

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5732

ANSWERED ON:07.09.2011

MONITORING OF AAM ADMI SCHEMES

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a). whether the Planning Commission has institutionalised an independent mechanism to monitor implementation of central schemes to ensure that benefits of these schemes reach to the common man;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c). the extent to which these schemes have benefited the common man so far;
- (d). the time by which the desired targets of these schemes could be achieved;
- (e). whether the present system of an "in-house" exercise of monitoring and evaluation of Government schemes has failed to reflect reality at ground level and bottlenecks in different social sector schemes; and
- (f). if so, the extent the new independent monitoring agency is likely to help in accomplishing the objectives of these schemes?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Monitoring and Evaluation is an integral part of the guidelines issued for various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The principal responsibility for monitoring these schemes rests with the concerned line Ministries / Departments. However, the progress of implementation of these schemes is also reviewed on regular basis in sectoral Half Yearly Performance Review Meetings chaired by Members of the Planning Commission. Additionally, a Delivery Monitoring Unit (DMU) has been set up in the PMO to review performance of select Flagship programmes / initiatives / iconic projects. The DMU reports are available on the websites of the concerned Central Ministries. The Mid Term Appraisal of the Plans also reviews the schemes and suggests mid-course corrections.

The Government has recently approved setting up of an Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) for evaluating major flagship programmes; which is to be funded by the Government of India. The IEO will not be an implementing/monitoring agency, but it will be charged with the job of evaluating the impact of the programmes / schemes being implemented by various Departments/ Ministries of the Government of India. The IEO seeks to conduct the evaluation of flagship programmes in a professional and unbiased manner so that the findings can be utilised by Planners and policy-makers to improve the implementation efficiency of these programmes and further equity and inclusive growth which is the main objective of these programmes

(c) & (d): Planning Commission undertakes "in-house" evaluation of Government programmes/schemes; through Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) of Planning Commission. The PEO conducts evaluation studies on sample basis to assess the performance, process of implementation, effectiveness of the delivery systems and impact of programmes through direct observations at the ground level using social science research methods. PEO Evaluation Reports are found to be highly informative and the suggestions/recommendations made therein on the basis of the findings of the evaluation studies are often taken cognizance of, in formulating future plans. The implementing Ministries generally attempt to remove the bottlenecks which are identified in the evaluation studies for any programmes/schemes. Studies have indicated that major flagship schemes have generally resulted in benefit to the common man and on the basis of their past performance, have been considered for continuation from one Plan to the other.

(e) & (f): As stated above, in reply to parts (a) & (b); the present system of monitoring & evaluation has been effective in identifying the gaps and bottlenecks which have helped in evolving the policies and plans for various schemes. The evaluation mechanism under IEO will also result in further strengthening the evaluation system which will ultimately be utilized for improving the planning process.