

16

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(2019-20)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF PLANNING

[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on 'Demands for Grants (2019-20)']

SIXTEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

September, 2020/ Bhadrapada, 1942 (Saka)

SIXTEENTH REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(2019-2020)

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF PLANNING

[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on 'Demands for Grants (2019-20)']

Presented to Hon'ble Speaker on 9 September, 2020

Presented to Lok Sabha on _____, 2020

Laid in Rajya Sabha on _____, 2020



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

September, 2020 / Bhadrapada, 1942 (Saka)

CONTENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE..... | |
| INTRODUCTION | |
| CHAPTER I | Report |
| CHAPTER II* | Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government |
| CHAPTER III* | Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies |
| CHAPTER IV* | Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee |
| CHAPTER V* | Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final reply of the Government is still awaited |

ANNEXURE

Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 08 September, 2020

APPENDIX

Analysis of Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations Contained in the Fourth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2019-20)

* Not appended in the cyclostyled copy

COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (2019-2020)

Shri Jayant Sinha - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
3. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
4. Shri Vallabhaneni Balashowry
5. Shri Shrirang Appa Barne
6. Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre
7. Smt. Sunita Duggal
8. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
9. Shri Sudheer Gupta
10. Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh
11. Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak
12. Shri Pinaki Misra
13. Shri P.V Midhun Reddy
14. Prof. Saugata Roy
15. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
16. Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki
17. Shri Manish Tewari
18. Shri P. Velusamy
19. Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma
20. Shri Rajesh Verma
21. Shri Giridhari Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar
23. Shri A. Navaneethakrishnan
24. Shri Praful Patel
25. Shri Amar Patnaik
26. Shri Mahesh Poddar
27. Shri C.M. Ramesh
28. Shri Bikash Ranjan
29. Shri G.V.L Narasimha Rao
30. Dr. Manmohan Singh
31. Smt. Ambika Soni

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri V.K. Tripathi - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan - Director
3. Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora - Additional Director
4. Ms. Madhumita - Assistant Committee Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance, having been authorized by the Committee, present this Sixteenth Report on action taken by Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Committee (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Planning.

2. The Fourth Report was presented to Lok Sabha / laid on the table of Rajya Sabha on 10 December, 2019 . The Action Taken Notes on the Recommendations were received from the Government *vide* their communication dated 14 February, 2020.

3. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 08 September, 2020.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Committee is given in the Appendix.

5. For facility of reference, the observations / recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI
08 September, 2020
17 Bhadrapada, 1942 (Saka)

SHRI JAYANT SINHA,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Finance

REPORT

CHAPTER – I

This Report of the Standing Committee on Finance deals with action taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in their 4th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Planning which was presented to Lok Sabha / Laid in Rajya Sabha on 10 December, 2019.

2. The Action Taken Notes have been received from the Government in respect of all the 4 recommendations contained in the Report. These have been analyzed and categorized as follows:

- (i) Recommendations/Observations that have been accepted by the Government:

Recommendation No. 1, 2, 3 and 4

(Total 04)
(Chapter- II)

- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies:

NIL

(Total NIL)
(Chapter- III)

- (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

NIL

(Total NIL)
(Chapter -IV)

- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies by the Government are still awaited:

NIL

(Total - NIL)
(Chapter- V)

3. The Committee desire that the replies to the recommendations/observations contained in Chapter-I may be furnished to them expeditiously.

4. The Committee will now deal with and comment upon the action taken by the Government on some of their recommendations.

Recommendation (Serial No. 1)

Analysis of Demands for Grants (2019-20)

5. The Committee noted that the total budgetary allocation of the Ministry of Planning for the year 2019-20 stood at Rs. 583.40 crore. That included Revenue and Capital portions of Rs. 582.29 crore and Rs. 1.11 crore, respectively. Similarly for the year 2018-19, the Budget Estimates (BE) and the Revised Estimates (RE) stood at Rs. 339.65 crore and Rs. 486.51 crore respectively, while for the year 2017-18 the Actuals stood at Rs. 258.15 crore. The scrutiny of the Budget of the Ministry of Planning revealed that the BE of 2019-20 had increased by 71.76 per cent and 125.99 per cent with respect to the BE of 2018-19 and Actuals of 2017-18 respectively. The Committee further noted that under the major head 3475 “Ongoing Programme and Schemes including liabilities from BE 2014-15”, the BE of 2019-20 and 2018-19 stood at Rs. 185 crore and Rs. 39.12 crore respectively. That was thus a substantial jump of 372.90 per cent in BE of 2019-20 over BE of 2018-19.

