

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:357

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011

NDC RECOMMENDATIONS ON CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Development Council (NDC) resolution has recommended for reduction in centrally sponsored schemes and accordingly the number of schemes in operations was reduced to 82 from 155;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the total number of schemes currently in operation and the schemes that have been done away with?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES(Dr. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (b): The National Development Council (NDC) in its meeting held on 27th and 28th June 2005, passed a Resolution to consider setting up of an Expert Group by the Planning Commission to develop concrete proposals for restructuring the CSS, in consultation with the concerned Ministries / Departments. The Expert Group was constituted by an Order of Planning Commission dated 13th October 2005. The Terms of Reference of the Group inter-alia included to suggest restructuring and rationalization of CSS. The Group submitted its Report in September 2006 with the following recommendations.

(i) A new CSS should be approved only if annual outlay is more than Rs.300 crore. This floor level has been arrived at on the logic that, with the current level of programmes in each district, a minimum outlay of at least Rs.50 lakhs per district is essential if the scheme is to be of any material significance at the district level and be worthwhile in terms of the expenditure of material resources of senior functionaries at that level enjoined to perform multifarious tasks of competing importance. Hence, exceptions could be made for schemes relating to monitoring and evaluation, statistics and data collection, pertaining to the North-Eastern States, international cooperation, capacity building, public-private partnership and less than three years old pilot schemes etc.

(ii) Existing CSS with less than Rs. 300 crore Annual outlay should be wound up (subject to the exceptions listed above in case of new Schemes) by 31st March 2007 and the amount transferred to the States via the Normal Central Assistance route. These recommendations were considered at the time of the Zero Based Budgeting Exercise carried out by the Planning Commission before finalising the 11th Five Year Plan. It was observed that out of 155 CSS in operation during 2006-07 42 CSSs could be dropped and the resultant 113 schemes could further be merged / amalgamated / rationalised into 82 schemes. The Ministries were advised to consider the outcome of the ZBB exercise. However, at the beginning of the year 2007-08, 17 new CSSs were also introduced thus making the total to 99 during 2007-08 (as per details given in Annexure-I).

(c) The number of CSS currently in operation during 2010-11 is 139 with an outlay of Rs.157051.40 crore as per Statement of Budget Estimates of Union Ministries. The year wise details of CSSs in operation for the period (2006-07 to 2010-11) and those dropped during 2007-08 are indicated in the Annexure-II and II.a respectively.