

ANNUAL REPORT 1998-99

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**Government of India
Planning Commission**

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CHAPTER - I

ECONOMY AND THE PLAN : AN OVERVIEW

Introduction

1.1 The year 1998-99 marks the second year of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002). The Approach paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan envisaged a base line growth scenario of 6.2 per cent per annum on the average for the Ninth Plan period. It was also indicated that an accelerated growth scenario of 7 per cent per annum was feasible provided certain policy decisions were adopted by the Centre and the States. In its meeting held on January 16, 1997, the NDC approved the Approach Paper and directed the Planning Commission to formulate the Ninth Five Year Plan with a target growth rate of 7 per cent per annum. A Draft Ninth Five Year Plan was prepared by the Planning Commission on the basis of the approved Approach Paper. It was released to the public by the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on 1.3.1998.

1.2 With the formation of the new Government in March, 1998, the work of re-drafting the Ninth Five Year Plan was taken up. The process of re-drafting the Plan was guided by three broad directions laid out by the Government. These were : (a) The Approach Paper as approved by the NDC in January, 1997 would continue to form the basis of the Ninth Plan; (b) The Plan would take into account the priorities of the Government as laid down in the National Agenda for Governance (NAG) and the directions of the Prime Minister; and (c) The annual performance of the economy in 1997-98 and the emerging trends for 1998-99 would be taken into account in formulating the Plan.

1.3 In the course of reviewing the Ninth Plan, it was found that the 7 per cent growth target approved by the NDC would not be feasible in light of the performance of the economy in the first two years of the Plan. It was, therefore, proposed to reduce the target for the entire Ninth Plan period to 6.5 per cent, which would imply that the economy would have to grow at over 7 per cent in each of last three years of the Plan.

1.4 In order to incorporate the priorities of the Government, Special Action Plans (SAPs) were drawn up for the identified sectors with committed fund allocations and performance milestones, which were integrated into the overall Plan structure. The Draft Ninth Five Year Plan, as revised was approved by the full Planning Commission and by the Union Cabinet for being placed before the NDC at its next meeting.

1.5 The performance of the economy in the first two years of the Plan which have necessitated the change in the growth target of the Ninth Plan are described in the following sections.

Growth and Sectoral Output

1.6 The overall rate of economic growth in 1997-98 reduced to 5.0 per cent from 7.8 per cent in 1996-97. The decline in the rate of economic growth is mainly due to the slow down of agriculture. After an impressive increase of 9.6 per cent in 1996-97, the agricultural GDP registered a negative growth of 1.3 per cent in 1997-98. Foodgrain production declined to 193.1 million tonnes in 1997-98 from 199.3 million tonnes in 1996-97. The decline in GDP originating in the agriculture sector was mainly because of a steep fall in the production of wheat, coarse

cereals, pulses, oil seeds and cotton during 1997-98 as compared to the previous year. The growth rate of 5.0 per cent in GDP during 1997-98 has been achieved mainly due to high growth in registered manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply, trade, hotels and restaurants, communication, banking and insurance and community, social and personnel services. The advance estimates of CSO indicate that the rate of growth of GDP in 1998-99 is likely to be 5.8 per cent.

1.7 On the industrial front, the rate of growth of the index of industrial production in 1997-98 is marginally higher at 6.6 per cent as compared to 5.6 per cent in 1996-97. The basic goods sector has performed well in 1997-98 with a growth of 16.5 per cent.

Savings and Investment

1.8 Gross Domestic Savings (GDS) constituted 23.1 per cent of GDP at market prices in 1997-98. This is less than the savings rate of 24.4 per cent realised in 1996-97. These are also less than the domestic savings rate of 26.1 per cent assumed in the Ninth Five Year Plan. Gross Domestic Investment as a proportion of GDP averaged 24.8 per cent in 1997-98 as against 25.7 per cent in 1996-97.

Fiscal Development

1.9 A high level of fiscal deficit continues to be an area of concern for the policy planners. Ever since economic reforms were initiated, attempts have been going on to restrict the fiscal deficit to a manageable limit. But progress in this area is still limited. The fiscal deficit to GDP ratio was estimated as 6.1 per

cent in 1997-98. The revenue deficit of the central government was 3.1 per cent in 1997-98. These resulted in a primary deficit of 1.5 per cent of GDP for the Central Government. The difference between the fiscal deficit and the primary deficit, which represents the interest burden of the government as percentage of GDP, has remained around 4.5 per cent during the last few years.

1.10 The share of direct taxes as a proportion of GDP has gone up in recent years. However, this has been more than offset by a decline in the share of indirect taxes to GDP. Between 1992-93 and 1997-98 the ratio of income tax to GDP has gone up from 1.12 per cent to 2.01 per cent (the figure for 1997-98 is inclusive of VDIS receipts) and that of corporate tax has increased from 1.26 per cent to 1.50 per cent. During the same period the ratio of customs duties to GDP came down from 3.37 per cent to 2.87 per cent and that of excise duties came down from 4.37 per cent to 3.34 per cent. The gross tax revenue of the Central Government remained around 10 per cent of GDP in 1997-98.

Inflation

1.11 The Ninth Plan envisages a reasonable degree of price stability. The average inflation rate measured by changes in Wholesale Price Index (WPI) was 4.8 per cent in 1997-98. This is considerably less than the inflation rate of 6.5 per cent in 1996-97. This moderation in the rate of inflation in 1997-98 was achieved against a relatively high rate of monetary expansion and also increases in the administered prices of certain petroleum products.

1.12 The rate of expansion in money supply (M3) has been high during the last two years. M3 recorded a growth of 16.2 per cent

in 1996-97 and 17.6 per cent in 1997-98. This should be seen in comparison with a target growth of money supply of about 15.0 per cent set by RBI during recent years. The high rate of increase in M3 during 1997-98 was a result of increase in both domestic credit and net foreign exchange assets of the banking sector.

Balance of Payments

1.13 The current account deficit increased from 1.2 per cent of GDP in 1996-97 to 1.7 per cent of GDP in 1997-98. Trade deficit (RBI data) also increased to 4.3 per cent of GDP in 1997-98 from 4.1 per cent in 1996-97.

1.14 In U.S. dollar terms, exports recorded only a marginal growth of 1.5 per cent in 1997-98 as compared to 5.3 per cent in 1996-97. In U.S. dollar terms, imports in 1997-98 increased by 4.2 per cent as compared to 6.7 per cent in 1996-97.

1.15 Despite widening of the current account deficit from 1.2 per cent of GDP in 1996-97 to 1.7 per cent of GDP in 1997-98, the foreign exchange reserve position has improved. India's foreign exchange reserves increased from 26.4 billion U.S. dollar at the end of March, 1997 to 29.4 billion U.S. dollar at the end of March, 1998.

CHAPTER - II

PLAN PROGRESS

FIVE YEAR PLANS

2.1 Planning in India was intended, in the words of the resolution of March, 1950 "to promote a rapid rise in the standard of living of the people by efficient exploitation of the resources of the country, increasing production and offering opportunities to all for employment in the service of the community." Since 1950, eight Five Year Plans have been implemented and presently we are in the middle of the Ninth Five Year Plan. The Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan was unanimously approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in its meeting held on 16.01.1997. The detailed Ninth Plan Document has been reviewed by the present Government and is being placed for the endorsement of the National Development Council in a meeting convened on 19.02.1999 at New Delhi.

2.2 The preparation of Five Year Plans involves simultaneously: (a) appraisal of the past trends and performance; (b) assessment of resources; (c) identification of major problems and constraints; and (d) determination of measures and policies for future growth. The National Plan comprises of the Central and State Governments' Plans, as well as, Plans for the private sector, more especially, for the corporate sector.

2.3 The preliminary exercise for preparation of a Five Year Plan starts with the consideration of an approach to the Plan. Evaluation studies are undertaken with the help of Programme

Evaluation Organisation, Central Statistical Organisation and various other institutions. The Working Groups and Steering Committees constituted by the Planning Commission for various sectors carry out exercises to provide input for formulation of the Plan. Discussions are held by the Planning Commission, at both expert-level and political level. The dimensions of the State Plans are designed in consultation with individual State Chief Ministers. Simultaneously, discussions are also held with Central Ministries, to arrive at a public investment programme which is consistent with Plan priorities, known and anticipated constraints, and available resources.

2.4 Meetings of the Internal and Full Planning Commission, from time to time, assess the progress of formulation of the Plan and also deliberate in detail on its content and scope. The Five Year Plan Document is considered by the Union Cabinet, thereafter, final approval is given by the NDC chaired by the Prime Minister and comprising members of Union Council of Ministers and State Chief Ministers, Governors/Lt. Governors.

Formulation of Annual Plans

2.5 The Five Year Plan gets operationalised through the mechanism of Annual Plans. In the course of formulating the Annual Plan, the Planning Commission assesses previous year's Plan performance in various sectors and suggests a reorientation of policies and modifications of strategies consistent with the changing requirements so as to ensure achievement of the long-term objectives.

