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STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(2024-25)

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF PLANNING

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
2025-26

ELEVENTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

March, 2025/ Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)

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**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2025-26)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 19 March, 2025

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 19 March, 2025



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (2024-25)

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Arun Bharti
3. Shri P. P. Chaudhary
4. Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
5. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
6. Shri K. Gopinath
7. Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap
8. Shri Kishori Lal
9. Shri Harendra Singh Malik
10. Shri Chudasama Rajeshbhai Naranbhai
11. Thiru Arun Nehru
12. Shri N. K. Premachandran
13. Dr. C. M. Ramesh
14. Smt. Sandhya Ray
15. Prof. Sougata Ray
16. Shri P. V. Midhun Reddy
17. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
18. Dr. K. Sudhakar
19. Shri Manish Tewari
20. Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni
21. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri P. Chidambaram
23. Shri Milind Murli Deora
24. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
25. Shri Yerram Venkata Subba Reddy
26. Shri S. Selvaganabathy
27. Shri Sanjay Seth
28. Dr. Dinesh Sharma
29. Smt. Darshana Singh
30. Dr. M. Thambidurai
31. Shri Pramod Tiwari

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Shri Gaurav Goyal | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Vinay Pradeep Barwa | Director |
| 3. | Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. | Ms. Vandana | Committee Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, of the Standing Committee on Finance, having been authorised by the Committee, present this Eleventh Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2025-26)' of the Ministry of Planning.

2. The Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Planning have been examined by the Committee under Rule Section 331E(1)(a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

3. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Planning on 18 February, 2025. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Planning for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the material and information which the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants (2025-26).

4. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their Sitting held on 18 March 2025.

5. For facility of reference, the Observations / Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold at the end of the Report.

6. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

**New Delhi;
18 March, 2025
27 Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)**

**Bhartruhari Mahtab
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Finance**

PART - I
CHAPTER I
NITI AAYOG- AN INTRODUCTION

1.1 NITI Aayog ie. the 'National Institution for Transforming India', as an apex public policy think tank of the Government of India, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on 1st January 2015. NITI Aayog is mandated to provide institutional capacity to the Ministry of Planning. Prime Minister is the executive head of the Ministry of Planning. It is the nodal agency tasked with catalysing economic development, and fostering cooperative federalism through the involvement of State Governments in the economic policy-making process using a bottom- up approach.

1.2 Apart from designing strategic and long-term policies and programmes for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant strategic and technical advice to the Centre, States and Union Territories (UTs). NITI Aayog acts as the quintessential platform for the Government of India to bring States to act together in national interest and thereby foster cooperative federalism. Following are the key objectives and features of NITI Aayog:-

- (a) To evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors and strategies with the active involvement of States.
- (b) To foster cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives and mechanisms with the States on a continuous basis, recognising 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, in 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 benefiting 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 learned 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 the 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 stakeholders.

(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.

1.3 NITI Aayog is supported by an attached office, Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) and an autonomous body, National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD). NITI Aayog's activities can be divided into four key areas:

1. Promoting knowledge and innovation
2. NITI for States (Cooperative and Competitive Federalism)
3. Driving transformational change
4. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

1.4 The different programmes, subjects, attached offices, and autonomous bodies of NITI Aayog provide the requisite coordination and support framework needed to carry out the above mandate. Ministry of Planning through NITI Aayog runs the following Central Sector Schemes:

- (a) Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU).
- (b) Ongoing Programmes and Schemes through Research and Study (R&S).
- (c) Programme for Aspirational Districts (ADP)
- (d) State Support Mission (SSM).

Governing Council of NITI Aayog

1.5 The Governing Council of NITI Aayog, comprising of Chief Ministers of all the States and UTs with legislatures and LGs of other UTs, came into effect on 16 February, 2015 vide a notification issued by the Cabinet Secretariat. The Governing Council was last reconstituted vide a notification dated 19 February 2021 by the Cabinet Secretariat. The Governing Council is the premier body tasked with evolving a shared vision of national priorities and strategies, with the active involvement of States, in shaping the national development narrative. The Governing Council, which embodies the objectives of cooperative federalism, presents a platform to discuss inter-sectoral, inter-departmental and federal issues to accelerate the implementation of the national development agenda. So far, nine meetings of the Governing Council have been held under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister with CMs/LGs of the States/UTs and other members of the Governing Council. So far, nine meetings of the Governing Council have been held under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister with CMs/LGs of the States/UTs and other members of the Governing Council.

Visioning Exercise for States

1.6 To achieve Viksit Bharat@47, Government has decided to formulate a 25-year Vision Plan for making India a developed nation by the year 2047, i.e., "Viksit Bharat@2047". The Vision Plan is being prepared by the ten Sectoral Group of Secretaries (SGoS) constituted by the Government of India in January 2022, and the same is being coordinated by NITI Aayog

During the 9th Governing Council Meeting held on 27 July, 2024, the Hon'ble PM stressed that Viksit Bharat can be realised through Viksit States and that the aspiration of Viksit Bharat should reach the grassroots level. NITI Aayog has been actively supporting the States with the preparation of State specific vision documents for 2047. The visioning exercise has been launched in the

States of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

1.7 NITI Aayog completed its first decade in January, 2025, therefore, the Committee wanted to know about its various sectoral achievements, the Ministry of Planning in its written replies furnished following information:-

“ The key achievements of NITI Aayog over a decade of its functioning are as follows-

(i) Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme

The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) was launched in 2018 to bring transformative changes in 112 under-developed districts of India by focusing on 49 key indicators across five critical sectors: Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure. The program has emerged as a template for good governance and sharing of innovative best practices. Expanding on the ADP's framework, the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) was launched in January 2023, targeting 500 underdeveloped blocks nationwide.

Under the programme, Sampoonata Abhiyaan was also launched on 4th July 2024, to saturate 6 indicators each under Aspirational District Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme in all 112 districts and 500 blocks respectively from July-September 2024. Over a period of 3 months, 21 Aspirational Districts and 90 Aspirational Blocks have saturated all 6 indicators.

(ii) State Support Mission

The State Support Mission is an overarching umbrella initiative of NITI Aayog to reimagine its ongoing engagement with States and Union Territories in a more structured and institutionalised manner. Under this mission, NITI Aayog supports the States/UTs in setting up state institutions for Transformation (SIT) and capacity building. As on date 28 SITs have been notified under SSM. NITI also facilitates on boarding sectoral domain knowledge sources like IIMS/IITs/Central & State Universities as Lead Knowledge Institutions (LKIs) to support the SITs.

(iii) Sustainable Development Goals

NITI Aayog is the nodal agency for coordinating matters pertaining to achievement of SDGs in India both at national and sub-national levels. Since 2018, the SDG India Index has been comprehensively documenting and ranking the progress made at the sub-national level toward achieving the SDGs. It has become the principal tool for measuring national and subnational progress on SDG with 4 issues released so far. NITI Aayog has also brought out National Multidimensional Poverty Index of which two issues have been launched. NITI Aayog has also been facilitating presentation of Voluntary National Reviews on SDGs in the United Nations.

(iv) Promoting Competition amongst States/ UTs

NITI Aayog has launched a series of indices to rank States/UTs in different areas such as health, education, water, energy and climate, SDGs, export preparedness, innovation, Multidimensional Poverty Index, etc., based on quantitative objective criteria. These have encouraged States (and even districts in the Aspirational Districts Programme) to improve their performance

(v) Cities as Growth Hubs Initiative

To pioneer a transformative shift in urban development, NITI Aayog has taken up the 'Cities as Growth Hubs (G-Hub) Initiative' prioritizing economic master planning as cornerstone for accelerated economic growth. NITI Aayog's Growth Hub Initiative, launched in 2023, aims to transform potential cities into mega-growth hubs. Economic Plans of Surat Economic Region and Mumbai Metropolitan Region have been released by the respective state governments in September 2024, and remaining are under progress.

(vi) Electric Mobility

National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage is chaired by NITI Aayog to build an ecosystem for proliferation of electric vehicles in India. NITI Aayog has also been contributing in the entire ecosystem of electric mobility viz. demand creation, manufacturing, charging infrastructure, standards and specification, regulatory provisions, etc.

(vii) Global Value Chain

Recognising the critical need to boost manufacturing for economic growth and job creation in India, NITI Aayog has conceptualised an initiative to analyse the challenges impeding India's presence in Global Value Chains (GVC) and to develop strategies to power up its GVC presence. The initiative focuses on priority sectors where India has growth potential such as electronics, automotive and chemicals.

(viii) Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

One of NITI Aayog's most impactful flagship initiatives is the Atal Innovation Mission, known as AIM. Established in 2016, AIM aims to cultivate a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across India. Through a holistic approach, it promotes a problem-solving mind-set from school level to the private sector, creating a thriving ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship. Post the Union Cabinet approval of its continuation with enhanced scope, AIM 2.0 takes a qualitative shift towards Viksit Bharat to strengthen India's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

(ix) Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)-
Institutionalising Monitoring and Evaluation by embedding it to
scheme structure:

Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), was set up in September 2015, to provide valuable policy insights including modification, up scaling, downsizing or closure of the schemes/programmes. Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF) was conceptualised in 2017 for

self-reported monitoring of the progress of CS and CSS schemes and is laid in the Parliament alongwith the Union Budget.

Besides, DMEO, NITI Aayog takes up evaluation of Central Sector schemes as directed by Department of Expenditure (DoE) and on request by concerned Ministries. Since its inception in September, 2015, DMEO has completed 155 evaluation studies.

(x) Visioning Exercise for States @ 2047

NITI Aayog has commenced an exercise of supporting State Governments to prepare their vision document as being done by Central Government towards Viksit Bharat @2047. This is expected to drive strategic transformation across every aspect of the citizen's lives, economy and governance. The visioning exercise has been launched in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. The Vision Documents for a Viksit Gujarat @ 2047 and Swarna Andhra @ 2047 have already been launched.

Besides, NITI Aayog has been ideating and incubating various programmes and supporting the Ministries to implement these schemes/programmes. Some of these important programmes are as under:-

(i) Production Linked Incentive (PLI)

To enhance India's manufacturing capabilities in critical sectors, the Production Linked Incentive was conceptualised in NITI and have been introduced in 14 key sectors with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 1.97 lakh crore. The scheme is now being implemented by different Ministries.

(ii) Asset Monetisation Programme

NITI Aayog was mandated with creation of the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP). NITI Aayog formulated the asset pipeline of 12 central line ministries to serve as a medium-term roadmap for Monetisation of Core Infrastructure Assets. The progress is monitored periodically by the core group of secretaries under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary.

(iii) Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)

NITI Aayog designed and curated the Mission LiFE as a mass movement to nudge people towards adopting sustainable lifestyles. MoEFCC is now implementing Mission LiFE.

(iv) Circular Economy

NITI Aayog identified 11 areas to facilitate transition from a linear to circular economy and finalised 10 sectoral Circular Economy action plans for implementation by stakeholder Ministries. This is now implemented by MoEFCC.

(v) Mining Reforms

A High Level Committee (HLC) was constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog in 2019 for enhancing

exploration and mineral production, reducing imports and achieving rapid growth in exports. Based on the recommendations of the HLC, amendments were carried out in the last three years of the MMDR Act, 2015 to facilitate ease of doing business. Recommendations of the Report played an important role in subsequent reforms in the mining sector.

(vi) Health Sector

A number of initiatives have been taken by NITI Aayog in the health sector which have subsequently been adopted by Central Ministries and/ or State Governments. These include Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), POSHAN Abhiyaan, orphan drugs for rare diseases, reforms in National Organ Transplant Programme, Increase in post graduate seats, upgradation of district hospitals to medical colleges, telemedicine guidelines, eradication of sickle cell anemia, Tele-Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States, etc. Besides, NITI Aayog also played a major role in Covid-19 pandemic management through Empowered Groups 1, 5 and 7 headed by Member and CEO, NITI Aayog. NITI Aayog also contributed to legislations such as National Medical Commission Bill, Indian Nursing Council Act and National Dental commission Bill.

(vii) Agriculture Sector

NITI Aayog drafted a Model Agricultural Land Leasing Act, which was later adopted by several states to formalise tenant farming and provide land security to farmers. It launched the Agricultural Marketing & Farmer Friendly Reforms Index in 2016 to rank states based on marketing, land lease, and agroforestry reforms. NITI Aayog has been building strategy to promote natural farming, its recommendations on natural farming and organic agriculture have been integrated into policies like Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP) under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY).

Boosting India's Participation In Global Value Chains

NITI Aayog, during 2023-24, targeted manufacturing growth to boost India's participation in Global Value Chains (GVCs) as It is estimated that roughly 70 percent of global trade lies in GVCs and India's current level of participation in GVC-linked international trade is low and has massive potential for enhancement. GVC is international production sharing – wherein, the full range of activities to bring a product from conception to end-use and beyond is divided among multiple firms and workers across geographic spaces. However, a representative Global Value Chain: Value addition happens across countries for delivery of final product.”