The Committee, however, noted that under the major head 5475 “Ongoing Programme and Schemes including liabilities from BE 2014-15 [Strengthening Office Processes and Systems (SOPS) & New Programme – Central Plan]”, the BE and Actuals of 2018-19 stood at Rs. 68 lakh and Rs. 48.32 lakh respectively. Further, the BE of 2019-20 stood at Rs. 1.11 crore, which was a rise of 63.24 per cent. Similarly, for DMEO, the BE and Actuals of 2018-19 stood at Rs. 18 crore and Rs. 9.8 crore, while the BE of 2019-20 stood at Rs. 11 crore, which was a drop of 38.89 per cent.

The Committee were of the view that such persistent under-utilisation of budgetary allocation indicated inadequate financial management on the part of the Ministry of Planning. The Committee desired that the Ministry and the NITI Aayog as the premier think tank of the Government, should effectively utilize their enhanced budgetary allocations in a time bound manner and avoid such divergence between allocations and utilization so that the efficacy of the organization was not adversely impacted.

6. In their Action Taken Replies the Ministry of Planning have submitted as follows:-

“The observation/views made by the Committee have been taken note of by the NITI Aayog and directions have been issued to all the spending authorities of NITI Aayog to effectively utilize the budgetary allocation, in a time bound manner so as to avoid divergence between allocations and utilizations in order not to impact adversely the efficacy of the organization. And the matter is monitored.”

7. The Committee had pointed out the persistent under-utilization of budgetary allocation by the Ministry. However, the action taken reply furnished by the Ministry in this regard is vague, as no specific detail regarding the manner and form to achieve the effective utilization of budgetary allocation has been provided. The Committee, thus, expect the Ministry to be more specific and elaborate in their response so that detailed scrutiny can be carried out and suggestions be made accordingly.

Recommendation (Serial No. 2)

Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)

8. The Committee in their previous reports had flagged the issue of under-utilisation of the budgetary allocation by DMEO and had recommended the need for periodical appraisal. The Committee noted that the trend still persisted, as only Rs. 9.8 crore had been utilized in 2018-19 against the BE of Rs. 18 crore for fiscal year 2018-19 and the reasons for the same included a transfer of large number of Research Officers (ROs) / Senior Research Officers (SROs) to other departments during the year 2018-19 and non filling up of various posts during the year 2018-19. The Committee were of the view that DMEO should have an effective mechanism during the budget preparation stage itself, so that funds were fully utilised for the intended purpose. The Committee were of the view that an important task as monitoring and evaluation required competent manpower at its disposal with requisite expertise. The Committee expected better monitoring and evaluation on the part of DMEO and recommended that the DMEO should provide real-time monitoring data for all the schemes.

The Committee while appreciated the DMEO team for carrying out field visits in agricultural mandis in about 8 States in March – April, 2018, desired that more of such visits be conducted in other fields like education, health, sanitation, nutrition etc as well, while also engaging experts from different fields. If the Ministry did not believe that DMEO could provide adequate monitoring and evaluation, then the Ministry should consider restructuring the office in a comprehensive manner to either undertake these services or else consider alternate mechanisms. The Committee also recommended that a credible mechanism should be developed to assess development outcomes in States.

9. In their Action Taken Replies the Ministry of Planning have submitted as follows:-

“The DMEO has fully endorsed the view of the Standing Committee. As pointed out in the report issue of filling up the post of ROs/SROs/Directors have been taken up with IES cadre. The Director General, DMEO has personally taken up the matter with the Adviser, IES Cadre, Department of Economic Affairs and impressed him of the need of quickly filling the vacant posts. But it could post just two Assistant

Directors (in the rank of Research Officer) and all the other posts (14 posts of Directors and 11 posts of SROs) continue to be vacant.

