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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
(2020-21)**

**SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA**

**MINISTRY OF PLANNING**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(2021-22)**

**TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**March, 2021 / Phalguna, 1942 (Saka)**

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(2021-22)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 16 March, 2021

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 16 March, 2021



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**March, 2021 / Phalguna, 1942 (Saka)**

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**COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (2020-21)**

**Shri Jayant Sinha - Chairperson**

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
3. Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal
4. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
5. Shri Vallabhaneni Balashowry
6. Shri Shrirang Appa Barne
7. Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre
8. Smt. Sunita Duggal
9. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
10. Shri Sudheer Gupta
11. Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh
12. Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak
13. Shri Pinaki Misra
14. Shri P.V Midhun Reddy
15. Prof. Saugata Roy
16. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
17. Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki
18. Shri Manish Tewari
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. Dr. 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 Vinod Kumar Tripathi - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan - Director
3. Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora - Additional Director
4. Shri Kh. Ginlal Chung - Under Secretary
5. Ms. Madhumita - Assistant Committee Officer

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance, having been authorised by the Committee, present this Twenty-Eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22)' of the Ministry of Planning.

2. The Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Planning were laid on the Table of the House on 10th February, 2021 under Rule 331E 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 24 February, 2021. 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 (2021-22).

4. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their Sitting held on 10 March, 2021.

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

New Delhi;  
**10 March, 2021**  
19 Phalgun, 1942 (Saka)

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

## **Report**

### **PART - I**

#### **CHAPTER I**

##### **Introductory**

1.1 National Institution for Transforming India, also known as NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015. NITI Aayog is the premier policy think tank of the Government of India, providing directional and policy inputs. Apart from designing strategic and long-term policies and programmes for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant 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 fosters cooperative federalism.

1.2 The Institution develops mechanisms to formulate credible plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of the government. It pays special attention to the sections of our society that may be at risk of not benefiting adequately from economic progress. On areas that are specifically referred to it, NITI Aayog ensures that the interests of national security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy.

1.3 The institution designs strategic and long-term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives and monitors their progress and their efficacy regularly. It uses the lessons learnt from monitoring and feedback to make innovative improvements, including necessary mid-course corrections. Also, NITI Aayog actively monitors and evaluates the implementation of programmes and initiatives, including the identification of the needed resources so as to strengthen the prospects of success of the latter.

1.4 The Institution provides advice and encourage partnerships between key stakeholders and national and international like-minded think tanks, as well as educational and policy-research institutions. It creates a knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurial support system through a collaborative community of national and international experts, practitioners and other partners.



1.5 As a premier think tank of the country, NITI Aayog strives to maintain a state-of-the-art resource centre, be a repository of research on good governance and best practices in sustainable and equitable development as well as help their dissemination to stake-holders. It focuses on technology upgradation and capacity building for implementation of programmes and initiatives.

1.6 NITI Aayog's entire gamut of activities is divided into two main hubs: Team India and Knowledge and Innovation. The two hubs are at the core of NITI Aayog's efficient functioning. The Team India Hub carries out the mandate of fostering cooperative federalism and designing policy and programme frameworks. It provides requisite coordination and support in NITI Aayog's engagement with States. The Knowledge and Innovation Hub maintains a state-of-the-art resource centre, a repository of research on good governance and best practices, provides advice and encourages partnerships with key stakeholders, including colleges, universities, think tanks and non-governmental organizations at home and abroad.





## CHAPTER II

### Analysis of Demands for Grants (2021-22)

2.1 The Ministry of Planning presented their detailed Demands for Grants (2021-22 Demand No. 76) in the Lok Sabha on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2021. The total allocation of Ministry of Planning for the year 2021-22 is Rs. 1062.77 crore. The Demands in respect of Revenue Section and Capital Section are Rs. 1061.99 crore and Rs. 0.78 crore respectively. The Budget Estimates (BE) and Revised Estimates (RE) for 2020-21 were Rs. 650 crore and Rs. 770 crore respectively. The Actuals for the year 2019-20 was Rs. 578 crore. The BE for 2021-22 (Rs. 1062.77 crore) has been increased by Rs. 412.77 crore, which is 63.50% over the BE of 2020-21 (Rs. 650 crore). The BE for 2021-22 (Rs. 1062.77 crore) has been increased by Rs. 484.77 crore, which is 83.87% over the Actuals of 2019-20 (Rs. 578 crore). The increase in the Revenue Section for the year 2021-22 is about 63.57 % over the year 2020-21 where an amount of Rs. 649.22 crore was allocated which subsequently got revised to Rs. 769.22 crore at RE stage. However, the Capital Section remains unchanged, as an allocation of Rs. 0.78 crore has been provided in BE (2021-22) against an amount of Rs. 0.78 crore allocated in BE as well as RE of 2020-21.

2.2 The outlay for Establishment Expenditure has been provided at 98.10 crore in BE (2021-22), which is an increase of Rs. 4.88 crore (5.23%) over BE (2020-21) of Rs. 93.22 crore. In the case of DMEO, an allocation of Rs.16.00 crore has been sought in BE (2021-22) against an earlier allocation of Rs.14.00 crore in BE (2020-21) which subsequently got revised to Rs. 23.81 crore at RE stage to meet committed liabilities towards payment of professional charges for the evaluation studies on Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) which are under progress. Similarly, based on the pace of expenditure, the requirement of NILERD has been kept at Rs. 9.67 crore in BE (2021-22). In the case of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister, an allocation of Rs. 3.00 crore has been sought in BE (2021-22) to meet the day to day requirements of the Council.

2.3 The outlay for the Central Sector Schemes has been provided at Rs. 955 crore in BE (2021-22) which is an increase of 74.34% over BE (2020-21) of Rs. 547.78 crore. In respect of Atal Innovation Mission, against an allocation of Rs. 300 crore during BE (2020-21), an amount of Rs. 342 crore has been sought in BE (2021-22) so as to meet

its activities in extending assistance to Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) throughout the Country and creation of Atal Incubation Centers (AICs) besides extending support to Established Incubation Centers (EICs) as well as Atal Community Innovation Centers (ACICs). With the Official Development Assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 115 Aspirational Districts, an amount of Rs. 581 crore has been sought. This is a recent initiative of NITI Aayog aiming at raising the Human Development Index in the most backward districts of the Country.

