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Member's Profile

(She is member, incharge for health in the planning commission)

Syeda Saiyidain Hameed

Member, Planning Commission, Government of India.

Tel. No.: (Off.) 2309 6570, 2309 6571, 2309 6666/ 96 Extn. 2120
Email: s.hameed@yojana.nic.in

2000 to present:

Founder Member: Muslim Women's Forum
Forum is involved in Legal Literacy for Muslim women, for voicing concerns of Muslim women to government and interfacing with Ulemas on matters concerning their rights.

Founder Trustee: Women's Initiative for Peace in South Asia (WIPSA)
An organization of women as catalysts for people to people contact in the South Asian region on a sustained basis to bring about a climate of peace in the region through dialogue. Women's Bus of Peace from Delhi to Lahore and Lahore to Delhi, later Women's Bus of Peace from Kolkata to Dhaka was one of the highlights of this initiative.

Founder Member: South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR)
A regional membership based body focusing on human rights issues in the South Asian Region. It consists of members from the 5 countries namely Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Srilanka and Nepal. It is committed to addressing Human Rights at both regional and national level.

Founder Trustee: Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation
Serving as an initiative that links the issues of dialogue with justice and equity and through this integral link, begins to serve as a catalyst for both internal and external peace and reconciliation in South Asia.

1987 to 2000

Member National Commission for Women, Govt. of India
National Commission for Women (NCW) is a statutory body under the National Commission for Women Act 1990. The powers of the Commission are listed under Section 10 of the Act and encompassed under the clause ' To investigate and examine the safeguards provided to women under the Constitution of India and make recommendations to govt. on the proper working of the safeguards.'

1991-1994 Nehru Memorial Museum and Library
- Worked on *Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad*

1987-1991 Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)
- Worked on Azad and Also on Sufism

Present Honorary Positions

- Trustee National Foundation of India
- Trustee Dalit Foundation
- Governing Board Member Indian Social Institute

GOI-MOH | Planning comm | JN | 5/10/04

- Trustee Janvikas, Ahmedabad Gujarat
- Trustee Navsarjan Ahmedabad Gujarat
- Governing Board Member Centre for Women's Development Studies India
- Member Governing Body: Rajdhani College
- Member Jury Sarojini Naidu Prize for Journalism (Hunger Project)

Past Honorary Positions

- Member Women's Empowerment Committee, Govt. of NCT Delhi
- Chairperson Governing Body: Lady Irwin College
- Member Management Committee: Modern School
- Member Delhi Urdu Academy
- Member Haryana Urdu Academy
- Member National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language

Administration

- 1975-1978: Executive Assistant to Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower Govt. of Albetra, Canada
- 1978-1985: Director of Colleges and Universities, Govt. of Alberta, Canada

Teaching

- 1972-1974: Sessional Lecturer University of Alberta, Canada
- 1965-1967: Lecturer, Lady Shri Ram College, New Delhi, India

Personal

Resident of Delhi, Born in Kashmir, Traveled in South Asia, USA, Canada. A few countries in West Asia, South East Asia, UK and Europe. Husband: Dr. S.M.A. Hameed (late) was Professor of Business Administration and Commerce at the University of Alberta, Canada. Three children: Dr. Morad Hameed, Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Calgary, Canada, Yavar Hameed, Lawyer in Ottawa, Canada and Ayesha Hameed, Phd student at York University, Canada.

GOI - MOH | Planning Commission
5/10/04
5/10/04

Ms Meenakshi Datta Ghosh
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

Ms Meenakshi Datta Ghosh was Joint Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of Family Welfare. She was responsible for formulating the National Population Policy, 2000.

Ms. Ghosh was finalizing a strategy paper, already on the website, on the social franchising of services and the social marketing of reproductive health products. She has motivated the updating of standards and specifications of contraceptives and instrumentation used in the national family welfare programme.

Her special interests are in the areas of decentralization of health care and convergence of service delivery.

Ms Ghosh is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Pittsburgh, USA, in the field of Public Policy Research and Analysis. She has a Masters in Public Policy, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; a Masters in Sociology, Delhi School of Economics Delhi University as well as Diplomas in French and in Russian.

Ms Meenakshi Datta Ghosh belongs to the Indian Administrative Service (since 1970) and has held several positions of reponsibility in development administration.

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(This is an old profile - probably 2002. She must have moved on.)

Planning Commission

Approach to the Mid-term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan (2002-07)

The Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) of the Tenth Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07) is due in the current year and work on preparing it has commenced. The MTA provides an opportunity to take stock of the economy and to introduce policy correctives and new initiatives in critical areas in the context of the new priorities outlined in the National Common Minimum Program. This note presents some of the issues which the Mid-Term Appraisal needs to address.

Growth Performance

2. The Tenth Plan had targeted an average annual growth rate of GDP of 8.1% for the Tenth Plan period to be achieved by a steady acceleration in the course of the Plan period from around 6.7% targeted in 2002-03 to 9.3% in the terminal year 2006-07. This was expected to lay the basis for a growth rate of above 9% during the Eleventh Plan period.

3. The MTA will consider whether the original 10th Plan growth target is still feasible. The growth target of the first two years was about 7% on average and the actual performance has been 4.6% in 2002-03 and 8.3% in 2003-04, averaging 6.4% for the two years. The shortfall in the first two years appears modest but the disturbing fact is that the momentum for acceleration, which was essential to achieve the 8.1%, target, has not been achieved. The current year's GDP growth is likely to range between 6 and 6.5 per cent of GDP so that achievement of the Plan target is only possible if GDP growth in the last two years averages 11% per year, which is clearly infeasible. The MTA should explore the scope for accelerating growth in the remaining years of the Tenth Plan to achieve the target of 7-8% growth set in the NCMP.

4. Sectorally, the Tenth Plan had targeted growth of agricultural GDP of 4% per year, aiming to reverse the deceleration in the second half of the 1990s – from 3.2% in the period 1980-1996 to 2.6% in the period 1996-2002. This is nowhere near being achieved. The average agricultural GDP growth in the first two years of the Plan was 1.8% and it is unlikely to exceed 1.5% in the current year. The failure in this area is a major factor underlying rural distress which has been visible in recent years. The MTA will focus on corrective policies needed in this area.

5. Industrial growth in the first two years was 6.7% which was also short of expectations. Although industrial growth has picked up in the current year, we are still far from the rates of above 10% needed to achieve Plan targets. Failure to achieve high rates of industrial growth will limit the ability of the economy to generate high quality jobs, particularly for the educated youth.

6. One of the brightest spots in India's economic performance in recent years has been the emergence of knowledge-based industries as front-runners in the global marketplace. The early successes of the software sector are being replicated in a number of other activities such as business process outsourcing (BPO), bio-technology, pharmaceuticals, industrial design, tertiary health-care, etc. There is vast potential in these activities but it is clear that a number of other developing countries have also identified them as areas of focus for the future. In order to prevent an erosion of India's present pre-eminence from these emerging threats, the MTA will identify the factors behind our success and to ensure that we strengthen and creatively build upon them. The entrepreneurial dynamism and competitiveness of these sectors indicate that there are lessons to be learnt about the policy and operating environment that can be fruitfully applied to the less dynamic segments of Indian industry. Equally importantly, IT should be harnessed to improve connectivity and governance in rural areas.

for meeting on 8/10/07

Chapter 16

HEALTH

Improvement in health status of the population has been one of the major thrust areas in social development programmes of the country. This was to be achieved through improving the access to and utilization of Health, Family Welfare and Nutrition Services with special focus on under-served and under-privileged segments of population. The states fund infrastructure for delivering health care services; the Centre provides funds through Centrally Sponsored Programmes for combating major public health problems. Technological improvement and increased access to health care have resulted in steep fall in mortality but disease burden due to communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases and nutritional problems continue to be high. In spite of the fact that norms for creation of infrastructure and manpower are similar throughout the country, there are substantial variations between States and districts within a state in availability and utilisation of health care services and health indices of the population. The Special Action Plan for Health envisages improvement of the health services to meet the increasing health care needs of the population.

Current problems faced by the health care services include:

Persistent gaps in manpower and infrastructure especially at the primary health care level.

Sub-optimal functioning of the infrastructure; poor referral services.

Plethora of hospitals in Government, voluntary and private sector; they do not have appropriate manpower, diagnostic and therapeutic services and drugs; Massive inter-state/ inter district hiatus in performance as assessed by health and demographic indices; availability and utilisation of services are poorest in the most needy states/districts.

Sub optimal inter-sectoral coordination

Increasing dual disease burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases because of ongoing demographic, lifestyle and environmental transitions,

Technological advances which widen the spectrum of possible interventions

Increasing awareness and expectations of the population regarding health care services

Escalating costs of health care, ever widening gaps between what is possible and what the individual or the country can afford.

Health Care Infrastructure And Manpower.

Primary Health Care Services

2. The primary health care infrastructure provides the first level of contact between the population and health care providers. Realising the importance of the primary health care infrastructure in delivery of health services, States, Centre and several agencies simultaneously started creating primary health care infrastructure and manpower. This has resulted in substantial duplication of the infrastructure and manpower.

3. The primary health care infrastructure created include:

Subcentres 134094 with 127384 ANMs in position

Primary Health Centres (PHCs) 22991 with 24648 doctors

Community Health Centres (CHCs) 2712 with 3624 specialists

(Source : RHS bulletin December, 1997).