1.8 On being enquired about the performance review of NITI Aayog, the Ministry of Planning stated as given below:-

“NITI Aayog was set up in January 2015 as a premier think tank of Government of India. Over the last decade, a number of initiatives have been taken by NITI Aayog which are mentioned in para 1.7. Overall, it can be inferred that NITI has become an important Institution which has facilitated holistic socio economic development of the country both at the national and sub-national levels. NITI Aayog has strengthened cooperative federalism through structured initiatives and State Support Mission besides promoting competition amongst States and sub-State level through performance measurement across indices and schemes like Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme. It has been working with the spirit of ‘Team India’ to facilitate achievement of SDGs, promote City Regions as Growth Hubs, develop State vision documents, encourage state level reforms and developing state capacities across different sectors. NITI Aayog has ideated key programmes to address pressing developmental issues and challenges of the country. The performance review of NITI Aayog is a continuous process and is undertaken at various levels within the Government. Feedback is also taken from State Governments, academia, civil societies, and other stakeholders from time to time.”

1.9 The subsequent chapters in Part-I deals with the following topics:-

- a) Analysis of Demands for Grants (2025-26)
- b) Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)
- c) Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) & Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU)
- d) Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)
- e) State Support Mission (SSM)
- f) Research & Study

CHAPTER II

ANALYSIS OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2025-26)

2.1 The Ministry of Planning presented their detailed Demands for Grants (2025-26) to Lok Sabha under Demand No. 77. The total allocation of Ministry of Planning for the year 2025-26 was to the tune of Rs. 1006.06 crore. The Revenue section for BE 2025-26 is Rs. 972.35 crore and Rs.33.71 crore is the Capital share. There is an increase of 15.84% in the Revenue Section for the year 2025-26 over BE, 2024-25, whereas in Capital Section the increase is 43.75%. There was a nominal increase of 1.56% in percentage terms in BE 2024-25 over BE 2023-24. The Actuals 2024-25 (upto 31.12.2024) registered a sharp decline to the tune of Rs. 197.49 crore as against BE of Rs. 837.26 crore.

An allocation of Rs. 204.05 crore for Non-Scheme Expenditures has been sought against previous year's BE of Rs.205.26. Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) has been given an allocation of Rs.23.021 crore as BE 2025-26 against an earlier allocation of Rs.19.76 crore. No funds have been allocated to National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD) as against BE(2024-25) of Rs. 11.30 crore. Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister received an increased allocation of Rs. 4.3595 crore as BE 2024-25 against BE 2023-24 of Rs.3.00 crore.

2.2 Under Scheme section an allocation of Rs. 802.01 crore has been sought for Central Sector Schemes as against BE 2024-25 of Rs. 632 crore to run Central Sector Schemes during the financial year 2025-2026. Upon receipt of approval for continuation of Atal Innovation Mission programme till 2027-2028 with an outlay of ₹2750.00 crore, an amount of ₹400.00 crore has been sought as BE 2025-2026 against last year's BE of Rs. 155.00 Crore, For State Support Mission an allocation of Rs. 45.00 crore for BE 2025-2026 has been sought against BE 2024-2025 of Rs. 40.00 crore. Further, only a token budgetary allocation of ₹ 0.01 crore has been sought in BE 2025-2026 against BE of Rs. 433.00 crore for 2024-2025, as the approval for continuation of the scheme Official Development Assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs)/Aspirational Districts Programme was under consideration at the time of raising the demands. For State Support Mission an allocation of Rs. 45.00 crore for BE 2025-2026 has been sought against BE 2024-2025 of ₹ 40.00 Crore. For State Support

Mission an allocation of Rs.45.00 crore for BE 2025-2026 was sought against BE 2024-2025 of Rs. 40.00 Crore. With budget allocation of Rs. 4 crore, no enhancement in BE 2025-2026 over BE 2024-2025 for Research and Study scheme has been sought. Further, for Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) a BE of Rs.353.00 crore has been sought for the financial year 2025-2026.

2.3 Details with regard to analysis of Demands for Grants in various heads during last three years of Ministry of Planning can be seen at **Annexure I**.

2.4 The allocation for Ministry of Planning during 2023-24 to 2025-26 is given below:

(in Rs. crore)

Year	BE	RE	Actuals
2023-24	824.39	514.19	290.82
2024-25	837.26	1001.02	197.49*
2025-26	1006.06	-	-

* (Upto 31.12.24)

2.5 When the Committee wanted to know about the justifications for decrease in Actuals to the tune of Rs. 290.82 crore as against the RE of Rs. 514.19 for FY 2023-24 which were cut short to Rs. 514.19 crore from BE of Rs. 824.39 crore and Multifold increase of RE of Rs 1001.02 crore for FY 2024-25 as against Actuals of Rs 290.82 crore for FY 2023-24, the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated as under:-

“RE 2023-24 was reduced to ₹ 514.19 crore from ₹824.39 crore because of slow expenditure with unspent balances lying in the CNA account under ODA from JICA for SDGs/ Aspirational District Programme(ADP) scheme. The total BE 2023-24 level provision of Rs.433.00 crore of ODA from JICA for SDGs/ Aspirational District Programme(ADP) Scheme was reduced to Rs.113.00 crore at RE 2023-24. There is a nominal increase of ₹ 12.87 crore in BE 2024-25 over BE 2023-24. RE 2024-25 has been increased to ₹ 1001.02 crore from BE 2024-25 of ₹ 837.26 crore to operate a new Scheme namely Aspirational Blocks Programme with a budget provision of ₹ 412 crore from RE Stage of FY 2024-25. Enhancement in BE 2025-26 to ₹ 1006.06 crore from previous year's BE of ₹ 837.26 crore is due to allocation of ₹ 400 crore for Atal Innovation Mission(AIM) and ₹353 crore for Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP). Cabinet has approved the continuation of AIM Scheme with an outlay of ₹ 2750 crore for a period 2023-24 to 2027-28. EFC has approved the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) with an outlay of ₹765 crore for a period of two years 2024-25 and 2025-26. Continued efforts are made to project BE/RE requirement in a realistic manner so that the funds could be utilized upto the maximum extent so as to achieve the anticipated targets/goals.”

2.6 Revenue and Capital Sections of the allocation of Ministry of Planning for the last three years are given below:

(in Rs. crore)

Year	BE		RE		Actuals	
	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
2023-24	805.73	18.66	496.76	17.43	284.83	5.99
2024-25	818.30	18.96	978.39	22.63	-	-
2025-26	972.35	33.71	-	-	-	-

2.7 When asked about the reasons for underutilization of the RE for FY 2023-24 to the tune of Rs. 284.83 crore in Revenue section and to Rs. 5.99 crore in Capital section as against the BE of Rs. 805.73 crore and Rs. 18.66 crore under Revenue and Capital section respectively, the Ministry of Planning in their written submission provided as under:-

“The underutilization of funds from the allocated amount of ₹824.39 crore at BE-2023-24 was due to the availability of ₹ 680 crore as unspent balance in the Central Nodal Account (CNA) under ADP Scheme due to imposition of the limit of ₹ 1 Sanction by Ministry of Finance. Consequently, Ministry of Planning had issued 10 sanctions of ₹ 1 each which equals to the release of total amount of ₹ 194.31 crore from CNA during FY 2023-24. Apart from the above, the approval of Cabinet for continuation of AIM Scheme was pending; hence, Ministry of Finance had permitted Ministry of Planning to incur expenditure with certain restrictions and barred it from creating fresh committed liabilities, which was equally applicable for the Capital Section of the AIM. Hence, savings occurred during FY 2023-24.”

2.8 When the Committee wanted to know about the presently operational Schemes/Programmes of NITI Aayog and budget allocations thereto during the preceding three years, the Ministry of Planning in their written replies submitted following details:-

“Details of each of the Schemes/Programmes presently operational under NITI Aayog are as under and allocations thereto during 2022-23 to 2024-25:-

Name of Schemes	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		
	BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Actuals	BE	RE	Actuals as on 07.02.2025
AIM	155.31	343.21	169.43	155.00	155.00	96.84	155.00	109.35	21.98*
SSM	0	0.50	0	40.00	40.00	21.58	40.00	43.70	29.49*
ODA	0.01	500.00	496.81	433.00	111.00	0.00	433.00	208.55	2.15*
ABP	-	-	-	--	-	-	-	412.00	-
Research and Study	6.00	4.00	3.38	4.00	4.00	2.55	4.00	4.00	1.70*

* Expenditure as on 07.02.2025.

ACTIVITIES PROPOSED DURING THE YEAR 2025-26

2.9 Various activities proposed to be undertaken in the Financial Year 2025-26 in terms of the projected expenditure are as follows:

(A) Establishment Related Expenditure

(i) Department of Planning

Under this, the expenditure to be incurred to meet salary and allowances and other related expenses on travel and other administrative expenditures, as well as professional services expenditures in respect to the Office of the Minister of State for Planning, are being projected.

(ii) NITI Aayog

Under this, the expenditure to be incurred to meet Salary and allowances and other related expenditures on Travel and Other Administrative Expenditures, as well as Professional Services related expenditures in respect of the Vice Chairman, Members, CEO and other Officials of the NITI Aayog and also the Expenditure to be met in respect of various activities being carried out by various verticals/ divisions of NITI Aayog, are being projected.

(iii) Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

Under this, the expenditure to be incurred to meet salary and allowances and other related expenses on travel and other administrative expenditures, as well as professional services expenditures for the chairman and other officials of the council, are covered.

(iv) Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office(DMEO)

As the apex Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) office of the Government of India and an attached office of NITI Aayog, DMEO during 2025-26 would carry on its mandated and emerging activities in Monitoring and Evaluation to strengthen evidence-based policy making both at the Centre and States, in line with the larger objective of cooperative and competitive federalism. DMEO targets to complete the evaluation of nine

evaluation packages and share the evaluation reports with respective administrative Ministries/Departments and the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. In 2025-26 DMEO also intends to complete other ongoing evaluation studies of select Central Sector (CS) schemes. Additionally, this year DMEO is also attempting to conduct organisational evaluations. DMEO intends to strengthen the M&E ecosystem at the Centre and State levels through its partnerships, capacity-building activities, and ongoing engagement with stakeholders.

Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF), Data Governance and Quality Index (DGQI), monitoring of Global Indices for Reforms and Growth (GIRG), infrastructure sector reviews with necessary steps towards their institutionalisation and adoption of state-of-the-art technology and methods would be the primary activities for DMEO on the Monitoring side. DMEO develops and maintains suitable dashboards for carrying out its monitoring tasks involving all the Ministries and Departments of the Central Government.

(v) National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD)

NILERD is an autonomous institute under NITI Aayog, which is supported through Budgetary grants in the form of Grants-in-Aid Salaries, Grants-in-Aid General and Grants-in-Aid for Creation of Capital Assets. During 2025-26, NILERD will undertake training activities for senior and middle-level officials of different countries under the ITEC scheme of the Ministry of External Affairs, training programmes for officials of different States/UTs and undertaking research and evaluation studies. NILERD has been appointed as Central Nodal Agency (CNA) by NITI Aayog for their central sector schemes viz, Atal Innovation Mission, Aspirational Districts Programme and State Support Mission. It also publishes a quarterly peer-reviewed journal.

(B) Scheme-related Expenditure

(i) Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), including Self Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU)

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog is the Government of India's flagship initiative to promote the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country and was set up in 2016. Towards this end, AIM has taken a holistic approach and is ensuring the creation of a problem-solving, innovative mindset in schools and creating an ecosystem of entrepreneurship in universities, research institutions, and corporate and MSME sectors. AIM is focused on developing the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem via its various Programmes such as Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Incubation Centres, Atal New India Challenges, Applied Research for Small Enterprises, Atal Community Innovation Centres and ecosystem development activities etc., all these coupled together provide the plan of action for AIM.

(ii) Ongoing programs and Schemes

Under this, the expenditure regarding Research & Study is being met. The Research & Study is a Central Sector Scheme, and the scheme

has a Budget Estimate (B.E.) of Rs. 4.00 cr for the year 2024-25. The scheme's objective is to stimulate research on issues of economic/social development and need assessment, which directly affect the formulation or implementation of government policies and schemes. The Scheme is primarily utilised to meet the expenditure involved in funding extramural research conducted by NITI Aayog by payment of a consultation fee. In addition, seminars/conferences/workshops, etc., organised by reputed organisations are supported under the Scheme.

(iii) The Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme

The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), launched in January 2018, is an initiative aimed at transforming 112 of India's relatively underdeveloped districts by focusing on 49 key indicators across five critical sectors: Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure. The programme employs a robust monitoring system, and districts are ranked monthly based on incremental progress to encourage a competitive environment among districts. In the year 2025- 26, the programme aims for saturation of relevant government schemes, ensuring that all citizens in these districts benefit from the targeted interventions.

Expanding on the ADP's framework, the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) was launched in January 2023, targeting 500 relatively underdeveloped blocks across the country. ABP aims to achieve comprehensive development by focusing on essential government services in Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Allied Services, Social Development and Basic Infrastructure.