2.3 (a) The actual expenditure incurred in 2019-20, Budget Estimates (BE) / Revised Estimates (RE) 2020-21, Budget Estimates 2021-22 are given below:-

<i>(Rs. in crore)</i>			
Actual 2019-20	BE 2020-21	RE 2020-21	BE 2021-22
Total	Total	Total	Total
578.00	650.00	770.00	1062.77

(b) The Budget Estimates (BE) 2021-22, Revenue Section 2021-22 and Capital Section 2021-22 are given below:-

<i>(Rs. in crore)</i>		
BE 2021-22	Revenue Section 2021-22	Capital Section 2021-22
Total	Total	Total
1062.77	1061.99	0.78

#### 2.4 Activities proposed during the year 2021-22

Various activities proposed to be undertaken in the Financial Year 2021-22 in the terms of the Expenditure projected are as under:

##### (a) Establishment Related Expenditure:

##### (i) Department of Planning

Under this the expenditure to be incurred to meet Salary and allowances and other related expenditure on Travel and Other Administrative Expenditure as well as Professional Services related expenditure in respect of 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 expenditure on Travel and Other Administrative Expenditure as well

as Professional Services related expenditure 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.

**(iii) Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister**

Under this the expenditure to be incurred to meet Salary and allowances and other related expenditure on Travel and Other Administrative Expenditure as well as Professional Services related expenditure in respect of the Chairman, Members, Members Secretary and other Officials of the Council .

**(iv) Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office**

Under this the expenditure to be incurred to meet Salary and allowances and other related expenditure on Travel and Other Administrative Expenditure as well as Professional Services related expenditure in respect of the DG and other Officials of the Organizatin which inter-alia includes 10 Evaluation of studies in respect of 28 Umbrella CSS schemes covering 10 sectors.

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

NILERD is an Autonomous Institution under the NITI Aayog, the is being supported through Budgetary gram in the form of Grants-in-Aid Salaries, Grants –in-Aid General and Grants in Aid for Creation of Capital Assets.

**(b) Scheme related Expenditure**

**NITI Aayog runs three schemes which are being carried forward beyond the 14<sup>th</sup> FC period into the 15<sup>th</sup> FC period which primarily caters their scheme related expenditure, the details are as under:**

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

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog is Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country and was setup in 2016. Towards this end AIM has taken a holistic approach to ensure creation of a problem-solving innovative mindset in schools and creating an ecosystem of entrepreneurship in universities, research institutions, private

and MSME sector. All the initiatives of AIM are currently monitored and managed by a Mission High Level Committee (MHLC) comprising of secretaries of various departments, experts on innovation and entrepreneurship from academia and industry under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. The MHLC advises, monitors and reviews the progress of AIM against the planned activities to drive the innovation ecosystem in the country. AIM is focused in driving the development of the ecosystem via its various programmes such as Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Incubation Centres, Atal New India Challenges, Atal Community Innovation Centres etc. All this coupled together provide the plan of action for AIM.

- (ii) **Ongoing programs and Schemes:** Under this, the expenditure in respect of Research & Study is being met.
- (iii) A Special Programme for Aspirational Districts Programme which aims at rapid transformation of the 112 identified under developed districts in India, across sectors which are critical for improving quality of life and economic productivity of citizens. These sectors are Health and Nutrition , Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure. Unified funds are provided to the Aspirational Districts on the basis of challenge method for meeting their critical gaps. 49 key performance indicators have been selected across the five sector and a district's performance is monitored on the basis of progress made on these indicators. The broad strategy of the Aspirational Districts Programme rest on the 3Cs- Convergence (between Central and State Schemes), Collaboration (between Centre, State, District Administration, Development Partners and Citizens) and Competition (between Districts). Under this Programme, one-time additional allocation is given to seven districts on the basis of performance in different categories (total out-go of Rs. 30 crores per month). In addition, the Programme has provision for taking innovative projects in critical areas in these districts. The aforesaid provision of performance-based allocation has strengthened the competitive spirit among the district team and has led to positive outcomes. Since the inception of the Programme, untied funds of Rs. 306 crores have already been disbursed to the Districts against projects approved by the

Empowered Committee of Secretaries for the Aspirational Districts. The projects are approved under either Window – I or Window-II of the Externally Aided Programme for Sustainable Development Goals (EAP-SDG) Guidelines. Entire amount of Rs. 126 crore made available during FY 2019-20 was utilized. In FY 2020-21, Rs. 180 crore have been utilized till date out of RE of Rs. 267 crore.

**OUTPUT –OUCOME MONITORING FRAMEWORK for Schemes 2021-22**

Demand No. 76

Ministry of Planning

1. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU) (CS)

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2021-22			OUTCOME 2021-22		
	Output	Indicators	Targets 2021-22	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2021-22
315 CR.	a) Atal Incubation Centre					
	1. To Build the platform for innovation and entrepreneurship	1.1 Number of Atal Incubators established	10*	1. Promote a culture of entrepreneurship & innovation in India	1.1.Number of start-ups incubated (physical and virtual)	400
		1.2 Number of Incubator / Startup excellence sessions facilitated by AIM Incubators	300		1.2.No. of jobs created by AIM startups (direct/indirect)	2000
		1.3 Number of values adding partnerships established by AICs	50		1.3.Leveraged external funding for startups through AIM incubators	7x (x is amount of seed funding through AIM grant)
1.4 Number of mentors of change in AICs		100	1.4.Number of Intellectual Properties (IP) patented/filed AIC incubates		60	

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2021-22			OUTCOME 2021-22		
	Output	Indicators	Targets 2021-22	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2021-22
2021-22	<b>2. Atal Tinkering Lab</b>					
	1. To Build the platform for innovation and entrepreneurship	1.1 Number of ATLs to be established.	1500*	Promote a culture of entrepreneurship & innovation in India	1.1.No of students engaged in ATL innovation projects	2000
		1.2 Number of school staff/teachers engaged in ATLs (in total schools)	2000		1.2.No. of ATL student prototype innovations created	2000
		1.3 Number of ATL Innovation Challenges Initiated	4		1.3.No of Students recognized through SIP/SEP/Partner ship Recognition programs	200
	2. To create an umbrella structure to oversee Innovation ecosystem of the country	2.1 Number of volunteers/mentors of change enrolled with AIM	1000			



FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2021-22			OUTCOME 2021-22		
	Output	Indicators	Targets 2021-22	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2021- 22
2021-22	<b>3. Atal New India Challenge</b>					
	1. Atal New India Challenge	1.1.No of ANIC challenges launched with ministries	25	Products based on cutting edge technology	1.1 No of innovations entries through challenges	1000
		1.2.No of Innovation challenges launched with Partners (pvt/intl/other s)	4		1.2 No of new ANIC innovations / winners created	50

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2021-22			OUTCOME 2021-22		
	Output	Indicators	Targets 2021-22	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2021- 22
	<b>4. Atal Community Innovation Centers</b>					
	1. Atal Community Innovation Centers	1.1 No. of Atal Community Innovation Centers supported	25	1. Atal Community Innovation Centers	1.1 Number of ACIC start- ups incubated (physical and virtual)	250
		1.2 Number of Innovation knowledge sharing sessions conducted by ACIC	100		1.2 Number of local community jobs created by ACICs	500
					1.3 Number of Intellectual Properties (IP) patented/fil ed by ACIC incubates	50

\*Tentative Numbers and depends on the approved budget of FY 2021-22

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

Financial Outlay (In Crores)	Outputs (2021-22)			Outcomes (2021-22)		
	Output	Indicator (s)	Target 2021-22	Outcome	Indicator (s)	Target 2021-22
581	Rs. 360 Crores to be distributed in a year (Window I)	No. of proposals submitted by the ranked districts to utilize the funds	To get proposals from 84 districts (12 months*30 crore)	Projects worth Rs. 360 Crores in total are expected to be implemented in districts securing ranks	No. of proposals approved by the Empowered Committee	To approve proposals of 84 districts (12 months*30 crore)
	To get proposals of Rs. 197 Crores (Window - II)	Critical projects affecting one or more districts	To get proposals of Rs. 197 Crores (Window - II)	Projects worth Rs. 197 Crores are expected to be implemented	Critical projects submitted by particular district/State to be approved by the Empowered Committee	To approve project (s) worth Rs. 197 Crore (Window - II)
	Proposals worth Rs. 24 Crores for strengthening of Institutional arrangement at NITI Aayog for monitoring SDGs in India and capacity building (Window - III)	Capacity building measures	To undertake capacity building measures/ trainings worth Rs. 24 Crores and strengthening of Institutional arrangement at NITI Aayog for monitoring SDGs.	Proposals for strengthening of Institutional arrangement at NITI Aayog for monitoring SDGs in India and capacity building (Window - III)	Capacity building measures	To undertake capacity building measures/ trainings worth Rs. 24 Crores and strengthening of Institutional arrangement at NITI Aayog for monitoring SDGs (Window - III)

**Demand No.76 - Ministry of Planning**

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

Sl. No.	Major Head	Name of the Schemes	(Rs. In thousands)									
			BE 2018-19	Actuals 2018-19	BE 2019-20	Actuals 2019-20	%Increase/Decrease of BE 2019-20 over BE 2018-19	BE 2020-21	Actuals 2020-21 (@)	%Increase/Decrease of BE 2020-21 over BE 2019-20	BE 2021-22	% Increase/Decrease of BE 2021-22 over BE 2020-21
<b>1. Establishment Expenditure</b>												
1	3451	Department of Planning	10500	11114	15000	9958	(+42.86%	15000	8935	--	15000	--
2	3451	NITI Aayog (Headquarters)	680000	684706	706100	681236	(+3.84%	740200	522463	(+4.83%	670000	(-9.48%
3	3451	Renovation and Alteration(#)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	70000	--
4	3451	Information Technology (Revenue)(#)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30000	--
5	3451	Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister	30000	9071	15000	42452	--	30000	19073	(+100.00%	30000	--
6	3451	Departmental Canteen	8000	5765	7000	5374	(-12.50%	7000	4453	--	6000	(-14.29%
7	3475	Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office	180000	98149	110000	142680	(-38.89%	140000	215710	(+27.27%	160000	(+14.29%
		<b>Total- Establishment Expenditure</b>	<b>908500</b>	<b>808805</b>	<b>853100</b>	<b>881700</b>	<b>(-6.10%</b>	<b>932200</b>	<b>770634</b>	<b>(+9.27%</b>	<b>981000</b>	<b>(+5.23%</b>
<b>2. Other Central Expenditure</b>												
1	3475	Grants-in-aid to National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development	90000	90000	93500	114300	(+3.89%	90000	67500	(-3.74%	96700	(+7.44%
		<b>Total- Other Central Expenditure</b>	<b>90000</b>	<b>90000</b>	<b>93500</b>	<b>114300</b>	<b>(+3.89%</b>	<b>90000</b>	<b>67500</b>	<b>(-3.74%</b>	<b>96700</b>	<b>(+7.44%</b>
<b>3. Central Sector Schemes</b>												
1	3475	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU)	2000000	3138774	3037400	3082989	(+51.87%	3000000	2755768	(-1.23%	3420000	(-14.00%
2	3475	Plan Formulation, Appraisal and Review	488900	370470	480000	342192	(-1.82%	500000	176287	(+4.17%	--	(-100.00%
3	3475	Renovation & Alteration (#)	47900	121708	90000	16940	(+87.89%	90000	16906	--	--	(-100.00%
4	3475	International Contributions	--	4000	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
5	3475	Research and Study (&)	32300	27387	40000	34738	(+23.84%	50000	37452	(+25.00%	312200	(+524.40%
6	3475	UNDP assisted project "Strengthening Capacities Decentralized Planning" (*)	100	345	--	--	(-100.00%	--	--	--	--	--
7	3475	United Nation- NITI Aayog Strategic Partnership Project (\$)	1000	--	1000	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
8	3475	Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	--	--	1200000	1250050	--	1800000	1760388	--	5810000	(+222.78%
9	3475	Information Technology (Revenue)(#)	30000	23001	27900	17439	(-7.00%	30000	12517	(+7.53%	--	(-100.00%

@ The expenditure is upto December 2020

(\*) The UNDP Project has been completed in the financial year 2017-18

(S) SMD has surrendered the budget provision in the RE state for the financial year 2019-20

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

(&) An amount of Rs.25.22 crore is being parked under Research and Study scheme which shall be later re-appropriated to NITI Aayog- Headquarters during FY 2021-22.