2.6 In the third quarter of each financial year, the Planning Commission indicates to State Governments and Central

Ministries important objectives that should be kept in view while formulating the Annual Plan for the following year and to furnish their Plan proposals, including physical targets and the corresponding financial outlays required, within the overall framework of their respective Five Year Plans. The State Governments are also advised to furnish their forecasts of financial resources, including proposals for mobilising additional resources, for their Annual Plans. The resource estimates of the State Governments, thus furnished, are discussed in-depth in a series of meetings generally during November-December with senior officers of the State Governments. Similarly, in-depth discussions are held with senior officials of the Central Ministries/Departments on their Annual Plan proposals, during October-December of each year.

2.7 The Plan outlays arrived at in the meetings between the Deputy Chairman and State Chief Ministers/Lt. Governors in respect of State Plans and at meetings taken by Member Secretary, Planning Commission with the Secretaries of Central Ministries/Departments, regarding the Central Plan forms the basis for budgetary provisions for the Plan for the ensuing year.

The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)

2.8 The Planning Commission in its meeting held on 19.8.1996 decided that the Ninth Plan would start from 1.4.1997 as per schedule. As a first step for the formulation of the Plan, a number of Steering Committees and Working Groups dealing with various sectors were constituted by the Planning Commission. These Steering Committees and Working Groups, comprising sectoral experts, academicians and concerned officials, undertook detailed exercises and submitted their respective

reports which, in turn, formed a major input in the formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan. In all, 23 Steering Committees and 116 Working Groups were set up for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

2.9 The preparatory work for the Plan culminated in the finalisation of the "Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) in the form of broad guidelines for the preparation of the detailed Plan. The Approach Paper was approved unanimously by the National Development Council in a meeting held on 16.1.1997. Inter-alia, it included the following salient features.

- i) A targeted GDP growth rate of 7 per cent per annum for the Ninth Plan period;
- ii) Emphasis on the seven identified Basic Minimum Services (BMS) with additional Central Assistance earmarked for these services with a view to obtain a complete coverage of the population in a time-bound manner. These include provision of safe drinking water, availability of primary health service facilities, universalisation of primary education, public housing assistance to shelter-less poor families, nutritional support to children, connectivity of all villages and habitations and streamlining of the public distribution system with a focus on the poor;
- iii) In pursuing a policy of fiscal consolidation, a focus on a sharp reduction in the revenue deficit of the Government, including Centre, States and PSUs through a combination of improved revenue collections and control of inessential expenditures, particularly with regard to subsidies and through recovery of user charges;
- iv) Decentralisation of planning and implementation through a greater reliance on States and Panchayati Raj institutions.

In this regard, to curb the proliferation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes with the necessary funds along with the schemes to be transferred to the States and Panchayati Raj bodies.

2.10 A detailed draft Ninth Five Year Plan document (1997-2002) was prepared, discussed and approved in the internal meetings of the Planning Commission. This draft was released to the public by the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on 1.3.1998. The present Government, which came to power after the General Election in March, 1998, has reviewed this draft so as to suitably reflect the altered priorities as enunciated in the National Agenda for Governance, in general and the Prime Minister's Special Action Plan (SAPs), in particular. Accordingly, the Plan document has been revised. The revised Ninth Plan envisages an average target growth rate of 6.5 per cent per annum in GDP as against the growth rate of 7 per cent approved earlier in the Approach Paper. The scaling down of the target was necessitated by the changes in the national as well as global economic situation in the first two years of the Plan. During 1997-98, the first year of the Ninth Five Year Plan there was a slow down in the growth rate of Indian economy to 5.1 per cent. In the current year also, i.e., the second year of the Plan the economy is expected to grow by about 6 per cent. There is a sharp decline in the export growth. In addition, there has been significant revenue shortfall in the first two years of the Ninth Plan and a sharp deterioration in the State Government's finances. Taking these developments into account, the Full Planning Commission in its meeting held on 10.11.1998, decided to recommend to the NDC that the Growth target be scaled down to 6.5 per cent per annum while retaining the broad approach approved by the National Development Council in January, 1997. Implicit in this target is

an average growth rate of more than 7 per cent over the last three years (1999-2002) of the Ninth Plan.

2.11 The present draft assumes an Incremental Capital-Output Ratio (ICOR) of 4.3, which implies an assumption of average domestic savings and investment rates of 26.1 per cent and 28.2 per cent of GDP. The Plan proposes an investment of Rs.2171 thousand crore during the period 1997-2002 at 1996-97 prices, most of which (92.6% amounting to Rs.2011 thousand crore) can be financed from domestic resources. Investment in the public sector would be Rs.726 thousand crore constituting 33 per cent of the total investment against the level of 34.3 per cent realised during the Eighth Plan period. The public sector outlay is proposed to be Rs.859,200 crore, out of which the Central Plan will have an outlay of Rs.492,221 crore, which includes provision to implement the additional requirements of Special Action Plans. The Central Budgetary Support to the Plan is targeted at Rs.374,000 crore at 1996-97 prices.

2.12 The draft Ninth Five Year Plan document, in two volumes, was approved by the Cabinet in a meeting held on 9.1.1999 for placing before the NDC for its endorsement. The first volume indicates the plan objectives, development perspective within which it is set, its macro-economic policy framework, the employment perspective it envisages and the manner in which it can be financed. The second volume details programmes, policies and issues in the various sectors of the economy.

The 48th Meeting of the National Development Council

2.13 The primary agenda for the National Development Council is to consider the draft Ninth Five Year Plan document. However,

there are a few other items pending consideration of the NDC. Taking into account the status of preparation of these other agenda issues, the Planning Commission proposed the following items for consideration of the 48th Meeting of the NDC convened on 19th February, 1999.

- i) Draft Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002);
- ii) Report of the NDC Committee on Power;
- iii) Revision in the Administered Prices of Wheat, Rice, Sugar, Urea and LPG;
- iv) Determination of suitable criteria for allocation of Central Funds to States/UTs under Major Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes; and
- v) Transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

Annual Plan 1997-98

2.14 The total Plan outlay for revised estimates for Annual Plan 1997-98 for the Central Sector and States including UTs has been fixed at Rs. 81033.9 crore and Rs. 58591.95 crore for Centre and State sectors respectively. The details of the Plan outlays by broad heads of development for Centre, State and UTs for the Annual Plan 1997-98 are given in Annexure 2.2.

Annual Plan 1998-99

2.15 The total plan outlay for Annual Plan 1998-99 for the Centre Sector has been fixed at Rs. 105187.16 crore in the budget

estimates. This represents an increase of about 30 per cent over the revised outlay of Rs. 81033.9 crore for the Centre Sector for Annual Plan 1997-98. The details of the Plan outlays for the Annual Plan 1998-99 by broad heads of development for the Centre Sector are given in Annexure 2.3.

Annual Plan -1999-2000

2.16 Annual Plan proposals for 1999-2000 of Centre Sector have been finalised after due consideration and in-depth discussions at the level of Principal Advisers/ Advisers/Heads of Division and, selectively, at the level of Member-Secretary and the concerned Secretaries of Ministries/Departments. Given the resource constraints and with a view to incorporate priorities of the Government as reflected in the Prime Minister's SAPs, the Ministries/Departments were clubbed into three categories, namely, SAP, Non-SAP Ministries/ Departments where meetings were convened by the Member-Secretary and the remaining Non-SAP. The allocation of Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) has been made on the basis of assessment of programmes of each Ministry/Department also keeping in view their performance as reflected in the Revised Estimates for 1998-99.

2.17 Efforts are being made to complete State Plan discussions for the Annual Plans of the State Governments at the earliest possible. The priorities of the Government as reflected in the draft Ninth Plan document would be suitably reflected in finalising State Plans in the ensuing year.

Annexure 2.1

EIGHTH PLAN OUTLAY AND PROGRESS OF EXPENDITURE :
CENTRE, STATES & UTs. (Rs.crore)

Sl. No.	Sector	Eighth Plan Outlay at 1991-92 Prices	Annual Plan at 1991-92 Prices				
			1992-93 Actual Exp.	1993-94 Actual Exp.	1994-95 Actual Exp.	1995-96 Actual Exp.	1996-97 Actual Exp.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
1.	Centre	247865	39903	46517	44823	44620	50915 *
2.	States	179985	25495	26538	28432	29546	32256
3.	Union Territories	6250	1134	1149	1256	1295	1667
TOTAL		434100	66532	74204	74511	75461	84838

* - Revised Estimates

ANNEXURE 2.2

PLAN OUTLAY BY BROAD HEADS OF DEVELOPMENT
FOR ANNUAL PLAN 1997-98 (REVISED ESTIMATES)

(Rs. crore)

Sl. No.	Heads of Development	CENTRE		STATES & UTs		TOTAL	
		Outlay	%-age to Total	Outlay	%-age to Total	Outlay	%-age to Total
1	Agriculture & Allied Services(*)	3024.19	3.73	13834.78	23.61	16858.969	12.07
2	Rural Development	5314.91	6.56	4847.56	8.27	10162.471	7.28
3	Energy	21128.76	26.07	11439.78	19.52	32568.535	23.33
4	Industry and Minerals	10771.34	13.29	1751.08	2.99	12522.422	8.97
5	Transport	12985.35	16.02	5654.24	9.65	18639.593	13.35
6	Social Services	13748.78	16.97	17189.81	29.34	30938.594	22.16
7	Others(#)	14060.57	17.35	3034.61	5.18	17095.178	12.24
8	Area Programmes(\$)	0	0.00	840.09	1.43	840.09	0.60
GRAND TOTAL (&)		81033.9	100	58591.9512	100	139625.85	100

(*) Includes Agriculture and Irrigation Sector.