One of the main strategies for 2025-26 is to deploy a targeted approach through target saturation campaigns, which aim to saturate key indicators, ensuring comprehensive coverage and maximising the impact of interventions. This focused strategy not only boosts the delivery of essential services but also actively involves local communities in their development journey, paving the way for sustainable growth and better quality of life in these regions.

(iv) State Support Mission

State Support Mission (SSM), announced in the Union Budget of FY 2023-24, is an initiative of NITI Aayog to furthering its on-going engagement with the states/UTs to achieve national priorities. Under the Mission, financial and technical support is provided to the interested States/UTs to establish State Institution for Transformation (SIT) or strengthen their existing Planning Departments/Boards so that these institutions can steer development strategies in the States/UTs to achieve their socio-economic goals. The Mission will also support States/UTs to strengthen their Monitoring & Evaluation ecosystem and leverage expertise of knowledge institutions, development partners, multi-lateral agencies, academia, etc. Following is the annual plan and the progress /achievements of the Mission:

State Institution for Transformation (SIT)

As of date, **28** States/UTs have notified their SITs, and these SITs are at various stages of their operationalisation, which includes hiring technical resources, setting up an M&E and data analytics unit, etc. To ensure further adoption of scheme in the pending States/UTs, NITI Aayog team is regularly interacting with States through various forums.

NITI-State Workshop Series

NITI-State Workshop series was launched under SSM to bring States/UTs together to deliberate up on themes relevant to socio-economic development of the States/UTs and other emerging areas of national and global interest. In FY 2023-24, 20 workshops were conducted across states covering various subject matters and issues. In FY 2024-25, the initiative continued with a plan of around 45 workshops under 'NITI-State Workshop Series' on themes relevant to State Development and other areas of National and Global interest. Divisions of NITI Aayog continue to anchor & organize the workshops in collaboration with States/UTs and other respective stakeholders with the support of SSM. As on date, 13 workshops have been successfully concluded under NITI-State Workshop Series.

NITI for States Platform

To facilitate cross-learning and evidence-based decision-making through the sharing of best practices, policies and data sets, a NITI for State (NFS) Knowledge Platform, comprising of a NITI for States Portal and an experience room called Viksit Bharat Strategy Room (VBSR) has been launched by NITI Aayog in March 2024 under the Mission. A set of knowledge products have been put together on the NITI for States Portal for various socio-economic sectors, including Agriculture, Education, Energy, Health, Livelihoods and Skilling, Manufacturing, MSME, Tourism, Urban, Water resources & WASH across two cross-cutting themes-Gender and Climate. VBSR is a digitally immersive experience that enables rich visualisation and engagement with insights, information and knowledge to enable effective in-person decision-making.

Similar, experience room is also being set up at LBSNAA with the grants under SSM. Various States have shown interest in adopting the framework of VBSR and to develop similar experience room in their states. Bihar has launched GenNext Lab located at Bihar Institute of Public Administration & Rural Development (BIPARD) on the similar line of NITI's VBSR, boosting data-driven governance & planning.

CHAPTER III

DEVELOPMENT MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICE (DMEO)

3.1 Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) is the apex monitoring and evaluation office of the Government of India. DMEO's mandate is to actively monitor and evaluate the implementation of programmes and initiatives to help innovative improvements, including necessary mid-course corrections and identification of the needed resources so as to strengthen the probability of success and scope of delivery. Its mandate also expands to technical advisory to States, under NITI Aayog's mandate of cooperative federalism. DMEO is headed by the Director General (DG). To have complete functional autonomy, a separate budgetary allocation has been provided exclusively to DMEO. DMEO functions are categorised into:

- i) Monitoring,
- ii) Evaluation, and
- iii) Strategic Initiatives encompassing partnerships and capacity building in the field of Monitoring & Evaluation.

3.2 DMEO undertook following major projects during 2024-25:

- (i) Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF)
- (ii) Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI)
- (iii) Monitoring of Global Indices for Reforms and Growth (GIRG)
- (iv) Sector Review
- (v) Evaluations
- (vi) Capacity Building
- (vii) Project with States

3.3 DMEO conducts independent evaluation studies of both Central Sector (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). DMEO, as part of its mandate evaluate Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) every five years prior to their appraisal in the next Finance Commission cycle. DMEO is currently evaluating 72 CSS schemes through nine evaluation packages. To have complete functional autonomy, separate budgetary allocation has been provided exclusively to DMEO. The allocation to DMEO for the last three years are given below:

(In Rs Crore)

Year	BE			RE		Actuals	
	Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
2023-24	16.69	.31	17	-	-	15.36	.52
2024-25	19.39	.37	19.76	-	-	14.29	.18
2025-26	22.61	.41	23.02	-	-	-	-

3.4 When asked as to how DMEO ensures a thorough analysis of Central Schemes/Missions/Centrally Sponsored Schemes on ground and scope for further improvement, the Ministry in their written submission apprised as under:-

“DMEO conducts evaluations of Central Sector Schemes (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) implemented in the field, by conducting field surveys of all the schemes. During this process, DMEO also engages with stakeholders including beneficiaries, field level government functionaries and people’s representatives. The findings of the field survey are collated and analysed to report on the working of the schemes on the ground.

The reports are submitted to the respective Central Ministries/Departments. They note the study findings and take appropriate action on the recommendations of the reports.

DMEO ensures continuous capacity building of its personnel through engagement with acclaimed National and International organisations, Institutions of eminence working in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) ecosystem to improve the quality of evaluation studies.”

3.5 In addition to the above DMEO’s constant endeavour to improve the capacity of officials working at different levels of government, a series of knowledge-sharing and capacity-building sessions were also conducted with State (viz., Uttarakhand) and Institutions (like NILERD etc.). A total of 9 capacity development programmes have been conducted for various States and UTs during FY 2024-25.

3.6 The Hon’ble Prime Minister annually conducts Review meetings to monitor the performance of sectors. DMEO has been facilitating the Sector Reviews for the Prime Minister’s Office since 2017 in coordination with concerned M/Ds and NITI divisions. The Sectors covered under the reviews include 10 infrastructure sectors viz. Transport (Roads, Civil Aviation, Railways and Ports),

Energy (Power, Coal, Petroleum & Natural Gas and New & Renewable Energy) and Others (Telecommunications, Mining).

3.7 In this regard the Committee wanted to know about the impact of evaluation studies and recommendations/suggestions of DMEO on overall Schemes and Policy formulation, the Ministry of Planning in their written submission provided the following:-

“DMEO, since its inception (Year 2015), has completed 155 evaluation studies of the Central Sector (CS) schemes and Centrally Sponsored schemes (CSS). The evaluation of Centrally Sponsored schemes (CSS) is conducted every five years by DMEO before they come for fresh appraisal in the next Finance Commission cycle, DMEO is presently evaluating 72 Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) of the Government of India.

The scheme evaluation reports are important inputs in the policy making process. While seeking evaluation of schemes in the EFC/SFC, Ministries /Departments take into account the reports of the evaluation studies and action is taken by them on recommendations of the evaluation report before the EFC/SFC.”

3.8 When further queried about the ways DMEO ensures implementation of its suggestions/recommendations and further course of action in case these are not incorporated by Ministry/Department without any sound justifications, the Ministry of Planning in their written replies furnished following information:-

“The final evaluation reports, along with the recommendations/suggestions, are shared with the respective administrative/line Ministries/Departments, and also with the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

However, the implementation of these recommendations/suggestions is the domain of the respective line/administrative Ministries/Departments. DMEO has no role in the same. Nevertheless, these recommendations/suggestions as given by DMEO, NITI Aayog and the action taken/proposed to be taken are reflected in the EFC/SFC notes prepared by the Ministries/Departments when these schemes come up for renewal. It is possible that sometimes certain important suggestions/recommendations are left out without proper justification. In such cases, DMEO reiterates its stand through comments on such EFC/SFC notes for the consideration of the Ministry/Department.”

Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF)

3.9 The Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF) exercise was entrusted to DMEO in mid-2017 and has since become an annual exercise. The purpose is to institutionalise outcome monitoring to shift the focus of line

ministries of the Government of India from tracking physical and financial progress to tracking the results of work done. This document is laid out in Parliament alongside the Union Budget every year as an Outcome Budget for all schemes with an annual outlay of Rs. 500 crore or more. The respective Ministry/Department in the Parliament lays the framework for rest schemes along with their Detailed Demand for Grants (DDGs). These key outputs and outcomes for respective schemes, along with their key indicators, are identified and finalized under the approval of the respective Secretary of the Ministry/Department. Each Ministry/Department sets targets for each of those indicators for the upcoming year, and the same are shared with DMEO. The same exercise has just been completed for FY(2025-26). Monitoring and Evaluation of schemes under the Central Government is an ongoing process. the Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office (DMEO) actively monitors and evaluates schemes/programmes. Since (2019-20), DMEO, NITI Aayog has been undertaking a rigorous process annually to improve the Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework to strengthen outcome-based monitoring of Central Sector(CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes(CSS) of the Government of India.

Transforming Data Governance In India (DGQI)

3.10 To transform data governance, DMEO in the year 2020 developed a 'Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI)' to assess the data preparedness levels and use of IT-based systems for scheme monitoring across Ministries/Departments on various parameters. DGQI creates a culture of cooperation and learning to share best practices, innovative approaches, and solutions to common challenges. The first phase of DGQI exercise was conducted in 2020 in self-assessment mode with 65 Ministries/Departments, covering approximately 250 CS/CSS. Subsequently, DGQI 2.0 was launched in 2021 covering as a regular exercise for monitoring and directing reforms in the direction. The DGQI exercise focuses on 3 pillars bifurcate into six themes namely data generation, data quality, technology integration, analysis, dissemination, security, and encourages sharing of best practices. Till date 7 Rounds of the exercise have been concluded, and the final reports 7th round of DGQI 2.0 exercise are under review.

Global Indices for Reforms and Growth (GIRG)

3.11 The primary objectives of the GIRG initiative are to drive India's performance across important social, economic, and development parameters for improving global perception of India and its global ranking, to drive reforms, and monitor the progress. For driving this exercise, DMEO, NITI Aayog has been designated as the knowledge partner and coordinator to engage with different stakeholders. The GIRG initiative of the Government of India aims at leveraging the monitoring of 27 Global Indices (GIs) for driving growth and reforms in the country. The 27 GIs selected for monitoring under GIRG are published by 18 unique global agencies (publishing agencies) which include Multilateral Organizations, International NGOs, Private Organizations, and Universities spread across four broad themes namely economy, development, governance, and industry. These 27 Indices have been allocated to 18 nodal Ministries in addition to the MoSPI, MEA, and MIB.

CHAPTER IV

ATAL INNOVATION MISSION (AIM) & SELF-EMPLOYMENT AND TALENT UTILISATION (SETU)

4.1 Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is the Government of India's flagship initiative to create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of our country. Its objective is to create ecosystems across schools, higher education, corporates, industries, state governments, central ministries, and internationally for supporting innovators and entrepreneurs who speak India's 22 official languages.

AIM 1.0 aimed at setting up state-of-the-art Atal Tinkering Labs in schools creating problem solving and innovative mindsets, world-class Atal Incubation Centres in Universities, Institutions and Industry fostering world-class start-ups, launching Atal New India Challenges stimulating creation of innovative products and services with national socio-economic impact through the start-up, MSME industry, setting up Atal Community Innovation Centres in unserved/underserved regions of the country and establishing a national voluntary 'Mentors of Change' network.

4.2 The Union cabinet on 25 November, 2024 approved the continuation of AIM under the aegis of NITI Aayog with an enhanced scope of work and an allocated budget of Rs.2,750 crore for the period till 31 March, 2028. AIM 2.0 marks a qualitative shift in the mission's approach. Whereas AIM 1.0 involved implementing programmes that built new innovation infrastructure to strengthen India's then nascent ecosystem, AIM 2.0 involves piloting new initiatives designed to fill gaps in the ecosystem and scaling successes through central and state governments, industry, academia and community.

4.3 On being asked as to in what terms AIM 2 will be different and an improved version of AIM 1.0., the Ministry of Planning informed as under:-

“AIM 2.0 is a step towards *Viksit Bharat* that aims to expand, strengthen, and deepen India's already vibrant innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

While AIM 1.0 involved implementing programs like ATL and AIC that built new innovation infrastructure to strengthen India's then nascent ecosystem, AIM 2.0 involves piloting new initiatives designed to fill gaps in the innovation ecosystem, templating the best practices and

scaling the successes through central and state governments, industry, academia and the community.

AIM 2.0 is designed to strengthen India's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in three ways:

(a) by increasing 'input' (i.e., nurturing more innovators and entrepreneurs) through the Language Inclusive Program for Innovation (LIPI) and the Frontier Program.

(b) by improving the success rate or 'throughput' (i.e., supporting more startups succeed) through the Depptech Reactor, State Innovation Mission, International Innovation Collaboration and the Human Capital Development Program.