(Rs. In thousands)

Sl. No.	Major Head	Name of the Schemes	BE 2018-19	Actuals 2018-19	BE 2019-20	Actuals 2019-20	% Increase/ Decrease of BE 2019-20 over BE 2018-19	BE 2020-21	Actuals 2020-21 (@)	% Increase/ Decrease of BE 2020-21 over BE 2019-20	BE 2021-22	% Increase/ Decrease of BE 2021-22 over BE 2020-21
10	5475	Information Technology (Capital)	6800	4832	11100	--	(+)63.24%	7800	2819	(-)29.73%	7800	--
		<b>Total- Central Sector Schemes</b>	<b>2607000</b>	<b>3690517</b>	<b>4887400</b>	<b>4744348</b>	<b>(+)87.47%</b>	<b>5477800</b>	<b>4762137</b>	<b>(+)12.08%</b>	<b>9550000</b>	<b>(+)74.34%</b>
		<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3605500</b>	<b>4589322</b>	<b>5834000</b>	<b>5740348</b>	<b>(+)61.81%</b>	<b>6500000</b>	<b>5600271</b>	<b>(+)11.42%</b>	<b>10627700</b>	<b>(+)63.50%</b>
	3451	Deduct Recoveries		(-) 101		(-) 4764						
	3454	Deduct Recoveries				(-) 34974						
	3475	Deduct Récoveries		(-) 121480		(-) 10838						
				<b>4467741</b>		<b>5689772</b>						

## CHAPTER III

### DEVELOPMENT MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICE (DMEO)

3.1 The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), an attached unit of NITI, is driving accountability in governance through proper monitoring and evaluation, along with the other verticals. DMEO monitors and evaluates programmes and initiatives funded by the Central Government. It also provides technical advisory services to the States, under NITI Aayog's mandate of cooperative and competitive federalism. DMEO is headed by the Director General who is equivalent to an Additional Secretary to the Government of India. To have complete functional autonomy, a separate budgetary allocation has been exclusively provided to DMEO. DMEO's major projects in 2020–21 included:

- (i) Evaluations of Umbrella Centrally Sponsored Schemes (UCSS)
- (ii) Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF)
- (iii) Infrastructure Sector Review
- (iv) Quick Assessment Studies
- (v) Monitoring of Global Indices
- (vi) Data Governance Quality Index
- (vii) Support to Sewapuri Vikas Abhiyaan
- (viii) Other Activities for Institutional Strengthening

3.2 As there are 125 schemes under 28 Umbrella CSS, DMEO is undertaking third party evaluation through 10 evaluation study consultant packages: i) agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries ii) women and child development iii) human resource development iv) urban transformation v) rural development vi) drinking water and sanitation vii) health viii) jobs and skills ix) water resources, environment and forest x) social inclusion law and order and justice delivery.

3.3 Since 2018, Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog has been undertaking a rigorous process annually to improve the Output-Outcome Framework with the objective of strengthening outcome-based monitoring of Central Sector (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) of the Government of India. This document is laid in the Parliament alongside the Union Budget every year in the form of the Outcome Budget for all schemes having annual outlay of Rs 500 crore or more. The

framework for rest schemes is laid by respective ministry/department in the Parliament alongwith their Detailed Demands for Grants (DDGs). Under this key outputs and outcomes for respective schemes along with their key indicators are identified and finalized under approval of respective Secretary of the Ministry/Department. Each ministry/department sets target for each of those indicators for upcoming year and same are shared with DMEO. An online dashboard has also been created by DMEO and all ministry/departments have been given access to this dashboard. The targets set by ministry/department are fed by DMEO team on the dashboard and ministry/department directly updates the periodic progress on the dashboard. The dashboard enables realtime updation of progress.

3.4 The infrastructure sector reviews are held by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 14 infrastructure sectors and three social sectors. DMEO prepares these presentations in consultation with the concerned NITI vertical and ministry. A sector review dashboard is also maintained by DMEO.

3.5 DMEO undertakes evaluation of select programmes, either suo moto or on request of the implementing Ministry/Department. The purpose of evaluation includes an objective assessment of the long-term impact of the development programmes; identification of the areas and reasons for the successes and failures at different stages of programme execution; suggesting midcourse corrections; and disseminating lessons for the future.

3.6 DMEO and National Informatics Centre (NIC) were mandated to conduct a review of data preparedness levels across Ministries/Departments to assess the use of IT-based systems for scheme monitoring. For this, DMEO developed a 'Data Governance Quality Index' based on self-assessment by 65 Ministries/Departments on six key parameters: data generation, analysis, dissemination, use and security, use of technology, and HR capacity and case studies. The draft report, focusing on the data systems of 250 Central Government schemes, is being finalized.

3.7 Performance notes are prepared by DMEO based on desk review, using secondary sources, supported by primary key informant interviews. They provide a brief

analysis of a specific Government scheme, cover achievements during the reporting period, provide Line Ministries with inputs on strengths/weaknesses and best practices and recommend interventions for necessary course corrections.

3.8 Over the past couple of years, DMEO has been building synergic partnerships with Government stakeholders, global experts, relevant think tanks and academic organizations. The key goals of these partnerships are to leverage existing capacities in the external ecosystem; meet M&E technical assistance needs of the Centre, State Governments and other stakeholders; jointly conduct high-quality evaluation and research; strengthen evidence-based policymaking; and foster a development data architecture for programme management.

(Rs. in Crore)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sl. No.	Major Head	Name of the Scheme	BE (2018-19)	Actuals (2018-19)	BE (2019-20)	Actuals (2019-20)	BE (2020-21)	Actuals (2020-21) (upto Dec 2020)	BE (2021-22)
1	3475	Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)	18.00	9.81	11.00	14.26	14.00	21.57	16.00

3.9 When asked to specify the reasons for decreased allocation in BE (2021-22) as compared to RE (2020-21), whereby an allocation of Rs. 16 crore has been sought against an earlier allocation of Rs. 14 crore in BE (2020-21) which was subsequently revised to Rs. 23.81 crores at RE (2020-21) stage, the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated that "DMEO was entrusted to undertake evaluations of 28 Umbrella Centrally Sponsored Schemes (UCSS), comprising around 125 CSS schemes, for continuation of those beyond 14th Finance Commission cycle by the Department of Expenditure (DoE). For Central Sector (CS) Scheme, the evaluation were to be undertaken by respective Ministry/Department.