As pointed out by the Standing Committee, DMEO is fully aware of the fact that an important task as monitoring and evaluation requires competent manpower at its disposal with requisite expertise. Realizing this urgent need, DMEO has attempted a thorough overhaul of its Recruitment process and Rules reflecting the revised mandate of DMEO, and submitted the revised Recruitment Rules (RR) for all its posts viz. Economic Investigator/Economic Officer/ Research Officer /Senior Research Officer/ Directors etc. to the DOPT.

As pointed out in the Standing Committee report, to strengthen outcome-based monitoring across the Government of India, the DMEO team undertook a rigorous process to improve the Output-Outcome Framework (OOMF) in 2018-19 and then again for 2019-2020. The aim of the OOMF exercise has been to strengthen the effective management of limited public resources and achieve a deeper and broader impact of scheme interventions. The framework put in place nearly 5000 output and outcome indicators for around 600 outlays, for Central Sector(CS) and Centrally sponsored Schemes(CSS) across Government of India. This framework was tabled in the Parliament along with the Union Budget 2019-20. CS/CSS schemes form the primary mode of government service delivery to beneficiaries, covering Rs.12 lakh crores out of the total budget of Rs.27.9 lakh crores in 2019-20. By juxtaposing this financial outlay with quantitative measurements of scheme performance, it is expected that more judicious use and greater accountability can be encouraged.

The DMEO worked closely with 68 Ministries and Departments to developing a deeper understanding of outputs and outcomes, setting quantitative targets for measurable output and outcome indicators, training and troubleshooting for operation of the online dashboard, and collecting scheme performance data for FY 20. DMEO also worked extensively on the technical capacity of the online dashboard, allowing for API linkage with existing online Ministry MISs, and is in the process of completing API linkage for 7 MISs.

Presently DMEO is in the process of completing the third party Evaluation of 10 Sectors covering the 28 umbrella schemes. Consultants are already awarded the contract and except in one all the remaining 9 sectoral evaluations are in the field. Final report is expected to be submitted shortly by the consultants. Being the important task DMEO has solicited the services of experts of each sector and seek their guidance and inputs in every stage of evaluation.

In addition DMEO has initiated assessment/evaluation studies for Quick Assessment of Teacher Education and Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) etc. Other major activities undertaken by DMEO include: a) supporting appraisal process of EFC/SFC/PIB/DIB; b) analytical work (railway sector); c) supporting ministries/departments conduct evaluation studies; d) organizational strengthening; and e) building partnerships with multilaterals/Institutions to strengthen monitoring the evaluation ecosystem.”

10. The Committee had time and again pointed out the issue of under-utilization of budgetary allocation and huge staff vacancy including the lack of competent manpower at the disposal of DMEO, to carry out the important task of monitoring and evaluation. The Committee appreciate DMEO for finally taking up the vacancy issue at the highest level and for undertaking a thorough overhaul of its Recruitment process and Rules reflecting the revised mandate of DMEO and

submitting the same to DoPT. However, the Committee are not satisfied with the pace of progress in actually filling up these posts, as only two Assistant Directors (in the rank of Research Officer) could be filled, with the other posts (14 posts of Directors and 11 posts of SROs) still remain vacant. Therefore, the Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation of filling up these posts at all levels, at the earliest. The Committee acknowledge the steps taken by DMEO so far to constantly improve the Output-Outcome Framework to strengthen the effective management of limited public resources and achieve a deeper and broader impact of scheme interventions. The Committee note the close coordination of DMEO with Central Government Ministries and Departments for undertaking evaluation of schemes and troubleshooting for operation of the online dashboard allowing for Application Programming Interface (API) linkage with existing online Ministry MIS. The Committee expect faster completion of the remaining API linkage with Ministry MIS. The Committee desire that more and more field visits be also carried out in the areas of education, health, nutrition etc. They further expect faster completion of the ongoing third party evaluation of 10 sectors covering 28 umbrella schemes and evaluation studies for quick assessment of Teacher Education and Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme (TUFS). The Committee desire to be apprised of the results of these evaluation studies and also the current status of DMEO's other major activities.

