

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:181  
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2014  
INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OFFICE  
Rajesh Shri M. B.

**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) undertakes objective evaluation of various flagships programmes, schemes etc. and if so, the details of studies undertaken during the last three years;
- (b) the structure of IEO and the extent of autonomy accorded to it to enable an impartial assessment of the public programme; and
- (c) whether IEO is permitted to engage the services of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the assessment exercise and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGES) FOR MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE  
(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 181 (1ST POSITION)  
REGARDING INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OFFICE (IEO) BY SHRI. M B RAJESH ON 05th DECEMBER, 2014

(a) Yes, Sir. The notification for establishment of Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) was issued by the Government on 14th July, 2011. The Director General of IEO joined on 07th August, 2013 and occupied office till 29th August, 2014 and the post is currently vacant. Evaluation of no scheme has yet been completed by IEO. The position is tabulated below:

Sl.No.	Scheme Name	Nature	Status
1	Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana	Flagship	Tendering process in progress.

2. Impact analysis of Flagship Tendering process completed.  
Maternal and Neonatal Mortality for outsourcing the evaluation Approval of competent authority is awaited.

3. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme Flagship Evaluation framework and terms of reference for this evaluation are being prepared.

4. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana Non-flagship Tendering process completed.  
Approval of competent authority for outsourcing the evaluation is awaited.

5. PDS:  
Component 1 Non-flagship It is being carried out in-house.  
Component 2 Tendering process completed.  
Approval of competent authority for outsourcing the evaluation is awaited.  
Component 3 Tendering process in progress.  
Component 4 Yet to commence.

(b) IEO is an attached office of the Planning Commission for budgetary purposes. All day to day financial powers are exercised by IEO independent of the Planning Commission. The functional (evaluation) activities are to be guided and prioritized by Development Evaluation Advisory Committee (DEAC) chaired by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The IEO is expected to function at

arm's length from Government and has full functional autonomy. IEO has a Governing Board chaired by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, and it is guided by the DEAC which as an apex body to guide and prioritize the areas of research and methodologies adopted by IEO. IEO is headed by a Director General equivalent to the rank of Minister of State helped by 4 Directors of Additional Secretary rank to act as domain experts.

They include one Economist, two Public Policy experts and one official with Statistic/Econometrics background. With the help of 4 Research Coordinators (Director level) and 8 Young Professionals they carry out relevant research; finalize evaluation framework; monitor and guide the evaluation exercises, prepare evaluation reports, etc. The logistic side in IEO is looked after by the Joint Secretary (Administration & Finance) with the help of a Director, an Under Secretary and 3 Assistants.

(c) The IEO is permitted to engage the services of leading social science research or other knowledge institutions to evaluate the impact of flagship programmes. The IEO will prepare the evaluation framework. The actual evaluation is outsourced to the leading social science research/other knowledge institutions who are well known in the evaluation activities.