(c) by improving the quality of 'output' (i.e., producing better jobs, products and services) through the Industrial Accelerator Program and the Atal Sectoral Innovation Launchpad."

4.4 As AIM 1.0 involved implementing programmes that built new innovation infrastructure to strengthen India's then nascent ecosystem, AIM 2.0 involves piloting new initiatives designed to fill gaps in the ecosystem and scaling successes through central and state governments, industry, academia and community, The Committee sought to know about these gaps and new initiatives/Programmes devised to fill up these gaps, the Ministry of Planning furnished following information:-

"The gaps identified in the current innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem of India and programs conceptualized under AIM 2.0 to address them are given in the following table:-

Sl. No.	Gap Identified	Program Conceptualized	Broad Intervention
1	India's start-up ecosystem does not provide incubation services for the 80% citizens (innovators) and 60% businesses (investors) who don't speak English	Language Inclusive Program for Innovation (LIPI)	Establish 30 Vernacular Innovation Centres in existing incubators across ~ 20 states to provide access to design thinking, business model creation, investment, and government schemes in India's 22 scheduled languages.

Sl. No.	Gap Identified	Program Conceptualized	Broad Intervention
2	Current government schemes for innovation and entrepreneurship (ATL, AIC etc.) do not address the specific needs of the frontier regions like J&K, NE, ADP, ABP	Frontier Program	Establish customized Atal Tinkering Labs (2,500), and Incubation and Start-up support templates to fit the frontier region ecosystems
3	India's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem lack trained human resources to run institutions (incubation centres, tinkering labs etc.)	Human Capital Development Program (HCD)	Create a curriculum and delivery system for training 5500 ecosystem professionals (incubation managers, teachers, trainers) to build, operate, and maintain India's growing innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem
4	There is currently no system / template for commercializing deep tech start-ups that need longer time (~10 years) and more investment (~10x average investment) to get to market	Deep-tech Reactor Program	Create a research sandbox to experimentally test investment and policy theses for streamlining deep tech pathways
5	The innovation ecosystem in various parts of the country lack uniformity across states/UTs including which department anchors the start-up ecosystem	State Innovation Mission (SIM)	Advise States/UTs on building a five-year strategy for a uniform, strong ecosystem with education, skill, industry, and areas of strength
6	There is a lack of structured pathway for internationalization of Indian start-ups and for taking India's innovation and entrepreneurship	International Innovation Collaboration (IIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 deep bi-lateral engagements between India and advanced countries (like India-Australia RISE) - Spread the India

Sl. No.	Gap Identified	Program Conceptualized	Broad Intervention
	ecosystem global		Innovation Model to the countries of global south (AIM-WIPO agreement) - Support Startup20 Engagement Group of G20
7	Low industry engagement and investment in scaling up of start-ups	Industrial Accelerators	10 Industry Accelerators in critical sectors with 10% government investment and 90% industry investment providing scale-up platforms in the industry premise for advanced start-ups
8	Low integration of / procurement from start-ups in industry sectors and by the government	Atal Sectoral Innovation Launchpad (ASIL)	10 ecosystem platforms in 10 central ministries to enable ministries to foster a structured approach to integrate innovation into the industry sector within governmental frameworks

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Atal Tinkering Labs(ATLs)

4.5 Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) is a state-of-the-art space established in a school with a goal of fostering curiosity and innovation in young minds between grades 6th to 12th across the country through 21st century tools and technologies such as the Internet of Things, 3D printing, rapid prototyping tools, robotics, miniaturised electronics, do-it-yourself kits and many more. The aim is to stimulate an innovative problem-solving mind-set among children in the ATL and nearby communities. Till date, AIM has established 10,000 ATLs in schools in 700+ districts across all States / UTs of India.

4.6 The Hon'ble Finance Minister in Union Budget 2025-26 has announced the establishment of 50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) in government schools

across the country over the next five years to promote scientific thinking, creativity, and hands-on learning among students, the Committee asked about the implementation plan for the envisaged target, the Ministry of Planning informed the following:-

“ The Hon'ble Finance Minister in Union Budget 2025-26 has announced the establishment of 50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) in government schools across the country over the next five years. These labs will encourage students to explore STEM disciplines, develop problem-solving skills, and contribute to India's innovation landscape. The establishment of 50,000 ATLs will create a robust innovation ecosystem in schools, aligning with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Implementation Plan

As per the approved AIM 2.0 scheme plan, ATL program may now be transferred to the Ministry of Education (MoE) for further scale up. For this transition to succeed, it is proposed to set up a Program Management Unit (PMU) in MoE and the ATL Unit in NITI Aayog will be transferred to MoE.

AIM will continue to play an active role in the evolution of the ATL paradigm, albeit in a different capacity. While the MoE will undertake the 'saturation' of ATLs as per the current template, the AIM will assist in the evolution of the existing template. The AIM MHLC chaired by the Hon'ble Minister of Education will provide the oversight to guide the work of ATL 2.0.

The timelines of establishing 50,000 ATLs over the next 5 years (FY 2025 to FY 2030) will be decided by the Ministry of Education (MoE).”

Atal Incubation Centre(AIC)

4.7 Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) are business incubators established by AIM at universities, institutions and corporates to promote innovation and entrepreneurship among young innovators of the country. These AICs aim to foster world-class innovation and support dynamic entrepreneurs, who want to build scalable and sustainable enterprises. Grant up to `10 crores is given to the Green Field Incubators as AICs and Brown Field Incubators over a 5-year period. AIM has successfully operationalised 72+ AICs across India. These AICs enable startups by providing technical facilities, resource-based support, mentorship, funding support, partnerships and networking,

4.8 The state-wise details of the total number of Atal Incubation Centers established till date and startups incubated along with jobs created thereunder, as informed by the Ministry of Planning is mentioned below:-

“AIM has established 72 Atal Incubation Centres. 3,556 start-ups have been incubated in the 72 incubators and the estimated total number of jobs created by these start-ups is 41,965.

The state wise details of the AICs along with the number of start-ups incubated and estimated jobs created (as per the information received on AIC dashboard) is tabulated as below:-

SI No	State	No. of AICs	No. of Start-ups	Jobs created
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	59	158
2	Assam	3	79	255
3	Bihar	1	44	394
4	Chhattisgarh	1	108	464
5	Delhi	7	460	3531
6	Goa	1	43	207
7	Gujarat	6	189	395
8	Haryana	1	19	55
9	Jammu & Kashmir	2	18	18
10	Karnataka	11	376	3060
11	Kerala	2	174	1274
12	Madhya Pradesh	3	144	702
13	Maharashtra	8	406	3941
14	Odisha	2	60	285
15	Pondicherry	1	34	79
16	Punjab	1	76	737
17	Rajasthan	4	223	1570
18	Sikkim	1	54	193
19	Tamil Nadu	6	333	1747
20	Telangana	5	271	20553
21	Uttar Pradesh	4	386	2347
		72	3556	41965

Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACICs)

4.9 Atal Community Innovation Centers (ACIC) are envisaged to serve the unserved/underserved areas of the country concerning the start-up and innovation ecosystem. ACIC saw it to be crucial to reach the innovators at the bottom of the pyramid and give them equitable opportunities, especially by reducing the lab-to-land distance and creating a space for pre-incubation of ideas/solutions. Atal Community Innovation Centers (ACICs) have been launched to encourage a spirit of entrepreneurship in the underserved/unserved

regions of India by providing enabling infrastructure and facilitating environment for innovation. Till now, 14 ACICs have been operationalized across 9 States and 36 more centres have been selected.. AIM intends to establish over 50 ACICs across country.

Atal New India Challenge (ANIC)

4.10 Atal New India Challenge (ANIC) is a flagship programme of AIM. The programme aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance. The primary goals of the ANIC programme are to incentivise innovations in areas critical to India's development and growth – education, health, water and sanitation, agriculture, food processing, housing, energy, mobility, space application, etc. ANIC aims to support innovator's scale over the risks associated with access to resources for testing, piloting and market creation. Till date 141 startups/MSMEs have been cumulatively supported/selected.

4.11 On being enquired about the expected timeline for achieving the shortfalls in physical targets in respect of Atal Incubation Centres (AIC), Atal New India Challenge (ANIC) and Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs) Programme under Atal Innovation Mission, the ministry of Planning apprised as under:-

“AIM has completed the selection of new AICs, ACICs and ANIC start-ups. The selected institutions and start-ups are currently undergoing due-diligence process. AIM is expected to complete the establishment of AICs, ACICs and funding new ANIC start-ups by 2025-26.”

AIM Ecosystem Development Programme (AEDP)

4.12 AIM Ecosystem Development Programme (AEDP) is the horizontal cutting across all strategic AIM programmes strengthening the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem by building networks of relevant stakeholders to provide additional value to AIM beneficiaries beyond the framework of structured programmes. AEDP has forged over 60 domestic & 16 International partnerships across various corporations, and foundations engaging with industry leaders and

faculty that support AIM beneficiaries through infrastructure and technology, market and investor access, creation of modules and adoption of ATLs.

4.13 The Output and Outcome targets of AIM including SETU for the year 2025-26 can be seen at **Annexure II**.

4.14 The allocation to AIM including SETU for the last three years are given below:

(in crore)

Year	BE			RE		Actuals		
	Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Total
2023-24	144.30	10.70	155.00	144.30	10.70	96.71	0.13	96.84
2024-25	144.30	10.70	155.00	94.82	14.53	21.91*	0.07*	21.98*
2025-26	380.00	20.00	400.00	-	-	-	-	-

* Expenditure as on 07.02.2025.

4.15 As it is evident that during the fiscal year 2024-25, out of the allocated fund of BE of Rs. 155 crores, only Rs. 21.98 crore has been utilized, when the Committee queried about the reasons for underutilization of the allocated Budget, the Ministry of Planning in their written replies stated as under:-

“The BE for 2024-25 included projected expenditures under new and continuing programs set to be approved under AIM 2.0. The Cabinet approved the continuation of AIM with an expanded scope of work on 25th November 2024. The temporary underutilization of funds during FY 2024-25 was due to this transition phase of AIM. With the Cabinet approval, AIM is expediting the implementation of initiatives approved.”

4.16 On being asked about the justification for increase of 163.34% (Revenue) and 86.92% (Capital) in BE 2025-26 over BE 2024-25 in budget proposals for Atal Innovation Mission Programme, the Ministry of Planning in their written submissions provided the following:-

“The Continuation of Atal Innovation Mission was approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2024 with an expanded scope of work and a budget of Rs 2,750 crores. AIM will be launching 8 new programs under AIM 2.0 along with supporting / completing the ongoing 4 programs. Hence, an increased outlay is projected and accordingly the Revenue and Capital sections in the BE 2025-26 is Rs. 380 crore and Rs 20 crore respectively. “

CHAPTER V

ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME(ADPs)/ASPIRATIONAL BLOCKS PROGRAMME(ABP)

Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)

5.1 The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) is an initiative aimed at transforming 112 relatively underdeveloped districts of India by focusing on 49 key indicators across five critical sectors: Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure. The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), was launched in 2018 and marked its seven years of implementation in January 2024, as a testament to a pragmatic and data-driven approach to socio economic development in relatively underdeveloped regions of India. The impact of the ADP extends beyond individual districts. It offers a blueprint for scaling up initiatives across the nation, showcasing a model that can be replicated in diverse socio-economic contexts. By providing practical solutions to challenges faced by different regions, the programme contributes to the broader goal of inclusive and sustainable development in India.

Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)

5.2 Launched in January, 2023, the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) is a transformative initiative following the success of the ADP. Covering 500 blocks across 27 states and 4 Union Territories, ABP aims to elevate governance and citizens' quality of life by converging existing schemes, defining outcomes, and continuously monitoring progress. In each identified block, the ABP strategically focuses on key socio-economic indicators across major sectors such as Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Basic Infrastructure, and Social Development. The objective is to ensure a tailored approach to development, allowing for context-based strategies that address the specific needs of each region, bringing decision-making closer to the grassroots. The programme tracks progress across 40 indicators, with data directly sourced from central ministry databases to ensure accuracy and reduce the data entry burden on field functionaries. Since the baseline March, 2023, quarterly rankings have been released, utilising delta rankings to effectively measure improvements in these indicators over time.

5.3 To consolidate and promote traditional products from 500 Aspirational Blocks under a unified identity the brand “Aakanksha” was launched in March, 2024,. This “Vocal for Local” initiative underscores the economic potential of traditional products while fostering regional craftsmanship and entrepreneurship. By providing a national platform through “Aakanksha,” it strengthens local economies and promotes livelihood of the citizens.

5.4 In a concerted effort to drive rapid and effective development in India's most underdeveloped regions, “Sampoornata Abhiyan” was launched to prioritise the saturation of few indicators in a time bound manner. This three-month initiative (July to September, 2024), aimed to achieve saturation in six critical Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) related to health & nutrition, education, agriculture, social development, and basic infrastructure.

