

review a select number of flagship programmes/initiatives/iconic projects. The Nodal Ministries concerned have begun publishing DMU Reports on their websites on a quarterly basis, to keep the Nation informed of their progress. The function of the DMU is to act as a mechanism for oversight to improve monitoring, delivery of output and transparency for ensuring effective delivery of select programmes. However, the primary responsibility for implementation, appropriate monitoring and follow up action remains that of the Ministry/States and the Ministries concerned.

Aam Admi Schemes

816. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is spending large sums on 'aam admi' schemes;
- (b) whether the Centre has decided to set up an independent agency for evolving Government programmes to ensure that benefits of social sector schemes reach masses;
- (c) whether now monitoring and evaluation of Governmental schemes has been an 'in house' exercise which fails to reflect reality at ground level and bottlenecks in different social sector schemes; and
- (d) if so, to what extent this new agency will help in implementing schemes properly so that they reach to aam admi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) Yes, Sir. Government of India is spending huge amount of money every year on 'aam admi' schemes like Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programs (AIBP), Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM), Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA), Mid Day Meals (MDM), Rural Roads, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Rural Telephony. There is a budgetary provision of Rs. 149886 crore, for the 15 major programmes, for the year 2009-10.

(b), (c) and (d) The Prime Minister, in mid 2008, in an address on the occasion of National Statistics Day had suggested setting up of an Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) to assess the outcomes and impact of these programmes. The President of India in an address to the Joint Session of both Houses of Parliament in June, 2009 stated as follows:-

".... Strengthening public accountability of flagship programmes by the creation of an Independent Evaluation Office at an arms' distance from the Government catalyzed by the Planning Commission. It would work on a network model by collaborating with leading social science research organizations and concurrently evaluate the impact of flagship programmes and place it in the public domain".

The IEO would strengthen the existing evaluation process by drawing the best resources available from leading research organizations. The findings of the independent evaluation will be reported to the Government and also placed in public domain.

Special category status to Rajasthan and Odisha

817. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain State Governments have demanded 'Special Economic Packages' as well as 'Special Category Status' in the country for their States including Rajasthan and Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken by Government thereon;
- (c) the benefits likely to accrue to these States as a result of grant of 'Special Category Status'; and
- (d) whether any budgetary allocation made in the current Union Budget in respect of those States which have requested for 'Special Economic Package'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) Recently, there have been requests for Special Category Status from Bihar, Odisha and Rajasthan. Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested for a Special Area Incentive Package of about Rs.80,000 crore for Poorvanchal and Bundelkhand regions and bridging critical gaps. Bihar requested for a financial package of Rs.14,800 crore for Kosi Reconstruction and Rehabilitation. Goa has requested for a Special Package of Rs. 1400 crore to celebrate the Special Golden Jubilee Package. Orissa have submitted a Special Plan for KBK districts with a proposed outlay of Rs.4550 crore for a period of eight years from 2009-10 to 2016-17.

As regards the requests for Special Category Status, Planning Commission is of the view that for any State seeking Special Category Status on account of State Specific Problems, it would be more appropriate to provide financial assistance/Additional Central Assistance etc. as has been the practice so far, on a case by case basis.

In 2009, the Government has approved a Special Bundelkhand Drought Mitigation Package for Rs.7266 crore comprising Rs.3506 crore for Uttar Pradesh and Rs.3760 crore for Madhya Pradesh to be implemented over a period of 3 years. Under the Special Plan for Bihar, assistance of Rs. 1000 crore per annum is already being provided as 100% grant. For Odisha, it was decided in 2006 to continue with annual allocation of Rs. 250 crore for the KBK districts during 11th Plan period under the BRGF including district & State components.

Special Category States (SCS) (11 States) and Non-Special Category States (NSCS) (17 States) receive the grants under the Normal Central Assistance (NCA) in 9:7 proportion. Special Plan Assistance (SPA) is provided only to Special Category States. Besides, for Externally Aided