(#) Includes Communications, Science Technology and Environment, General Economic Services and General Services.

ANNEXURE 2.3

**PLAN OUTLAY BY BROAD HEADS OF DEVELOPMENT
FOR ANNUAL PLAN 1998-99**

' (Rs.crore)

Sl. No.	Heads of Development	CENTRE	
		Outlay	%-age to Total
1	Agriculture & Allied Services(*)	4238.69	4.03
2	Rural Development	5881.69	5.59
3	Energy	30081.90	28.60
4	Industry and Minerals	11550.92	10.98
5	Transport	16185.86	15.39
6	Social Services	18310.10	17.41
7	Others(#)	18938.00	18.00
8	Area Programmes	0.00	0.00
GRAND TOTAL		105187.16	100.00

(*) Includes Agriculture and Irrigation Sector.

(#) Includes Communications, Science Technology and
Environment, General Economic Services and General Services.7

Note:-

These are Budget Estimates.

PLAN OUTLAY BY BROAD HEADS OF DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL PLAN 1997-98 (Revised Estimates)

A AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

(#)

B RURAL DEVELOPMENT

C ENERGY

D INDUSTRY & MINERALS

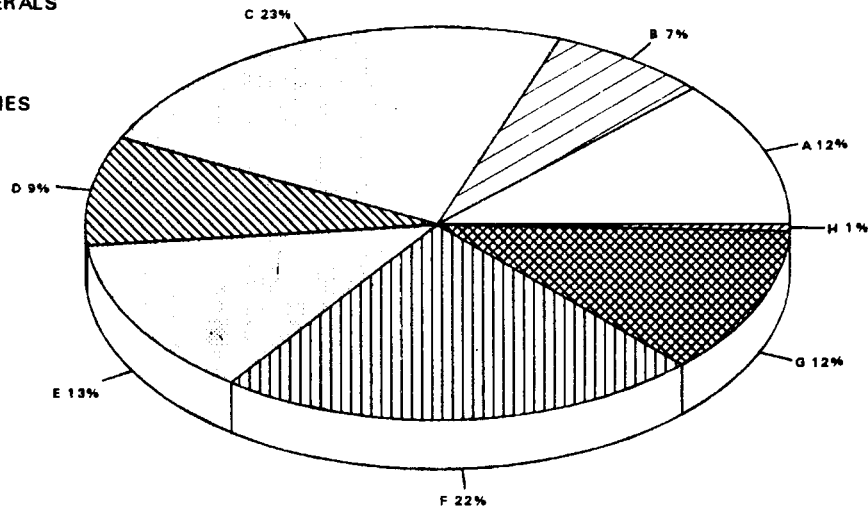
E TRANSPORT

F SOCIAL SERVICES

G OTHERS (*)

H AREA PROGRAMMES

Rs. 139625.8 Crore



AGRI & SERVICES INCLUDES AGRICULTURAL & ALLIED SERVICES & IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL

* OTHERS INCLUDE COMMUNICATIONS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT, GENERAL ECONOMIC SERVICES & GENERAL SERVICES

PLAN OUTLAY BY BROAD HEADS OF DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL PLAN 1998-99

A AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

(#)

B RURAL DEVELOPMENT

C ENERGY

D INDUSTRY & MINERALS

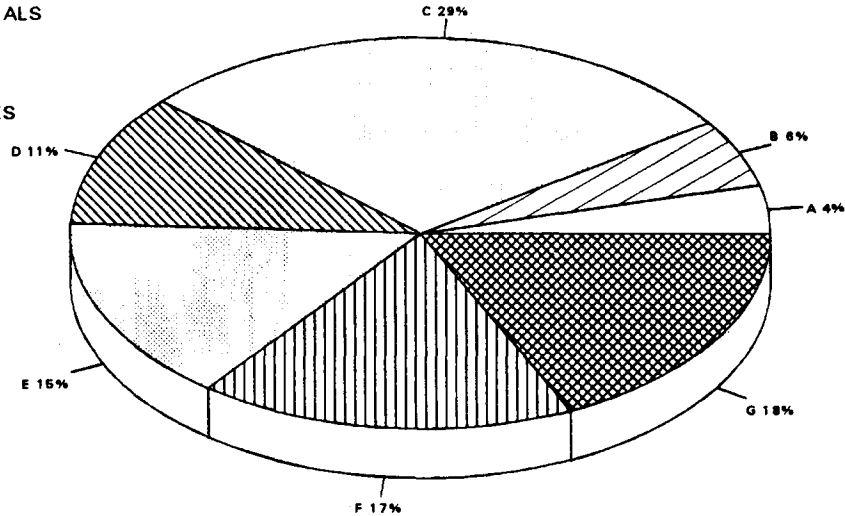
E TRANSPORT

F SOCIAL SERVICES

G OTHERS (*)

H AREA PROGRAMMES

Rs. 105187.16Crore



AGRI & SERVICES INCLUDES AGRICULTURAL & ALLIED SERVICES & IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL
* OTHERS INCLUDE COMMUNICATIONS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT, GENERAL ECONOMIC SERVICES & GENERAL SERVICES

CHAPTER - III

MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN THE PLANNING COMMISSION - 1998-99

The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)

3.1 Following the approval of "Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan (1997-2002)" by the NDC at its 47th meeting held on 16th January, 1997, a detailed draft Ninth Five Year Plan document (1997-2002) was prepared, discussed and approved in the internal meetings of the Planning Commission. This draft was released to the public by the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on 1.3.1998.

3.2 The present Government, which came to power after the General Elections in March, 1998, has reviewed this draft so as to suitably reflect the altered priorities as enunciated in the National Agenda for Governance. The Prime Minister in his letter dated 16.4.1998 addressed to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, set out the goals of the Government as:

- i) Doubling food production and making India hunger free in ten years;
- ii) Expansion and improvement of social infrastructure - drinking water, housing, education, health care and sanitation - provision of drinking water to every settlement in the country within five years,

- iii) Rapid expansion and improvement of physical infrastructure - power, oil, petroleum and renewable sources of energy, roads, transport, ports, airports, telecommunications and financial services;
- iv) Unveiling a National Water Policy so that no water goes waste and our water resources are cleaned up;
- v) Make India a global Information Technology power and one of the largest generators and exporters of software in the world within 10 years.

3.3 Accordingly, Planning Commission prepared Special Action Plan (SAPs) on (i) Doubling of food production and making India hunger free in 10 years; (ii) Rapid improvement in physical infrastructure; (iii) National Water Policy; (iv) Social Infrastructure: Rural Housing, Urban Housing, Health Care Services, Education; Urban Water Supply and Sanitation, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation; and (v) Information Technology. These Special Action Plans have been incorporated into the Ninth Five Year Plan draft. The Ninth Plan is detailed in two volumes. The first volume indicates the Plan objectives, development perspective within which it is set, its macro-economic policy framework, the employment perspective it envisages and the manner in which it can be financed. The second volume details programmes, policies and issues in the different sectors of the economy.

3.4 The Cabinet, in its meeting held on 9.1.1999, has approved the draft Ninth Plan document for placing it before the NDC for endorsement in its 48th meeting being convened on 19th February, 1999. This document will become the basic

guideline for development initiatives and programmes of the Central and State Governments till the year 2002 after it is approved by the NDC. The Planning Commission decided that in order to facilitate transparency and a constructive debate on the Plan, document should be given as wide a publicity as possible. Accordingly, for the first time, the Ninth Plan document has been put on the Internet.

Central Assistance to States

3.5 Planning Commission has taken note of the demand from some State Governments to reconsider the criteria, based on the Expert Group methodology of estimating the incidence of poverty, for allocation of funds under the major Centrally Sponsored rural poverty alleviation programmes, viz. Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Million Wells Scheme and Indira Awaas Yojana. An exercise was undertaken to rationalise the criteria for allocation of funds for the said programmes by calculating weighted average shares of States-UTs. giving equal weightage to the share of Task Force estimates for 1987-88 and the Expert Group estimates for 1993-94. The Commission felt that this should be placed before the NDC for its consideration.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

3.6 An issue that has been consistently brought up by State Governments in many fora pertains to the proposal for transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to the States. In this regard, Planning Commission undertook an exercise to compile all the existing CSS as on 1.4.1996 and a proposal was sent to the States seeking their comments on the transfer of these schemes to

the States. The Planning Commission has decided to take this list of CSS and the consolidated comments of the States on this proposal to the NDC.

