81 crore which stood at only 35.27% of the BE. The underutilization of the allocated grants has been attributed to the factors like slower pace of fund utilization under Aspirational Districts Programme/ Aspirational Blocks Programme at district level, recasting of Atal Innovation Mission and certain restrictions imposed by Ministry of Finance on creating fresh committed liabilities. The Committee are of the firm view that not all of the intervening responsible factors were unforeseeable and careful financial planning could contain the underutilization of allocated grants. The recasting of AIM was not a sudden development and could be kept in consideration well ahead while allocating funds for the scheme. Optimum resources utilization is the crucial ingredient of prudent financial planning and parking of funds in one Head may devoid other priorities of the required funds. In opinion of the Committee at RE stage Ministry must be in position to assess and estimate with greater accuracy the probable requirements of funds depending upon the pace of fund utilization and demands for budget support therefore must be closest to the actual projected

requirements at RE stage. The Committee desire and recommend Ministry to be more fiscally prudent in future in allocating as well as utilising the available monetary resources.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

2.   The Committee note that the budget allocation during FY 2024-25 towards the flagship scheme of Atal Innovation Mission are pegged at Rs.155 crore with no enhancement over the allocations of previous financial year 2023-24. The Committee further note that there had been an underutilization of the allocated budget in FY 2023-24, where the Actuals were Rs.96.82 crore only against the BE of 155 crore which is only 62.46% of the allocated budget in percentage term. The Ministry of Planning has stated that the underutilization has resulted on account of ongoing recast exercise of AIM Programme intending to give AIM a new focus and hence no fresh liability was created till the completion of the recast process. Nonetheless, the impact of recast process has evidently cascaded upon the progress of other initiatives under AIM, like network expansion of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs). They have informed that the current ATLs network of 10,000 labs is only able to cater to the requirements of less than 5% of Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools. In this regard, Ministry of Planning has apprised that proposal for expansion of ATL network is presently under consideration of Ministry of Education and awaiting the completion of recast of the AIM programme. The recasting exercise has affected the progress of the projects in the year 2022-23 as well. The Committee, therefore, recommend Ministry of Planning to expedite recasting of AIM to give way for the clearance and start of other initiatives and programmes under the umbrella scheme of AIM which are facing delays on this account.

Atal Tinkering Labs Network

3. The Committee note that the Government has successfully established a huge network of 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) across Indian States\UTs. The Committee would first like to commend the Ministry of Planning for the accomplishment of the ambitious target. A varied number of ATLs have been established in these States/UTs ranging from 2 in Union Territory of Ladakh straight to 1033 in State of Maharashtra. The number and network distribution of these ATLs does not appear to correspond with the area of the States\UTs. Surprisingly, in the sprawling state of Rajasthan only 511 ATLs have been established and states having considerably smaller territorial boundaries like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu have an impressive network of ATLs at their disposal. North Eastern States are also having comparatively scanty coverage of ATLs. The Committee further observe that the proposal for the expansion of ATLs network is currently under contemplation of Ministry of Education. The Committee recommend that in the second phase of ATLs such disproportions must be taken care of and ATL network must cover all States /UTs evenly. The Committee also want that the Ministry of Planning must not only confine itself to the limited target of establishing ATLs, rather it must proactively go all in to remove constraints and create necessary infrastructure to facilitate the access of ATLs to all.

Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)/Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)

4. The Committee note that the success of ADP/ABP in its entirety depends upon the correctness of the data relied upon to assess and rank Districts and Blocks on basis of key performance parameters. It is only through rigorous analysis of data collected in respective stages from varied sources that well

performing Districts and blocks are incentivized and additional funds are allocated for other projects. The Committee note with satisfaction that NITI Aayog is presently using three stage verification strategy for collecting and ensuring the correctness of data under ADP. In case of ABP, data is being sourced directly from databases maintained by Ministries concerned. The Committee are however of the opinion that Ministry should keep evolving their tools and techniques to further improvise their data collection techniques and must also employ methods like regular/random data quality checks to ensure the completeness and accuracy to establish data standards. The Committee would also recommend that regular Workshops and Seminars for the field Officers in local administrative units, working close to ground realities must be organized to inculcate and share best practices in data management. The local administrative units must also be trained to work in coordination with other Government departments/agencies to take advantage of information and knowledge database maintained by them.