Sub-divisional/Taluk hospitals

The Department of Family Welfare supports personnel in 5435 rural family welfare centres, 871 urban health posts, 1083 urban family welfare centres, 550 district post partum-centres and 1012 sub-district post-partum centres.

Under the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy (ISM&H) there are 22,104 dispensaries, 2862 hospitals and 300 medical colleges;

(Source : Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy in India, 1998. Dept. of ISM&H, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, New Delhi).

Municipalities provide urban health services.

Central Government Health Services (CGHS) provides health care for central Government employees.

Railways , Defence and similar large Ministries/Departments have their own hospitals and dispensaries to cater to health care needs of their staff.

Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and large industries have their own medical infrastructure.

Employees State Insurance (ESI) provides hospital and dispensary-based health care to employees

All hospitals - primary, secondary or tertiary care -- also provide primary health care services to rural and urban population.

There are the voluntary organizations and the private sector which are providing heath care

4. It is important to take into account all these institutions and manpower before estimating the gaps. It is possible to achieve substantial improvement in coverage and quality of health services by appropriately restructuring the existing infrastructure making them responsible for health care for the population in a defined geographic area. Substantial proportion of the manpower problems can be sorted out by reorientation and re-deployment of existing manpower. While there are several districts which have institutions well above their required norms, it is a matter of concern that many of the districts with poor health indices do not have adequate health infrastructure and here the need for the health services is very great. The Ninth

Five Year Plan emphasised on the need to address the inequitable distribution of existing institutions and manpower as well as poor functional status due to mismatch between personnel and infrastructure, the need for orientation and skill upgradation of personnel and lack of appropriate functional referral system.

Progress and suggestions:

Rural Primary Health Care Services

5. A vast infrastructure for primary health care has been created but it is all functioning sub-optimally. The factors responsible for this condition at the rural institutions are:

- Inappropriate location, poor access and poor maintenance;
- Gaps in critical manpower;
- Mismatch between personnel and equipment;
- Lack of essential drugs/diagnostics and poor referral linkages;

Ongoing initiatives to improve access to Primary Health Care include:

Strengthening/ relocating Sub-centres/ PHCs;

Merger, restructuring, re-locating of hospitals/dispensaries in rural areas and integrating them with existing infrastructure;

Re-structuring existing block level PHC, Taluk, Sub-divisional hospitals (states like Himachal Pradesh have undertaken this);

Utilising funds from Basic Minimum Services (BMS), Additional Central Assistance for BMS and Externally Aided Project (EAP) to fill critical gaps in manpower and facilities;

District level walk-in interviews for appointment of doctors of required qualifications for filling the gaps in PHC (States like M.P and Gujarat have reported limited success).

Use of mobile health clinics - Orissa, Delhi - expensive and perhaps not sustainable;

Appointment of doctors/specialists on part-time basis; and

Adoption of PHC by NGO/Voluntary organisation/industry.

Important Steps:

- Construction activity is taken up only when it is absolutely necessary.
- High priority is accorded to filling the reported large gap in the vital CHC/First Referral Unit (FRU) by redesignation and strengthening, providing appropriate equipment and consumables and drugs required.
- Retraining and skill upgradation of male workers in vertical programmes and their redeployment as male multi-purpose workers.
- Correct mismatches between infrastructure/equipment and manpower to make institutions fully functional

Urban Primary Health Care Services

6. Nearly 30% of India's population lives in urban areas. There is either non-availability or substantial under utilisation of available primary care facilities along with an over-crowding at secondary and tertiary care centres. Nagar Palikas, State Govts., Central Ministries and EAPs provide funding for building upgradation and re-structuring urban primary health care infrastructure and establishing effective linkages.

7. The Planning Commission has provided Additional Central Assistance to:

Punjab for development of urban primary health care centres and establishing of linkages with secondary and tertiary hospitals in Amritsar City;.

Strengthen existing dispensaries in under-served East Delhi and establish referral linkages with secondary care institutions in the region;

Reorganisation of urban primary and secondary health care infrastructure and building up referral linkages at Nasik.

8. The progress in these and similar initiatives by State Governments is being monitored.

Tribal Health

9. The tribal population is not a homogeneous one. In North Eastern States, the tribals have high literacy levels; they access available health facilities and their health and demographic indices are better than the national level though the region is endemic for malaria. On the other hand, the Onges in Andaman and Nicobar remain a primitive tribe with very little access either to education or to health care. Differential area-specific strategies are therefore being developed for each of the tribal areas to improve access to and utilisation of health services.

Ninth Plan Strategies to Improve Health Care in Tribal Areas:

Ensuring availability of adequate infrastructure and personnel.

Area specific Reproductive Child Health (RCH) programmes.

100% Central Plan funds for National Anti Malaria Programme.

Focus on effective implementation of the Health & Family Welfare (FW) programmes.

Close monitoring under Tribal Sub-plan, early detection of problems in implementation of all on-going programmes and midcourse correction.

Progress and Suggestions:

Successful Experiments in Improving primary health care to Tribals

- Andhra Pradesh - Committed, Govt. persons running health facilities in tribal areas
- Orissa – ACA for mobile health units with fixed tour schedule. Problem - Expensive, difficult to replicate
- Karnataka, Maharashtra- NGOs 'adopting' and running PHCs in Tribal areas - Success is mainly due to commitment of individuals and credibility of NGOs.

Problems:
Initiatives and commitment of key individuals are responsible for success. Difficult to replicate in a vast system.

Secondary Health Care

Priorities in the Ninth Plan include efforts to :

Strengthen FRU (CHC/Sub-Divisional Hospital) to take care of the referrals from PHC/Sub Centres (SCs).

Strengthen district hospitals so that they can effectively take care of referrals from the entire districts.

Strengthen referral system and rationalise care at each level to:
Enable patients to get care near their residence
Ensure optimal utilisation of facilities at PHCs/CHCs.
Reduce overcrowding at district and tertiary care levels.
Provide adequate diagnostics, consumables and drugs
Strengthen emergency services and management of high risk cases.

Progress & Suggestions:

10. In addition to funds from State Plan, several States have been seeking External Assistance to build up FRU/District hospitals. So far six States have initiated such projects with external assistance from World Bank.

11. States have reported :

Progress in construction works, procurement of equipment, increased availability of ambulances, drugs.

Improvement in services following training to improve skills in clinical management, attitudes and behaviour of health care providers.

Reduction in vacancies and mismatches in health personnel/infrastructure.

Improvement in Hospital Waste Management,

Disease surveillance and response systems have been initiated.

12. All these six States have attempted introduction of user charges for diagnostics and therapeutics from people above the poverty line. Initial problems have been sorted out. Some States are still unable to ensure retention of collected charges in the same institutions. This problem has to be speedily resolved. Referral system needs further strengthening. All states are also simultaneously strengthening primary health care infrastructure so that the referral linkages between primary and secondary care become operational. These measures need to be closely monitored.

Tertiary Health Care:

13. Along with an emphasis on enhancing the outreach and quality of primary health care services and strengthening the linkages with secondary care institutions, there is a need to optimise the facilities available in the tertiary care centres. At this level, there is an ever-widening gap between what is possible and what is affordable, for the individual or for the country.

Tertiary Health Care

Problems:

Growing demand for complex, costly diagnostic & therapeutic modalities
Lack of skilled manpower, equipment & consumables to meet the demand
Overcrowding

Ninth Plan priorities

Provide funds for capacity building
Levy user charges for people above poverty line
Explore alternative modalities to meet the growing cost of care

Ongoing Activities

14. Several states (e.g. Rajasthan, UP) are trying out innovative schemes to give greater autonomy to these institutions, allowing them to generate resources and utilise them effectively. Some states e.g. Rajasthan and Kerala have been levying user charges and attempting to utilise the funds to improve hospital services. On an experimental basis, an attempt is being made to improve quality of services in tertiary hospitals under a Citizen's Charter for Central Government Hospitals in Delhi. The Charter aims to provide access without discrimination in those Delhi hospitals and put in place a redressal mechanism for public grievance.

Development Of Human Resources For Health

Health professionals - production and utilisation

15. Every year over 16,000 doctors graduate in the Modern System and over 11000 graduate in ISM&H. Two–thirds of the medical graduates under the modern system go in for post graduate training. Majority of the practitioners of both modern system and ISM&H are working in private/ voluntary sector.

16. With facilities available for training of medical graduates outstripping the need, the Medical Council Act was amended in 1993 to stipulate Central Government permission for any person to establish a medical college and to provide that no medical college would open a new or a higher course of study or training including a post graduate course of study or training or expand its admission capacity in any course of study and training. Even so, medical colleges are opened and existing under-graduate and post-graduate colleges continue to increase their seat capacities with permission from the Central Government.

17. There are continuing vacancies in primary, secondary and tertiary care institutions at the level of general doctors as well as of specialists both in Central and State institutions In order to ensure that vacancies of doctors in primary health care institutions are filled, several states are trying to make service in PHCs a pre-requisite for post graduate admission. Some states are also experimenting with appointment of doctors on contractual basis. As a long- term measure, the vacancies are sought to be filled by creating new medical teaching institutions and increasing the existing admission capacity. However, it would appear, the vacancies are not getting filled because of poor service conditions rather than lack of professionals being produced. Majority of the graduates and post graduates from the Modern System and ISM&H practice in private/voluntary sector.