5.5 The ‘Champions of Change (CoC)’ is a real-time data collection and monitoring dashboard. The Champions of Change (CoC) dashboard opened for public viewing on 1 April, 2018. The dashboard has been named so to emphasise the critical role played by the district collectors/magistrates and their teams in the progress of districts. ADP hinges on inducing competition among 112 districts through regular ranking, which is dynamic and reflects the incremental (delta) improvement made every month. Districts are encouraged to improve their data collection and maintenance mechanisms to enter up-to-date data on the dashboard. The Champions of Change portal (CoC 2.0) has been upgraded to further empower the District Administrations towards data-driven governance and evidence-based policy making. CoC 2.0 hosts many new features such as Citizen Reports, Citizen Feedback, Advanced Analytics, Project Management, Geo Spatial Maps and other AI/ML Solutions

5.6 The Output and Outcome targets of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)/Aspirational Districts Programme for the year 2025-26 can be seen at **Annexure III**.

5.7 Under Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)/ Aspirational Districts Government of India provides fund to Aspirational Districts

on challenge method. The allocation under the scheme for the last three years are given below:-

(in crore)

Year	BE			RE		Actuals		
	Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Total
2023-24	433.00	0.00	433.00	111.00	0.00	0.00**	0.00**	0.00**
2024-25	433.00	0.00	433.00	208.55	0.00	2.15*	0.00*	2.15*
2025-26	0.01	0.00	0.01	-	-	-	-	-

* Expenditure as on 07.02.2025.

** Ministry of Planning had issued 10 sanctions of ₹ 1 each which equals to the release of total amount of ₹ 194.31 Crore from CNA during FY 2023-24.

5.8 Scrutiny of the allocated grants revealed that during FY 2023-24 the BE of Rs 433 crore remained unutilized thereby resulting in 100% savings under the scheme Official Development Assistance (ODA) From Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for SDGs/ Aspirational District Programme(ADP) and similarly in FY 2024-25 against BE of Rs 433 crore only Rs. 2.08 crore has been the overall utilization in the first three Quarters. When asked for the clarifications, the Ministry of Planning submitted following details:-

“Under the EAP-SDG Phase II under ODA from JICA, a total allocation of Rs. 933 Crore was approved for the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) for the financial years 2022-24. This allocation was broken down into Rs. 500 Crore for FY 2022-23 and Rs. 433 Crore for FY 2023-24. According to the Department of Expenditure (DoE), Ministry of Finance, in their OM No. F.No. 1(18) PFMS/FCD/2021 dated March 9, 2022, the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) Model-2 was introduced for the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) starting December 2022. As per the revised guidelines by MoF, certain validations in PFMS were mandated for making new sanctions in FY 2023-24. These validations include:

- (i) The bank account balance of the CNA must be less than 6.25% of the allocated budget for that CNA.
- (ii) The sanction amount must be less than 25% of the allocated budget for that CNA.

A total amount of Rs. 496.81 Crore was sanctioned in FY 2022-23 and a refund amount of Rs. 287 Cr from districts was issued before CNA implementation, resulted in CNA balance of Rs. 783 Cr as in March 2023. The districts are given a period of up to 2 years to complete the projects sanctioned as per EAP-SDG guidelines, resulting in a high CNA balance. Given this balance, the generation of new sanctions is not allowed as per

the validation checks in PFMS. However, due to the submission of utilisation certificates, the current CNA balance has come down to Rs. 306 Cr.

Consequently, only a token release of Rs. 8 against the financial sanction of Rs. 178.23 Crore was issued during FY 2023-24, and token release of Rs 9 against financial sanction of Rs. 52.58 Cr from grant-in-aid and Rs. 2.08 Cr expenditure was made from other budget head such as Professional Services & Office expenses resulting in budget savings for financial year 2023-24 & 2024-25.”

5.9 A Token Budgetary allocation of Rs. 0.01 crore has been sought as BE 2025-26 under Official Development Assistance (ODA) From Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Scheme for Sustainable Development Goals/ Aspirational Districts Programme as the continuation approval of the scheme is under consideration. When asked about the expected timeline for getting approval, the Ministry of Planning submitted following response:-

“The EFC in its meeting dated 10th January 2025, approved Phase III of ADP. The file related to the EFC has been sent to the Ministry of Finance for the Finance Minister’s approval. Post approval, budgetary allocation will be updated. “

5.10 As regards to Aspirational Blocks Programme(ABP), during FY 2024-25 ,an outlay of Rs. 152.26 crore as RE remained unutilized as allocation of funds was received only on 9.01.2025. With only half of the fourth quarter remaining, Committee raised its concern as to how NITI Aayog proposes to utilize the allocated grant and how much spill over is expected, the Ministry of Planning submitted following reply:-

“In this regard, awards worth Rs 120 Cr have been announced against the ranks released for 6 quarters (from June 2023 to September 2024). For proposals received from the districts against the awards for the quarter ending June 2023, financial sanction to the tune of Rs 10.75 Cr have been issued. In the remaining part of the financial year 2024-25, the proposed utilisation for 152.26 Cr is as under-

- a. Window I (under challenge method) – 60 Cr
- b. Target Saturation- 60 Cr
- c. Akanksha Haat- 16.5 Cr
- d. Special Initiatives – 15.76 Cr ”

5.11 As regards the proposed utilization plan for Rs. 353 cr allocated for FY2025-26, the Ministry of Planning further submitted:-

“The proposed utilisation for 353 Cr for Aspirational Blocks Programme during 2025-26 is given below:-

S No	Description	Outlay for FY 2025-26 (Rs.Cr.)
1	Window I (Quarterly Awards for 4 quarters)	80
2	Window I (Target Saturation of 40 KPIs)	160
3	Window II (Critical or Innovative projects)	38
4	Window III (Capacity building, Administrative Expenses, & Other Budget heads)	75
Total		353

”

Sustainable Development Goals

5.12 The Sustainable Development Goals lay out a comprehensive agenda for global development by 2030. In India, NITI Aayog is the nodal agency for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is therefore responsible for coordinating and supervising SDG efforts at the national and sub-national levels. To this end, NITI Aayog has developed monitoring tools such as the SDG India Index and Dashboard, NER District SDG Index and National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to evaluate the performance and rank States/ districts, thus promoting competitive federalism.

SDG India Index 2023-24 measures and tracks national progress of all States and UTs on 113 indicators aligned to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's (MoSPI) National Indicator Framework (NIF). The SDG India Index computes goal-wise scores on the 16 SDGs for each State and UT. Overall State and UT scores or Composite Scores are generated from goal-wise scores to measure the aggregate performance of the sub-national unit based on its performance across the 16 SDGs. These scores range between 0–100, and if a State/UT achieves a score of 100, it signifies it has achieved the targets. The higher the score of a State/UT, the greater the distance covered to the target

Localisation of the SDGs is the key to reach furthest behind first, and therefore a crucial mandate of the division. These efforts have strengthened the

statistical systems and developed a monitoring framework covering all the 17 Goals and more than 100 indicators across the country. With this refined and comprehensive edition, NITI Aayog aims to cement India's place as a trailblazer in SDG achievement.

5.13 When asked to submit a status note on the progress of Sustainable Development Goals, the Ministry of Planning submitted following details:-

“NITI Aayog is the nodal institution for achieving SDGs in the country, leading the 2030 Agenda with the spirit of cooperative and competitive federalism. It evaluates the performance of States/UTs through the SDG India Index, promotes SDG localisation, and encourages a competitive spirit among States and UTs. The SDG India Index Report, released by NITI Aayog, evaluates the performance of all States and UTs, benchmarking them based on their overall achievements across various goals. The fourth edition of SDG India Index was released in 2023. The report highlights India's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), showcasing significant improvement in the overall score from 66 in 2020-21 to 71 in 2023-24.

The Index underscores the varying levels of progress and challenges among States and Union Territories in achieving the SDGs. While some States and UTs have achieved significant progress in certain SDG goals, others are still working to bridge critical developmental gaps in other areas. The report enables States and UTs to recognize challenges and implement necessary measures to drive SDG progress. By highlighting these disparities, the index supports targeted interventions and fosters both competition and collaboration to expedite SDG achievement nationwide.

NITI Aayog also provides support to States/UTs in aligning SDG targets with relevant schemes and departments, developing State/UT specific SDG vision documents, expanding the indicator framework to district and block levels, setting up of SDG Coordination and Acceleration Centres (SDGCACs) to promote localisation and integrating the State/UT budgets with the SDGs.

NITI Aayog is closely working with States and Union Territories to support and accelerate the development of SDG Vision Documents and State Indicator Frameworks. It encourages them to adopt localized measures to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs. The only remaining UT of Ladakh has now successfully developed its State Indicator Framework. Certain States and Union Territories have also developed indicators for district and block levels. As of now, all States are now on the verge of successfully finalizing their SDG Vision Documents and Frameworks, marking a significant step towards achieving SDGs across India. Some states have aligned their budgets with the SDGs, while others have recently initiated the process. For instance, Haryana has integrated SDG mapping with its budget, ensuring that financial allocations are aligned with sustainable development priorities for more effective planning and

implementation. Odisha is moving toward aligning the state budget with the SDGs.

While promoting SDG localization among States/UTs, challenges such as lack of coordination, mapping of schemes with SDG targets, limited data availability, and misaligned financial allocation with sustainable development priorities emerge, hindering effective implementation and progress. The divergence among States and UTs in achieving SDGs necessitates a tailored approach, as each region requires different strategies. In this endeavour, NITI Aayog is driving SDG localization through a structured and strategic approach while supporting States and UTs in establishing SDGCAC. The SDGCACs will play a crucial role in supporting and facilitating the implementation of SDGs at the ground level, thereby making significant contributions to effective localization efforts. It will serve as a fulcrum for synergized development, ensuring coordinated efforts while addressing state-specific priorities.”

CHAPTER VI

STATE SUPPORT MISSION (SSM)

6.1 State Support Mission(SSM) is an umbrella initiative of NITI Aayog, announced in the Union Budget of FY 2023-24, aimed at fostering structured and institutionalized engagement of NITI Aayog with States and UTs. The mission facilitate States/UTs to develop a roadmap to achieve their socio-economic goals and facilitate their development strategies in alignment with national priorities, putting special focus on the core strength areas of the respective States/UTs. Under this mission, NITI Aayog support interested states to establish State Institution for Transformation (SIT) to act as a multi-disciplinary resource to steer the development strategies in the States/UTs. The States/UTs can either establish a separate institution as SITs or reimagine the role of their existing institutions, such as planning departments and boards

State Institution for Transformation (SITs)

6.2 The States/UTs have established State Institution for Transformation(SIT) to reimagine the role of their existing institutions, such as Planning Departments and Boards, with the support of NITI Aayog. SIT being the most important component of SSM constitutes a multi-disciplinary Programme Implementation Unit (PIU), an embedded team consisting of sectoral experts including a Team Leader as required by the States/UTs, to facilitate establishment of SIT under the Mission. Till date a total 28 SITs have been formed under SSM that are actively working to identify state specific growth drivers and growth enablers to boost their socio-economic growth, thereby facilitating state and sector-specific implementation and development strategies.

NITI for States Platform (NFS) & Viksit Bharat Strategy Room (VBSR)

6.3 NITI Aayog has set up twin platforms NITI for States (NFS) and Viksit Bharat Strategy Room (VBSR) on 7th March, 2024. NITI for States (NFS) is meant to support government officials across States, Districts and Blocks to make evidence-based policy and administrative decisions. A set of knowledge products have been put together on the platform for various socio-economic sectors across two cross-cutting themes- Gender and Climate. The platform brings together a vast repository of governance best practices, policy resources and data insights across all States/UTs.

Viksit Bharat Strategy Room was set up at NITI Aayog for a digitally immersive experience that enables rich visualisation and engagement with insights, information and knowledge to enable effective in-person decision-making. It is an interactive space where users will be able to visualise data, trends, best practices and policies in an immersive manner allowing them to make a holistic assessment of any problem statement. Various States are showing interest in adopting the framework of VBSR and to develop similar experience room in their states. Bihar has launched GenNext Lab located at Bihar Institute of Public Administration & Rural Development (BIPARD) on the on similar line of NITI's VBSR, boosting data-driven governance & Planning.

NITI-State Workshop Series

6.4 NITI Aayog had launched 'NITI-State Workshop Series' in FY 2023-24 for fostering cooperative and competitive federalism. The workshops focus on themes relevant to socio economic development of the States/UTs and other emerging areas of national and global interest. It provides a unified platform for collaboration and knowledge sharing on key development issues concerning States/UTs by sharing policy insights and good governance practices, etc. across States/UTs.

Lead Knowledge Institutions (LKI)

6.5 To bring expertise and sectoral domain knowledge, cross-sectoral partnerships are being fostered to support the SITs. States/UTs are encouraged to designate a Lead Knowledge Institution (LKI) by on boarding institutions such as IIMs/ IITs/ Central and State Universities/ any research-based organisation of excellence in the State/UT/region. The States/ UTs are in process of engaging LKI and to date, 2 LKIs have been officially on-boarded viz- Chandragupt Institute of Management (LKI of Bihar) and IIM Calcutta (LKI of Tripura)..