The exercise of evaluation of these UCSS schemes was initiated by DMEO in FY 2019-20 with a target to complete the evaluations by March, 2020. Accordingly, additional budget allocations to the tune of Rs. 22.17 Cr. were allocated to DMEO for FY 2019-20 for evaluation of CSS schemes. However, due to COVID-19 the evaluations were severely impacted beyond January, 2020, apart from other constraints like Floods, elections in sample States. Therefore, only Rs. 6.72 Cr. (out of Rs. 22.17 Cr.) were



utilized during FY 2019-20 against above evaluation work and rest were to be carried forwarded for FY 2020-21. Therefore, the RE for FY 2020-21 went to the tune of Rs. 23.81 Cr.

Since we don't anticipate evaluation of such large number of schemes in 2020-21, the BE for FY 2021-22 is lesser than RE of FY 2020-21."

3.10 To a pointed query with regard to the status of third-party evaluations of 28 Umbrella Centrally Sponsored Schemes (UCSS) covering 125 scheme through 10 evaluation studies and elaboration of their methods, duration and outcomes, the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated that, "to consider continuation of Umbrella Centrally Sponsored Schemes (UCSS) in the 15th Finance Commission cycle, DMEO was mandated to undertake third party evaluations of 28 UCSS. DMEO undertook the evaluation of the 125 schemes under these 28 UCSS through 10 evaluation packages: i) Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, ii) Women and Child Development, iii) Human Resource Development iv) Urban Transformation v) Rural Development vi) Drinking water and Sanitation vii) Health viii) Jobs and Skills ix) Water Resources, Environment and Forest; and x) Social Inclusion Law & Order and Justice Delivery.

The evaluation studies were undertaken under 10 packages with the support of external Consultants, who were selected through a two-stage bidding process. The evaluation study comprises of 4 broad components: (i) Sector Analysis; (ii) Scheme Level Analysis; (iii) Identification of Best Practices; and (iv) Scheme Harmonisation and Scheme Rationalisation. The analysis has been undertaken using the globally recognized REESI+E framework which focuses on assessing the scheme's Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Impact and Equity.

To optimize both the robustness and the uptake of the evidence generated, DMEO adopted a mixed methods evaluation and a consultative review process for the reports. This study followed a mixed-method approach utilising both quantitative and qualitative insights derived from secondary and primary data. Primary Data collection was conducted through Household Survey, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) from the village to the national level to validate the findings from secondary data and to fill data gaps. Qualitative insights from Central, State, district, block, ward and village administrations, as well as non-governmental experts

and civil society organizations were also used to contextualise the findings. The reference period of the study was from 2015-16 to 2018-19.

Out of 10 packages, the reports for 9 packages have been finalized and the remaining one package is expected to be finalized in March, 2021. The reports for the completed packages have been shared with the concerned stakeholders including respective ministries. A compendium of best practices has also been prepared and shared with the States/UT based on insights drawn from the UCSS evaluation studies. This compendium intends to facilitate knowledge sharing and highlighting high impact and innovative practices, which have resulted in positive changes for all stakeholders in key sectors, both in India and outside.”

**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 in the country. AIM's objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platforms and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, and create an umbrella structure to oversee the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem of the country.

4.2 AIM has adopted a holistic approach encompassing schools, universities, research institutions, industry, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), NGOs, and Ministries to achieve its objectives.

Major initiatives undertaken by AIM are:

- (i) Establishment of ATLs in schools to create a problem-solving mindset in students between classes 6–12.
- (ii) Establishment of Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) in universities, institutions, and the private sector to foster world-class start-ups, as well as adding new dimensions of outcome-based scale-up and monitoring of existing incubator models.
- (iii) Launch of Atal New India Challenges (ANICs) to foster product and service innovations in the country with national socio-economic impact and aligning them to the sectoral needs of various Ministries/industry and with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- (iv) Establishment of Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs) in the unserved/underserved regions of the country, including tier-2 and tier-3 cities and in the hinterland, to stimulate community-centric innovations and create local hubs of innovation and job creation.
- (v) Launch of Applied Research and Innovation Challenges for Small Enterprises (ARISE) to stimulate Make in India research and innovations in the MSME industry.

- (vi) Establish a nationwide voluntary Mentors of Change network to support all the initiatives of AIM.
- (vii) Building strategic innovation partnerships with the public and private sectors and multinationals, and country-to-country partnerships to promote collaborations and cross-border innovation exchanges.

4.3 All the initiatives of AIM are currently monitored and managed by a Mission High Level Committee (MHLC) comprising of secretaries of various departments, experts on innovation and entrepreneurship from academia and industry under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. The MHLC advises, monitors and reviews the progress of AIM against the planned activities to drive the innovation ecosystem in the country.

4.4 AIM has deployed realtime dashboards for ATIs (MyATI) and AICs that enable the capturing of operational data from the schools and incubators. The dashboard for AICs also enables AIM to conduct regular monitoring and support the Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF).

(Rs. in Crore)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sl. No.	Major Head	Name of the Scheme	BE (2018-19)	Actuals (2018-19)	BE (2019-20)	Actuals (2019-20)	BE (2020-21)	Actuals (2020-21) (upto Dec 2020)	BE (2021-22)
1	3475	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU)	200.00	313.87	303.74	308.29	300.00	275.57	342.00

4.5 When asked to specify the reasons for the increased allocation in BE (2021-22) over BE (2020-21) whereby in respect of AIM, against an allocation of Rs. 300 crore during BE (2020-21), an amount of Rs. 342 crore in BE (2021-22) has been sought, the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated that, "Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. AIM's objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platform and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, create awareness and create an umbrella structure to oversee innovation ecosystem of the country.

AIM's flagship schemes include establishing Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Incubation Centers, Atal Community Innovation Centres and finding ultra-low-cost solution to India's most intractable problems through Atal New India Challenges.

In order to fulfil the target of achieving the below mentioned targets and also to provide subsequent tranches to the current beneficiaries of Atal Innovation Mission we request for enhanced budget.

The progress made so far over the last year can be seen from the below table:

Program Name	Targets	Achieved till Mar' 20	Achieved till date	Incremental beneficiary count
Atal Tinkering Labs	10000	4978	7125	2147
Atal Incubation Centers	101	64	68	4
Atal Community Innovation Centres	50	Shortlisting in progress	19 (shortlisted)	19
Atal New India Challenges	150 challenges (3 beneficiaries per challenge)	24	39 challenges launched	15

Also, in each program we have increased the number of beneficiaries over the last year we have requested for a higher budget to support the sustenance of the selected beneficiary and to achieve the targets.”

