

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5500
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2012
SOCIAL AUDIT OF WELFARE SCHEMES
Tewari Shri Manish

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has proposed a social audit of welfare schemes run by the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the need and advantage of conducting social audit of Government's welfare programmes;
- (c) the welfare programmes proposed to be brought under the ambit of social audits;
- (d) the level at which such social audits is to be conducted;
- (e) the methodology to be followed in conduct of such social audits;
- (f) whether the State Governments will be given additional resources for meeting administrative expenses to carry out such audits; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the pilot study carried in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (b): The Government is committed to bring transparency in the implementation of its programmes through Social Audit mechanism. The Planning Commission in the year 2008, suggested that Social Audit mechanism could be included in the Guidelines of monitoring of Flagship Programmes of the Government of India. In the Approach Paper to the Twelfth Five Year Plan, it is stated that perceptions of public services and quality of governance can be measured and evaluated by independent institutions in terms of citizens' report cards or social audits through surveys focussing on levels of satisfaction from public services as perceived by citizens. Such surveys reveal the areas where people have felt relatively satisfied and those where they felt great need for improvement. An analysis of levels of public satisfaction and reasons thereof would be extremely useful if done concurrently as programmes get implemented. It would be important to identify organisations both at the Central and State levels to undertake these activities. Civil society and other independent agencies can be charged with this responsibility.

(c): In the year 2009, the Letter of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) addressed to the chief Secretaries of all States regarding enforcement of Social Audit under MNREGA and the Advisory issued by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj for activity mapping of all CSS and ACAs was circulated to all the Union Ministries/ Departments. The Ministry of Rural Development in order to check irregularities in the implementation of MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) has accorded utmost importance to the organization of social audits by the Gram Panchayats and issued instructions to the States to make necessary arrangements for the purpose. Modifications have been made in para 13 of schedule-I of the Act to provide for procedures on conducting social audits. MoRD has also issued instructions to the State Governments for enforcement of the new Social Audit provisions under MNREGA. The Planning Commission have not suggested to the Ministries regarding the welfare programmes to be brought under the ambit of social audits.

(d) & (e): The level for conduct of social audit and the methodology is to be decided by the Ministries concerned.

(f) & (g): The administrative expenses are indicated in the guidelines of individual schemes.