

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:80

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015

NITI AAYOG

Mullappally Shri Ramachandran; Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the aims and objectives of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI)Aayog and its composition;
- (b) the manner in which NITI Aayog is likely to be more effective than the earlier Planning Commission for overall development along with the role of NITI Aayog in the implementation of various programmes under 12th Five Year Plan;
- (c) whether the NITI Aayog met recently and if so, the details thereof along with priority earmarked by the States for development projects, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether some of the States including Kerala have expressed concerns over selection of priority projects by NITI Aayog and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for cooperative federalism and healthy competition among States for economic development and poverty alleviation in the country?

Answer

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

(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.80 FOR ANSWER ON FEBRUARY 27, 2015 REGARDING "NITI AAYOG".

(a) The Government has replaced Planning Commission with a new institution named NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) by issuing Cabinet Secretariat Resolution on 1st January, 2015. A copy of the Resolution is annexed at A.

As per the resolution, the NITI Aayog will work towards the following objectives:

- a. To evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of States in the light of national objectives. The vision of the NITI Aayog will then provide a framework 'national agenda' for the Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers to provide impetus to.
- b. To foster cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives and mechanisms with the States on a continuous basis, recognizing that strong States make a strong nation.
- c. To develop mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of government.
- d. To ensure, on areas that are specifically referred to it, that the interests of national security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy.
- e. To pay special attention to the sections of our society that may be at risk of not benefitting adequately from economic progress.
- f. To design strategic and long term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives, and monitor their progress and their efficacy. The lessons learnt through monitoring and feedback will be used for making innovative improvements, including necessary mid-course corrections.
- g. To provide advice and encourage partnerships between key stakeholders and national and international like-minded Think Tanks, as well as educational and policy research institutions.
- h. To create a knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support system through a collaborative community of national and international experts, practitioners and other partners.

- i. To offer a platform for resolution of inter-sectoral and inter-departmental issues in order to accelerate the implementation of the development agenda.
- j. To maintain a state-of-the-art Resource Centre, be a repository of research on good governance and best practices in sustainable and equitable development as well as help their dissemination to stake-holders.
- k. To actively monitor and evaluate the implementation of programmes and initiatives, including the identification of the needed resources so as to strengthen the probability of success and scope of delivery.
- l. To focus on technology upgradation and capacity building for implementation of programmes and initiatives.
- m. To undertake other activities as may be necessary in order to further the execution of the national development agenda, and the objectives mentioned above.

As per the aforesaid Resolution, the composition of NITI Aayog is as follows:

- a. Prime Minister of India as the Chairperson
- b. Governing Council comprising the Chief Ministers of all the States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories
- c. Regional Councils will be formed to address specific issues and contingencies impacting more than one state or a region. These will be formed for a specified tenure. The Regional Councils will be convened by the Prime Minister and will comprise of the Chief Ministers of States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories in the region. These will be chaired by the Chairperson of the NITI Aayog or his nominee.
- d. Experts, specialists and practitioners with relevant domain knowledge as special invitees nominated by the Prime Minister
- e. The full-time organizational framework will comprise of, in addition to the Prime Minister as the Chairperson:
 - i. Vice-Chairperson: To be appointed by the Prime Minister
 - ii. Members: Full-time
 - iii. other relevant institutions in an ex-officio capacity. Part time members will be on a rotational basis.
 - iv. Ex Officio members: Maximum of 4 members of the Union Council of Ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
 - v. Chief Executive Officer: To be appointed by the Prime Minister for a fixed tenure, in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.
 - vi. Secretariat as deemed necessary.

(b) : A major focus of NITI Aayog is to work towards strengthening cooperative federalism in India as States have now emerged into economic growth engines and are equal partners in national development.

(c) to (e): The first meeting of the Governing Council was held on Feb. 8, 2015. The agenda of the meeting included discussion on (i) Transition arrangements from Planning Commission to NITI- (ii) Framework for National Development Priorities, Policies and Sectoral strategies including recently announced major initiatives of the Government, (iii) Cooperative Federalism (iv) Infrastructure Projects.

The meeting inter alia decided to form 3 Sub Groups of CMs on rationalisation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, on Skill Development to address human resource issues and the youth and on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan on account of its direct linkage to poor. In addition, it was also decided that States may set up two Task Forces on Agriculture and Poverty Alleviation in States and similarly, NITI Aayog was directed by its Governing Council to set up two similar Task Forces for working with the Task Forces in States. The meeting also deliberated on streamlining mechanism at State levels so that factors which are preventing early completion of important infrastructure projects are suitably addressed.

During discussion on agenda on important national programmes, some of the States including Kerala also laid emphasis on some additional subjects.