Para-professional Production & Utilsation:

18. There was a major gap in para-professional production in the eighties. Facilities were created for training of male and female multipurpose workers, and currently there are adequate number of ANMs though there is still a dearth of male workers. However, there are several para professionals employed in various vertical programmes who are functioning as male unipurpose workers. The Ninth Plan has recommended adequate retraining, redeployment and integration of these workers into the existing primary health care institutions.

19. Para-professionals are trained in three categories of training institutions: existing Government institutions, private institutions and as a part of the 10+2 vocational training. The requirement of para-professionals has to be assessed in each district and appropriate training taken up preferably as a part of 10+2 Vocational Training Course. Utilisation of these vocational courses as a major mode of training para-professionals would enable districts to respond to the changing needs while enhancing career prospects for the para –professionals themselves.

Health manpower position at district level

20. Currently there is no mechanism for obtaining and analysing information on health care infrastructure and manpower (including private and voluntary sectors) in the district. In order to create such a data base, a Standing Technical Advisory Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services. The Central Bureau of Health Intelligence has been entrusted with the task

of compiling the data on rural and urban primary, secondary and tertiary health care infrastructure and manpower in private, voluntary, industrial, governmental and other sectors.

Continuing medical education

21. Medical technologies are rapidly evolving; therefore, continuing education to update the knowledge and skills is essential for medical and paramedical personnel.. Ninth Plan advocates an integrated comprehensive in-service training programme for Health and Family Welfare. The programme is yet to be fully operationalised. For Govt., private and voluntary sector personnel there are ongoing training programmes conducted by National Academy of Medical Sciences, ICMR and professional associations. In addition, the Ninth Plan has proposed an increasing use of ` distance learning' by utilizing information technology (IT) tools currently available. Planning Commission has provided Additional Central Assistance to University of Health Sciences in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab and Tamil Nadu to accelerate IT upgradation efforts and networking between pre-service and in-service institutions for medical and para-medical personnel. The progress is being monitored.

New Initiatives In Ninth Plan

- Horizontal integration of vertical programmes

Disease Surveillance and Response mechanism with focus on rapid recognition, report & response at district level

Development of Integrated Non-Communicable Disease Control programme to be implemented through existing health care system.

Health Impact Assessment as a part of environmental impact assessment in developmental projects.

Appropriate management systems for emergency, disaster, accident and trauma care at all levels of health care.

Improvement of Health Management Information System (HMIS) and supply logistics.

Progress and Suggestions :

Horizontal Integration of Vertical Programmes:

22. At the Central level attempts are being made to integrate the activities related to:

Training, IEC in all CSS
STD/RTI prevention and management under RCH and AIDS control Programme
HIV/TB Control Programme Coordination

At state level:

The Central Council of Health and Family Welfare has endorsed formation of composite Health and Family Welfare Societies at state and district level. States like

Orissa and Himachal Pradesh have formed one Health and Family Welfare Society at state and district level to implement all health and family welfare programmes.

Disease Surveillance and Response

- A pilot project on development of a model disease surveillance system has been initiated in 20 districts. Development of disease surveillance system is also one of the components of the on-going Secondary Health Systems Project in many states.
- Specific on-going communicable disease control programmes e.g., National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) have a component of disease surveillance.
- Surveillance for polio is being intensified under the Family Welfare Programme.

All these have to be integrated into a single cohesive system for monitoring and responding to emerging health problems at district level.

Hospital Waste Management

Planning Commission provided ACA to National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi for a pilot project in hospital waste management which could be replicated in other States if found feasible.

Several States are incorporating the Hospital Waste Management as a part of their Health Systems Project.

Environment and Health

A number of cities have taken steps to reduce air pollution and water pollution. Delhi has promoted use of lead free petrol and utilization of CNG for vehicles. Efforts are under way to re-locate polluting industries away from the main city and improve waste management practices.

Projects for prevention of water contamination, water quality monitoring are receiving increasing attention.

Health Sector Reforms

Ninth Plan Policy:

1. Commitment to provide essential primary health care, emergency life savings services, services under National Disease Control programmes and National Family Welfare programmes free of cost to all, based on the need for care irrespective of their ability to pay.
2. Different states will evolve, implement, evaluate strategies for cost recovery for secondary, tertiary as well as super specialty care from people above poverty line and at the same time they will provide a mechanism for improving access to these services for people below poverty line. Based on the experience of these efforts future course of action will be charted out.

23. As a part of economic reforms, health sector reforms are perhaps inevitable. However, due care should be taken to ensure that the reforms do not shut out vulnerable groups access to health care nor result in deterioration of health status in poorer segments of the population.

24. In the last few decades there have been major advances in health care related technologies but many of them are very expensive. Some of the data from the developed countries suggest that widespread use of these would inevitably result in cost escalation but benefits in terms of improvement in the quality of life or increased longevity may not be commensurate with the cost. However, there is growing public awareness about the availability of these technologies and population tries to access these facilities.

25. So far the health sector has been targeting interventions at persons who are ill and need care, those who are at risk of becoming ill and those who are vulnerable and require specific protective measure. Services are being provided to all without any user charges irrespective of their ability to pay. This policy may be difficult to sustain in the future. There is an urgent need to evolve appropriate policy guidelines for funding of health care services to different segments of population. There has been an increase in the per capita income over the last two decades and therefore it might be time to try out levying user charges for diagnostic and therapeutic services from people above the poverty line; if found feasible this would enable the public sector health care institutions to improve their services.

26. Health insurance for individuals, families and for groups have been in vogue in many developed countries for several decades. While they do offer mechanism for meeting hospitalization costs for major ailments, there has been growing concern even in the developed countries that the system results in unacceptable escalation of health care cost without commensurate improvement in health care. Cost effective methods for meeting health care expenses need to be evolved. In addition, there is a need to promote healthy lifestyles and empower people to remain healthy. The Ninth Plan envisages a novel approach to promote healthy life style. The Plan suggests that the premium for health insurance may be adjusted on the basis of health status of the persons and age of the persons at the time of entry into health insurance; a yearly 'no claim' bonus could be given to those who have remained healthy and claimed no reimbursement of medical expenses. This could serve as an economic incentive for remaining healthy and adapting healthy life styles.

Control Of Communicable Diseases

27. At the time of Independence communicable diseases were a major cause of morbidity and mortality in the country. Efforts were therefore initially directed towards their prevention and control. Effective therapy for infections and vaccines to prevent infection caused a steep fall in crude death rate (from 25.1 in 1951 to 8.9 in 1996). However, the morbidity due to communicable diseases continues to be high. Deteriorating urban and rural sanitation, poor liquid and solid waste management and overcrowding have escalated the prevalence of common communicable diseases.

The re-emergence of diseases like Kala Azar has added to the burden. Control of communicable diseases is becoming more difficult because of emergence of drug-resistant pathogens and development of insecticide-resistant vectors.

Strategies to improve performance of Disease Control Programmes during Ninth Plan:

Rectify identified defects in design and delivery
Fill critical gaps in infrastructure and manpower
Make service delivery responsive to user needs
Ensure skill upgradation, supplies, and referral services
Improve community awareness, participation and effective utilisation of available services

National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP)

28. During the Ninth Plan NAMP is being implemented through a modified plan of operations, assisted by the World Bank and has the following components :

Early diagnosis and prompt treatment
Selective vector control & personal protection
Prediction , early detection & effective response to out breaks
IEC

Control activities will be intensified in areas with:

Annual Parasite Incidence (API) of > 2 in the last three years
Plasmodium Falciparum (PF) rate of > 30%
Reported deaths due to malaria
25% of the population is tribal

Targets for 2002

Annual Blood Examination Rate (ABER) of over 10%
API <0.5%
25% reduction in morbidity and mortality due to malaria

Progress and Suggestion :

29 The progress under NAMP is given in Table I. There has not been any substantial improvement over the last three years; utilisation of funds has been sub-optimal. The Programme was reviewed by the Government of India and World Bank in Feb.99. Progress has been slow in some interventions like introduction of medicated mosquito net and application of GIS for planning operation. It was recommended that Operational Research on vector control and selection of specific agencies by NAMP are to be taken up quickly.

TABLE - I

NATIONAL ANTI MALARIA PROGRAMME

YEAR	B.S.E. (in Million)	POSITIVE CASES	P.F. CASES	A.P.I (IN 1000)	ABER%	S.P.R%	S.F.R%	NO.OF DEATHS
1996	91.54	3.04	1.18	3.48	10.49	3.32	1.29	1010@
1997	89.45	2.66	1.01	3.01	10.11	2.97	1.13	879
1998 *	86.26	2.15	0.93	2.37	9.51	2.49	1.08	658
1998 **	49.83	0.91	0.38			1.84	0.76	221
1999 **	47.95	0.88	0.39			1.84	0.81	373

:Provisional, **:- comparative data for 1999 with corresponding period of 1998, as per reports received from states upto 25th Oct., 1999.
@ :- Out of 1010 deaths, 926 are confirmed and 84 suspected dealths. This does not include 1794 fever related deaths from Haryana.

FINANCIAL SCENARIO

Rs. Lakhs

YEAR	OUTLAY	EXPD./RE
8TH PLAN	42500.00	59106.55
1996-97	14500.00	14366.76
9TH PLAN	100000.00	
1997-98	19000.00	14352.00
1998-99	29700.00	16393.97
1999-2000	25000.00	

Source : Annual Report 1999-2000, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Kala Azar:

30. Kala-azar is endemic in 36 districts in Bihar and 10 districts in West Bengal (population 75 million). Periodic outbreaks of Kala-azar with high morbidity and mortality continue to occur in these States. Over 90% of the reported cases and over 95% of the reported deaths are from Bihar. Over two- thirds of the cases in Bihar are reported from 7 districts.