6.6 State Support Mission was announced in the Union Budget of FY 2023-24. The mission was to be implemented during 2022-23 to 2024-25, however the scheme has been extended for one more year and provisions have been made for the FY 2025-26 as well. The allocation to SSM for the last three years are given below:-

(in crore)

Year	BE			RE		Actuals		
	Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Total
2023-24	39.70	0.30	40.00	39.99	0.01	21.58	0.00	21.58
2024-25	39.99	0.01	40.00	43.69	0.01	29.49*	0.00*	29.49*
2025-26	44.99	0.01	45.00	-	-	-	-	-

* Expenditure as on 07.02.2025..

6.7 On analysing the allocations, the Committee specifically asked if the allocated budget of Rs. 45 crore is sufficient to achieve the projected targets for FY 2025-26, the Ministry of Planning stated as under:-

“SSM is a demand driven scheme and States/UTs have shown keen interest in participating in various activities under SSM. It is expected that the budget requirement during FY 2025-26 may increase which will be met from R.E. and batches of Supplementary Grants.”

6.8 When enquired about the State Institutions for Transformation (SITs) established during the fiscal year 2024-25 as against the projected physical targets, the Ministry of Planning in their written replies submitted the following details:-

“State Support Mission (SSM) was launched by NITI Aayog in FY 2023-24 to further advance its ongoing engagement with States and UTs under its mandate of energizing co-operative federalism. One of the key objectives of the SSM is to facilitate the States and UTs to set up State Institution for Transformation (SIT) which will act as the nodal agency to steer development strategies in the States to achieve their socio-economic goals. So far, 28 SITs have been formed, out of which, 10 SITs have been established during FY 2024-25 against the projected target of 7 SITs.

Thus, the Mission has successfully achieved the target through continuous engagements with the State/UTs. As the scheme is extended for one more year, the remaining States/UTs are also showing interest and NITI Aayog is extending the support to the States in formulating their action plans as per the Guidelines of SSM.”

CHAPTER VII

RESEARCH AND STUDY

7.1 The Research & Study is a Central Sector Scheme. The scheme's objective is to stimulate research on issues of economic/social development and need assessment, which directly affect the formulation or implementation of government policies and schemes. The Scheme is primarily utilised to meet the expenditure involved in funding extramural research conducted by NITI Aayog by payment of a consultation fee. In addition, seminars/conferences/workshops, etc., organised by reputed organisations are supported under the Scheme. Besides, various organisations are also extended non-financial support under this scheme by permitting them to use NITI Aayog Logo for the events such as seminars/conferences/workshops/summits/symposium/ exhibitions/etc.

7.2 To strengthen NITI's research ecosystem in line with NITI's mandate to position itself as a knowledge and innovation hub, a new division, Research & Networking (R&N) has been notified on 17 September, 2024. The 'Research Scheme of NITI Aayog (RSNA)' scheme has also been revised and notified. During the year 2024-25 proposals for funding 10 new research studies have been approved and 10 on-going ones were completed during the year. The allocations under this Scheme during last three fiscal years are as under:-

(in crore)

Year	BE			RE		Actuals		
	Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Total
2023-24	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	2.55	0.00	2.55
2024-25	4.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	1.70*	0.00	1.70*
2025-26	4.00	0.00	4.00	-	-	-	-	-

* Expenditure as on 07.02.2025.

7.3 Slower pace of utilization of the funds during FY 2024-25 is evident from the tabulated allocation details mentioned above, as only 38.04% of the allocated funds have been utilized in three quarters. When Committee queried about the corrective measures taken to even out the fund utilization in future, the Ministry of Planning informed as under:-

“A quarterly calendar for disbursement of funds under the Scheme is not feasible, since payment is dependent on several factors, viz. approval of

new studies, milestones achieved under on-going studies and proposals received for grants-in-aid for conducting seminars and workshops.

The budgetary allocation is sought at the beginning of the fiscal year based on the anticipated expenditure for on-going activities and expected research proposals. Since most of these activities are dependent on external entities and completion of the research report the pattern of disbursement cannot be completely controlled by NITI Aayog.

At the time of sanction of new research studies specific milestones are agreed between NITI Aayog and the entity undertaking the research work for disbursement of payment. However, due to its very nature at times there is a time-overrun due to unforeseen factors. However, the effort remains towards full utilization of the allocated budget during the fiscal year.

It is submitted that, for 2024-25, as of 13.02.2025, Rs 2.09 cr has been utilized and it is expected that the balance amount may be fully utilized by 31.03.2025.”

7.4 Asked about the reasons for stagnant allocations for Research and Study scheme despite there being emphasis and important announcements regarding budget allocations in Union Budget 2025-26 to implement private sector driven Research, Development and Innovation initiative, the Ministry of planning apprised as under:-

“

FY 2023-24			FY 2024-25		
Physical Target	Achievement	Remarks	Physical Target	Achievement (as on 13-02-2025)	Remarks
a. 20 Research Study Proposals b. 5 Seminar workshop proposals	a. 13 New Studies Approved b. 1 Seminar Workshop Proposal Approved	Low utilisation is on account of lesser number of new studies awarded and delay in completion of ongoing studies	a. 20 Research Study Proposals b. 5 Seminar workshop proposals	a. 10 New Studies Approved b. 2 Seminar Workshop Proposal Approved	It is anticipated that the budgeted amount in this fiscal year will be utilised as concerted efforts being made to improve the

					performan -ce of this Scheme by promoting research activities.
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To give further push to research activities, NITI Aayog has set up a new Division, viz. Research & Networking Division has been set up in NITI Aayog. R&N Division is tasked to promote research activities and enable NITI Aayog to build a network of relevant stakeholders in this space. The Scheme Guidelines of 2021 were revised and the revised Guidelines were notified in 2024 to streamline the process for commissioning research studies. With these initiatives, it is anticipated that during the FY 2025-26 a higher budgetary allocation will be utilized under this scheme.”

PART - II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Analysis of Budget

1. The Committee note, the Ministry of Planning has sought Rs. 1006.06 crore as Budget Estimates 2025-26 as compared to BE of Rs. 837.26 crore for the fiscal year 2024-25, which is an increase of 16.77%. The Actuals for the FY 2022-23 were to the tune of Rs. 849.10 crore against a BE of Rs. 321.42 crore. Likewise the Actuals for the FY 2023-24 were pegged at Rs. 290.82 crore only, against a BE of Rs. 824.39 crore. The scrutiny further reveals that the Actuals for the following fiscal i.e., 2024-25 are to the tune of Rs. 197.49 crore in the first three quarters which is 23.58% of the BE. After overall scrutiny of estimates, allocations and utilization of the budget grants during financial years under reference, there emerges a trend of amateur planning where the Ministry of Planning has not been able to apply adequate foresight in planning and projecting their probable expenditures with due accuracy. Undenying the presence of intervening factors like introduction of new programmes/scheme, pending project/scheme approvals, administrative compulsions and new guidelines etc., the Committee strongly feel that there is a dire need of a more realistic assessment of the envisaged targets and expenditures thereon. This is primarily so considering that our's is a developing nation with limited fiscal resources and unlimited demands on those resources.

The Committee in their previous reports have also emphatically advocated the need for prudent financial management and better targeting of available financial resources. The Ministry should make utmost efforts to avoid spill-overs and parking of large funds in the temporarily infructuous Heads/Sub-Heads, essentially that it remains the prerogative of the Union Ministries/Departments to raise demands for supplementary grants as many times as the need arises. The Committee therefore recommend Ministry of Planning to be more fiscally prudent in allocating and utilizing the available resources in future and to be more precise and accurate in assessment of their projected expenditure and targets.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

2. The Committee note that the Budget outlays for the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) for the FY 2025-26 are to the tune of Rs. 400 crore as against the BE of Rs. 155 crore during FY 2024-25. The enhanced allocations have been sought to meet the projected expenditure under revamped Atal Mission Programme 2.0 wherein alongwith the already running programmes of AIM 1.0, the Ministry of Planning seeks to meet expenditures to be incurred on 8 new initiatives under AIM 2.0. The Committee also note that the savings under the Scheme during FY 2023-24 and 2024-25 occurred on account of recast of the AIM Programme.

The Committee appreciate the focused approach adopted by the Ministry of Planning to fill in the identified gaps under AIM 1.0 programme by devising 8 new initiatives. The Committee is looking forward to witness the promising outcomes. The Committee, however, note that the recasting/approval process of AIM 2.0 continued for almost two years, which somehow jeopardized and halted the pace of ongoing initiatives under AIM like Atal Incubation Centre(AIC) Atal Community Innovation Centre(ACIC) and Atal New India Challenges(ANIC) and thereby resulted in the under achievement of the projected targets under these programmes. The Committee feel that there is a need to expedite and reform the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for getting approvals for continuation of a scheme, as the intervening breaks occurring due to pending approvals, puts a spanner in the wheel and mars the overall progress. The Committee desire the Ministry of Planning to think in this direction and come up with some feasible solutions in their capacity of the premier think tank of government, shouldering responsibility of paving the way forward.

The Committee note with satisfaction that 8 new initiatives have been conceptualized by Ministry of Planning/NITI Aayog to fill in various gaps identified in the AIM 1.0 programme. These includes initiatives like Language Inclusive Program of Innovation(LIPI) which seeks to combat and break the language barrier, which is one of the core challenge areas, 'Frontier Program' to create tailored interventions for developing innovations and entrepreneurship ecosystem in the frontier regions of the country (Hilly and NE-Indian Regions), Atal Acceleration Centres for Scale-up of Start-ups(AACCESS-Industry Accelerator) for building platform for

supporting revenue-stage start-ups and Atal Sectoral Innovation Launchpad(ASIL) to create institutions in central government ministries to independently run sectoral innovation programs through establishing acceleration centres in corporate, PSUs and Industries. The Committee hope these initiatives would further strengthen the foundation of innovative and entrepreneurship ecosystem in the country laid by AIM 1.0 and take it a notch higher. The Committee feel that these Schemes/Initiatives and any development Programme could be made further successful by associating Members of Parliament, representing a particular constituency, so as to have ground level inputs on the progress of the scheme. The Committee recommend Ministry of Planning to achieve projected physical and financial targets for FY(2025-26) with laser focused conviction for achieving various intended objectives under these programmes.

Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) & Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC)

3. The Committee note that Atal Incubation Centre(AIC) is an important initiative of AIM 1.0 Programme which aims to foster world-class incubation and support entrepreneurs in building scalable as well as sustainable enterprises. As on date, out of the total target of 101 AICs, 72 AICs have been established across 21 States with an estimated number of 41,965 jobs created therefrom. During FY 2024-25, out of the remaining 29 newly selected AICs, the disbursement of first tranche of grants is expected to be released to 12 AICs. The Committee desire work of establishing remaining 29 AICs to be expedited. The Committee are of the view that number of AICs to be established must be increased and must target States having higher percentage of unemployment. These AICs present an opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs having workable dynamic ideas but lack the resources to generate multiple job and employment opportunities for others. More such Centres must be opened in the North-eastern States where there are fewer traditional job opportunities. Likewise under Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACIC), startup and innovation are being supported in unserved or underserved areas of the country by enabling the reach of the innovators at the bottom of the demographic pyramid. To create the enabling infrastructure, so far 14 ACICs are presently operational in 9 States and 36 more are lined up for operationalisation. The Committee

recommend the Ministry to operationalise the remaining 36 new ACICs at the earliest. It is often seen that many such government programmes go unnoticed due to lack of requisite publicity and therefore, unable to harness the desired outcomes. The Committee therefore urge the Ministry of Planning to give sufficient publicity to AICs and ACICs and other such programmes to spread awareness among people to popularise such programmes.

Atal Tinkering Lab(ATL)

4. The Committee note that in the Union Budget (2025-26), it has been announced for the establishment of 50,000 Atal Tinkering Labs in government schools across the country over the next five years. As per approved implementation plan, the ATL programme is to be transferred to the Ministry of Education (MoE). It has been informed that a Programme Management Unit (PMU) is proposed to be set up by Ministry of Education in coordination with ATL unit of NITI Aayog for which timeline for establishing 50,000 ATLs is to be decided by the Ministry of Education. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Planning in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to strive and ensure that the envisaged target of 50,000 ATLs is achieved within set time frame of 2030.

In this regard, the Committee would also like to reiterate their earlier recommendation contained in 4th Report (18th Lok Sabha) regarding the uniform coverage of ATLs in all the States wherein the Committee had categorically recommended that the number of ATLs to be established in any particular State must be commensurate with the population size and requirement of that region to extend equitable access to all targeted beneficiaries. As the Ministry of Planning will be working in tandem with the Ministry of Education, the Committee expects this collaboration to create the supporting infrastructure as well in States/UTs needed for establishing ATLs across country.