Sampoornta Abhiyaan

5.   The Committee note that Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)/ Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) has presented a data-driven approach to socio economic development of relatively underdeveloped Districts/Blocks of the country on the basis of performance in the 49 key indicators. Further, for rapid and effective development in India's most underdeveloped regions, the Government had launched a focused campaign 'Sampoornta Abhiyaan' in July, 2024 to ensure saturation of 6 critical indicators across the themes of Health and Nutrition and Nutrition Education, Agriculture and Social Development/ Financial inclusion and Skill Development in 3 months period. The Committee

are satisfied to note that encouraging outcomes have been received out of this exercise as so far, 21 Aspirational Districts and 90 Aspirational Blocks have successfully saturated all 6 indicators in the short span of three months. The Committee therefore recommend that NITI Aayog must formulate and organize more such focused campaigns and drives in future to speed up saturation of all remaining Districts and Blocks in respect of the rest of the KPIs.

State Support Mission (SSM)

6. The Committee note that 'State Support Mission' was announced in the Union Budget for FY 2023-24 for implementation during 2022-23 to 2024-25. Under this Central Sector Scheme 'State Institution for Transformation (SIT)" are established in the interested States/UTs to support them achieve their respective social-economic goals and develop their strategies and state vision @2047 in alignment with Indian Vision @2047 and other national priorities and to re-imagine the role of their existing Planning Departments. The Committee has been informed that in Financial Year 2023-24 Mission Implementation Committee (MIC) of SSM had approved proposal /Action Plan of 15 States /UTs for disbursal of funds. However, due to lack of funds in the Budget Head Grant-in-aid, General, only Rs.12.8 crore was disbursed to 8 States/UTs out of the available funds of Rs.14 crore. The Committee are concerned to note that significant initiatives like State Support Mission which aims at fostering structured and institutionalised engagement of NITI Aayog with States and UTs are getting stalled due to paucity of funds as the requisite grants were not released. The Committee are of view that a sound financial planning, timely allocation of available resources and diverting funds from non-essential activities to essential ones may obviate such scenario of projects/programmes stalling due to lack of funding. Therefore, the Committee recommend that

sufficient grants must not only be allocated but also released to prevent stalling of schemes/projects in future.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

7.   The Committee note that NITI Aayog is the nodal Institution for accomplishing 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To achieve this objective NITI Aayog has developed monitoring tools like SDG India Index for monitoring the progress of States and Union Territories towards achieving the SDGs and National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to evaluate the performance of States\UTs. The Committee further note that the National MPI utilizes the monitoring mechanism and methodologies of the internationally acknowledged MPI to meticulously assess the national and sub-national performance which offers a multi dimensional perspective on poverty. The Committee are happy to know that the alignment of National MPI with methodology used to compute global Multi-dimensional Poverty Index has offered a multi dimensional perspective on poverty and has helped reducing multidimensional poverty at National, State and District Level to a great length. The Committee note that localization of SDGs is a potent tool to give necessary impetus to the attainment of 2030 Agenda. The fact has been corroborated by the observations included in NITI Aayog, National MPI Report titled 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index-A Progress Review 2023' which mentions that India is moving fast towards SDG targets 1.2 which aims to reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages who are living in poverty by 2030.

        In addition to this SDG coordination Centers have also been established in some states to ensure effective implementation of the SDGs. The Committee

have been informed that in line with other initiatives NITI Aayog has also proposed the creation of Sustainable Development Goals Coordination and Acceleration Centres (SDGCAC) to support States/UTs in localizing SDGs. The Committee, recommend Ministry of Planning to expedite the creation of SDGCACs for achieving faster localization of SDGs as the deadline of 2030 is approaching fast. The Committee in their previous Report had also emphasized the importance of localization of SDGs for achieving set 2030 target at faster pace.

New Delhi;   Bhartruhari Mahtab,
4 December, 2024   Chairperson
13 Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)   Standing Committee on Finance

Minutes of the Fourth sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2024-25). The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 29th October, 2024 from 1100 hrs. to 1245 hrs in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Arun Bharti
3. Shri P. P. Chaudhary
4. Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
5. Shri Kishori Lal
6. Thiru Arun Nehru
7. Shri N. K. Premachandran
8. Smt. Sandhya Ray
9. Prof. Sougata Ray
10. Shri P. V. Midhun Reddy
11. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
12. Dr. K. Sudhakar
13. Shri Manish Tewari
14. Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni
15. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy

RAJYA SABHA

16. Shri Sanjay Seth
17. Dr. Dinesh Sharma
18. Smt. Darshana Singh
19. Dr. M. Thambidurai
20. Shri Pramod Tiwari

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Gaurav Goyal   -   Joint Secretary
2. Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana   -   Deputy Secretary
3. Shri T. Mathivanan   -   Deputy Secretary

Ministry of Planning (NITI Aayog)

1.   Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, Chief Executive Officer
2.   Shri Deepak Narain, AS&FA
3.   Shri Rajnath Ram, Additional Secretary
4.   Dr. Neelam Patel, Additional Secretary
5.   Shri Rajib Kumar Sen, Additional Secretary
6.   Ms. Nidhi Chhibber, DG (DMEO)
7.   Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, MD (AIM)
8.   Dr. Yogesh Suri, PD (GCS/Parl.)
9.   Shri Ch. P. Sarathi Reddy, PD (PPP/Island)
10. Shri K.S. Rejimon, MD (SSM)

2.   At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members and the witnesses to the sitting of the Committee. After the customary introduction of the witnesses and their introductory remarks, the Programme Director(GCS/Parliament) made a PowerPoint Presentation before the Committee. The Committee then deliberated upon the Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Planning (NITI Aayog) and the overall mandate and mission of NITI Aayog. The major issues discussed during the sitting were related to the Budget allocations to NITI Aayog, allocation and utilization of budget grants under Aspirational Districts Programme, monitoring mechanism under Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework(OOMF), pilot initiative of Results–based financing i.e. the performance based allocations to Ministries, constituency-wise network of Atal tinkering Labs and Atal Incubation Centres established under Atal Innovation Mission Programme, declining budget allocations towards Atal Tinkering Labs, feasibility of providing research oriented atmosphere and facilities in Indian Universities apart from designated centers and Institutes, expansion of Atal Tinkering Labs to Universities, deteriorating educational standards of private institutions, Performance of Atal Incubation Centers in terms of forex savings and patents generated.

3.   Beside, above the Committee also discussed the impact and influence of Research activities of NITI Aayog over policy formulation and other legislations,

preparedness of India in terms of hardware and soft skills to surmount challenges brought forth by the third industrial revolution to ensure smooth transition from third to fourth industrial revolution, shift towards clean energy and achievement of Net zero emissions by 2070 targets, implementation status of Sustainable Development Goals, proposal to increase number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, supervisory and financial powers of NITI Aayog *vis-a-vis* OOMF, Role and mandate of DMEO, facilities and opportunities for research in Government educational institutes as against Private Institutions, alignment of Multidimensional Poverty Index with international indices to ensure meeting of set targets, appropriateness of the expression 'Competitive federalism' over "Cooperative federalism" in case of a Union of States, usage of funds under Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), sensitizing the Members about Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), capacity building of Central & State Universities, steps taken to stop the ballooning of state debts, recent policies that have impaired the energy sector especially pump storages, provision of incentives or rewards for well performing Aspirational Blocks/Districts, authenticity of data relied upon to assess performing and non-performing Aspirational Blocks, extent of gestation period for any scheme/programme with NITI Aayog before transferring it to the organization concerned , assessment of the actual gains accrued from the investments in the funded projects etc.

4.   The witnesses responded to the queries raised by the Members and the Chairperson then directed the representatives of the Ministry of Planning (NITI Aayog) to furnish written replies to the points raised by the Members which could not be readily replied by them during the discussion within a weeks time to the Secretariat.

The witnesses then withdrew.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

Minutes of the Seventh sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2024-25). The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 04 December, 2024 from 1500 hrs to 1530 hrs in Committee Room 'G-074', Parliament Library Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab – Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2.	Shri P. P. Chaudhary
3.	Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
4.	Shri Gaurav Gogoi
5.	Shri Kishori Lal
6.	Shri Harendra Singh Malik
7.	Shri Chudasama Rajeshbhai Naranbhai
8.	Thiru Arun Nehru
9.	Shri N. K. Premachandran
10.	Dr. C. M. Ramesh
11.	Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
12.	Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy

RAJYA SABHA

13.	Shri Milind Murli Deora
14.	Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
15.	Shri Sanjay Seth
16.	Dr. Dinesh Sharma
17.	Smt. Darshana Singh
18.	Shri Pramod Tiwari

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri Gaurav Goyal	-	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Vinay Pradeep Barwa	-	Director
3.	Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana	-	Deputy Secretary
4.	Shri T. Mathivanan	-	Deputy Secretary

2.	At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following draft reports for consideration and adoption:

i.	First Report on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Financial Services, Investment & Public Asset Management and Public Enterprises).

ii.	Second Report on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).

iii.	Third Report on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

iv.	Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Planning.

v.	Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

vi.	Sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on recommendations contained in 59th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Cyber Security and Rising Incidence of Cyber/White Collar Crimes'.

vii.	Seventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on recommendations contained in 66th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Performance Review and Regulation of Insurance Sector'.

