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Title: The Minister of State of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme laid the statement regarding status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 70th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2013-14), pertaining to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Madam, I beg to lay the statement on the implementation status of the recommendations contained in the Seventieth Report of Standing Committee on Finance in pursuance of Direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha.

The Standing Committee on Finance examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the year 2013-14 and presented / laid their Seventieth Report to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 22.04.2013. There were 9 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action was called for on the part of the Government. The major recommendations mainly related to:

1) The Ministry has to devise an effective mechanism for identifying and overcoming the deficiencies in the existing system of budgetary planning for assessment of funds required and proper utilization of allocated funds through prudent management of funds, close monitoring and timely implementation of plan schemes.

2) Since the Indian Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP) is the first project of its kind being implemented in the country for the primary purpose of strengthening the National Statistical System, the Ministry should step up its endeavor to implement the scheme earnestly and expeditiously and utilize the budget allocation in the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan period effectively to revamp the statistical system in the country so as to ensure a significant improvement in the credibility, timeliness and reliability of State, Sub-State and National level data.

3) Basic Statistics for Local Level Development (BSLLD) scheme was launched way back in 2008-09, is in operation in 30 States/UTs. The committee is not happy with persistent underutilization of budgetary allocation under this Scheme, desires realistic projection of funds for the scheme so as to achieve intended objectives.

4) The committee recommended that the primary work of data collection has been entrusted to Panchayat Secretary in coordination with the village level functionaries such as *Anganwadi* workers, *chowkidar*, village *pradhan* revenue officials, etc. The data collected from grass root level is very basis of planning and policy in the Government, at the district level appropriate system be put in place to provide requisite technical assistance and to ensure professionalism in the critical grass root level machinery.

5) For the purpose of District Planning, local level both for rural and urban areas of the entire district is required, the Ministry should explore the feasibility of collecting data for urban areas also during the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan period for the purpose of holistic local level planning in all States.

6) As per Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance, the deficiencies with respect to credibility, timeliness and adequacy of statistics available at present. Major thrust of the Ministry during the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan should be towards reforming the administrative and technical structure of Indian Statistical System and upgrading its capacity and Ministry should put in place data validation mechanism checks at various levels in order to improve data quality and obviate the release/ occurrence of faulty data/ statistics.

7) To overcome the shortage of manpower in Statistics Wing of the ministry, the committee recommends that the qualitative and optimum utilization of available manpower and by outsourcing the work of conducting survey, collection of data etc. which would be a practical solution as well. Simultaneously, the Ministry should also continue to recruit requisite manpower for its Statistics Wing.

8) With a view to minimize time and cost overruns in Central Sector Projects, the Central Sector Projects Coordinating Committees (CSPCCs) headed by the Chief Secretary of the respective States have been constituted in 18 States on the advice of the Ministry of Statistics and PI, the Committee desires that the Ministry should impress upon the remaining States to constitute CSPCCs so as to clear the bottlenecks at the earliest. The need to constitute a High Powered Committee to resolve the issue of minimizing time and cost overruns in the Central Sector Projects costing Rs. 1000 crore and above particularly the projects of Coal, Power, Railways and NHAI, where delays seems to be endemic ranging between 47 months to 235 months. The Committee may be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

9) The need to compile/prepare a comprehensive report on the status of various infrastructure projects across the

country including those implemented by State and place the same through the Planning Commission before the National Development Council (NDC) for a complete overview.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Hon'ble Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my statement which is laid on the Table of the House.

I would not like to take the valuable time of the House in reading the contents of the Annexure. Hence, I would request that this may be considered as read. ...(*Interruptions*)

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