CHAPTER – II

RECOMMENDATIONS / OBSERVATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 1)

Analysis of Demands for Grants (2019-20)

The Committee note that the total budgetary allocation of the Ministry of Planning for the year 2019-20 stands at Rs. 583.40 crore. This includes Revenue and Capital portions of Rs.582.29 crore and Rs.1.11 crore, respectively. Similarly for the year 2018-19, the Budget Estimates (BE) and the Revised Estimates (RE) stood at Rs.339.65 crore and Rs.486.51 crore respectively, while for the year 2017-18 the Actuals stood at Rs.258.15 crore. The scrutiny of the Budget of the Ministry of Planning reveal that the BE of 2019-20 has increased by 71.76 per cent and 125.99 per cent with respect to the BE of 2018-19 and Actuals of 2017-18 respectively. The Committee further note that under the major head 3475 “Ongoing Programme and Schemes including liabilities from BE 2014-15”, the BE of 2019-20 and 2018-19 stand at Rs.185 crore and Rs.39.12 crore respectively. This is thus a substantial jump of 372.90 per cent in BE of 2019-20 over BE of 2018-19.

The Committee, however, note that under the major head 5475 “Ongoing Programme and Schemes including liabilities from BE 2014-15 [Strengthening OZice Processes and Systems (SOPS) & New Programme - Central Plan]”, the BE and Actuals of 2018-19 stood at Rs. 68 lakh and Rs. 48.32 lakh respectively. Further, the BE of 2019-20 stands at Rs. 1.11 crore, which is a rise of 63.24 per cent. Similarly, for DMEO, the BE and Actuals of 2018-19 stood at Rs. 18 crore and Rs. 9.8 crore, while the BE of 2019-20 stands at Rs. 11 crore, which is a drop of 38.89 per cent.

The Committee are of the view that such persistent under-utilization of budgetary allocation indicates inadequate financial management on the part of the Ministry of Planning. The Committee desire that the Ministry and the NITI Aayog as the premier think tank of the Government, should effectively utilize their enhanced budgetary allocations in a time bound manner and avoid such divergence between allocations and utilization so that the efficacy of the organization is not adversely impacted.

Reply of the Government

The observation/views made by the Committee have been taken note of by the NITI Aayog and directions have been issued to all the spending authorities of NITI Aayog to effectively utilize the budgetary allocation, in a time bound manner so as to avoid divergence between allocations and utilizations in order not to impact adversely the efficacy of the organization. And the matter is monitored

[Ministry of Planning O.M. No. 18/07/2019-Parl. dated 14th February, 2020]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 7 of Chapter I)

Recommendation Serial No. 2

“Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)”

The Committee in their previous reports had flagged the issue of under-utilization of the budgetary allocation by DMEO and had recommended the need for periodical appraisal. The Committee note that the trend still persists, as only Rs.9.8 crore has been utilized in 2018-19 against the BE of Rs.18 crore for fiscal year 2018-19 and the reasons for the same include a transfer of large number of Research Officers (ROs)/ Senior Research Officers (SROs) to other departments during the year 2018-19 and non-filling up of various posts during the year 2018-19. The Committee are of the view that DMEO should have an elective mechanism during the budget preparation stage itself, so that funds are fully utilized for the intended purpose. The Committee are of the view that an important task as monitoring and evaluation requires competent manpower at its disposal with requisite expertise. The Committee expect better monitoring and evaluation on the part of DMEO and recommend that the DMEO should provide real-time monitoring data for all the schemes.

The Committee while appreciating the DMEO team for carrying out field visits in agricultural mandis in about 8 States in March-April, 2018, desire that more of such visits be conducted in other fields like education, health, sanitation, nutrition etc as well, while also engaging experts from different fields. If the Ministry does not believe that DMEO can provide adequate monitoring and evaluation, then the Ministry should consider restructuring the office in a comprehensive manner to either undertake these services or else consider alternate mechanisms. The Committee also recommend that a credible mechanism should be developed to assess development outcomes in States.