Progress and suggestions:

31. There has been a decline in both Kala-azar cases and deaths in spite of inadequacy of the insecticidal spray operations and poor outreach of diagnostic services.

Year	Cases	Deaths
1996	27049	687
1997	17429	255
1998 (Prov.)	13342	217

It is important to ensure timely insecticidal spray, early detection and prompt treatment of Kala -azar patients

Revised National Tuberculosis Programme (RNTCP)

32. The National Tuberculosis Control Programme was initiated in 1962 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The programme was aimed at early case detection in symptomatic patients reporting to the health system through sputum microscopy and X-ray and effective domiciliary treatment with standard chemotherapy. The Short

Course Chemotherapy was initiated in 1983 and expanded in a phased manner. The Ninth Plan envisaged:

RNTCP will be implemented in 102 districts

NTCP will be strengthened in 203 SCC districts

Strengthening of standard regime in remaining non- Short Course Chemotherapy (SCC) districts

Strengthening of Central institutions, State TB Cells & State TB training Institutions

Targets up to 2002

Enhance case detection to at least 70% of estimated incidence.

Achieve at least 85% cure rate among smear positive cases in 102 RNTCP districts and 60% cure rate in SCC districts.

Reduce proportion of smear negative detected to 50% or less of the total cases.

Ensure that the number of TB suspects tested for smear positives is not less than 2.5% of OPD in Primary Health Institutions (PHI) and no. of smear tested is at least 3 per suspected patient.

Progress and Suggestion

33. The performance under the Tuberculosis Programme is shown in Table II.

TABLE - II

NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAMME						
YEAR	Sputum Exam.		Sputum Positive		Total New Cases	
	TAR.	ACH.	TAR.	ACH.	TAR.	ACH.
1997-98	14189175	4518068	472980	351921	1277026	1309665
1998-99	14189175	3893213	472980	321920	1277026	1249446
1999-2000	4823930*		482390			

* :- No. of patients (3 smears/ patients)

FINANCIAL SCENARIO			
YEAR	OUTLAY	EXPD.	
8TH PLAN	8500.00	19442.00	
1996-97	6500.00	4180.00	
9TH PLAN	45000.00		
1997-98	9000.00	3205.00	
1998-99	12500.00	7211.00	
1999-2000	10500.00	10500.00	Expected

Source : Annual Report 1999-2000, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

34. Review of the RNTCP has shown that in spite of the delays in initiation of project in the project area:

More than 25,000 health staff were trained

Uninterrupted drug supply has been ensured

Population of more than 120 million in 16 States/UTs covered

Half of the patients were sputum positive compared with less than one in 4 earlier.

More than 1,00,000 patients put on treatment, nearly half of them in the past 12 months.

The performance indicators including sputum conversion & cure/completion rate are showing steady improvement.

35. In the pilot phase, the project was being implemented by committed workers and patients were closely monitored. As the programme expands to cover the larger population and is implemented by the health service staff there is a need to improve close monitoring and supervision at all levels to ensure continued good performance. There are reports of problems faced by the patients and the staff in adhering to the Directly Observed Treatment Short-Course (DOTS) regimen. The World Bank loan was under suspension since May, 1998 because of procurement-related problems. These need to be expeditiously sorted out.

National Leprosy Eradication Programme:

36. The National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) was launched as a 100% Centre-funded programme in 1983 with the goal of arresting disease transmission and bringing down its prevalence to 1/10000 by the year 2000. With MDT there has been a sharp reduction in the prevalence of leprosy from 57/10000 in 1981 to 5.8/10000 in1995.

Strategies and targets for NLEP during the Ninth Plan

Intensifying case detection and MDT coverage in high prevalence States and areas difficult to access

Strengthening laboratory services in PHC/CHC,

Establishing surveillance system for monitoring time trends

Preparing for initiating horizontal integration of leprosy programme into primary health care system

Providing greater emphasis on disability prevention and treatment

Implementing Modified Leprosy Elimination Campaign

Ensuring rehabilitation of cured patients.

Target for Ninth Plan

- Reduce prevalence of leprosy to 1/10000.

37. While the endemic states of Andhra, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have shown a steep decline in leprosy, the prevalence in states like Bihar-10.6, Orissa-12.35, West Bengal 7.9 and M.P. 6.7 continues to be high. Earlier 50% of cases were in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Now over 50% of the cases requiring treatment are in UP, MP, Bihar and West Bengal.

Progress and suggestion:

38. Performance under NLEP in the Eighth Plan and first two years of the Ninth Plan is shown in Table III.

TABLE - III

NATIONAL LEPROSY ERADICATION PROGRAMME

	CASE DETECTION		CASE TREATMENT		CASE DISCHARGE	
YEAR	TAR.	ACH.	TAR.	ACH.	TAR.	ACH.
1996-97	218240	461082	218240	455362	474200	485644
1997-98	323640	524411	323640	522309	431615	549975
1998-99	323640	751018	323640	746486	652400	714779
1999-2000	286365		286365		611666	

FINANCIAL SCENARIO

Rs. Lakhs

YEAR	OUTLAY	EXPD./RE
1996-97	7400.00	6533.00
9TH PLAN	30100.00	
1997-98	7900.00	7828.00
1998-99	7900.00	7818.00
1999-2000	8500.00	

39. The Department has initiated steps for a phased integration of the vertical programme in the general health services by training and reorientation of Health Care personnel in detection, management of leprosy cases, making MDT available at all health facilities, strengthening of disability and ulcer care, strengthening of monitoring and supervision.

40. During 1997-98 the duration of treatment of MDT was reduced from 24 months to 12 months for multibacillary patients and from 12 months to 6 months for paucibacillary patients; single dose Rifampicin, Ofloxocin and Minocycline (ROM) treatment for single lesion patients was also introduced. 29 NGO centres were recognized for reimbursement facility for reconstructive surgery and appropriate footwear; 210 District Leprosy Societies were provided fund for conducting disability/ ulcer care training.

Modified Leprosy Elimination Campaign:

41. A Modified Leprosy Elimination Campaign aimed at detection of unidentified cases of leprosy in the community was taken up first in Tamil Nadu in 1997 and

then implemented during 1997-98 in Maharashtra, Orissa, Gujarat, Jammu Division of J&K and Daman & Diu. The programme was extended to all the districts during 1998-99. During the six day campaign 4.6 lakh cases were detected and put on treatment.

NEW CASES DETECTED BY MLEC AND PR BEFORE AND AFTER MLEC							
POPULATION IN LAKHS		NO. OF SUSPECTED CASES	NO. OF CONFIRMED CASES	NO. OF SINGLE LESION	PR BEFORE MLEC	PR AFTER MLEC	% INCREASE IN PR
ENUMERATED	EXAMINED						
8209.67	6448.71	2858267	454290	53115	4.75	10.02	110.95

42. It is important carefully to train the health manpower in existing primary health care system in prevention and early detection and management and rehabilitation of leprosy patients. Some of the evaluation studies indicate that during NLEC there was both over- diagnosis and under-diagnosis in some districts because the detection was done by persons newly trained without much experience. However this campaign provided a mechanism for involving the entire health services and had paved the way to a progressive integration of leprosy care within the health service infrastructure. Careful supervision and monitoring of progress in the performance of the programme and process of integration are essential to achieve the Ninth Plan goal.

National AIDS Control Programme (Phase-II)

43. India has the distinction of initiating a National Searosurveillance to define the magnitude and dimension of HIV infection in the silent phase of the HIV epidemic long before AIDS cases were reported. Based on the data from ICMR studies , the country drew up the National AIDS Control Programme Phase I which has been implemented with assistance from World Bank. In spite of the numerous shortcomings in implementation, it is noteworthy that WHO estimates that as of 1997 India had relatively low prevalence of HIV infection (2.6/1000) (Table IV).

TABLE – IV

AIDS AND HIV INFECTIONS IN SEARO COUNTRIES AS OF 1st JULY 1997

COUNTRY	ESTIMATED HIV INFECTIONS	RATE PER 1,00,000 POPULATION*
BANGLADESH	<20,000	<16
BHUTAN	75	12
DPR KOREA	<100	<1
INDIA	2500000	262
INDONESIA	95000	47
MALDIVES	60	23
MYANMAR	350000	737
NEPAL	5000	22
SRI LANKA	6000	32
THAILAND	800000	1345
TOTAL	>3750000	>258

Source :- WHO SEARO – 1997

44. But, because of the size of its population, India is expected within the next decade to have nearly 10 million HIV infected people; the number of AIDS cases will also show a steep increase. It is therefore imperative that the country gears up to provide necessary preventive, diagnostic, curative and rehabilitative care to tackle this problem.

Progress and suggestions:

45. National AIDS Control Programme (NACP Phase II), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme was initiated in October 1999 and is funded by World Bank, DFID and USAID The project has the following five components: -

- Reducing HIV transmission among poor and marginalised section of the community at the highest risk of infection by targeted intervention, STD control and condom promotion;
- Reducing the spread of HIV among the general population by reducing blood borne transmission and promotion of IEC, voluntary testing and counselling;
- Developing capacity for community –based, low- cost care for people living with AIDS;

- Strengthening implementation capacity at the National, States and Municipal Corporation levels through the establishment of organisational arrangements and increasing timely access to reliable information; and
- Forging inter-sectoral linkages between public, private and voluntary sectors.