After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the above draft Reports with minor modifications and authorised the Chairperson to finalise them and present the Reports to the Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

Demand No.77 – Ministry of Planning

ANALYSIS OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS i.e. PERCENTAGE INCREASE/DECREASE IN VARIOUS HEADS DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS

(Rs. In thousands)

Sl. No.	Major Head	Name of the Schemes	BE 2021-22	Actuals 2021-22	BE 2022-23	Actuals 2022-23	%Increase/ Decrease of BE 2022-23 over BE 2021-22	BE 2023-24	Actuals 2023-24	%Increase/ Decrease of BE 2023-24 over BE 2022-23	BE 2024-25	% Increase/ Decrease of BE 2024-25 over BE 2023-24
		I. Establishment Expenditure										
1	3451	Department of Planning (Revenue)	15000	13115	15500	14759	(+)3.33%	15900	15799	(+)2.58%	20376	(+)28.15%
1A	5475	Department of Planning (Capital)	--	--	--	--		100	--		100	--
2	3451	NITI Aayog (Headquarters)[Revenue]	670000	1029661	1172900	1378512	(+)75.06%	1515000	1317868	(+)29.17%	1592204	(+)5.10%
2A	5475	NITI Aayog (Headquarters)[Capital]	--	--	--	--		73400	53341		78700	(+)7.22%
3	3451	Renovation and Alteration (Revenue)(#)	70000	42804	75000	67912	--	--	--	(-)100.00%	--	
4	3451	Information Technology (Revenue)(#)	30000	24110	25000	31132	--	--	--	(-)100.00%	--	
4A	5475	Information Technology (Capital)(#)	7800	--	7500	2980	--	--	--		--	
5	3451	Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister(Revenue)	30000	19387	30000	29781	--	30000	34070	--	43595	(+)45.32%
6	3451	Departmental Canteen	6000	5655	6500	5432	(+)8.33%	6500	5632	--	6950	(+)6.92%
7	3475/ 3451	Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office(Revenue) (@)	160000	157288	170000	151377	(+)6.25%	166900	153640	(-)1.82%	193975	(+)16.22%
7A	5475	Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office(Capital)	--	--	--	--		3100	5223		3700	(+)19.35%
		Total- Establishment Expenditure	**988800**	**1292020**	**1502400**	**1681885**	**(+)51.94%**	**1810900**	**1585573**	**(+)20.53%**	**1939600**	**(+) 7.11%**
		II. Other Central Expenditure										
1	3475	Grants-in-aid to National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (Revenue)	96700	92600	98600	113000	(+)1.96%	113000	113000	(+)14.60%	113000	--
		Total- Other Central Expenditure	**96700**	**92600**	**98600**	**113000**	**(+)1.96%**	**113000**	**113000**	**(+)14.60%**	**113000**	**--**
		III. Central Sector Schemes										

Sl No.	Major Head	Name of the Schemes	BE 2021-22	Actuals 2021-22	BE 2022-23	Actuals 2022-23	%Increase/Decrease of BE 2022-23 over BE 2021-22	BE 2023-24	Actuals 2023-24	%Increase/Decrease of BE 2022-24 over BE 2022-23	BE 2024-25	% Increase/Decrease of BE 2024-25 over BE 2024-24
1	3475	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) **(Revenue)**	3420000	3419649	1453100	1694291	(-)57.51%	1443000	967065	(-)0.70%	1443000	--
1 A	5475	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) **(Capital) (*)**	--	--	100000	--	--	107000	1291	(+)7.00%	107000	--
2	3475	State Support Mission (SSM) (%) [Revenue]	--	--	--	--	--	397000	215762		399900	(+)0.73%
2 A	5475	State Support Mission (SSM) (%) [Capital]	--	--	--	--	--	3000	--		100	(-)96.67%
3	3475	Research and Study (&)	312200	34247	60000	33798	(-)80.78%	40000	25461	(-)33.33%	40000	--
4	3475	Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)((&)	5810000	5809600	100	4968116	(-)100.00%	4330000	--	(+)4329900.00%	4330000	--
		Total: Central Sector Schemes	**9542200**	**9263496**	**1613200**	**6696205**	**(-)83.09%**	**6320000**	**1209579**	**(-)5.62%**	**6320000**	**--**
5		**Grand Total-**	**10627700**	**10648116**	**3214200**	**8491090**	**(-)69.76%**	**8243900**	**2908152**	**(+)156.48%**	**8372600**	**(+)1.56%**