Reply of the Government

The DMEO has fully endorsed the view of the Standing Committee. As pointed out in the report issue of filling up the post of ROs/SROs/Directors have been taken up with IES cadre. The Director General, DMEO has personally taken up the matter with the Adviser, IES Cadre, Department of Economic Affairs and impressed him of the need of quickly filling the vacant posts. But it could post just two Assistant Directors (in the rank of Research Officer) and all the other posts (14 posts of Directors and 11 posts of SROs) continue to be vacant.

As pointed out by the Standing Committee, DMEO is fully aware of the fact that an important task as monitoring and evaluation requires competent manpower at its disposal with requisite expertise. Realizing this urgent need, DMEO has attempted a thorough overhaul of its Recruitment process and Rules reflecting the revised mandate of DMEO, and submitted the revised Recruitment Rules (RR) for all its posts viz. Economic Investigator/Economic Officer/ Research Officer /Senior Research Officer/ Directors etc. to the DOPT.

As pointed out in the Standing Committee report, to strengthen outcome-based monitoring across the Government of India, the DMEO team undertook a rigorous process to improve the Output-Outcome Framework (OOMF) in 2018-19 and then again for 2019-2020. The aim of the OOMF exercise has been to strengthen the effective management of limited public resources and achieve a deeper and broader impact of scheme interventions. The framework put in place nearly 5000 output and outcome indicators for around 600 outlays, for Central Sector (CS) and Centrally sponsored Schemes (CSS) across Government of India. This framework was tabled in the Parliament along with the Union Budget 2019-20. CS/CSS schemes form the primary mode of government service delivery to beneficiaries, covering Rs.12 lakh crores out of the total budget of Rs.27.9 lakh crores in 2019-20. By juxtaposing this financial outlay with quantitative measurements of scheme performance, it is expected that more judicious use and greater accountability can be encouraged.

The DMEO worked closely with 68 Ministries and Departments to developing a deeper understanding of outputs and outcomes, setting quantitative targets for measurable output and outcome indicators, training and troubleshooting for operation of the online dashboard, and collecting scheme performance data for FY 20. DMEO also worked extensively on the technical capacity of the online dashboard, allowing for API linkage with existing online Ministry MISs, and is in the process of completing API linkage for 7 MISs.

Presently DMEO is in the process of completing the third party Evaluation of 10 Sectors covering the 28 umbrella schemes. Consultants are already awarded the contract and except in one all the remaining 9 sectoral evaluations are in the field. Final report is expected to be submitted shortly by the consultants. Being the important task

DMEO has solicited the services of experts of each sector and seek their guidance and inputs in every stage of evaluation.

In addition DMEO has initiated assessment evaluation studies for Quick Assessment of Teacher Education and Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) etc. Other major activities undertaken by DMEO include: a) supporting appraisal process of EFC/SFC/PIB/DIB; b) analgical work (railway sector); c) supporting ministries/departments conduct evaluation studies; d) organizational strengthening; and

e) building partnerships with multilaterals/Institutions to strengthen monitoring the evaluation ecosystem.

(Ministry of Planning O.M. No. 18/07/1019-Parl.dated 14th February, 2020)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 10 of Chapter I)

Recommendation (Serial No. 3)

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Self Employment and Talent Utilisation(SETU)

The Committee note that Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is one of the main scheme operated by NITI with a relatively substantial financial outlay of Rs. 303.74 crore for the fiscal 2019-20. Further, a provision of Rs. 286 crore as Grants-in-aid was made to 'Not yet identified' Non-Government bodies for setting up of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL), Atal Incubation Centres (AICs), providing support to Established Incubation Centres, Atal Community Innovation Centres and for launching Atal New India Challenges and Atal Grand Challenges. The Committee are of the view that the identification/ selection of such bodies in the future should be completed before the preparation of budgetary estimates so that the allocated budget is utilized in an efficient and timely manner. The Committee further desire that funds should be evenly distributed so that the educationally backward areas get top priority and also an opportunity to innovate and progress side—by-side with the relatively better off areas.