46. The performance under NACP is given in Table V.

TABLE - V

YEAR	No Screened (000)	SERO POSITIVE (000)	Sero-Positivity Rate (per 1000)	AIDS CASES	TOTAL NO. OF GOVT. BLOOD BANKS	HIV TESTING FACILITIES
1996-97	2816	225	8	2528	715	154
1997-98	3034	564	19	3551	715	154
1998-99	3413	824	24	6693	715	154
31st May 1999	3481	85666	25	7450	715	154

FINANCIAL SCENARIO

Rs. Lakhs

YEAR	OUTLAY	EXPD./RE
8TH PLAN	28000.00	27538.00
1996-97	14100.00	11537.00
9TH PLAN	76000.00	
1997-98	10000.00	12100.00
1998-99	11100.00	11100.00
1999-2000	14000.00	

47. It is important to achieve a paradigm shift in the National AIDS Control Programme:

- From raising awareness to changing behaviour
- Decentralised area-specific need assessment, planning, implementation and monitoring of intervention programmes
- IEC strategy to reach the unreached through emphasis on inter personal communication
- Participation of PRI and people themselves in the AIDS prevention and control programme
- Changing the emphasis from condom promotion to reinforcement of traditional ethos of mutually faithful monogamous relationships
- Improving utilisation of STD services in the governmental sector
- Emphasis on low cost strategies for prevention, counseling and care of HIV infected persons

It is imperative to build up:

- epidemiological data on time trends in the disease,
- details of specific interventions based on epidemiological data
- mechanisms for estimating requirements, unit costs, total costs,
- process and impact indicators to monitor the progress in interventions

- baseline figures and target to be achieved by the end of the project.

National Programme for Control of Blindness

Programme Priorities during Ninth Plan are :

To improve the quality of cataract surgery, clear the backlog of cataract cases
To improve quality of care by skill upgradation of eye care personnel
To improve service delivery through NGO and public sector collaboration
Increase coverage of eye care delivery among underprivileged population.

Targets for the period 1997-2002

17.5 million cataract operations; 100,000 corneal implants

Progress and suggestions:

48. The performance under National Blindness Control Programme (NBCP) in first two years of Ninth Plan is shown in Table VI.

TABLE – VI

NATIONAL BLINDLESS CONTROL PROGRAMME					
	1997-1998		1998-1999		1999-2000
Unit	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target
1	2	3	4	5	6
Cataract Operations (lakhs)	30.00	30.30	33.00	33.00	35.00
% IOL implantation	20.00	22.00	25.00	NA	30.00

FINANCIAL SCENARIO

Rs. Lakhs

YEAR	OUTLAY	EXPD./RE
8TH PLAN	10000.00	19297.00
1996-97	7500.00	5858.00
9TH PLAN	44800.00	
1997-98	7000.00	5834.00
1998-99	7500.00	7274.00
1999-2000	8500.00	5816.00*

Source : Department of Health *:- Finally allocated

49. A significant number of cataract operations are performed on unilateral cataract blind persons and on second eye of bilaterally blind persons. To clear the backlog of cataracts surgery has to be done at a rate of well over 400 operations per

100,000 population. However, only 3 states (Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra) have reached that level. An analysis of service data reports indicate that both in medical colleges and in district hospitals the cataract operations done per bed or operation per surgery days were far below the expected levels in most of the states. This under-utilisation of existing facilities needs to be corrected. In order to improve the quality of services and the follow-up, the programme has shifted from the camp approach to increased use of fixed facilities except in under- served areas.

Mid Term Evaluation:

50. A mid term evaluation of World Bank-assisted project carried out in 7 project states during 97-98 has revealed :

- an increase in the number of cataract operations performed in all those States.
- the performance is far less than desired level in Orissa and Rajasthan.
- Overall, 8.15 million operations (74%) have been performed against the Project target of 11.03 million operation

51. Revised National Blindness Control Programme (RNBCP) was drawn up for 1998-2002 to cover the entire country and will focus both on prevention of avoidable blindness and restoration of vision in those who have been already visually disabled irrespective of their capacity to pay. Over the years there has been a steady increase in patients who go for Intra Ocular Lens (IOL) implantation. At a tertiary care level where skilled surgeon and adequate post-operative care is available, use of IOL may be preferred but extending IOL services at or below district level with no such facility may have adverse consequences. Loss of vision after IOL implantation have been reported from different parts of the country. There is a need to document sequelae of IOL / Extra Capsular Cataract Extraction (ECCE) in tertiary, secondary, district and below district level and in camps. The programme has to define long term strategy and goals for eye care and has to provide for a close co-ordination between, Government, voluntary and private sector eye care providers.

Integrated Non-communicable Disease Control Programme

52. Growing numbers of aged population, urbanisation, increasing pollution, changing lifestyles, increasing longevity, change from traditional diets, sedentary life style and increase in the stress of day to day living have led to an increase in lifestyle related disorders and non-communicable diseases. It is essential that preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative services for NCD are made available throughout the country at primary, secondary and tertiary care levels so as to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with NCD.

Progress and suggestions:

- Central sector programme provides funds for strengthening facilities for Cancer Control, setting up distinct models for replication under national mental health project and for pilot projects on Diabetes control.
- Some states e.g. Kerala are making efforts to implement an integrated non-communicable disease control programme at primary and secondary care level with emphasis on prevention of Non-Communicable Disease (NCD), early diagnosis, management and building up of a referral system.
- Tertiary care centres are being strengthened to improve treatment facilities for management of complications.

53. An increase in NCD prevalence is anticipated over the next few decades, which is due at least in parts to changing lifestyles. Therefore, it is imperative that health education for primary and secondary prevention as well as early diagnosis and prompt treatment of NCD receive the attention it deserves.

Research

54. Indian Council for Medical Research is the nodal organisation for bio-medical research in the country. The process for modernization of several ICMR Institutes, upgradation of skills of scientific and technical personnel in modern biology and epidemiology, development of linkages and networking for bio-informatics as well as epidemiological activities has been initiated during the Ninth Plan period. These efforts would be expanded. Steps are being taken to strengthen and develop country's research and development (R&D) facilities. ICMR is establishing a Microbial Containment Complex to do studies on new as well as re-emerging infections under maximal bio-safety conditions,

55. Development and spread of multi-drug- resistant infections poses a threat to controlling communicable diseases. It is planned to set up laboratory-based monitoring network for research studies on new and re-emerging infections and antibiotic resistance monitoring in different regions of the country. These data will be of use for formulation of national treatment policies and prescription practices, identifying outbreaks of resistant infections and promoting research for new drug development. Operation Research (OR) studies for development and implementation of site-specific disease control, RCH strategies are being initiated. Sentinel sero-and behavioural surveillance for STDs including HIV is planned to generate data for targeting interventions, evaluation of impact of interventions, advocacy and planning.

56. Some of the priority areas for research in non-communicable diseases are community based intervention programmes for control of Rheumatic fever and Rheumatic heart diseases, OR studies for prevention and control of mild essential hypertension and coronary heart disease at community level, assessment of unmet treatment needs of the mentally ill in rural areas, identification, management and prevention of occupational health hazards and health problems due to environmental deterioration.

Outlay : State sector

57. The Outlay and expenditure in first three years of the Ninth Plan are shown in Table VII.

58. State Governments are required to take several critical steps to improve functional status and efficiency of the existing health care infrastructure and manpower. These measures are:

- Restructuring of the health care infrastructure,
- Redeployment of manpower and skill development,
- Development of a referral network,
- Improvement in the health management information system, and ,
- Development of disease surveillance and response at district level.

The centrally sponsored disease control programmes and the family welfare programme provide funds for additional manpower and equipment; these have to be appropriately utilised to fill critical gaps. The ongoing and the proposed EAPs are additional sources for resources. Health is one of the priority sector for which funds are provided in the central budget under the head Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for basic minimum services. The States will also be able to utilise these funds for meeting essential requirements for energizing urban and rural health care.

Centre

59. Health is one of the sectors identified under the Special Action Plan. In addition to the funds available from Domestic Budgetary Support, several centrally sponsored disease control programmes are receiving funds from EAPs. The following are such sponsored programmes which have received funding from the World Bank:

- National Leprosy Eradication Programmes
- National Programme for Control of Blindness
- Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme
- National Malaria Eradication Programme
- National AIDS Control programme – Phase II

60. These programmes provide diagnostics, drugs, equipment, training and capacity building for implementation, monitoring and mid-course correction in these disease control programmes. In addition, central sector institutions i.e. National Institute of Biologicals and Kalavati Saran Hospital have been receiving funds for strengthening and expansion from external agencies. Table VII provides outlay for Health sector during first three years of the Ninth Plan.

Table VII

APPROVED OUTLAY AND EXPENDITURE FOR HEALTH

Rs. in Crores

Eighth Plan Outlay (1992-1997)	Ninth Plan Outlay (1997-2002)	1997-98 (B.E.)	1997-98 (Actual)	1998-99 (B.E.)	1998-99 (Actual)	1999-2000 (B.E.)	1999-2000 (R.E.)	2000-2001 (B.E.)
1712.00	5118.19	920.20	716.15	1145.20	814.34	1160.00	1010.00	1300.00

GOV - 3.3

Planning Commission

Approach to the Mid-term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan (2002-07)

The Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) of the Tenth Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07) is due in the current year and work on preparing it has commenced. The MTA provides an opportunity to take stock of the economy and to introduce policy correctives and new initiatives in critical areas in the context of the new priorities outlined in the National Common Minimum Program. This note presents some of the issues which the Mid-Term Appraisal needs to address.