3.7 The following CSS have been approved by the Full Planning Commission during 1998-99:

- i) Rural Women's Development and Employment Project of the Department of Women and Child Development.
- ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Taj Protection Mission of the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MOEF).
- iii) Pre-Matric Scholarships for the OBC Boys and Girls of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- iv) Post-Matric Scholarships for the OBC Boys and Girls of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- v) Hostels for OBC Boys and Girls of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- vi) Residential Schools for OBC Boys and Girls of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- vii) Strengthening of the District Rural Development Agencies to be named "DRDA Administration" a new CSS of Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment.
- viii) Continuation and Revision of the CSS "Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

- ix) Technology Mission for Cotton Development of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.
- x) National Resource Centre for Women (NRCW) of Department of Women and Child Development.
- xi) Central Assistance to the State Poultry/Duck Farms during the Ninth Plan of Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance

3.8 The Standing Committee on Finance set up by Lok Sabha under the Chairmanship of Shri Murli Deora examined the Demands for Grants for 1998-99. Senior officers appeared for oral evidence before this Committee on 19.6.1998 and 29.6.1998. Detailed replies to the points raised by this Committee were subsequently submitted.

3.9 A brief overview of major activities undertaken by the different Divisions of the Planning Commission is summarized in the following paragraphs.

AGRICULTURE DIVISION

3.10 The National Agenda for Governance has given top priority for doubling food production and making India hunger-free in ten years. Food production will include not only foodgrains, i.e., rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses but also all major food items including oils, sugar, fruits & vegetables, livestock products like milk, egg & meat and fish. The Special Action Plan(SAP) envisages a detailed strategy and specific programmes

to substantially increase the supply of various food items in a way that demand for these items for the entire population is comfortably met and some exportable surplus also becomes available.

3.11 The Ninth Plan is being recast on the basis of SAP and the agriculture development strategy is being consciously interwoven with the country's food security concerns. The SAP has evolved a three pronged strategy to increase the purchasing power of the poor to have access to basic food requirement. These are; (i) Increase in overall employment and incomes by raising farm productivity and supporting growth of other economic activities in the rural areas; (ii) Provision of gainful employment through employment generation schemes such as JRY, EAS, which will also help in creation of durable rural infrastructure and support to small/informal business and industrial activities in the urban areas; (iii) Distribution of food grains through public distribution system at concessional prices to those living below the poverty line.

3.12 The regionally differentiated agricultural growth strategy of the SAP besides targetting food grain production of 300 million tonnes in the next ten years, places its emphasis on accelerating the growth of horticulture products such as fruits & vegetables, livestock products and fishery substantially. The accelerated activities under SAP in the horticulture sector will offer a vast scope for diversification of Indian agriculture, generate additional employment opportunities, improve agro-industrial base, provide much needed nutritional security and also enhance export earnings. It will substantially improve incomes of farmers particularly, those belonging to small and marginal categories in the water-scarce regions. The production of fruits & vegetables is expected to increase from 128 million

tonnes to about 342 million tonnes in 10 years. The livestock production programme of the SAP will intensify research and animal health care activities besides supporting marketing and exports. The production of milk is projected to increase from 71 million tonnes to 130 million tonnes by 2007-08. In the fisheries sector, the emphasis will be on integrated development of marine and inland fishery, conservation and upgradation of aquatic resources, ensuring availability of quality fish seeds and feeds. Fish production will go up from 5.3 million tonnes at present to 9.6 million tonnes by 2007-08. Agro-processing and agro-exports will get a boost through a selective research approach to increase export competitiveness of agro-products, improving infrastructure support for post-harvest handling and processing, export promotion and market development, fast track facilities and special cargo terminals at major ports for perishables.

3.13 Agricultural Research, Education and Extension activities will be intensified in crop and animal husbandry sectors including fisheries to accelerate productivity growth. Krishi Vigyan Kendras will be established in all the districts in the country in the Ninth Plan period.

3.14 The SAP envisages increased flow of credit to agriculture, revitalisation of cooperative institutions and extending of the coverage of crop insurance schemes, special mechanism for input delivery system, assured remunerative prices to the farmers and effective implementation of land reforms. This would strengthen the institutional support mechanism for the sector.

3.15 During the year 1998-99, the work relating to formulating of Annual Plan 1998-99 and Ninth Five Year Plan(1997-2002) in the agriculture and allied sector was completed. The finalisation

of Annual Plan and Ninth Plan outlays and physical targets in respect of central ministries/departments has been completed.

3.16 The High-powered Committee constituted by the Planning Commission for the preparation of 25 year Perspective Plan for the Development of Rain-fed Areas under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.R.Hashim, Member, Planning Commission has submitted the final report.

3.17 The work of the Expert Group for making special study of the development strategy in agriculture for the eastern region under the Chairmanship of Prof. Y.K.Alagh was continued.

3.18 Planning Commission in collaboration with ICAR organised a Workshop on 'Land Use Planning' during 28th-29th November, 1997.

Agro-Climatic Regional Planning Project (ACRP)

3.19 ACRP Project has been approved for continuance during Ninth Plan. In 1998-99, crucial exercise under this project includes an attempt to complete operationalisation of experimental pilot projects in 5 districts of selected states. The ground work of amelioration of soils under the project of ACRP Puri and Shimoga has been completed. The task for activities of the cropping and horticulture and forestry plantation was included in the plan of 1998-99. For ACRP Mehsana, Purulia and Tiruchirapalli completion of work of soil amendment, horticulture and crop improvement production has been completed during 1997- 98.

3.20 In view of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment the ACRP approach for decentralised planning system for district and lower levels, is accorded high importance. The ACRP approach has been extended for implementation in selected eleven states. The activity in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu has been completed during 97-98. In other states, institutionalisation of ACRP is continued during 1998-99.

3.21 A thrust area under ACRP involves strengthening of ACRP Documentation and Dissemination work at ARPU, Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research (SPIESR), Ahmedabad. This includes taking up of activities of data building, base training in ACRP approach, creation of ACRP dissemination material and publicity through electronic and other media during 1998-99.

3.22 The other major activity under ACRP is regarding setting up of Agro-Planning and Information Bank(APIB) for completion of activities of information through satellite by National Remote Sensing Service Centre(NRSSC) of National Natural Resource System Secretariat(NNRSS)at Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for wider use of the facility by group of users. APIB was involved in building up information for individual farmers, cooperative banks, financial institutions and State Governments. Access to information and knowledge base has become important spectrum of planning. During the year 1998-99, APIB continued its involvement in activity of building up of information, access of data bank to government and non-governmental agencies, as well as, enterprising farming community in planning inputs use and application of technological innovation in agriculture.

3.23 15 Agro-Climatic Regional Planning, Zonal Planning Teams, re-constituted in July, 1997 for Ninth Five Year Plan period under the Chairmanship of Vice Chancellors of Agricultural Universities continued the activity of technical guidance for ACRP.

BACKWARD CLASSES AND TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

3.24 The Backward Classes and Tribal Development (BC&TD) Division in the Planning Commission is concerned with the welfare and development of the Socially Disadvantaged Groups viz., Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Minorities.

3.25 In the context of the adoption of the "National Agenda for Governance", the Chapter on the "Empowerment of the Socially Disadvantaged Groups" for inclusion in the document of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) was suitably revised and finalised during the year under reference. With a shift in the approach in the Ninth Five Year Plan towards the empowerment of the disadvantaged groups, all the welfare and development programmes were reoriented and revised especially in line with the SAP directed towards expansion and improvement of Social Infrastructure - drinking water, housing, education, health care and sanitation in remote and tribal areas.

3.26 In formulating various need-based policies and programmes for the welfare and development of SCs, STs, OBCs and Minorities, the Division had interacted closely with the nodal Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the resource allocation for the Ninth Five Year Plan for the same was

finalised. Further, in view of bringing the SCs, STs, OBCs and Minorities on par with the rest of the population through various employment-cum-income generating programmes so as to give these groups self-reliance and economic empowerment, review and consultative meetings were held with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Besides, the Division has also interacted with the designated financial institutions viz., National SC and ST Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), Tribal Co-operative and Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED), National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Minority Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC).

3.27 As part of the finalisation of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), the Division examined and finalised the budgetary allocations proposed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in respect of Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, for the Annual Plan (1998-99).

3.28 Efforts were made to impress upon the States to adhere to the Sub-Plan strategies towards ensuring adequate flow of funds and earmarking the same under SCP and TSP to attain economic development amongst disadvantaged groups. To this effect, the Division effectively participated in the special meetings related to SCP and TSP wherein the adoption of the Maharashtra Model was suggested.

3.29 During the year under report, the Division has examined in close collaboration with the Project Appraisal & Management Division (PAMD), 27 Cabinet Notes/EFC/SFC Memos and offered its comments. The Division also examined the new schemes proposed by the Ministry in the Ninth Plan and put up the same for the approval of the Full Planning Commission.

Various research projects/studies related to welfare and development of SCs/STs, submitted to the Planning Commission by the NGOs and Academic Institutions, were examined in the Division and the comments were offered to the concerned. The Division has also actively participated in various Research Advisory Committee Meetings held in the Planning Commission and in the Ministries.

3.30 To oversee and review the functioning and implementation of various welfare and developmental programmes related to these disadvantaged groups, the officers of the Division visited the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra.