The Committee appreciate schemes like AIM for designing 'ATL Community Day' event, wherein the selected schools have been mandated to engage children from all walks of life and nearby communities to be introduced to workshops, events, sessions and futuristic technologies. The Committee therefore desire that such initiatives and challenges may be designed in such a way that they are fully inclusive and cater to children/students from all walks of life including the specially- abled children. The Committee note with satisfaction that AIM has also engaged with a third party (Quality Council of India) for an on-ground review and evaluation of ATLs which shall be concluded soon. The Committee expects that all such third party evaluation will be completed soon and a report of the results and consequential follow-up action may be

shared with the Committee at the earliest. The Committee are of the view that with respect to the ATL Dashboard (My ATL), the schools should be invariably encouraged to update their data regularly so that such information becomes available on the dashboard, on a real-time basis.

Reply of the Government

The number of schools, incubators, New India challenges and community innovation Centers during a year to be selected for ATL, AICs, ANICs, ACICs establishment is based on the discussions and directives of the Cabinet and AIM Mission High Level Committee. The actual selection and disbursement of grants for AIM initiatives are based on BE and RE budgets for AIM for the year approved by the Department of Expenditure. AIM has thus far constantly ensured that the approved budgets for the year have been efficiently and fully allocated and utilised during the course of any year over the past 2 years.

The identification/selection of schools/incubation centres is based on an extensive application and selection process with high level selection and monitoring committees approved by the MHLC. The disbursement of the grants is ensured only after the grantees meet all terms and conditions related to compliance as per the guidelines.

Further, the Committee may note that, AIM has recently shortlisted and announced 6038 new schools for ATLS, and the grants will be given as soon as the budget for the same is approved. The same process is being followed for all other programmes of AIM too.

The suggestion of the Committee regarding evenly or prioritized distribution of funds is noted. The AIM tries to ensure that the benefit of its initiatives is experienced nationwide particularly in government, governments aided schools, remote and Aspirational districts, girls and so-Ed schools, unserved and underserved tier 2 tier 3 cities and districts of India. With the goal to establish an Atal Tinkering Lab in every district across the country, AIM has devised a robust selection process to ensure regional distribution of schools. As a result, ATLS are present in more than 662 districts out of the 715 districts across the country.

Further, it may be noted that more than 65% of these schools are government/government aided. This ensures the diversity in distribution of ATL schools across the country, and more than 70% are girls and so-Ed schools. Further, AIM envisages to cover all the districts of the country with at least one ATL.

While disbursing grants to schools, AIM has encouraged every ATL school to engage with the students from all walks of life in their local community and allow at least 5-10 schools in their vicinity to access to the labs. Also, the ATLS have been mandated to support the students of non-ATL schools too.

With the goal to engage with the community children, ATL schools across the country celebrate the ATL Community Day, where ATL students engage with non-ATL and community children and share their learning and experiences.

The ATL Community Day module has been created by AIM for the ATL schools which guides the schools on how to make ATL community day a successful event. The module consists of interesting activities for the target audience. Link to the ATL Community Day module is: [hRps://www.aim.gov.in/pdf/ATL_Community_Day.pdf](http://www.aim.gov.in/pdf/ATL_Community_Day.pdf)

The third-party evaluation of AIM initiatives to date, by the Quality Council of India (QCI) as well as by the EAC to PM have been completed. Both the reports have commended the work done by AIM and have reported positive outcomes and impact with suggestions for on-ground execution. The reports furnished by the QCI and Shri Bibek Debroy of EAC to PM are enclosed at Annexure-1 and Annexure-2.

The AIM is in the process of formulating an action plan to improve its current processes as per the recommendations provided by the above mentioned third parties.

The ATL Dashboard has been simplified for the ATL schools to report their workshops, events, and day to day ATL operations. Further, tutorial videos for the Dashboard up-dation process has been created and shared for ease of access. It is mandatory for the schools to update their dashboard before applying for subsequent tranches of ATL grant-in-aid.