Aspirational Districts Programme(ADP)

5. The Committee find that under Official Development Assistance(ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals/ Aspirational Blocks Scheme, the Ministry of Planning has not been able to utilize the earmarked grants, continuously for the FY

2023-24 & 2024-25 respectively. There has been only token releases of Rs. 8 and Rs. 17 as against the financial sanctions of Rs. 178.23 crore and Rs. 230.81 crore for the fiscal years under reference, as the Districts have failed to utilize these grants in the required time span, given for completion of targets. Furthermore, for the current FY 2025-26 as well, only a token provision of Rs. 0.01crore has been made, suggesting bleak prospects of change in status quo in near future, though the phase III of ADP got approved on 10.1.2025.

In this connection, the Committee have been informed that the revised guidelines dated 9th March, 2022 of Ministry of Finance put certain restrictions on making new fund sanctions in FY 2023-24 which resulted in the release of token amounts only. The Committee are, however, of the view that these guidelines not in any manner, hinder the progress of the ongoing projects and that they merely seek to prevent the parking of excessive funds in 'Central Nodal Agency' Account in case of non/underutilisations of the previously allocated grants. The Committee appreciates that the Ministry of Planning already understands and knows the corrective measures needed to be taken to contain the damage and is already working on monitoring the utilization of funds to ensure optimum utilization and timely completion of projects. The Committee recommend that the Ministry must further firm up their in place monitoring mechanism and should make all efforts to ensure that projects are completed within the scheduled timeframe to avoid any cost/time overruns and budgetary allocations are put to the optimum and efficient utilization.

Aspirational Blocks Programmes(ABP)

6. The Committee note that Aspirational Blocks Programme was approved in July 2024 and allocated a budget outlay of Rs. 152.26 crore at Revised Estimates (2024-25) stage, which remained unutilized, as the fund was received only in the last quarter of the fiscal year 2024-25. As per the utilization proposal, the Ministry would be disbursing the entire grant of Rs. 152.2 cr under ABP to prevent savings on this account. Similarly, for the FY (2025-26) the allocated budget of Rs. 353 crore will be disbursed in three tranches and approval of projects are being taken in the Empowered Committee Meetings. The Committee recommend the Ministry to adhere to

their stipulated implementation plan for the remaining period of the current fiscal 2024-25 as well for the following FY 2025-26.

Research & Study (R&S)

7. The Committee are concerned to note that despite there being a specialized Central Sector Scheme 'Research & Study' formulated to give requisite stimulus to research in various socio-economic sectors, the Ministry of Planning is continuously falling short in achieving their physical as well as financial targets. As against a target of 20 Research studies, for each of the FY 2023-24 and 2024-25, only 14 and 13 Research Studies respectively had been awarded. Further, there is shortfall in finalizing the seminar/workshop proposals as well. The Committee sense a clear lack of due diligence on the part of the Ministry of Planning in achieving their set targets. The stagnated allocations and slow pace of fund utilization during last three fiscal years from 2023-24 to 2024-2025, which ultimately resulted in underutilization of allocated budget, grows the concern further. The Ministry of Planning has not been able to utilize even the meager amount of Rs. 4.00 crore during these years on such an important scheme. Nonetheless, the Committee are hopeful and expect that the new division "Research & Networking" and amended Research Scheme of NITI Aayog(RSNA) guidelines would come to the aid of the Ministry and it would thereby be able to successfully achieve the projected targets for FY 2025-26. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Planning must ensure the achievement of complete projected physical targets and make concerted efforts to fully utilize the allocated budget. The Committee also desire that to compensate the previous loss of targets, more Research studies should be awarded in the coming years and accordingly budget allocations should also be enhanced for the scheme.

State Support Mission(SSM)

8. The Committee note that SSM as an umbrella initiative is an important vehicle of NITI Aayog to promote and foster competitive and cooperative federalism amongst States/UTs by establishing State Institution of Transformation (SITs), in the interested States. It has been informed that till

date 28 SITs have been notified under SSM, which are now working in States for boosting their socio-economic growth and implement sector and State specific development strategies. The Committee further note that SSM was announced in the FY 2023-24 to be implemented during 2022-23 to 2024-25. The Scheme, however, has been extended for another year and an allocation of Rs. 45 crore has been made for the financial year 2025-26. The Committee note with satisfaction that by establishing 10 SITs during FY 2024-25, the Ministry of Planning has not only achieved but have comfortably exceeded their envisaged target of establishing 7 SITs during the fiscal year under reference. The Committee are of the considered view that for establishing SITs in remaining States/UTs, NITI Aayog must not wait for the expression of interest or intent by the States/UTs, instead must actively pursue in garnering the interest of remaining States/UTs for establishing SITs, to give the requisite push to the socio-economic growth of the country as a whole. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Planning must actively pursue these target of establishing SITs in remaining States/UTs in the extended term of the scheme itself. In this regard, the Committee further note that to support SITs, cross-sectoral partnerships 'Lead Knowledge Institutions (LKIs)' are designated by States/UTs to bring expertise and domain knowledge. As of now only State of Bihar and Kolkata have officially on-boarded Chandragupt Institute of Management (LKI Bihar) and IIM Kolkata (LKI Tripura). The Committee recommends the Ministry of Planning to encourage other remaining States/UTs as well to designate LKI partners where SITs have already been established.

New Delhi;
18 March, 2025
27 Phalguna, 1946 (Saka)

Bhartruhari Mahtab
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Finance

Annexure I

Demand No.77 - Ministry of Planning

ANALYSIS OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS i.e. PERCENTAGE INCREASE/DECREASE IN VARIOUS HEADS DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS

(Rs. In thousands)

Sl. No	Major Head	Name of the Schemes	BE 2022-23	Actuals 2022-23	BE 2023-24	Actuals 2023-24	%Increase/Decrease of BE 2023-24 over BE 2022-23	BE 2024-25	Actuals 2024-25 (upto 31.12.24)	%Increase/Decrease of BE 2024-25 over BE 2023-24	BE 2025-26	% Increase/Decrease of BE 2025-26 over BE 2024-25
		I. Establishment Expenditure										
1	3451	Department of Planning (Revenue)	15500	14759	15900	15799	(+)3.23%	20376	14506	(+)28.15%	21863	(+)7.30%
2	5475	Department of Planning (Capital)	--	--	100	--		100	--	--	100	--
3	3451	NITI Aayog (Headquarters)[Revenue]	1172900	1378512	1515000	1317868	(+)35.42%	1592204	1055605	(+)5.10%	1492702	(-) 6.25%
4	5475	NITI Aayog (Headquarters)[Capital]	--	--	73400	53341		78700	37123	(+)7.22%	132800	(+)68.74%
5	3451	Renovation and Alteration (Revenue)(#)	75000	67912	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
6	3451	Information Technology (Revenue)(#)	25000	31132	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
7	5475	Information Technology (Capital)(#)	7500	2980	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
8	3451	Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister(Revenue)	30000	29781	30000	34070	--	43595	21769	(+)45.31%	40775	(-)6.47%
9	3451	Departmental Canteen	6500	5432	6500	5632	--	6950	5961	(+)6.92%	9050	(+)30.22%
10	3475/3451	Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office(Revenue) (@)	170000	151377	166900	153640	(-)0.06%	193975	142973	(+)16.22%	226110	(+)16.57%
11	5475	Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office(Capital)	--	--	3100	5223	--	3700	1850	(+) 19.35%	4100	(+)10.81%
		Total- Establishment Expenditure	1502400	1681885	1810900	1585573	(+)20.53%	1939600	1279787	(+)7.11%	1927500	(-)0.62%
		II. Other Central Expenditure										
1	3475	Grants-in-aid to National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (Revenue)	98600	113000	113000	113000	(+)14.60%	113000	98100	--	113000	--
		Total- Other Central Expenditure	98600	113000	113000	113000	(+)14.60%	113000	98100	--	113000	--
		III. Central Sector Schemes										
1	3475	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) (Revenue)	1453100	1694291	1443000	967065	(-)0.70%	1443000	269078	--	3800000	(+) 163.34%
	5475	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) (Capital) (*)	100000	--	107000	1291	(+)7.00%	107000	745	--	200000	(+) 86.92%
	3475	State Support Mission (SSM) (%) [Revenue]	--	--	397000	215762	--	399900	291177	(+)0.73%	449900	(+)12.50%
	5475	State Support Mission (SSM) (%) [Capital]	--	--	3000	--	--	100	--	(-) 96.67%	100	--
4	3475	Research and Study	60000	33798	40000	25461	(-)33.33%	40000	15216	--	40000	--
	3475	Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)((&))	100	4968116	4330000	--	(+)4329900.00%	4330000	20832	--	100	(-) 99.99%
	3475	Aspirational Blocks Programmes (ABP)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3530000	--

		Total: Central Sector Schemes	1613200	6696205	6320000	1209579	(+)291.77%	6320000	597048	--	8020100	(+) 26.90%
5		Grand Total-	3214200	8491090	8243900	2908152	(+)156.48%	8372600	1974935	(+)1.56%	10060600	(+)20.16%

(@) DMEO has been shifted under Major Head - 3451 from the financial year 2024-25

(#) Two detailed heads namely 1. Renovation & Alteration 2. Information Technology (Revenue) has been shifted from Scheme to Establishment at RE stage during the FY 2020-21

(*) Token provision under both Sections of AIM has been kept based on the BE ceilings communicated by MoF. Cabinet has approved for continuation of this Scheme with a Outlay of ₹ 2750 upto 2027-28. However, formal communication from MoF is still awaited.

(Rs. In thousands)												
Sl. No	Major Head	Name of the Schemes	BE 2022-23	Actuals 2022-23	BE 2023-24	Actuals 2023-24	%Increase/Decrease of BE 2023-24 over BE 2022-23	BE 2024-25	Actuals 2024-25	%Increase/Decrease of BE 2024-25 over BE 2023-24	BE 2025-26	% Increase/Decrease of BE 2025-26 over BE 2024-25
	3451	Deduct Recoveries		(-) 246		(-) 3445						
	3475	Deduct Recoveries		(-) 19469		(-) 25789						
		Total actuals (After deducting recoveries):		8471375		(-) 29234						

Annexure II

Ministry of Planning

Demand No. 77

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU) (CS) – Indicators for OOMF F.Y. 2025-26

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs. in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2025-26			OUTCOME 2025-26		
2025-26	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26
	a. Language Inclusive Program of Innovation (LIPI)					
400	1. To build innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems in India’s regional languages	1.1 Number of LIPI centres created	15	1. Systematically reduce entry barrier for innovators, entrepreneurs and investors who don’t speak English	1.1Number of beneficiaries of knowledge sharing sessions conducted by LIPI Task Force	10
					1.2 Number of vernacular innovators and investors supported by the LIPI Innovation Centres	30
	b. Frontier Program					
	1. To create tailored interventions for developing innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in frontier regions of India (Hilly and NE-Indian Regions)	1.1 Number of ATLs established in frontier regions	500	1. Catalyze the growth of a vibrant innovation ecosystem in frontier regions	1.1 Number of students engaged in ATL innovation projects	2500
		1.2 Number of research and landscape studies initiated	1		1.2 Number of teachers trained as ATL in-charge	250
					1.3 Number of novel templates of tinkering labs and incubation	2

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs. in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2025-26			OUTCOME 2025-26		
2025-26	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26
					centres developed for frontier regions	
	c. Human Capital Development Program (HCD)					
	1. To create a system for producing professionals specializing in building, operating and maintaining India's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem	1.1 No of innovation and entrepreneurship courses developed	1	1. Establish a robust ecosystem for training and certifying professionals in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship	1.1 Number of teachers certified in innovation and entrepreneurship courses	100
					1.2 Number of startup incubator staff certified in innovation and entrepreneurship courses	15
	d. State Innovation Mission (SIM)					
	1. To build innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem across various States/UTs	1.1 Number of States/ UTs with structured engagement with SIM (under State Support Mission)	2	1. Engage with the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem across various states to foster knowledge sharing, best practice exchange, and network building	1.1 No of workshops/ sessions conducted in physical/virtual/hybrid mode	3
1.2 No of participants from ecosystem stakeholders (State/UTs and Central Govt., Incubators, Startups, Innovators, VC and funding ecosystem players) in the workshops/ sessions					250	

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs. in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2025-26			OUTCOME 2025-26		
2025-26	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26
	e. International Innovation Collaboration (IIC)					
	1. To build innovation and entrepreneurship exchange platforms across national boundaries	1.1 Number of International (bilateral/multilateral) innovation programs launched/executed	2	1. Engage with the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem across various nations/multilateral agencies to foster knowledge sharing, best practice exchange, and network building.	1.1 Number of startups supported through bilateral/multilateral innovation programs	20
					1.2 Number of pilots conducted through bilateral/multilateral innovation programs	10
	f. Atal Acceleration Centres for Scale-up of Startups (AACCESS - Industry Accelerator)					
	1. To build a platform for supporting revenue-stage startups through establishing acceleration centres in corporate, PSUs and industries	1.1 Number of industrial accelerators established	5	1. Create startup-industry linkages that accelerates the growth of technology-driven startups in key industrial sectors	1.1 Number of revenue stage startups accelerated	50
		1.2 Number of industrial mentors on-boarded	25		1.2 Growth recorded in revenue of the supported startups (<i>x is the startup revenue at initial stage of acceleration</i>)	1.5x
		1.3 Number of partnerships facilitated for the startups with vendors, companies in relevant	20		1.3 Number of products/services commercialized by the supported startups	10

