

National Consultation on A People's Mid Term Appraisal of the Eleventh Five Year Plan

Governance

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Is 11th Five Year Plan National Priority?

- Governance reform agenda has to be national
- Non-compliance with this reform agenda by states cannot be an excuse
- Planning Commission has the legitimacy and financial tools (muscle?) to monitor and demand compliance
- Annual assessment of state plans by Planning Commission **MUST** focus on six benchmarks of democratic governance

Free & fair & timely elections

- Has the Planning Commission asked the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Law & Justice the progress made towards implementation of recommendations of successive Election Commissions for banning criminals as candidates and a national law for accountability of political parties?
- Has the Planning Commission reviewed the authority and capacity of SECs in different states to ensure that they are empowered and able to conduct free and fair elections to panchayats and municipalities ‘on time’?
- Has the Planning Commission stopped the annual plan allocations for the state of Jharkhand for not conducting panchayat elections **TILL TODAY?**

- Has the Planning Commission asked the Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Urban Housing & Poverty Alleviation, Government of India why JNNURM and other funds have been given to Bangalore municipality and the state of Karnataka, even though elections to Bangalore municipal corporation have not been held for the past three years?



Transparency & Accountability of All Institutions of the State to Citizens

- Has the Planning Commission reviewed the procedures for appointments of Chairs and Members of various national/state commissions so that competent professionals (and not retired beauracrats and tired politicians) are appointed?
- Has the Planning Commission asked for a progress review of reforms in the police system in the states?
- Has the Planning Commission made independent social audits compulsory in all Centrally Sponsored Schemes?
- Has the Planning Commission been monitoring the progress of IEC investments in different states with respect of each Centrally Sponsored Schemes ?

Efficient & Effective Delivery of socio-economic public services

- Does the Planning Commission review the progress of appointment and training of functionaries in different states for various Centrally Sponsored Schemes ?
- Does Planning Commission have a system of incentivising (or otherwise) improved performance culture in the departments that deliver these services in different states on an annual basis?
- How does the Planning Commission ensure that integrated (urban-rural), participatory (from the grass-roots) and outcome-oriented (as opposed to expenditure-driven) District Planning is systematically and professionally undertaken annually under the jurisdiction of District Planning Committees (DPCs), as an integral part of the discussions on annual plans of the states?

- Has the Planning Commission used the specific recommendations of Second Administrative Reforms Commission with respect to improvements in service delivery to review the progress being made by various ministries and state governments?



Effective Devolution of Authority, Resources and Capabilities to PRIs and municipalities

- Does the Planning Commission annually review the progress on devolution to PRIs and municipalities in each state (each state government has signed an MOU with Ministry of Panchayati Raj and an MOA with Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India making specific commitments to devolve and reform)? What does it do when there is regression (like in Bihar with respect to municipalities)?
- Has the Planning Commission reviewed the allocation (or absence thereof) of 'exclusive' domains of responsibilities to panchayats and municipalities in different states in terms of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes ? Has it incentivised the practice of preparing separate budgetary allocations for all local bodies in state plans in each state?

- Has the Planning Commission been reviewing and disincentivising continuation and/or creation of ‘parallel bodies’ which undermine the constitutional authority of PRIs and municipalities? (Many states continue with DRDAs; MPLADs/MLALADs take away funds from local bodies; para-statals in respect of health, education, water and sanitation are flourishing in several states).
- Has the Planning Commission reviewed the lack of progress in the implementation of PESA in tribal areas of the country, and created any mechanisms for linking plan allocations to the progress in this regard?

There is still time!

- Reforms from the citizens' perspective have not been made
- These 'next' generation reforms are urgent today
- Can 11th Plan be a 'turnaround' on governance in India?