4.6 When asked about the performance of a new initiative named Applied Research and Innovation challenges for Small Enterprises (ARISE) and the manner in which this initiative is promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in MSME sector, the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated that, “the ANIC ARISE initiative is launched to promote innovation in a phased manner in the MSME sector. ANIC ARISE is an effort to collaborate with partner Ministries to convert great research ideas into viable innovative prototypes followed by product development and commercial deployment. AIM and associated ministries collaborated jointly to identify areas that require innovative inputs and research efforts to ideate and build Minimum Viable Prototypes that would solve identified sectoral challenges. In this regard, the below challenges were launched along with the associated ministries in November 2020 :

Ministry	Challenge Theme
Indian Space Research Organization	Geo spatial information - Geo-spatial information using ML /AI useful in crop monitoring, weather forecasting and program evaluations
	Propulsion - Green propellants, Electric propulsion, advanced air-breathing
	Robotics/ AR/VR - Application of robotics, AR / VR techniques supporting space exploration, outer space monitoring
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	AI solutions - AI based solutions for Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) surveillance
	Health Data analytics - Use of data analytics to identify early breakout of epidemics based on the historic Curve and data
	Healthcare monitoring - Monitoring the logistics of cold chain in immunization program
Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	Project Clean Air - Development of Smart technology to reduce pollution through construction dust by at least 25%
	Project Move - Development of usable smart technology to create a real time mobility decision support system for Indian cities
	Project Water - Water pressure sensing systems to monitor leakage, illegal activity and help manage planned pressure in water supply lines
Ministry of Food Processing Industries	Machinery for indigenous food products - Development of machinery for indigenous food products. Optimized processing conditions and machinery for bulk production of native Indian product
	Waste to wealth - Waste to wealth - in food processing. Effective utilization of commercial food processing industry waste streams
	Alternative food packaging materials - Development of alternative food packaging materials, against the use of single use plastics; materials from food waste and bio-sources
Ministry of Defence	AI based predictive models - AI based Predictive Maintenance of Plant Machinery
	Auto Stabilizer system - Design & Development of latest technology Auto stabiliser system as Form, Fit & Function (FFF) replacement of existing Auto stabiliser system.
	Communication Modem - Wide band HD data communication modem with 4G Automatic link establishment data throughputs of the order of 120 kbps.

AIM and associated ministries sourced innovation proposals from Indian start-up ecosystem and MSME sector. ANIC ARISE received over 700 registrations and over 200 completed applications from start-ups / MSMEs. 116 applications from 5 ministries and 13 challenge areas fulfilled all the conditions as per the ANIC-ARISE guidelines and shortlisted for 1st round of review / evaluation. Post evaluation by 3 independent panels,

5 finalists for each challenge area i.e. 65 applications in all have been shortlisted for the final round.

65 applicants are currently presenting their innovation / solution to a screening and selection committee several officers of NITI Aayog, nominated experts from the respective ministries and experts from the industry / academia. 2 start-ups/ MSME per challenge area i.e 30 applicants shall be awarded a milestone based tranche-wise Grant-in-Aid of maximum INR 50 lakhs each for a timebound period of 12 months.

Also, AIM shall help the grantees with necessary technical guidance and expert mentoring from its incubation network spread across the country. As Ministries will have the first right to buy/procure these innovations coming straight from the start-up/ MSME, the Grant-in-Aid provided to innovate and build these solutions shall improve the competitiveness of Indian MSMEs and also help in widen and deepen MSME offerings to the market.”

## CHAPTER V

### ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME (ADP)

5.1 Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) is a special programme which aims at rapid transformation of the 112 identified under-developed districts in India, across sectors which are critical for improving quality of life and economic productivity of citizens. These sectors are Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure. Unified funds are provided to the Aspirational Districts on the basis of challenge method for meeting their critical gaps. 49 key performance indicators have been selected across the five sector and a district's performance is monitored on the basis of progress made on these indicators. The broad strategy of the Aspirational Districts Programme rest on the 3Cs- Convergence (between Central and State Schemes), Collaboration (between Centre, State, District Administration, Development Partners and Citizens) and Competition (between Districts). Under this Programme, one-time additional allocation is given to seven districts on the basis of performance in different categories (total out-go of Rs. 30 crores per month). In addition, the Programme has provision for taking innovative projects in critical areas in these districts. The aforesaid provision of performance-based allocation has strengthened the competitive spirit among the district team and has led to positive outcomes.

5.2 NITI Aayog's continuous focus on improving the quality of data being provided by the District administration in all the 112 Aspirational Districts intersects with the ever-increasing realization across India that rapid improvement in socioeconomic outcomes is possible only when policy intervention targets critical gaps identified through data analysis. In discharging this responsibility, NITI Aayog has actively collaborated with State Governments and Central Line Ministries and Departments. NITI Aayog has utilized the support of development partners as well as technology-enabled solutions in doing so.

5.3 Continuing with the objective of empowering the District team, led by the District Magistrate/ Collector, the 'Champions of Change' (CoC) dashboard was upgraded into a cloud-based platform equipped with an advanced data visualization tool and machine-



learning capabilities. The new CoC platform generates automatic data-quality reports that aid in corrective action, along with monthly performance reports for District, Central and State Prabhari Officers of each District and the Chief Secretaries of States. The data visualization tool also enables all Districts to analyse the data in creative ways. The District teams have now been empowered with a slew of planning tools to identify critical gaps and submit proposals to cover them. As an incentive to keep performing well, Districts are rewarded with additional allocation, up to Rs 10 crore per District, based on their monthly performance in the delta rankings released on the CoC platform every month. The Districts then utilize these additional untied funds to implement innovative projects in their areas.

5.4 The programme is also credited with expanding the coverage of various Central schemes aimed at financial inclusion and for enabling sustained improvement in children's health and nutrition, especially in reducing malnutrition and increasing immunization coverage. By covering five critical sectors, ADP has had a major impact on India's progress in localizing the Sustainable Development Goals. The respective Line Ministries formulated short- and long-term plans in February 2020 to focus their efforts towards priority areas in the Aspirational Districts. Representing the targets to be attained by each Central Ministry, the plans are being implemented in consonance with State Governments and District administration. NITI Aayog regularly reviews the progress on actualization of these plans and continues to have a sustained dialogue with the Districts regarding the challenges they are facing. NITI Aayog also holds periodic review meetings with the Chief Secretaries of States and the District Magistrates (DMs) of all Aspirational Districts.