CAREER MANAGEMENT & VIGILANCE DESK

3.31 Career Management and Vigilance Desk consists of two Units namely (a) Vigilance Unit and (b) Career Management. The subjects dealt within these two Units are as follows :

Vigilance Unit

3.32 The Unit deals with vigilance cases, i.e., cases of corruption, malpractices and lack of integrity in respect of Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' Officers. The proceedings are conducted in accordance with the procedure laid down in :-

- (i) CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965;
- (ii) CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964;

(iii) Vigilance Manual and the instructions regarding consultation with the UPSC and Central Vigilance Commission; and

(iv) Instructions issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, Central Vigilance Commission and C.A.T. on the subject.

3.33 The Unit issues vigilance clearance/certificates in respect of Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' Officers at the time of their promotions, crossing of Efficiency Bar, forwarding their applications for jobs/passports and their release from the Planning Commission on transfer of retirement etc.

3.34 The Unit advises administrative sections on other disciplinary cases which may be referred to it for advice.

3.35 The Unit submits quarterly progress reports to Central Vigilance Commission on the progress made towards expeditious disposal of vigilance cases and disciplinary inquiries in the Planning Commission and Programme Evaluation Organisation. It also submits updated monthly progress reports on pending vigilance/disciplinary cases in the Planning Commission, Programme Evaluation Organisation, National Informatics Centre and Institute of Applied Manpower Research to the Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training.

3.36 The Unit functions under the Chief Vigilance Officer assisted by one Desk Officer and one Stenographer Grade (D). Member Secretary, Planning Commission/Principal Adviser (Admn.) are kept informed of the progress made in respect of the pending vigilance cases.

Career Management

3.37 The work in this Unit mainly comprises the following :-

a) **Training Programme in India and abroad :-**

Offers for training in India and abroad are received from the nodal Ministries and/or training institutions. The Group Coordinating Officers concerned are requested to recommend candidates for training, keeping in view the essential qualifications and the utility of training for the Planning Commission and the cost involved. The names of the recommended candidates are forwarded to the nodal Ministry/Institute concerned after obtaining the approval of Adviser (Admn.)/Member Secretary. After selection of an officer for training, the case is further processed in accordance with the extant rules.

b) **Foreign Assignments :-**

On receipt of offers through nodal Ministries, applications are invited from the eligible candidates through the concerned Group Coordinating Officers. The names are forwarded to the nodal Ministry after approval from Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. Applications in respect of officers belonging to organised services are forwarded subject to clearance from their cadre controlling authority.

c) **Deputation/Delegations for participation in Seminars/Conference in India and abroad :-**

Officers are deputed to represent the Planning Commission at Seminars/Conferences in India/abroad with the approval of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. In case of Deputy Chairman and Members, the approval of Prime Minister is necessary for all foreign deputations. In all the cases of visits abroad, necessary clearances are obtained by this Unit.

d) Miscellaneous work relating to visits abroad :-

Passports and visas are arranged for officers going abroad on training or deputation through the Ministry of External Affairs. Foreign Exchange, Authority letters for personal incidental expenditure through State Bank are issued by this Unit.

e) During the financial year 1998-99, 10 officers were deputed for long-term courses in U.K. under Technical Cooperation Training Programme (Colombo Plan Training). 22 officers were deputed to represent Planning Commission/Government of India in Workshops/Seminars etc. or to participate in training programmes organised by the International Organisations such as the UN, ILO, UNDP, World Bank, IMF, APO etc. in various countries. Moreover, 5 foreign tours each of Deputy Chairman (two along with his Private Secretary) and Member (Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia) were also processed by this Desk during this period.

3.38 About 100 officers belonging to IES, GCS, CSS were sent for various training programmes conducted by Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Personnel & Training, Institute of Applied Manpower and Research (IAMR) and various other Government and Autonomous Organisations at different places within India. Besides, about 100 officers/staff

belonging to CSSS and CSS were sent for various mandatory and other training programmes conducted by Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM) at New Delhi.

3.39 In addition, Planning Commission also conducted familiarisation programmes with the activities of the Planning Commission for Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IAAS) Probationers, Indian Railways Electrical Engineering Service (IRSEE) Probationers, Senior Officers of Defence Services and foreign delegates from Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe during the above said period.

COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING DIVISION

3.40 Communication, Information & Broadcasting Division is primarily concerned with the plans, programmes and policies relating to Telecom, Postal and Information and Broadcasting sectors of the economy.

3.41 Telecommunication sector is witnessing major changes in the wake of the process of liberalisation and economic reforms. During the year, the Division critically examined the various issues relating to the growth of telecom sector in the changed scenario including the issue of private sector participation. The major policy issues examined included constraints on the speedy service provision by private sector in basic telecom services, operational problems faced by the operators of value added services, need for review of National Telecom Policy and restructuring of two telecom equipment manufacturing PSUs i.e. ITI Ltd. and HTL Ltd.

3.42 Following the directions of the Core Group on Economic Matters, Planning Commission was asked to prepare a paper for the consideration of Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI) outlining the further stimulus that should be given to encourage investment in the infrastructure sector. As a part of this exercise, the Division in consultation with Department of Telecommunications prepared the portion relating to telecommunications.

3.43 Action Plan on Rapid Expansion and Improvement in Physical Infrastructure was one of the five Action Plans prepared by the Commission to achieve five major goals set out by the Government. The Sections relating to telecommunications which formed a part of the above referred Action Plan was prepared in consultation with Department of Telecommunications.

3.44 Annual Plan proposals (1998-99) submitted by the Department of Telecommunications, Department of Posts and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting were examined and their Plans finalized.

3.45 The Chapters on Communications and Information & Broadcasting were revised/updated incorporating the changed priorities set by the new Government. In view of the higher priority accorded to Information Technology, a separate portion on the subject has been included in the Plan Document for the first time.

3.46 It was decided in consultation with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to prepare a film covering the activities of the Planning Commission. Necessary script, material etc. was prepared by the Division for the use of Films Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

3.47 Officers of the Division participated in the 23rd Conference of State and UT Ministers of Information and Cinematography held in Vigyan Bhavan on August 31 - September 1, 1998.

3.48 The Division continued with the "Internal Information Service" by bringing out a computerised Daily Digest of selected news items. The Division was responsible for bringing out a number of publications of the Planning Commission during the year and also ensured their wider circulation among various institutions and individuals both in the Government and non-Government sectors.

DEVELOPMENT POLICY DIVISION

3.49 Development Policy Division examined various issues pertaining to Price Policy on various agricultural commodities, Food Security Policy and Policy on Public Distribution System. In addition, it monitored major economic indicators and reviewed the macro-economic performance of the Indian economy during the year. Development Policy Division was also closely associated with policy formulation and planning for development of the North-East Region. The Division vetted the Annual Plan proposals relating to the Public distribution System of the Department of Food & Civil Supplies for the Annual Plan exercise.

3.50 One of the major contributions of the division was in preparing the background material for the Economic Editors' Conference (September 16-18, 1998).

EDUCATION DIVISION

3.51 Education Division during the year continued to interact actively with the nodal Departments of Education, Art & Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs. The major interaction related to the preparation of Ninth Plan formulations in light of National Agenda for Governance. All the reports of the Steering Committees on Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Non-Formal Education, Adult Education, Vocational Education, Distance Education, Higher and Technical Education, besides those on Art and Culture, Libraries and Informatics, Language Development and Book Promotion and Sports and Youth Affairs were finalised and printed. Further, Chapters relating to Education, Art & Culture and Youth Affairs and Sports were also revised as per Government's National Agenda for Governance which will form part of the revised Ninth Plan document.

3.52 The Technology Development Mission (TDM) projects which are in operation at IITs and IISc., Bangalore have been closely monitored by the Division. The TDM projects are slated to be completed by 31st March, 1999. Education Division has been corresponding with Industrial partners directly to get feed back from them independently as to how far the Missions have been useful. Planning Commission has reconstituted the Standing Committee and it is likely to meet in the first week of February to review these projects.

3.53 Education Division constituted two Expert Committee/Groups. The first Committee is of Experts on Current Status of Expenditure on Education in relation to target of 6% of GDP. The Committee met in July, 1998 and the draft Report is likely to be discussed shortly. This

Committee will also look into the strategy for ensuring a gradual increase in spending on education to 6 per cent of GDP as a part of its terms of reference and suggest measures as to how it can be increased over the coming Five Year Plan. The other Committee on 'Plan Investment and Evaluation Group for Education Development' was constituted in October, 1998. The objective of this Group is (i) to suggest plan investment for achieving UEE and eradication of illiteracy, with special focus on educationally backward States/intra-State backward regions; (ii) to seek convergence of services by effective and remedial action in a time-bound manner so as to effect meaningful partnership and coordination between different Ministries/Departments. A meeting of this Committee is scheduled some time in January, 1999.

3.54 Education Division also initiated evaluation of certain Schemes in education and youth affairs & sports sector through some independent research and evaluation organisations in different regions of the country. A meeting was convened on 18th November, 1998 with these organisations and detailed discussions were held about the research design, acceptance of the research proposal, time schedule of completing the project, budget requirement, etc. Submitted proposals are being processed for submission to Research Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission for formal approval before these are taken up for evaluation.