Growth Performance

2. The Tenth Plan had targeted an average annual growth rate of GDP of 8.1% for the Tenth Plan period to be achieved by a steady acceleration in the course of the Plan period from around 6.7% targeted in 2002-03 to 9.3% in the terminal year 2006-07. This was expected to lay the basis for a growth rate of above 9% during the Eleventh Plan period.

3. The MTA will consider whether the original 10th Plan growth target is still feasible. The growth target of the first two years was about 7% on average and the actual performance has been 4.6% in 2002-03 and 8.3% in 2003-04, averaging 6.4% for the two years. The shortfall in the first two years appears modest but the disturbing fact is that the momentum for acceleration, which was essential to achieve the 8.1%, target, has not been achieved. The current year's GDP growth is likely to range between 6 and 6.5 per cent of GDP so that achievement of the Plan target is only possible if GDP growth in the last two years averages 11% per year, which is clearly infeasible. The MTA should explore the scope for accelerating growth in the remaining years of the Tenth Plan to achieve the target of 7-8% growth set in the NCMP.

4. Sectorally, the Tenth Plan had targeted growth of agricultural GDP of 4% per year, aiming to reverse the deceleration in the second half of the 1990s – from 3.2% in the period 1980-1996 to 2.6% in the period 1996-2002. This is nowhere near being achieved. The average agricultural GDP growth in the first two years of the Plan was 1.8% and it is unlikely to exceed 1.5% in the current year. The failure in this area is a major factor underlying rural distress which has been visible in recent years. The MTA will focus on corrective policies needed in this area.

5. Industrial growth in the first two years was 6.7% which was also short of expectations. Although industrial growth has picked up in the current year, we are still far from the rates of above 10% needed to achieve Plan targets. Failure to achieve

high rates of industrial growth will limit the ability of the economy to generate high quality jobs, particularly for the educated youth.

6. One of the brightest spots in India's economic performance in recent years has been the emergence of knowledge-based industries as front-runners in the global marketplace. The early successes of the software sector are being replicated in a number of other activities such as business process outsourcing (BPO), bio-technology, pharmaceuticals, industrial design, tertiary health-care, etc. There is vast potential in these activities but it is clear that a number of other developing countries have also identified them as areas of focus for the future. In order to prevent an erosion of India's present pre-eminence from these emerging threats, the MTA will identify the factors behind our success and to ensure that we strengthen and creatively build upon them. The entrepreneurial dynamism and competitiveness of these sectors indicate that there are lessons to be learnt about the policy and operating environment that can be fruitfully applied to the less dynamic segments of Indian industry. Equally importantly, IT should be harnessed to improve connectivity and governance in rural areas.

Investment Strategy

7. The Tenth Plan was built around a specific set of assumptions which affected the investment strategy of the Plan. In the base year of the Tenth Plan (2001-02), the economy was in the middle of a cyclical slow-down, with the investment rate at 23.2% of GDP as against the peak of 26.2% achieved in 1995-96. Capacity utilisation was low in a number of sectors, especially in manufacturing. Agricultural output, and thereby rural incomes, had shown relatively low growth and high volatility through the Ninth Plan period (1997-98 – 2001-02). International markets had gone into a recessionary phase.

8. It was felt that private investment demand was unlikely to revive until the capacity utilisation in industry increased to significantly higher levels. Revival of rural consumption demand was expected to contribute to investment expansion, but this would only happen over time if agricultural growth targets were met. Exports were unlikely to provide adequate demand support due to depressed international market conditions. Moving into a high growth trajectory from this base level situation therefore required a sustained demand impetus from public expenditures, especially public investment, even if it required some relaxation of fiscal discipline. There was little danger of "crowding out", since private investment demand was well short of the resources available, especially if one included the potential availability of external resources which went into a build up of reserves.

9. The strategy adopted, therefore, was to accelerate the recovery process through an early stimulus to public investment which in turn would lead to a revival of private investment to take the momentum forward in the later years. Since private investment would really start to pick up only some time during 2003-04, the level of investible resources available to the private sector would not be a major concern until then, but it would become so in the last two years of the Plan. It was, therefore envisaged that the

process of fiscal correction should focus on the revenue deficit and not the fiscal deficit, which could remain as high as 4.3% of GDP for the Centre and 2.2% for the States even in the terminal year of the Plan. The consolidated revenue deficits, however, would have to go down to around 2.4% of GDP by the terminal year 2006-07 in order to provide the requisite amount of public savings.

10. A key assumption in the Tenth Plan was that the high growth rate of 8% could be achieved with only a relatively modest investment rate of around 28%, instead of 32% or so suggested by traditional ICOR relationships. This was felt to be justified because of the existence of two types of unutilised capacities:

- Those which have arisen out of the demand constraint; and
- Those which are more structural in nature and arise out of policy rigidities in transfer and utilisation of capital assets.

It was visualized that much of the growth during the first two years of the Plan would come from the former. In later years, policy reforms (including legal changes) were expected to facilitate more effective use of structurally hampered capacities.

11. Infrastructure was recognized to be a critical constraint needing large investments and it was expected that policies would be evolved which would allow a large contribution of private investment to support expanded public investment in their area. Investment in irrigation and watershed management was recognized to be critical for agriculture.

12. The MTA will take stock of the progress made in utilizing productive capacities and the success achieved on the investment front. The following points are worth noting.

- Investment data are available only for the first year of the Plan 2002-03 and the investment rate for that year according to the national accounts is only 23%. It is unlikely that the investment rate in 2003-04 was much higher.
- Although growth has been slow, the low rate of investment has meant that capacity utilisation in industry has increased across the board. While some excess capacity remains for tapping in the immediate future, growth will now depend on a major renewal of private investment and also public investment in critical infrastructure.
- Inadequate progress has been made in releasing capacities which are locked up due to structural factors. The Securitisation Act for the banking sector has been a step forward so far. Other Tenth Plan proposals were (a) Repeal of SICA & winding up BIFR, (b) Bankruptcy & foreclosure laws, (c) Reform of Industrial Disputes Act, (d) Release of excess lands held by PSUs and (e) Privatisation of sick PSUs. The MTA will consider how we should proceed in these areas.
- Data on private corporate investment are not available beyond 2002-03 but there is some evidence that the economy is in the recovery phase of the

business cycle and private investment may have picked up. However, this still appears tentative. Improvement in infrastructure is necessary to ensure that the private investment expands robustly.

- There is an unfinished agenda as far as creating an investor-friendly climate is concerned. The Mid-Term Appraisal should attempt to identify critical policy constraints that may be holding back private investment including Foreign Direct Investment. The Plan had indicated that FDI is an important instrument for expanding private investment in the economy. FDI flows have continued, but the perception remains that there are bottlenecks holding up FDI which could be much larger if these are addressed. The MTA will need to make an assessment of problems in this area.
- The SME sector has been a dynamic segment of Indian industry and has proved its competitive ability in recent years. There is reason to believe that the growth of this sector is hampered by the lack of a sufficiently dynamic financial sector. More generally, the functioning of the financial system as a whole is critical for investments to be realized. The mid-Term Appraisal should seek to identify the reforms in the financial sector which are needed to achieve investment targets, including tapping project appraisal capabilities of the Industrial Development Banks.
- Since the growth performance has been the worst in agriculture, the Tenth Plan proposals in this area and in rural development need to be carefully reviewed for their effectiveness. In particular, the MTA will give special emphasis to promoting public investment in rural areas based on the possibility for absorbing unemployed labour for asset creation.

Resources for the Plan

13. The MTA will present a candid assessment of the resources position facing both the Centre and the States and the implications for the last two years of the Tenth Plan. It is clear that Plan allocations have been below expectations. With the allocations made for 2004-05, the Central Sector Plan (including PSU plan) for the first three year will be about 44.2% of the total Plan against expectations of 54%.

14. The position in the States is likely to be even more difficult. States have not received as much resources as were envisaged through devolution because (a) the economy has grown more slowly than projected (b) the Centre's ratio of tax revenue to GDP has not increased as was projected in the Plan –the States' performance has also been below targets but it has been better than the Centre's (c) the losses of the SEBs continue to impose a very heavy burden and (d) the Pay Commission effect on the States, though it is beginning to wear off, had left most of the States with a very heavy debt overhang. The MTA will examine trends in States' resources and identify priority corrective steps.

15. The **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act** introduces targets for the fiscal deficit which have implications for the size of Gross Budgetary

Support in the years ahead. Preliminary analysis in the Planning Commission suggests that on optimistic assumptions, which include early implementation of major tax reforms, the FRBM targets indicated to Parliament will limit the Gross Budgetary Support to the Plan as a ratio of GDP to increase by about half of one percentage point over the next two years. More realistic projections about the likely impact of tax reforms suggest that if the fiscal deficit targets are insisted upon then the GBS as a ratio of GDP may actually decline. The trade off between having a larger plan size and risking a higher fiscal deficit will have to be explored in depth with the Finance Ministry so that we have a realistic assessment of what can be expected by way of Gross Budgetary Support in the next two years. The assessment in the MTA must be coordinated with the view of the Finance Ministry which would be reflected in the Medium Term Macro economic projection to be presented at the time of the next budget.