5.5 NITI Aayog has undertaken various efforts to equip the Districts to emulate the ADP template at the block-level and use competition and incentives to improve governance right up to the gram panchayat level.

5.6 When asked to elaborate on steps undertaken by NITI Aayog to improve the quality of data being provided by the district administration in 112 identified under developed districts of India, under the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated that, "concern of the Committee on data

quality is noted. Improving data quality has been one of the main objectives of the on-going Aspirational Districts. For this purpose, following steps have been taken:

- (a) For key indicators, Niti Aayog has instituted third party verification. This entails periodic household surveys to assess the performance of the districts in key sectors. Measures for third party verification is a continuous effort.
- (b) The portal on which districts are uploading data has been recently upgraded introducing many features to check the quality of data. Wherever a data point shows sudden spurt, districts are notified and are requested to re-verify the data.
- (c) Frequent review meetings with State Govt. and District Administrations are held in which data quality is discussed and State/districts are requested to review the data capturing mechanism.
- (d) Where the data points are also maintained by the Central Ministries (for instance, in infrastructure, skill development and financial inclusion, the data is accessed directly from the Central Ministries which significantly rules out any district level bias in uploading data.

As stated above, improvement in data quality is a continuous exercise which is accorded a high level priority under this programme."

## PART - II

### OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Analysis of budget

1. The Committee note that the Budget Estimates (BE) of the Ministry of Planning under Demand No. 76 for the year 2021-22 is Rs. 1062.77 crore out of which Rs. 1061.99 crore is under Revenue Head and Rs. 0.78 crore is under Capital Head. Similarly for the year 2020-21, the BE and RE stood at Rs. 650 crore and Rs. 770 crore respectively, while for the year 2019-20 the Actuals stood at Rs. 578 crore. The scrutiny of the Budget of the Ministry of Planning reveal that the BE (2021-22) has increased by 63.50% and 83.87% with respect to the BE (2020-21) and Actuals (2019-20) respectively. The Committee further note that the allocations under 'Central Sector Schemes' stand at Rs. 955 crore and Rs. 547.78 crore in BE (2021-22) and BE (2020-21) respectively. This is an increase of 74.34% in BE (2021-22) over BE (2020-21). Similarly, under the Major Head 3475 for 'Research and Study', the allocation in BE (2021-22) stands at Rs. 31.22 crore, which is a substantial increase of 524.40% over BE (2020-21) where an allocation of just Rs. 5 crore was made. For the scheme named Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan International Cooperative Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), an allocation of Rs. 581 crore has been made in BE (2021-22) which is an increase of 222.78% over BE (2020-21) where an allocation of Rs. 180 crore was made. The Committee find that the reasons for an increase of 63.50% in BE (2021-22) as compared to the BE (2020-21) as well as an increase of 63.57% in Revenue Head in BE (2021-22) over BE (2020-21) are due to enhanced allocation sought under Aspirational District Programme (ADP) in order to spend the balance amount under JICA loan (Externally Aided Projects

component). With regard to ODA from JICA for SDGs, the Ministry has submitted that despite timely release of funds by JICA, the allocation were not made adequately and hence the enhanced allocation has been made in BE (2021-22) to meet the arrears, as the programme was under-funded till the current year. Although BE has been substantially enhanced for NITI Aayog, the Committee find that there has been not-so-satisfactory utilization and absorption of allocated funds in the past. The Committee would therefore recommend that the Ministry and the NITI Aayog, as the premier think tank of the Government, should effectively utilize the enhanced allocations with concrete outcomes within the stipulated period.

#### Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)

2. The Committee note that the budgetary allocation for Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) for the year 2020-21 was made at Rs. 14 crore which subsequently got revised to Rs. 23.81 crore. This is an increase of 9.81 crore (70.07%) at RE (2020-21) over BE (2020-21). The Committee further note that this was done so as to meet the committed liabilities towards payment of professional charges for the evaluation studies on Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) schemes which are under progress. However, the Committee are of the view that since these evaluation studies are a well-planned initiative of DMEO, the Ministry should have incorporated this enhanced allocation at the budget formulation stage itself. The Committee would therefore expect the Ministry to avoid such imprudence in the future.

3. The Committee note that, with regard to large vacancies in DMEO, which has been persistently pointed out by this Committee in their earlier reports, the

Ministry informed that the recruitment process has been initiated under the flexi recruitment rule guidelines of NITI Aayog, post the approval and concurrence of UPSC and Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). The Committee expect that the process would be completed soon, so that the critical function of monitoring and evaluation of important schemes and initiatives of the Government can be carried out effectively and in a hassle-free manner. The Committee should be apprised of the filling of these posts, as soon as the process is completed.

4. The Committee note that the major monitoring and evaluation task of NITI Aayog is performed by DMEO. Apart from this, NITI Aayog has developed a number of social sector indices and dashboards by focusing on effective management and better outcomes backed by data analysis. However, the Committee are of the opinion that there is some ambiguity with regard to the quality of data being used by the Ministry. Hence, the Committee are of the view that more emphasis needs to be placed and steps undertaken to improve the quality of data. The Committee further desire that greater use of latest technological developments be made in data collection and analysis. In addition, the Committee also recommend that NITI Aayog have necessary staff at the district level to ensure that high-quality outcomes data is supplied for the CSS.

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

5. The Committee, while appreciating steps like creating dashboards for Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) and Atal Incubation Centres (AICs), promoting product and service innovations, building strategic innovation partnership with the private and public sectors etc. under AIM, would like to recommend even greater use of

technological advancements, particularly frontier technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning etc. to monitor the labs, centres etc. The Committee are of the view that greater incorporation of such latest technological tools would also help in bridging the digital divide in areas of education and health, that is increasingly being witnessed in difficult situations, like the ongoing Covid pandemic.