3.55 Education Division has initiated work for preparation of "Educational Development Index - 1995-96" on lines of the Human Development Index, in order to focus on a single figure as a measuring device for educational achievement in the country, in a State or by any other administrative unit. An EDI model has already been developed on the basis of data analysis

pertaining to 1995-96 for each State/UT and circulated to all State/UTs Education Secretaries and Educational Experts for their comments/suggestions. The Division proposes to hold a debate on EDI in January/February, 1999.

3.56 The 'Information Technology Action Plan', report submitted by the National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development has made 108 recommendations covering issues relating to telecommunication, finance, banking, revenue, commerce, electronics, human resource development, defence and rural development. A unique promotional campaign suggested in the report is OPERATION KNOWLEDGE, which aims at universalising IT and IT-based education at all levels of the education pyramid in India. Recommendations were discussed with Secretaries of concerned Departments like Education, Electronics, etc. Department of Education has already constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee for implementation of these recommendations. Two meetings of this Committee have already been held on 5th November and 2nd December, 1998 for a speedy action.

3 57 As a member of the Review Committee, Jt. Adviser (Edn.) visited Tibet House and inspected their library, museum and their working for assessing their financial requirement. He made appropriate recommendations. Similarly, Dy. Adviser (Edn.) visited the Tawang Monastery as a member of Group of officers from Department of Culture, Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission for advising on the issue of grant-in-aid to the Centre for Buddhist Cultural Studies, Tawang. The Report is under submission.

3.58 As per the Prime Minister's initiative and National Agenda for Governance, Education Division has been

focussing on convergence of schemes similar in nature in all the sectors which are in operation or are proposed to be initiated for optimal utilisation of resources in a more economic and effective manner. As part of this exercise, Pr. Adviser (Edn.) submitted a Report to the Group of Ministers for schemes relating to improvement of Girls Education & Women Empowerment such as Balika Samridhi Yojana and Free Education of Girls. Inter-Ministerial Meetings were also conducted for a number of schemes like Mid-day Meal, Vocational Education, Non-formal Education, Rural Libraries, etc.

3.59 The Division had detailed discussions with the various Divisions of the MHRD in the formulation of 1998-99 Annual Plan, as well as, the Ninth Plan. Constructive suggestions were made on various schemes for purpose of streamlining them.

3.60 The Division as part of its routine administrative responsibility responded to a number of representations from Chief Ministers, other VIPs, State Governments and the public besides scrutinising proposals put-forth by MHRD and other Ministries/internal Division of the Planning Commission. The Division also studied technical aspects of proposals in the form of SFCs, EFCs and Cabinet Notes.

3.61 Technical officers of the Division participated actively and provided academic and technical inputs in deliberations at various forums and in proceedings of meetings held in the Planning Commission from time to time, as well as, in the various committees constituted by MHRD and autonomous organisations like University Grants Commission (UGC), Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), National Council of Educational

Research and Training (NCERT), National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR), National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) and the Management Board of Technology Development Mission.

ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST UNIT

3.62 The Environment and Forests Division of Planning Commission deals with formulation of Five Year Plans, Annual Plans and policies pertaining to the Environment & Forest, Wasteland Development and Animal Welfare. The Environment and Forest Division also functions as the secretariat of the Island Development Authority (IDA) set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister and its Standing Committee chaired by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.

3.63 During the year, 1998-99, E&F Division constituted a Core Group under the Chairmanship of Member (Environment) to deal with the problems of Global Warming/Climate Change and to take a holistic view in the matter and to work out possible policy responses. The Core Group would inter-alia work out the requirements of research in the field of climate change, build up a data base and consider how climate change concerns could be internalised in the planning process. First meeting of the Core Group was held in December, 1998.

3.64 In addition to the above, following matters were attended to :

i) The proposals for the Ninth Five Year Plan and Annual Plan of the Ministry of Environment & Forests and the

Department of Wastelands Development, Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (relating to subject of Animal Welfare) were examined.

ii) A seminar was organised in July, 1998 on the subject of "Climate Change - its dimensions, implications of Planning in India", which was attended by several Secretaries to Government of India, leading scientists, etc.

iii) The draft Chapter on Environment and Forests for the Ninth Five Year Plan document was revised.

iv) The draft Legislation on Biodiversity was critically examined and comments communicated to the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

v) A meeting of the High Power Committee under the Chairmanship of Member-Secretary, Planning Commission to study the requirement of minimum flow of water in the River Yamuna so as to combat Water Pollution was organised in September, 1998.

vi) A meeting of the National Steering Committee for reviewing the progress of Capacity-21 Project under the Chairmanship of Member-Secretary, Planning Commission was held in October, 1998.

vii) A meeting of the Monitoring Committee for reviewing the progress of National River Conservation Plan under the Chairmanship of Member-Secretary, Planning Commission was held in December, 1998.

viii) The Report of the Working Group constituted to look into the prospects of leasing out degraded forest lands to the Private Entrepreneurs under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Wastelands, Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, was received and processed.

ix) A number of SFC, EFC and CCEA notes were processed pertaining to Environment, Forests, Wildlife, Animal Welfare and Wasteland Development sectors.

x) Preparations were made for the next meeting of the Standing Committee of the Island Development Authority under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman. The Island Development Authority was reconstituted in August, 1998 and the Standing Committee of IDA was reconstituted in September, 1998.

xi) Adviser (E&F) participated in a Seminar on Coastal Environmental Management organised by EDI of the World Bank in collaboration with the Government of Singapore from 29th November to 4th December, 1998 in Singapore.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES DIVISION

3.65 Assessment of financial resources for the Plans is an integral part of the planning exercise. This exercise is undertaken at the very inception of formulation of the Plan. An in-depth study of the resource mobilisation effort vis-a-vis approved plan outlay of each State/Centre during the previous Plan (Annual/Five Year) along with the additional resource mobilisation efforts form the basis of resource estimates for the ensuing plan. The Financial Resources Division is responsible

for such assessment of financial resources for the Five Year Plans and Annual Plans of both Centre and States.

3.66 During the period under review, the Division completed assessment of resource requirements for the Annual Plan 1998-99 of Centre and States. The Chapter on Financial Resources together with annexures providing detailed statistical information for the Annual Plan 1998-99 was prepared.

3.67 The estimates of resources, sectoral Plan outlays and transfer of resources to States projected in the draft Ninth Five Year (1997-2002) Plan document were revised in view of the inclusion of provisions relating to SAPs. The endeavour, in general, has been to bridge the gap between resource requirement and resource availability on a realistic basis. The sectoral priorities and resource requirements of Centre and States were kept in view while effecting these revisions. The Financial Resources Division also prepared detailed statistical information for inclusion in the Ninth Five Year Plan document.

3.68 The process for preparation of Annual Plan 1999-2000 was also initiated during the period under review. The officers of the Division were associated in the exercise undertaken by Department of Expenditure for assessment of Internal and Extra-Budgetary Resources (IEBR) of Central Public Sector Enterprises for Annual Plan 1999-2000. With regard to State Plans, detailed guidelines have been issued to all States for formulating the scheme of financing of their Plan. The proposed scheme of financing as formulated by the States on the basis of guidelines would be deliberated in detail by the Working Group on Financial Resources under the Chairmanship of the Adviser, Financial Resources Division. The Working Group would comprise officers from the Financial Resources Division, Department of

Expenditure, Department of Economic Affairs, Reserve Bank of India and respective State Governments. The consensus arrived in the Working Group would form the basis of discussions between Deputy Chairman and State Chief Ministers for finalisation of outlay for the Annual Plan. In the Annual Plan 1999-2000, the Financial Resources Division proposes to increase the quantum of project specific assistance to States for minor irrigation, roads, bridges, etc., through institutional finance from LIC, NABARD, etc.

3.69 The Division was actively involved in providing comments to the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Home Affairs on issues relating to the financial resources of the North East States and in suggesting short-term and long-term measures required for tackling the financial problems of these States.

3.70 During the year under report the following papers/notes, etc., were prepared by the Financial Resources Division.

(i) A paper for the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on short-term and long-term measures for improving the finances of North East States.

(ii) A study on the process of State Plan finalisation, the related problems, and possible changes were effected for the State Plan Division for the perusal of the Deputy Chairman and the PMO.

(iii) A note on the "Revision of Gadgil Formula" has been prepared on the basis of views/comments received from Chief Ministers of all States, past experience, as well as, emerging national priorities for consideration of the National Development Council (NDC)

(iv) Study on the "Finances and Overall Economic Development of the State of Bihar" was prepared for the Prime Minister's Office.

(v) Prepared a study on Flood Relief Funds for Kerala for the Prime Minister's Office.

(vi) Studies on the Finances of the States of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa were undertaken.

(vii) A study on "Role of Financial Resources Division, Planning Commission in the Planning Process and Development Activities", was prepared for the production of a film on Planning Commission organised for the Communication & Information Division, Planning Commission.

(viii) The Central Budget for 1998-99 with special reference to financing of the Centre's Plan 1998-99 was analysed.

3.71 The Division supplied material for answering a questionnaire received from the Standing Finance Committee with regard to Demands for Grants (1998-99) relating to the Ministry of Planning & Programme Implementation. The views/comments of the Division on the Interim Report of Strategic Management Group regarding the structure, role and the authority of the Planning Commission were submitted to the Commission.