To address on ground issues for ATL schools, AIM has created a dedicated Query Resolution system. Link to Query Resolution portal is : <http://expd.pro/cgrms-atl/register/>

[Ministry of Planning O.M. No. 18/07/2019-Parl. dated 14th February, 2020]

Recommendation Serial No. 4

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India Index

The Committee note that the NITI Aayog has come up with the Baseline Report of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index, which comprehensively documents the progress made by India's States and Union Territories towards implementing the 2030 SDG targets. Further, the NITI Aayog have constructed the SDG India Index that spans across 13 out of 17 SDGs. The Committee recommend that availability of such data should be constantly improved and new estimation techniques be regularly employed, to make the SDG India Index more comprehensive and tangible in times to come.

The Committee appreciate the publication of a compendium or leaning from all States/UTs on SDG localization, which was launched at the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in UN Headquarters in New York and was well

received by the international communities and Governments. At the same time, the Committee suggest faster completion of local monitoring tools by the States viz. State Indicator Framework (SIF), District Indicator Framework (DIF) and SDG monitoring dashboards. Further, the Committee desire that the NITI should develop mechanisms to assist poor performing States and suggest remedies for them to improve their performance and do well in the rankings.

The Committee suggest that while monitoring the progress of States with respect to SDGs, the NITI Aayog should further expand their monitoring and evaluation function by including the Human Development Index (HDI) and other such indices to quantify the progress of States. This process of monitoring and the associated inputs thereof would help in speedier implementation of various schemes and programmes meant to improve the HDIs. The Committee are of the view that HDIs being closely related to SDGs any progress with regard to one would greatly benefit in achieving the other goal. Further, when it comes to devising ways to achieve the SDG targets, more and more stakeholders, particularly the civil society and domain experts may be engaged more extensively. This may be achieved by releasing quarterly progress reports and placing all the underlying data in the public domain.

Reply of the Government

The NITI SDG India Index 2018 was computed using 62 indicators and covered 13 of the 17 SDGs. The SDG India Index 2019 was the second edition of the Index which built upon the first version and was released in December 2019. The index was constructed using 100 indicators, covering 54 targets across 16 goals, barring Goal 17, which primarily focuses on partnerships (where National Indicators are not available). The second iteration of the SDG India Index represents a refinement and addresses many of the concerns raised by the development community. Extensive peer-reviews were organized to ensure that the selection of indicators was robust. The respective ministries/departments and States and UTs were consulted on the usage of the indicators and data availability. The SDG India Index 2.0 is more robust than the first edition on account of broader coverage of Goals, Targets, and Indicators with greater alignment with the NIF. Additionally, this year the SDG India Index Report has a new section on Profiles of all 37 States & UTs which will be very useful to analyse the performance of the States/UTs on all goals lucidly and in depth.

As per the allocation of work pertaining to SDGs, NITI Aayog is responsible for overall supervision, identification and allocation of goals and targets to ministries/departments in consultation with Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is responsible for developing the National Indicator Framework (NIF) for SDGs and all Central Ministries have been assigned responsibilities for specific UN SDG targets and national Indicators, based on the NIF. The NIF, as prepared by MoSPI, includes 16 Goals, 128 targets and 306

indicators. The NITI SDG India Index 2019 was constructed using 100 indicators of which 68 were directly drawn from the NIF, 20 were modified NIF indicators to accommodate availability of data across all States and 12 non NIF indicators were developed in consultation with the line ministries.

The Human Development Index HDI, according to the latest Human Development Report (HDR) 2019, includes the three dimensions of Health, Education and Income and includes the following 4 indicators:

- Life expectancy at birth (mapped by the HDR 2019 to SDG 3 on Good Health & Wellbeing)
- Expected years of schooling (mapped by the HDR 2019 to SDG 4 on Quality Education)
- Mean years of schooling (mapped by the HDR 2019 to SDG 4 on Quality Education)
- Gross national income (GNI) per capita (mapped by the HDR 2019 to SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth)

The indicators in the HDI cover just 3 of 17 Goals; therefore, the Sustainable Development Goals framework is a far more comprehensive and holistic articulation of goals, targets and indicators pertaining to social, economic and environmental dimensions of development and subsumes the HDI dimensions of Health, Education and Income. On the dimensions of Health, Education and Income - the NITI SDG India Index 2019 and the NIF not only account for the HDI dimensions but also capture additional inputs to assess quality of health, quality of education and quality of economic participation:

- Health -MMR, Institutional deliveries, U-5 modality, Immunisation, Critical disease incidence, Family planning, Health personnel per 10,000 population along with a separate set of indicators on nutrition covered under Goal 2
- Education -Net enrollment ratio, Drop-out rates, Learning outcomes, Gross enrollment and Gender parity in higher education, PWDs inclusion in schools, Teacher training and Pupil teacher ratio
- Income -Growth of NDP per capita, Ease of doing business for an enabling environment for business and employment, Unemployment rate, Labour force participation disaggregated by gender and other enabling factors which impact economic participation such as access to banking infrastructure and bank accounts.

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are an important follow-up and review mechanism which is part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Each year, countries present their VNRs where they demonstrate their progress in achieving the SDGs at the High-Level Political Forum under the auspices of ECOSOC. India is scheduled to present its second VNR in 2020, having presented in 2017 previously. As part of the VNR 2020 preparation process, NITI Aayog, in collaboration with Civil

Society Organization (CSO) partners, has already conducted 14 consultations focusing on different groups following principle of “Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) and reaching the furthest behind first” - which lies at the core of Agenda 2030. This is also part of NITI Aayog’s larger effort of engaging a Whole-of-Society approach along with a Whole-of-Government approach towards SDG integration and implementation.

[Ministry of Planning O.M. No. 18/07/2019-Parl. dated 14th February, 2020]

CHAPTER - III

**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT
DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES**

NIL

CHAPTER – IV
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF
GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

NIL

CHAPTER- V

**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES
OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWATED**

NIL

**New Delhi;
8 September 2020
17 Bhadrapada, 1942 (Saka)**

**SHRI JAYANT SINHA,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Finance**

Minutes of the Sixteenth sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2019-20)
The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 8th September, 2020 from 1500hrs. to 1600 hrs
in Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Jayant Sinha – Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
3. Shri Vallabhaneni Balashowry
4. Smt. Sunita Duggal
5. Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh
6. Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak
7. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
8. Shri Manish Tewari
9. Shri Rajesh Verma

RAJYA SABHA

10. Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar
11. Shri Amar Patnaik
12. Shri G.V.L Narasimha Rao
13. Smt. Ambika Soni

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri V.K Tripathi - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan - Director
3. Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora - Additional Director
4. Shri Kh. Ginlal Chung - Under Secretary

PART I

(1500 hrs – 1545 hrs)

- | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 2. | XX | XX | XX | XX | XX | XX |
| | XX | XX | XX | XX | XX | XX. |

PART II

(1545 hrs onwards)

3. The Committee thereafter took up the following draft reports for consideration and adoption:

- (i) Draft Report on the subject 'Financing the startup ecosystem'.
- (ii) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 1st Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Financial Services, Expenditure and Investment and Public Asset Management).
- (iii) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 2nd Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).
- (iv) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 3rd Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- (v) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 4th Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Planning (NITI)
- (vi) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 5th Report on Demands for Grants (2019-20) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (vii) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 7th Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Financial Services, Expenditure and Investment and Public Asset Management).
- (viii) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 8th Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).
- (ix) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 9th Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- (x) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 10th Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Planning (NITI)
- (xi) Draft Action Taken Report on the recommendations contained in 11th Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (xii) Draft Action Taken Report on the 50th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on the subject "Review of NSSO and CSO and Streamlining Of Statistics Collection Machinery

in the Country, including Management Information System for Project Monitoring/Appraisal'

After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the above draft Reports and authorised the Chairperson to finalise them and present the Report to the Hon'ble Speaker / Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

APPENDIX

(Vide Para 4 of the Introduction)

ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FOURTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA) ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2019-20) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING

| | | Total | % of total |
|-------|--|-------|---------------|
| (i) | Total number of Recommendations | 04 | |
| (ii) | Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government (vide Recommendation at SI.No. 1, 2,3 and 4) | 04 | 100% |
| (iii) | Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies | Nil | 0.00 |
| (iv) | Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee | Nil | 0.00 |
| (v) | Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final reply of the Government are still awaited | Nil | 0.00 |