16. It is clear that the resources position in the remainder of the Tenth Plan period will be much more difficult than was envisaged at the time the Plan was formulated. The resources constraint will be especially difficult because the NCMP has established new priorities which require a substantial increase in allocation in critical areas such as health, education, irrigation, watershed management, railway modernisation and employment programmes. The Mid Term Appraisal will examine the resource position critically and its implication for plan programmes, keeping in mind the new priorities identified in the NCMP.

Poverty and Employment

17. There are no NSS based data on poverty for the Tenth Plan period so all judgments have to be based on past trends. The Tenth Plan had set a target for poverty reduction of 5 percentage points by the end of the Plan period. Econometric exercises indicate that this is likely to be attained even if the over-all growth rate averages around 6.5% for the Plan. However, there are three issues which need to be kept in mind:

- The regional spread of growth has to approximate that given in the Plan.
- Average agricultural growth should not be below 3% for the period.
- Employment growth should exceed growth of the labour force to reduce the backlog of unemployment.

18. In addition to the inadequacy of the growth in agriculture, the position regarding employment is clearly disturbing. The economy is not generating sufficient productive jobs to absorb the addition to the labour force especially when the rising aspirations of the new and more educated entrants are taken into account. In the 1990s, the role of agriculture in providing additional employment opportunities was virtually zero. The main solutions proposed by the Plan were bringing waste and degraded lands into production and encouraging diversification to more labour intensive crops. Neither has progressed very much and a review needs to be made of the approach. The other sector which holds promise for large-scale employment creation, especially for the

unskilled or semi-skilled, is construction. At present, the potential of this sector is restricted by all manner of land-use restrictions and procedural hurdles and by lack of resources to expand public investment in infrastructure. This is an area which needs reform, especially in urban areas.

19. The proposed Employment Guarantee Scheme mentioned in the NCMP is of obvious relevance in the context of persistent unemployment in rural areas. However, implementation of the scheme depends critically upon whether the necessary resources can be provided. Preliminary estimates made in the Planning Commission place the likely cost of introducing an employment guarantee for rural areas only at between Rs.21,000 – Rs.40,000 crores which could be shared between the Centre and the States. The feasibility of embarking on such a commitment will have to be examined on the basis of (i) the overall resources picture and demands of other sectors and (ii) the feasibility of increasing the employment content of investment expenditure especially in rural areas.

20. The most striking characteristic of the recent employment experience is the large scale withdrawal of women from the labour force that has been reported. This gender-specific employment behaviour needs to be carefully analysed and factored into the employment strategy of the MTA. The Tenth Plan does little to address it.

Labour Laws

21. The Tenth Plan has identified the reform of labour laws as one of the crucial factors both for sustained industrial growth and for creating high quality employment opportunities in the economy. The Plan document, however, does not present any concrete proposals in this regard. The recommendations of the Second National Labour Commission are now available, and the MTA will consider these recommendations in the context of the current needs of the economy.

Agriculture and Rural Incomes

22. The Plan had projected a gradual acceleration of the growth rate of agriculture from about 3% in the initial year to around 5% in the terminal year. After the first two years of the Plan, it is evident that there is no discernible acceleration in agricultural growth. The MTA should examine the critical policy issues in this area.

23. Irrigation and more effective water resources management are crucial for agricultural development. The following issues need consideration:

- The Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), which was designed to bring on-going irrigation projects to quick completion, does not appear to have had any tangible benefit. The area under irrigation is still expanding very slowly. The CAG has criticized the functioning of the scheme on a number of grounds.
- Existing irrigated areas are displaying serious water-stress, as both reservoirs and ground water sources seem to be depleting. Consequently, the agricultural

output from irrigated areas also seems to be more vulnerable to weather shocks than earlier. The problem is made worse by the fact that cheap power encourages farmers to use excessive water. While this problem is widely acknowledged we do not have a wholesale policy framework to address the problem effectively.

- The origin of rivers and their catchment areas continue to be neglected. More generally, there is no effort at either restoring the natural recharge systems of primary water sources or creating artificial recharge mechanisms.
- Watershed development has been given high priority in name for several years, but it does not appear to be making much headway except in isolated cases. A possible reason could be that there is insufficient technical expertise available for this purpose. In addition, there are too many agencies of the Centre and State governments implementing watershed schemes. This opens the possibility of large-scale misuse. A more structured and monitorable system, with much greater community participation, needs to be put in place. Lack of community participation is now regarded as the principal reason why earlier efforts failed. However, the ability to achieve effective community participation varies enormously across states.
- Traditional water harvesting structures have become virtually defunct. Their restoration involves not only the physical aspects of the task, but a clear demarcation of water rights. Indeed, assignment of water rights may lie at the heart of successfully implementing decentralized irrigation systems.
- The existing institutional structures and manpower deployment in State Irrigation Departments were designed essentially for major and medium irrigation projects. There is further potential for these, but much more attention must now be paid to watershed development and micro-irrigation. The departments may need to be completely reconstituted to provide necessary technical expertise for such purposes.

24. Bringing wastelands and degraded lands into productive use was an important component of the agricultural strategy. To this end, two major initiatives were proposed – the bamboo mission and the bio-diesel programme. Although there has been some progress in this direction, it appears that the issue of land rights is yet to be resolved for the most part, and this is proving to be the major constraint. For both forest and government lands, it is difficult to involve local communities unless land ownership is given to them.

25. Revival of agricultural dynamism will also call for corrective steps to deal with the near collapse of the extension systems in most states and the decline in agricultural research universities. The other major problem is the lack of credit availability and inability of the farmers to repay debt. This is due, in part, to the pervasive sickness of the co-operative credit system and also the unwillingness or inability of the banks to extend direct credit.

26. Agricultural diversification has to be a major element in the strategy for accelerating agricultural growth and this calls for action on several fronts. Ideally, there should be a shift of land from cereals to non-cereals (increasing both farm incomes and employment) combined with an increase in productivity in cereals to ensure that per capita availability of cereals does not decline. Diversification is unlikely to be a feasible strategy all over the country but it could hold great promise in some areas. The shift from cereals to horticultural crops requires a supportive policy framework in other respects, notably a much greater focus on (a) marketing arrangements, including encouragement of private sector involvement in marketing, (b) encouragement of downstream food processing and (c) research linked to market requirements for diversifying into horticulture.

27. The Tenth Plan had identified the Essential Commodities Act (ECA) as a major impediment to the development of modern markets and suggested that it should be replaced by a suitable provision which could deal with emergency situations without hampering normal market activity. It had also recommended that the Agricultural Produce Marketing Acts in the states restrict the growth of agricultural marketing and are not conducive to development of horticulture, and should be replaced by a new model legislation which would allow co-operatives and private parties to set up modern markets. A number of items have been taken off the ECA, but the relatively rigid rules framed under the Act by various States continue for the most part. The NCMP states that the Essential Commodities Act will not be diluted, but it is necessary to examine this issue in depth so that changes which are necessary in the interest of accelerating growth of farm incomes can be made. A model Agricultural Produce Marketing Act has been drafted and circulated to the States, but there is little movement towards its adoption. There has also been no progress in rationalizing the multiple food safety laws, which hamper the development of a modern food processing industry. The Mid-Term Appraisal should address these issues to evolve a workable set of policy initiatives in this area.

28. Non-farming rural activities have seen a secular decline in recent years. To some extent this may be related to the slow down in agriculture, but there does not appear to be any strategic approach to this issue in terms of policies and programmes. The Plan itself has little to say about this, other than the initiatives taken on Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Much greater focus is clearly necessary on agro-processing and rural services.

29. It is evident that the agriculture sector thus far has not demonstrated the resurgence of growth that was expected in the 10th Plan. The MTA will focus on corrective steps that can be taken in order to improve delivery and achieve the best possible growth performance in the second half of the Plan period.

Food Security and Nutrition

30. Over the years, a number of programmes have come into existence for providing food and nutritional support, especially for the poor. At present, from the Centre, the schemes which provide food support are: (a) Targeted Public Distribution System

(TPDS); (b) Antyodaya Anna Yojana; (c) Mid-day Meal Scheme; (d) Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS); and (e) Food for Work Scheme. In addition, some States have their own schemes for similar purposes. These schemes have increased in recent years as a result of a perceived worsening of the nutritional problem. However, there has been no stock-taking of the over-lap between these various schemes in terms of the target groups. The MTA needs to reflect on this and to rationalize the over-all food and nutritional interventions being made by government. The issue of adequacy of nutrition needs to incorporate the fact that certain vulnerable groups require interventions that go beyond the calorie-protein norms currently sought to be met through food grains alone.

31. The price support and procurement systems, combined with input subsidies on fertilizer, electric power and canal water have been the main pillars of domestic support for agriculture. However, they have led to a sharp increase in subsidy based support while public investment in agriculture has suffered. The outcome is distributionally inequitable since the subsidies typically go to the richer farmers in areas of assured irrigation, while the lack of public investment hurts poorer farmers and those in arid regions. The MTA will consider how the systems can be changed gradually in a manner which does not affect food security.