(@) DMEO has been shifted under Major Head – 3451 from the financial year 2024-25

(#) Two detailed heads namely 1. Renovation & Alteration 2. Information Technology (Revenue) has been shifted from Scheme to Establishment at RE stage during the FY 2020-21

(&) An amount of Rs.25.22 crore was parked under Research and Study scheme which was re-appropriated to NITI Aayog- Headquarters during on 29.04.2021.

(^) The scheme – Plan Formulation, Appraisal and Review has been discontinued from the financial year 2021-22.

(Rs. In thousands)

Sl. No.	Major Head	Name of the Schemes	BE 2021-22	Actuals 2021-22	BE 2022-23	Actuals 2022-23	%Increase/Decrease of BE 2022-23 over BE 2021-22	BE 2023-24	Actuals 2023-24	%Increase/Decrease of BE 2022-24 over BE 2022-23	BE 2024-25	% Increase/Decrease of BE 2024-25 over BE 2024-24
1	3451	Deduct Recoveries		(-) 1587		(-) 246						
2	3475	Deduct Recoveries		(-)5179		(-) 19469						
		Total actuals (After deducting recoveries):		**10641350**		**8471375**						

Ministry of Planning   **Demand No. 77**

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU) (CS)

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2024-25			OUTCOME 2024-25		
2024-25	Output	Indicators	Targets 2024-25	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2024-25
	a. Atal Incubation Centre (AIC)					
300	1. To Build the platform for innovation and entrepreneurship in Academic Institutions/R&D and other Institutions	1.1 Number of AICs established	10	1. Promote a culture of entrepreneurship & innovation in India	1.1 Number of start-ups incubated (physical and virtual)	500
		1.2 Number of Incubator/Startup excellence sessions facilitated by AIM Incubators	400		1.2 No. of jobs created by AIM startups (direct/indirect)	3000
		1.3 Number of value-adding partnerships established by AICs	100		1.3 Leveraged external funding for startups through AIM incubators (x is amount of seed funding through AIM grant)	8x
		1.4 Number of mentors in AICs	120		1.4 Number of Intellectual Properties (IP) filed by AIC incubatees	50
		1.5 Number of AACESS Centres (Atal Acceleration Centres for Scale-up of Startups) to be established*	2		1.5 Number of early-revenue stage startups which were accelerated	10

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2024-25			OUTCOME 2024-25		
2024-25	**Output**	**Indicators**	**Targets 2024-25**	**Outcome**	**Indicators**	**Targets 2024-25**
	b. Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL)					
	1. To Build the platform for innovation and entrepreneurship in schools	1.1 Number of ATLs to be established	500	1. Promote a culture of and ecosystem for entrepreneurship & innovation in India	1.1 Number of students engaged in ATL innovation projects	40000
		1.2 Number of school staff/teachers engaged in ATLs (in total schools)	3000		1.2 Number of ATL student prototype innovations created	4000
		1.3 Number of ATL Innovation Challenges/Events Initiated	5		1.3 Number of Students recognized through SIP/SEP/Partnership Recognition programs	400
	c. Atal New India Challenge (ANIC)					
	1. To seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance	1.1 Number of Sectoral innovation launchpads created in central government ministries and departments	2	1. Products based on cutting edge technology relevant to the Indian context	1.1 Number of innovation programs run through Sectoral Launchpads	4
					1.2 Number of startups supported through Sectoral Launchpads	20
		1.2 Number of International (Bilateral) Innovation Programs created	1		1.3 Number of startups pilots conducted through Sectoral Launchpads	10
					1.4 Number of startups supported through Bilateral Innovation Programs	10