3.72 Other regular items of work like review of implementation of Plan schemes, revision of Plan outlays relating to particular schemes/programmes, transfer of Plan fund to Non-Plan schemes and examination of various aspects relating to States and

Central finances including Central-State financial relations referred to the Financial Resources Division by other Subject Divisions in the Commission, as well as, Ministries/Departments were attended to, during the period under review.

HEALTH, ISM&H, NUTRITION AND FAMILY WELFARE DIVISION

Special Action Plan - Health Sector

3.73 The expansion and improvement of social infrastructure - education, health care, housing, water supply and sanitation - is one of the goals set in the National Agenda for Governance. The PM's SAP for Health envisages expansion and improvement of the health services; no specific targets have been set for the health sector.

3.74 The Division undertook a review of the current status, problems, proposed intervention programmes, targets set and monitoring mechanism in health sector and prepared the SAP for health sector including health, nutrition, family welfare and ISM&H. The Proposed operational strategy under the SAP for the health sector include :

- a) state specific strategies for fully operationalising the on-going programmes in health, nutrition and family welfare.
- b) reorganisation of the infrastructure, redeployment of manpower in urban and rural areas; providing additional funds to fill critical gaps; improving referral linkages.
- c) investment in health manpower development in modern and Indian systems of medicine of appropriate quality and

quantity; continuing education for professionals and paraprofessionals to update their knowledge and skills, provide appropriate programme and people orientation.

d) effective screening, identification of 'at risk individuals' and provision supplements according to needs for individuals with CED, micro-nutrient deficiency; effective coverage of all 'at risk groups' under the anaemia and Vit. A prophylaxis programme; universal iodisation of salt.

e) de-centralised area specific need assessment and microplanning to meet all the felt needs under the RCH programme.

f) improved monitoring of ongoing programmes in health, family welfare, ISM&H and nutrition and effecting mid-course corrections.

3.75. The draft Ninth Plan chapters on health, family welfare ISM&H and nutrition were revised taking into account the SAP and the comments of the Central Ministries and States on SAP. The changes in the draft chapters mainly cover the operational strategy, increasing efficiency and monitoring mechanism.

Long Term Action Plan under K-B-K Districts of Orissa

3.76 Health and nutritional status of the population living in KBK districts continues to be poor due to poverty, low income, lower levels of literacy, periodic drought, endemic malaria, inadequate access to health services and lack of health awareness, especially in tribal areas. Health is one of the sectors covered under the Long-Term Action Plan (LTAP) for KBK District.

of Orissa (1995-2002) which is being monitored by the Planning Commission. The State Government had prepared the following schemes for implementation under the LTAP for Health Sector :

- a) **greater access** to public health services through mobile health clinics/units.
- b) **improved availability** of health staff in existing health institutions through provision of residential accommodation.
- c) **prevention, detection and prompt treatment** of malaria.
- d) **prompt and effective treatment** of Tuberculosis.

3.77 Malaria and TB control programmes in KBK Districts are being funded through the respective Centrally Sponsored Disease Control Programmes. Planning Commission has provided an additional Central Assistance of Rs. 2 crore in 1998 for the mobile health clinics in order to improve access to health services in tribal areas in KBK districts. The Central Sector Programme on Yaws Eradication also provides mobile health care facilities to the population in these districts. The progress in implementation of these programmes will be monitored by the Planning Commission.

3.78 Emergency Feeding Programme for the old, infirm and the destitute is another component of the LTAP. At present 74,545 beneficiaries are covered under the Programme in six districts. As per the directives of the Human Rights Commission these persons are to be provided with one meal a day. The Planning Commission has provided an Additional Central Assistance of Rs.

7 crore for this programme during the year 1998-99. This programme is also monitored by the Planning Commission.

Population Policy

3.79 The NDC Committee on Population had recommended that the National Population Policy should be formulated and approved by the Parliament. A revised Draft Population Policy was drawn up by the Department of Family Welfare and was approved by the Cabinet in Nov. 1997. However, it was not placed before the Parliament because of the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. The Draft Population Policy was reviewed by an Expert Group constituted by the Department of Family Welfare in 1998, the document was revised taking into account the recommendations of this Group. Planning Commission had reviewed the revised Draft and sent the comments to the Department of Family Welfare.

Review and revision of the "norms" for family welfare infrastructure.

3.80 NDC Committee on Population had recommended that States should progressively increase their contribution to the family welfare programme. Planning Commission had suggested that there is a need to review the infrastructure created by the Department over the years and transfer to States those which are functioning as a part of their primary, secondary and tertiary health care infrastructure. The norms for costs of Family Welfare infrastructure and manpower were drawn up over two decades ago. Since States have to be reimbursed for actual expenditure incurred in the programme, the Department of Family Welfare has been approaching the Planning Commission for

additional outlays to meet arrears payable to States. Planning Commission has emphasised the need for realistic revision of norms so that arrears payable to States do not accumulate and come in the way of effective implementation of the programmes. At the request of the Planning Commission, the Department of Family Welfare has constituted a Consultative Committee to consider these issues and come up with suitable recommendations. The Committee had four meetings in 1998 and the Report of the Committee is expected to be finalised shortly.

Technical Appraisal

3.81 The Division undertook technical appraisal of the EFC/SFC proposals (including the Externally Assisted Projects) from the Departments of Health, ISM&H and Family Welfare. The Division reviewed the implementation of the ongoing programmes in each of these sectors.

HINDI SECTION

3.82 During the year under report, besides translating various documents covered under Section 3(3) of the Official Language Act, 1963 (as amended) and other communications required to be issued in Hindi, the Hindi Section of the Planning Commission also translated the Annual Plan, Five Year Plan, and documents relating to agenda items for various meetings, Cabinet Notes, etc.

3.83 The progress in the use of Hindi for various official purposes in the Planning Commission was also reviewed in meetings of the Official Language Implementation Committee of

the Planning Commission. Hindi Fortnight was observed in the Planning Commission from 14th to 25th of September, 1998.

3.84 In the context of "Hindi Day" and "Hindi Fortnight", an appeal was issued on 14.9.98 by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Planning & Programme Implementation, Shri Ram Naik, encouraging the officers and employees of Planning Commission to make more and more use of Hindi for their official purposes. During the fortnight, various competitions such as, Hindi Essay Competition, Hindi Noting and Drafting Competition, Hindi Typing and Hindi Stenography Competitions and Hindi Quiz were conducted and the participants who won the awards in these competitions were given certificates and prizes by the Principal Adviser (Education) Shri M.K. Kaw in a function organised at the end of the fortnight. The fortnight was concluded with a "KAVI SAMMELAN" in which 11 poets of repute recited their poems.

3.85 In order to encourage the use of Hindi in Planning Commission, a running shield was awarded to Admn-V Section as winner of the 1st Prize. Accounts-I Section was given the second prize for their performance in the use of Hindi during the year 1997-98.

HOUSING, URBAN DEVELOPMENT & WATER SUPPLY DIVISION

3.86 During the year under report, the Division continued to formulate and monitor policies and programmes relating to Housing, (Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, Ministry of Home Affairs) Urban Development and Water Supply & Sanitation. Plan

proposals of the Department of Justice were also finalised and views were communicated.

3.87 Government of India has evolved in consultation with Planning Commission a new "Housing and Habitat Policy 1998" in view of the objective of "Housing for all" as contained in its "National Agenda for Governance"

3.88 Realising the urgent need for improving living conditions of urban slums, a Working Group on Slums, was constituted under the Chairpersonship of Pr. Adviser (HUD & WS) to consider and recommend basis on which funds earmarked for Slum Development could be allocated during the remaining period of Ninth Five Year Plan. The Working Group has since submitted its report. In the Union Budget 1998-99, a provision of Rs. 350 crore has been made as Additional Central Assistance for Slum Development. The Division has allocated these funds among States/UTs on the basis of recommendations of the Working Group.

3.89 The Division participated and presented views of the Planning Commission in various conferences/ meetings/ seminars relating to Housing, Urban Development, Water Supply and Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes at National and International level such as :

- Review meetings with State Government Officials on "Urban Low Cost Sanitation Scheme" and "Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme for Small Towns"
- State Level Sanctioning Committee on the scheme of "Integrated Development of Mega Cities"

- State Level Sanctioning Committee on Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns.
- Conference of State Chief Public Health Engineers and Head of Water Supply and Sanitation at Chandigarh.
- Meeting on Delhi's Ground Water Contamination.

INDIA JAPAN STUDY COMMITTEE

3.90 The India Japan Study Committee (IJSC) organises joint meetings for exchange of views and undertakes studies on selected subjects, with a view, to foster better understanding and cooperation between India and Japan in economic, social, cultural and scientific fields. Joint meetings are held alternately in India and Japan. During 1997-98, IJSC met on 25-26 September, 1997 in Goa. The Committee reviewed the development of mutual interaction especially since 1991 when India embarked on the path of economic liberalisation.

3.91 The India Committee published the India Japan Quarterly Journal for the period January-March, 1998. The journal contains academic studies, sectoral reports and other information on both countries.