Social Development

32. A basic shift in priorities signalled by the NCMP was the need to give greater importance to social sector expenditures as part of the effort to promote development with social justice, in particular for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Tenth Plan specifies monitorable targets for certain indicators of social development in health, education and gender equality. These targets are not identical to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but it is believed that if these targets are met, then the other MDGs are also likely to be achieved. It is a matter of deep concern that at the current pace of progress, it appears unlikely that many of these targets will be met. The MTA will focus on how this failing can be corrected.

33. The targets regarding education required that 100% enrolment in primary schools be achieved by 2003 and 100% retention be achieved immediately thereafter. The slow pace of roll-out of *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA) has led to a situation that the 100% enrolment target is unlikely to be achieved even by 2005. There are a number of issues that need to be addressed in this context:

- The fiscal implications of SSA, especially for State finances, does not seem to have been factored in adequately. Unless this is done, and either the Twelfth Finance Commission or the Planning Commission provides adequate support, the programme is likely to run into financial constraints rapidly.
- Since elementary education has been declared a Fundamental Right, there is always the possibility of the Courts intervening, which could prove disruptive. In order to forestall such a possibility, it is necessary to clearly lay down the

roll-out plan and to adhere to it strictly. This will require close coordination between the Centre and the States.

- An important instrument for improving retention in schools is the Mid-day Meal scheme. This scheme has worked well in some states but its operation has not been satisfactory in a number of States. At the moment, however, the MMS is operating under Supreme Court direction as a component of the right to food, and the Centre has been charged with providing adequate financial support.
- The Tenth Plan had pointed out that if the SSA succeeded, it would place heavy demands on the secondary school system, which may become difficult to meet unless steps are initiated right away. This concern remains valid even though the progress of SSA has been slower than planned.

34. Inadequate progress on the health and family welfare front is a matter of grave concern. Unless prompt and decisive steps are taken, the Plan targets on IMR and MMR will not be met and the MDG targets too will almost certainly be missed. Unlike the case of primary education, where a well-designed intervention in the form of SSA exists, there is no real blue-print for the development of the primary health sector. There is need to initiate a fresh approach in this area that can be initiated within the Tenth Plan period even if it can be fully operationalized only in the Eleventh Plan period. In addition, it may be necessary to identify more limited interventions within the existing health framework e.g. focusing on the EAG states identified for family welfare purposes.

35. Concerns about gender equity are reflected in the monitorable targets of the Plan, but little appears to have been done about empowering women so that these intentions are backed up by gender-sensitive institutional structures. More generally, inadequate attention has been paid to finding ways of mainstreaming gender concerns in our policies and programmes. This is an issue which needs careful consideration while designing intervention strategies.

36. Social justice and empowerment of backward classes by and large continues to be followed as a set of special programmes rather than as an integrated strategy. The Plan needs to be re-examined from this perspective.

Infrastructure

37. Infrastructure was identified as a critical area for the Tenth Plan in recognition of the fact that the quality of infrastructure in India is far below the level required to achieve 8% GDP growth. The Government has also underscored the importance of these sectors and this is reflected in the establishment of a Committee on Infrastructure headed by the Prime Minister. The MTA will make an assessment of the position in each major infrastructure sector, including in particular the scope for increasing capacities through a combination of enhanced public investment and also attracting private investment where feasible. The Planning Commission will undertake a review of the regulatory structure in these sectors to identify critical initiatives

needed to bring the existing structure in line with international best practice. This is essential if public-private partnership is to become a reality.

38. The National Highway Development Programme (NHDP) appears to have gained considerable momentum and the Mid-Term Appraisal will seek to document progress in this area and also identify bottlenecks if any. Fortunately, the projects in pipe-line in NHDP are sufficient for the next few years and the funding is more or less tied-up.

39. The rural roads programme does not appear to have developed the momentum needed although the potential backward and forward linkages of this are at least as great as for the NHDP. One of the reasons for this is that the rural roads programme is entirely dependent upon the flow of budgetary support without any effort at leveraging the cess funds through borrowing as has been done for the NHDP. The position with regard to State highways and district roads is even worse, and there is no programme to ensure that these too come up to the standards necessary for a high quality road network in the country. The MTA needs to examine this issue.

40. As far as the Railways are concerned, there has been practically no movement in terms of implementing many of the key recommendations of the Plan. Since the efficiency of the Railways is a key element in improving the efficiency of the Indian economy the MTA should focus on what is needed to achieve the objective of modernising the Railway system.

41. The development of port infrastructure appears broadly satisfactory, but the collateral measures needed to increase water-borne transport, whether coastal or riverine, do not appear to have progressed.

42. As far as airports are concerned, the Plan did not address the issue substantively, but the Naresh Chandra Committee Report did so subsequently. Efforts are underway to modernise Mumbai and Delhi Airport through private public partnership. The MTA will assess the status of these initiatives.

43. The telecommunication sector is a major success story with an impressive increase in both capacity and service levels. However there are some issues which deserve focused attention. One of these is broad-band connectivity which is critical for development of Internet and also for spreading the benefits of e-Governance in rural areas. The MTA will present an assessment of priority action needed in this area.

44. Electric Power is clearly the area which remains perhaps the single largest cause of concern to the economy. Progress in this area has clearly been disappointing. This sector suffered from serious under-investment in the Ninth Plan period 1997-98 to 2001-02 and this was to be corrected in the Tenth Plan through much larger investment in both the public and private sectors. The MTA will review progress in these areas but it is evident that there are large gaps. Although there have been a number of experiments in SEB reform, none of them has yet established a viable model. Populism by state governments continues to be an impediment to following a rational electrification strategy. The enactment of the Electricity Act 2003 does have the potential to bring about dramatic changes, but this can only happen if the States

take collateral steps. The operation of the SERCs in the various states also needs to be greatly improved. All these issues would have to be a major focus of the MTA.

45. Another area of concern is urban infrastructure. The demographics of urban India are changing and needs of towns and cities of different sizes are very different. There is at present no programme which addresses these issues in a long-term sense and in a case-sensitive manner. Urban renewal in its widest form must become an important component of the Plan. This would include mass rapid transport systems, drinking water and sewage systems, solid waste management, urban roads and lighting, etc. Much of this, however, may not be possible without a thorough overhaul of municipal functioning. Not enough thought has been given to this issue, and it may be desirable for the MTA to conceptualise a workable municipal model.

Environment

46. The Tenth Plan target on forest and tree cover is critically dependent upon the greening of waste and degraded lands, which is also an important component of the employment and livelihood strategy. As has already been mentioned, there is inadequate progress on this, mainly because of jurisdictional and procedural complications. Another issue which needs to be considered is that a number of States have been representing that an unfair burden is being borne by them in preserving their forest areas, and that compensatory mechanisms need to be developed.

47. The revival of water bodies has been mentioned earlier, but the cleaning of rivers is an imperative of its own. This would have to be integrated with both agricultural practices and waste water management in urban and industrial areas.

48. At a more general level, global climate change is an issue that has not been taken into account in the planning framework. The Tenth Plan does have a chapter on Disaster Management, but it may be necessary to go beyond the issues raised there.

Regional Balance

49. The Tenth Plan clearly recognizes that growing regional disparities across an array of indicators has led to a situation where national targets need to be broken down to regional targets for any meaningful intervention. The issue of regional balance has also been highlighted in the NCMP which mentions a Backward Areas Grant Fund.

50. The MTA will examine recent experience in this area including the effectiveness of specific initiatives deployed to counter regional disparity and regional backwardness.

International Developments

51. The Indian economy today is much more sensitive to international developments than before, and this needs to be reflected in the MTA. The need for external markets for agricultural goods, the international energy scenario, availability and volatility of

external capital, etc are clearly issues that affect the pace of development. The MTA will consider whether developments in these areas call for specific responses to better manage the process of globalisation. The MTA will also consider the implications of recent developments in the WTO and the role of Free Trade Arrangements.

Governance

52. Governance forms the key element of the Tenth Plan, but there has been practically no movement on this front. The NDC had set up three empowered sub-committees on (a) Governance, including e-Governance; (b) Creating an investor-friendly environment; and (c) Empowerment of PRIs, which were expected to draw up blue-prints for governance reforms. There is nothing available from these sub-committees at present, except for a national plan for e-Governance, which has the in-principle approval of the previous Prime Minister. The MTA needs to reiterate this issue forcefully, and perhaps even provide some operational guidelines for carrying out administrative and judicial reforms.

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

53. The Tenth Plan has laid great stress on the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), not only as the cutting edge of democratic decentralization but also for improving the efficiency and accountability of the delivery systems for a number of publicly provided services. In view of the importance of this approach, the NDC had constituted an Empowered Sub-committee of the NDC for the Empowerment of PRIs. Although the report of this Empowered Sub-committee is not available as yet, the MTA may have to outline some steps which can be taken early, subject of course to the views of the NDC. In particular, the initiatives that are being proposed in the areas of primary education, nutrition and food security, watershed development and employment guarantee cannot be successful without the active participation of PRIs at the appropriate levels. Conversely, well financed and well directed thrusts putting these areas firmly within PRI jurisdiction may accelerate PRI empowerment.

54. The Planning Commission will consider these and other issues in preparing a Mid-Term Appraisal which will be completed by the end of the year and submitted to the NDC sometime early next year. In preparing the Mid-Term Appraisal the Commission will consult Central Ministries and State Governments and also consult extensively with experts and representatives of the non-government sector. To facilitate such consultations, 19 Consultative Groups have been constituted in different areas. These will be chaired by the Members concerned and Minister of State for Planning and will serve to provide inputs into the process of preparing the MTA.

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