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2024-25			OUTCOME 2024-25		
2024-25	Output	Indicators	Targets 2024-25	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2024-25
					1.5 Number of startups pilots conducted through Bilateral Innovation Programs	6
	d. Atal Community Innovation Centers (ACIC)					
	1. To encourage a spirit of entrepreneurship in the underserved/ unserved regions of India	1.1 No. of Atal Community Innovation Centres supported	5	1. Create a culture of inclusive innovations through Atal Community Innovation Centres	1.1 Number of ACIC start-ups/ social entrepreneurs supported (physical and virtual)	100
		1.2 Number of Innovation knowledge sharing sessions conducted by ACIC	50		1.2 Number of local community jobs created by ACICs	300
		1.3 Number of Community outreach events to be conducted	50		1.3 Number of Community Innovators Fellows to be supported	30
	e. AIM Ecosystem Development Program (AEDP)					
	1. To create an umbrella structure to oversee Innovation ecosystem of the country	1.1 Number of new volunteers/mentors of change enrolled with AIM	500	1. Creating Beneficiaries from Innovation Ecosystem created by AIM	1.1 Number of sessions conducted by mentors	500
		1.2 Number of LIPI Task Force Created	5		1.2 Number of beneficiaries of knowledge sharing sessions conducted by LIPI Task Force	50
		1.3 Number of LIPI	2		1.3 Number of Vernacular	20

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2024-25			OUTCOME 2024-25		
2024-25	Output	Indicators	Targets 2024-25	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2024-25
		Innovation Centres to be created			Innovators supported by the LIPI Innovation Centres	
	2. Strategic programs and partnerships to identify and fill the gaps in the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem of the country (i.e. programs open to AIM beneficiaries and beyond)	2.1 No. of strategic programs ongoing/introduced across AIM ecosystem	2	2.1 Connect different stakeholders of Innovation ecosystem such as Startups, Investors, Corporate, Academia & other enablers	2.1 No. of Innovators /Startups supported (participation) under identified strategic programs	30
				2.2 Facilitate showcasing of Innovative solutions by solution providers (students/ startups/ entrepreneurs) to solution seekers (investors/ corporate/ MSME/not-for-profits etc)	2.2 Number of innovation solutions showcased at national/international forums across Innovation ecosystem	10
		2.2 Total partnerships JSoI signed (new & renewed) across entire AIM ecosystem	10	2.3 Provide strategic value to AIM and its beneficiaries through partners	2.3 Number of beneficiaries (Startups, Students, Innovators, Incubator/AIM team) benefitted through capacity development, knowledge modules developed, access to	250

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2024-25			OUTCOME 2024-25		
2024-25	Output	Indicators	Targets 2024-25	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2024-25
					specialized infrastructure through the partners	
		2.3 State Innovation Mission: Number of States/UTs with structured engagement with SIM (under State Support Mission)	3	2.4 Engage with the Innovation/Entrepreneurship ecosystem across various states to build a network to exchange of ideas/best practices	2.4 No of sessions conducted both in physical/virtual/hybrid mode	5
					2.5 No of participants from entire ecosystem stakeholders (State/UTs and Central Govt., Incubators, Startups, Innovators, VC, and funding ecosystem players)	250

This is an indicative list of indicators for AIM-OOMF FY 2024-25. The final indicators outlay may be changed subject to the approval of AIM Scheme Cabinet Note.

2. Official Development Assistance(ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (EAP-SDGs)

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2024-25			OUTCOME 2024-25		
2024-25	Output	Indicators	Target 2024-25	Outcome	Indicators	Target 2024-25
433	Engagement with relatively underdeveloped Districts and Blocks for their Socio-economic development	No. of projects submitted by districts and blocks No. of officials attended capacity building programs	To finalize 75 project proposals under ADP and 55 project proposals under ABP from districts and blocks To undertake capacity building measures/ training for district/block officials involving approx. 5000 officials	To sanction projects to districts/blocks addressing critical development gaps and thus accelerating the socio-economic progress of districts and blocks	No. of projects sanctioned for districts and blocks	To approve the projects (min 130) submitted by districts, by the Empowered Committee of Secretaries

3. State Support Mission:

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2024-25			OUTCOME 2024-25		
2024-25	Output	Indicators	Target 2024-25	Outcome	Indicators	Target 2024-25
40	Engagement with states	Total amount of funds estimated to be released to States for M&E systems, Studies, workshops and other admin exp	Rs.30.36 Crores	Number of States supported under SSM to develop their strategies and State Vision @2047 in alignment with India Vision @2047 and other national development priorities.	Number of SITs formed	7
		No. of workshops/ trainings/ conferences conducted	8			
		Deployment of Human resources in States - SITs	Target amenable*			