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs. in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2025-26			OUTCOME 2025-26		
2025-26	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26
		sectors, educational institutes, research labs, venture capital firms etc.				
g. Atal Sectoral Innovation Launchpad (ASIL)						
	1. To create institutions in central government ministries to independently run sectoral innovation programs and integrate innovation into the sector	1.1 Number of sectoral innovation launchpads created in central government ministries and departments	2	1. Establish institutional mechanism within central government ministries, accelerating the adoption of innovative solutions and driving sector-specific growth and development.	1.1 Number of innovation programs run through sectoral innovation launchpads	6
					1.2 Number of startups supported through sectoral innovation launchpads	30
					1.3 Number of startups pilots conducted through sectoral innovation launchpads	10
h. Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL)						
	1. To build a platform for innovation and entrepreneurship in schools	1.1 Number of school staff/teachers engaged in ATLs (in total schools)	5000	1. Promote a culture of and ecosystem for entrepreneurship & innovation at school level	1.1 Number of students engaged in ATL innovation projects	50000
		1.2. Number of ATL innovation challenges/events initiated	5		1.2 Number of ATL student prototypes/innovations created	5000

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs. in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2025-26			OUTCOME 2025-26		
2025-26	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26
					1.3 Number of students recognized through SIP/SEP/partnership recognition programs	1000
	i. Atal Incubation Centre (AIC)					
	1. To build platforms for innovation and entrepreneurship in academic institutions/R&D and other institutions	1.1 Number of AICs established	20	1. Create institutional mechanism for supporting startups in sectors of national importance	1.1 Number of start-ups incubated (physical and virtual)	500
		1.2 Number of incubator/startup excellence sessions facilitated by AICs	500		1.2 No. of jobs (direct/indirect) created by startups incubated in AICs	3000
		1.3 Number of value adding partnerships established by AICs	100		1.3 Leveraged external funding for startups through AICs (<i>x is amount of seed funding through AIM grants-in-aid</i>)	8x
		1.4 Number of mentors in AICs	120		1.4 Number of Intellectual Properties (IP) filed by startups incubated in AICs	50
	j. Atal Community Innovation Centers (ACIC)					
	1. To encourage a spirit of entrepreneurship in the underserved/unserved	1.1 No. of Atal Community Innovation Centers supported	26	1. Create institutional mechanism for supporting grassroots	1.1 Number of ACIC start-ups/social entrepreneurs supported (physical	260

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs. in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2025-26			OUTCOME 2025-26		
2025-26	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26
	regions of India			innovations through ACICs	and virtual)	
		1.2 Number of innovation knowledge sharing sessions conducted by ACIC	100		1.2 Number of local community jobs created by ACICs	400
		1.3 Number of community outreach events conducted	50		1.3 Number of Community Innovators Fellows (CIFs) supported	30
	k. Atal New India Challenges (ANIC)					
1. To seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance	1.1 Number of ANIC startups supported	50	1. Commercialize new products based on cutting edge technology relevant to the Indian context	1.1 No of new ANIC startups commercialized	20	
				1.2 No of ANIC winners connected to government and private sector investors	10	
I. AIM Ecosystem Development Program (AEDP)						
1. To develop and implement strategic initiatives and partnerships to identify and address gaps in India's innovation and	1.1 No. of strategic programs ongoing/introduced across AIM ecosystem	2	1. Facilitate networking and collaboration among key stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem,	1.1 No. of innovators/ startups supported (participation) under identified strategic programs	30	

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs. in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2025-26			OUTCOME 2025-26		
	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26
	entrepreneurship ecosystem.			including startups, investors, corporates, academia, and other enablers.		
				2. Create platforms to showcase innovative solutions developed by students, startups, and entrepreneurs to a diverse audience of investors, corporates, MSMEs, and non-profit organizations.	2.1 Number of innovation solutions showcased at national /international forums across innovation ecosystem	10
		1.2 Total partnerships JSOI signed (new & renewed) across AIM ecosystem	5	3. Deliver strategic value to AIM and its beneficiaries through partnerships with key stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem.	3.1 Number of beneficiaries (startups, students, innovators, incubators/AIM team) benefitted through capacity development, knowledge modules	250

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs. in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2025-26			OUTCOME 2025-26		
	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26	Output	Indicators	Targets 2025-26
					developed, access to specialized infrastructure through the partners	

Annexure III

2. Official Development Assistance(ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (EAP-SDGs)-

Financial Outlay (In Crores)	Outputs (2025-26)			Outcomes (2025-26)		
	Output	Indicator (s)	Target 2025-26	Outcome	Indicator (s)	Target 2025-26
Aspirational Districts Programme						
0.01	Engagement with relatively underdeveloped Districts for their socioeconomic development	No. of projects submitted by districts	To finalise 100 project proposals under ADP from districts.	To sanction projects to districts/blocks addressing critical development gaps and thus accelerating the socio-economic progress of districts and blocks.	No. of projects sanctioned for districts and blocks	To approve the projects (min 100) submitted by districts, by the empowered committee of secretaries
Aspirational Blocks Programme						
353	Engagement with relatively underdeveloped Blocks for their socioeconomic development	No. of projects submitted by blocks	To finalise 75 project proposals under ABP from the blocks.	To sanction projects to districts addressing critical development gaps and thus accelerating the socio-economic progress of blocks.	No. of projects sanctioned for blocks.	To approve the projects (min 75) submitted by Blocks, by the empowered committee of secretaries.

Annexure IV

3. State Support Mission:

Financial Outlay (In Crores)	Outputs (2025-26)			Outcomes (2025-26)		
	Output	Indicator (s)	Target 2025-26	Outcome	Indicator (s)	Target 2025-26
45	Engagement with states	Total amount of funds estimated to be released to States for M&E systems, Studies, workshops and other admin exp	Rs.40.00 Crores	Number of States supported under SSM to develop their strategies and State Vision @2047 in alignment with India Vision @2047 and other national development priorities.	Number of State Institution for Transformation (SIT) formed in various States/UTs	36
		No. of workshops/ trainings/ conferences conducted	45			
		Deployment of Human resources in States - SITs	Target amenable*			

**Since they are state specific and Demand Driven*

Minutes of the Eleventh sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2024-25). The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 18th February, 2025 from 1100 hrs. to 1300 hrs in Committee Room 'B', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri P. P. Chaudhary
3. Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
4. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
5. Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap
6. Shri Kishori Lal
7. Thiru Arun Nehru
8. Shri N. K. Premachandran
9. Prof. Sougata Ray
10. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
11. Dr. K. Sudhakar
12. Shri Manish Tewari
13. Shri BalashowryVallabhaneni
14. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy

RAJYA SABHA

15. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
16. Shri Sanjay Seth
17. Dr. Dinesh Sharma
18. Smt. Darshana Singh
19. Dr. M. Thambidurai
20. Shri Pramod Tiwari

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Vinay Pradeep Barwa | - | Director |
| 2. | Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana | - | Deputy Secretary |

WITNESSES

Ministry of Planning (NITI Aayog)

1. Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, Chief Executive Officer
2. Shri Deepak Narain, AS & FA
3. Ms. Anna Roy, Programme Director (PD) (Research & Networking (R&N))
4. Ms. Nidhi Chhibber, DG (DMEO) / PD (Admin)
5. Ms. Gitanjali Gupta, PD (States)/ MD (ADP/ ABP)
6. Shri Rajib Kumar Sen, PD (SDGs)
7. Dr. Neelam Patel, PD (Agriculture)
8. Dr. Yogesh Suri, PD (Governing Council Secretariat (GCS)/ Parliament)
9. Shri K.S. Rejimon, MD (State Support Mission (SSM))/ JS (Admin)
10. Shri Ch. P. Sarathi Reddy, PD (PPP/ Island) (JS Level)
11. Shri Ishtiyaque Ahmed, Sr. Consultant (JS Level)
12. Dr. Anshu Bhardwaj, PD (Green Transition & Climate) GTC)) (JS Level)

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson, requested the Committee members to observe two minutes silence on the sad demise of the eminent economist and former Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister, Dr. Bibek Debroy.

Thereafter, the Hon'ble Chairperson, welcomed the Witnesses to the sitting of the Committee. After the customary introduction of the Witnesses, the CEO, NITI Aayog made a Power Point Presentation (PPT) before the Committee on the examination of Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the NITI Aayog, Ministry of Planning and issues connected therewith.

3. The Committee then deliberated upon the Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Planning (NITI Aayog) and the overall mandate and mission of NITI Aayog. The major issues discussed during the sitting were related to the Budget allocations to NITI Aayog, allocation and utilization of budget grants under Atal Innovation Mission and Aspirational Districts Programme, future pandemic preparedness and action plan to implement the PPER, definition of

multidimensional poverty and views of NITI Aayog thereon, merging of Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana to target more number of SCs and STs in very poverty-stricken area for achieving 'Sampoornata' in true sense, human resource deployed at NITI Aayog on permanent basis, feasibility of expanding the role of NITI Aayog for boosting economic growth, need of uniformity and coherence in budget allocations in the area of Artificial intelligence, mismatch between Capital and Revenue expenditures, need for increase in think tank activities and institutions in critical areas, roadmap for economic growth beyond 5 trillion economy, steps taken to check administering of contraindicative supplements in case of certain ailments, current status of Birbhum, Nadia and Dakshin Dinajpur districts of West Bengal declared as Aspirational Districts, need of fundamental research in 'Manpower Research Services' and budget allocations thereto, need for adequate funding and grounding/implementation of the Schemes/Missions/Programmes, formulating *modus operandi* to have better implementation of the Policies/Schemes, strengthening of DISHA Committees, synchronization of the State's schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, need to facilitate the reach and access of the last man standing to various research/experts reports/innovations and vice versa to extend and harness its complete benefits, NITI Aayog's consultative role on the new draft Bills, external funding of projects, scope of including erstwhile Planning Commission's critical function of extensive working and consultation process with the State Governments for greater good of both.

4. In addition to above, the Committee also discussed the expertise and educational prowess of the consultants involved in preparing various reports of NITI Aayog, underutilisation of the allocated budget under various schemes of NITI Aayog, requirement of tailor made Centrally Sponsored Schemes well suited to geographical and physical conditions of the particular State, State's autonomy, discretion and control over spending their own fiscal resources on State vis-a vis Centrally Sponsored Schemes and implementation of Central Government policy, statutory power of NITI Aayog to monitor utilisation of allocated funds for CSS by State Governments, usurping of State subjects by Central Government, role of Members of Parliament in developmental processes/programmes, integration of cyber fraud portal with respective banks

to prevent further money transfers in cases of cyber frauds, checks and balances established by NITI Aayog to maintain clean and healthy environment in wake of mushrooming industries, efforts to create self sufficiency in coking coal to reduce dependency on import, pending approval of Medical Hub Project at Chandigarh.

5. The witnesses responded to the queries raised by the Members. The Chairperson then directed the representatives of the Ministry of Planning (NITI Aayog) to furnish written replies to the points raised by the Members which could not be readily responded to by them during the discussion, within a week's time to the Secretariat.

The witnesses then withdrew.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

Minutes of the Seventeenth sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2024-25). The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 18 March, 2025 from 1500 hrs to 1545 hrs in Committee Room '62', Samvidhan Sadan (SS), New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab – Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri P. P. Chaudhary
3. Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu
4. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
5. Shri K. Gopinath
6. Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap
7. Shri Kishori Lal
8. Shri Harendra Singh Malik
9. Shri Chudasama Rajeshbhai Naranbhai
10. Thiru Arun Nehru
11. Shri N. K. Premachandran
12. Dr. C. M. Ramesh
13. Prof. Sougata Ray
14. Dr. Jayanta Kumar Roy
15. Dr. K. Sudhakar
16. Shri Manish Tewari
17. Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni
18. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy

RAJYA SABHA

19. Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal
20. Shri S. Selvaganabathy
21. Shri Sanjay Seth
22. Dr. Dinesh Sharma
23. Smt. Darshana Singh
24. Shri Pramod Tiwari

SECRETARIAT

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|----|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Vinay Pradeep Barwa | - | Director |
| 2. | Shri Kuldeep Singh Rana | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 3. | Shri T. Mathivanan | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following draft reports for consideration and adoption:

- i. Eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Public Enterprises and Investment & Public Asset Management);
- ii. Ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue);
- iii. Tenth Report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs;
- iv. Eleventh Report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Planning;
- v. Twelfth Report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; and
- vi. Thirteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services).

After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the above draft Reports with minor modifications and authorised the Chairperson to finalise them and present the Reports to the Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.