

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:4

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2004

REORIENTATION OF TENTH PLAN

Mistry Shri Madhusudan Devram;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission in its meeting held in September, 2004 has decided to reorient the ongoing Tenth Plan in accordance with the National Common Minimum Programme of the new Government;

(b) if so, whether in the meeting a number of foreign experts were also called to help and assist the Planning Commission in reorienting the ongoing 10th Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also true that the Government has received any representations objecting the move to include foreign consultants in the consultative groups of the Planning Commission; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 4 REGARDING REORIENTATION OF TENTH PLAN BY SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO AND SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY DUE FOR ANSWER ON 1-12-2004.

(a): A Meeting of the Planning Commission was held on 9th September 2004 to consider, inter-alia, the Approach to the Mid Term Appraisal of Tenth Plan (2002-2007). The Approach to Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth plan endorsed by the Planning Commission presented the issues, which the Mid Term Appraisal needs to address, and the Policy correctives and new initiatives required to be taken in critical areas in the context of the new priorities outlined in the National Common Minimum Programme.

(b): No foreign consultants were invited for the meeting of the Planning Commission

(c): Does not arise.

(d) & (e): The Planning Commission had announced the formation of Consultative Groups for the limited purpose of obtaining views and perceptions regarding the effectiveness of Plan programmes and policies from non-government observers in the process of the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan. These Groups included a large number of academics, representatives of research institutes, well known NGOs, trade unions, industry associations, and also some individuals working with the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank in India. The Planning Commission subsequently received representations / communications against the involvement of 'Foreign Consultants' i.e. individuals associated with international financial institutions and also international consultancy firms in the Consultative Groups. These representations objected to the inclusion of such individuals in the Consultative Groups, but not to their being consulted separately. The matter was reviewed and it was decided to dissolve the consultative groups.