6. The Committee note that with regard to Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs) under AIM, the Ministry has planned to establish 50 ACICs in the unserved/underserved regions of the country, including tier-2 and tier-3 cities and in the hinterland, to stimulate community-centric innovations and create local hubs of innovation and job creation. The Committee expect the plan to materialize soon. The Committee believe that more tangible steps are needed to create awareness about innovation and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), develop knowledge and capacity building etc. in the community, particularly in rural areas. Similarly, with regard to Applied Research and Innovation Challenges for Small Enterprises (ARISE) which has been launched to stimulate Make in India research and innovations in the MSME industry, the Committee would like to be apprised of the framework and timelines of the initiative. The Committee would further suggest to fastrack this process so that MSMEs are benefitted at the earliest, especially in the light of Covid pandemic when this sector has been hit hard.

#### Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)

7. The Committee while appreciating the socio-economic improvements made in the backward districts under ADP, would like to suggest greater incorporation

of latest technologies to provide innovative solutions to the unique challenges facing these districts. The Committee also recommend that more and more start-ups and social entrepreneurs should be encouraged in these districts. The Committee are of the view that greater collaborations should be developed with local NGOs, field volunteers and other development partners which can further help in improving the economic as well as social progress of these backward districts. The Committee further suggest to include independent third parties in areas of data collection and evaluation studies to measure such progress.

8. The Committee note that the NITI Aayog has undertaken various efforts to equip the districts to emulate the ADP template at the block-level and use competition and incentives to improve governance right up to the gram panchayat level. While some States have finalized their respective models by identifying their poorest blocks, many others are in various stages of completing this process. The Committee expect that the remaining States would soon complete this process and the detailed ADP template be shared with the Committee at the earliest.

9. The Committee learn that well performing districts are awarded financially, whereby one-time additional allocation is given to seven districts on the basis of performance in different categories (total outgo of Rs. 30 crore per month) to strengthen the competitive spirit among the district team. The Committee while appreciating this provision of performance-based allocation, would also like to recommend that the poor-performing districts should also be supported to enable them to develop their capabilities to enhance their performance.

10. NITI Aayog should develop a cadre of well-trained staff that can work on a temporary, project basis to assist Aspirational Districts on the ADP. These project staff can dramatically boost performance and transfer best practices.

New Delhi;  
10 March, 2020  
19 Phalguna, 1942 (Saka)

SHRI JAYANT SINHA,  
Chairperson  
Standing Committee on Finance





Minutes of the Eighth sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2020-21) The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 from 1100hrs. to 1400 hrs in Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**PRESENT**

**Shri Jayant Sinha – Chairperson**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
3. Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak
4. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
5. Shri Manish Tewari
6. Shri Rajesh Verma

**RAJYA SABHA**

7. Shri Praful Patel
8. Dr. Amar Patnaik
9. Shri C.M. Ramesh
10. Shri G.V.E. Narasimha Rao

**SECRETARIAT**

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



**PART I**  
**(1100 hrs - 1200 hrs)**

**WITNESSES**

**Ministry of Planning (NITI)**

1. Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO
2. Dr. Rakesh Sarwal, Additional Secretary
3. Dr. K. Rajeswara Rao, Additional Secretary
4. Shri R Ramanan, MD & Additional Secretary, AIM
5. Dr. Sekhar Bonu, DG, DMEO
6. Dr. Yogesh Suri, Sr. Adviser
7. Dr. Neelam Patel, Sr. Adviser
8. Shri Rakesh Ranjan, Sr. Consultant
9. Ms. Sanyukta Samaddar, Adviser (Parliament)
10. Dr. Prem Singh, Adviser
11. Shri Ishtiyaque Ahmed, Adviser

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Witnesses to the sitting of the Committee. After the customary introduction of the Witnesses and their introductory remarks, the CEO (NITI Aayog) made a Power Point Presentation (PPT) before the Committee. The Committee then deliberated upon the Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Planning (NITI Aayog) and the overall mission and scope of NITI Aayog. The major issues discussed during the sitting related to the indicators for ranking aspirational districts, the process of validation of data uploaded on the dashboard for such districts, inter-linking of this data with SDG data and the current status of earlier funds being provided to the backward districts. The Committee further deliberated upon issues related to Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) Scheme, need to boost Cooperative & Competitive federalism, various Key Performance Indices (KPIs) brought out by NITI Aayog and the quality of data being used, recent developments and future of frontier technologies like blockchain technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI) etc. and close coordination of NITI Aayog with respective line ministries on these technological aspects; various issues related to affordable electricity and renewable energy



generation, need for developing high quality models/simulations in the country to provide framework for a \$5 trillion Indian economy, digital divide in the country in fields of education and health, particularly in view of Covid pandemic and the need to push more States to bring out their SDG budget. The Chairperson then directed the representatives of the Ministry of Planning (NITI Aayog) to furnish written replies to the points raised by the Members during the discussion within a week to the Secretariat.

(The witnesses then withdrew)

PART II

3. XX XX XX XX XX XX  
XX XX XX XX XX XX.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.



**Minutes of the Ninth sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2020-21)**  
**The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 from 1530hrs. to 1745 hrs.**  
**in Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.**

**PRESENT**

**Shri Jayant Sinha – Chairperson**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
3. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
4. Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre
5. Smt. Sunita Duggal
6. Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh
7. Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak
8. Shri P.V Midhun Reddy
9. Shri Manish Tewari
10. Shri Rajesh Verma

**RAJYA SABHA**

11. Shri A. Navaneethakrishnan
12. Shri Praful Patel
13. Dr. Amar Patnaik
14. Shri Mahesh Poddar
15. Shri Bikash Ranjan
16. Shri G.V.L Narasimha Rao

**SECRETARIAT**

- |                                 |   |                     |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Shri Vinod Kumar Tripathi    | - | Joint Secretary     |
| 2. Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan | - | Director            |
| 3. Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora    | - | Additional Director |
| 4. Shri Kh. Ginalal Chung       | - | Under Secretary     |





PART I

2.	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX.

(The witnesses then withdrew)

PART II

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

- (i) Twenty-Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Financial Services and Investment & Public Asset Management).
- (ii) Twenty-Sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).
- (iii) Twenty-Seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- (iv) Twenty-Eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Planning.
- (v) Twenty-Ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (vi) Thirtieth Report on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Seventy-First Report (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Central Assistance for Disaster Management and Relief'.
- (vii) Thirty-First Report on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Seventy-Second Report (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Strengthening of the Credit Rating Framework in the Country'.



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

The Committee then adjourned.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