3.92 With the approval of the Prime Minister, the India Committee of the IJSC was reconstituted during November, 1998 under the Chairmanship of Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Member, Planning Commission.

3.93 The next joint meeting of the IJSC is proposed to be held in Japan in March/April, 1999.

INDUSTRY & MINERALS DIVISION

3.94 The Ninth Plan work pertaining to the sector that continued from the previous year was completed during the year.

3.95 Planning Commission was actively involved in the project and performance appraisal of various PSUs and also participated in the task force to fix targets for Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with PSEs for the financial year 1998-99. Turn around proposals (TAPs) of 23 PSEs of Department of Heavy Industries (DHI), 3 PSEs of Department of Fertilisers (DOF) and 2 PSEs of Department of Chemicals were examined which included proposals for financial restructuring, as well as, closure.

3.96 The division has been actively involved in PSUs reforms like granting greater autonomy in their functioning. It has examined reports of the Disinvestment Commission regarding these policy issues. It has also examined reports of the Disinvestment Commission concerning disinvestment of shares in case of 53 PSUs referred to the Commission.

3.97 Growth Center Scheme has been continued. A number of additional growth centres were considered and approved. In all 66 growth centres have been approved for various States.

3.98 The declining trend in the performance of the industry sector is a matter of concern. For a close understanding of the various factors responsible for this situation, a series of meetings have been arranged with associations groups of major industry sub-sectors. Three such meetings have already been held. More such meetings are expected during the year, as well

as, in the next year. Planning Commission will like to take up various issues that emerge out of such meetings for policy corrections, if any.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS DIVISION

3.99 The International Economic Division is responsible for the study of issues related to India's foreign trade and balance of payments, as well as, issues concerning foreign investments. The Division also handles work relating to bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation. In this regard, the Division is engaged in analysing the trends and issues in the international economy. During the financial year, 1998-99, this Division was involved in periodical monitoring and detailed analysis of India's foreign trade, foreign exchange reserves and other components of Balance of Payments. The exercises in compilation and analysis of statistical data relating to foreign trade and balance of payments were continued and contacts were maintained with Commodity Boards, Export Promotion Councils, Reserve Bank of India etc., as well as, international organisations like International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), World Trade Organisation (WTO) etc. and India's missions abroad for supply of information and data.

3.100 In connection with the visit of the President of India to Nepal, a detailed paper on "Status of the Indian Economy and Industrial Policy with specific reference to foreign investment and financial aid flows both multilateral and bilateral" was prepared and sent to the Ministry of External Affairs.

3.101 The 54th Annual Session of the ESCAP was held in Bangkok from 16-22 April, 1998. Detailed comments of the Planning Commission were sent to the Ministry of Commerce on the agenda items Nos. 4(a) - Report on the Current Economic Situation in the Region and Policy Implications Issues and 6(a) - Financial Crisis in the Region and its Policy Implications.

3.102 Detailed comments were prepared on the findings and recommendations contained in the draft UNDP Document "Disparities in Human Development: Key concerns" and draft World Bank Document "India: Options for More Effective Public Services to Reduce Poverty", on the basis of the approach paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan and material received from concerned subject divisions in the Planning Commission. The comments of the Planning Commission on these documents were sent to the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. The representatives of the Planning Commission also attended meeting convened by the Ministry of Finance to discuss various issues contained in the report.

3.103 The representation received from Shri G.C. Bhattacharya, former Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi on the "Implications of sanctions imposed by USA and other countries on India's trade and industry" was examined in the IE Division and referred to the Ministry of Commerce.

3.104 Comments were given on the note prepared by the Chairman of the Tariff Commission for consideration by the Committee of Secretaries regarding the modification of the terms of reference of the Tariff Commission in order to enlarge its role and make it an independent institution. The proposal to widen the role of the Tariff Commission in policy formulation in the

area of International Trade and Tariff fixation was supported. However, the proposal to make it an independent body was not favoured because of the possibility of conflict between the views of such a body and the Government of the day.

3.105 The various proposals forwarded to Deputy Chairman by the Forum of Parliamentarians on Intellectual Property and WTO Issues were examined. The suggestion of the Forum for the Constitution of a broad based Advisory Council to assist the Ministry of Commerce on various WTO issues was supported.

3.106 Certain changes were made to the EXIM policy 1997-2002 in April, 1998 expanding the OGL list. In the context of examining the implications for Indian Industry of enlarging the OGL list, a note was prepared, for the information of the Deputy Chairman, about the commitments made by India under the WTO regime for phasing out quantitative restrictions on imports.

3.107 Detailed comments were given on the draft paper on "Project Implementation Performance Study" prepared by the Asian Development Bank. The various constraints affecting implementation of Externally Aided Projects were examined in consultation with other concerned Divisions and the views of the Planning Commission were communicated to the Ministry of Finance.

3.108 At the request of the Ministry of Finance, prioritisation of various items included in the Edinburgh CHOGM Declaration 1997 was indicated. This was done keeping in view the scope for multilateral efforts to make contributions for the development effort.

IRRIGATION AND COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

3.109 The draft chapter on Irrigation, Flood Control and Command Area Development Programme for the draft Ninth Five Year Plan was prepared in the division. The process of formulation of Annual Plan 1997-98 for various States and the Ministry of Water Resources was completed. The Chapter on Irrigation, Flood Control & Command Area Development for the Annual Plan 1997-98 was finalised. The process of formulation of Annual Plan 1998-99 for various States is being finalised. Similar exercises were undertaken in respect of Plan proposal of 1998-99 of the Ministry of Water Resources to finalise the plan outlays for Irrigation, Flood Control & CAD Programmes.

National Water Policy

3.110 In the National Agenda for Governance of the new Government, Water Resources Development and Management is one of the thrust areas.

3.111 Accordingly, a Special Action Plan amounting to Rs. 32736 crore (Central Sector, Central Assistance to States and States contribution) for irrigation potential creation to the tune of 141.50 lakh ha. has been formulated with a three-pronged strategy as indicated below :

- (i) Optimisation of existing irrigation capacity utilisation.
- (ii) Expansion of irrigation facilities and creating,
- (iii) Public awareness,

(iv) Harnessing of inter-State river water.

3.112 The Memorandum for EFC and PIB received from the Ministry of Water Resources were examined and detailed comments were sent to the Ministry.

3.113 The Officers of the I&CAD Division participated and resented the views of the Planning Commission in a number of Conferences, Seminars, review meetings of the Ministry of Water Resources and Central Water Commission in respect of Irrigation, Flood Control and CAD Programme.

3.114 Various Projects in the sector were considered by the Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood control & Multipurpose Projects of the Ministry of Water Resources. Based on the Committee's recommendations, investment approvals were issued.

3.115 The importance of development of water resources in the country has been recognised keeping in view the need for agricultural development. During the year 1998-99, the Union Government provided central assistance by way of loans under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme to the States for timely completion of selected Irrigation & Multi-purpose projects.

3.116 Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) was started in 1995-96 to extend loans to the State Governments for various purposes which interalia include irrigation, soil conservation, water-shed management, rural roads and bridges etc. During 1998- 99 under RIDF-I, an amount of Rs. 3000 crore was allocated to NABARD for providing loans to the State Governments in order to accelerate the completion of Rural

Infrastructure Projects including Irrigation & Flood Control Projects. This resulted in additional resource mobilisation to the States for completion of various ongoing projects.

3.117 As a follow-up of the report of the Committee on pricing of irrigation water, Planning Commission constituted a group of officers, under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Planning Commission and Members from selected States and concerned Government of India Departments. The group of officers unanimously recommended that full O&M cost be recovered in a phased manner, i.e., in next five years starting from 1995-96. Subsequently after achieving O&M level, the individual States may review the status to decide appropriate action to manage water rates to cover one percent of capital cost also. In addition, setting up of Irrigation & Water Pricing Board by all States and mandatory periodic revision of water rates, at least every five years with an opportunity for users to present their case, was also recommended. Further, the group of officers recommended the formation of Water User Associations and transferring the maintenance and management of water system to them so that they manage their finances both for O&M and eventually for expansion and improvement of facilities. The Division has already addressed letters to all State Governments to indicate the action taken by them on the report of this group.

National Commission for Integrated Water Resource Development Plan

3.118 The Government of India has constituted a High-Powered Commission in Sept., 1996 for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan, i.e., to take a holistic view of overall water resources in the country and maximising the availability and its utilisation including consideration of inter-basin transfers. The

above Commission constituted nine Working Groups to cover various facets of the subject. Each Working Group has held a number of meetings with reference to their terms of reference and are in an advanced stage of bringing out their reports. Subsequent to the above reports, a comprehensive report would be prepared expeditiously.

LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER DIVISION

3.119 The LEM Division is mainly involved in taking a macro view of the employment and unemployment situation in the country and its various correlates and evolving a policy frame work in this regard. Besides, the Division is also involved in matters relating to labor welfare and social security for workers and various aspects related to vocational training.

Employment

3.120 Estimates of Labour Force, Work Force, Employment and Unemployment in the country is an integral part of the planning exercise. This exercise is undertaken for five year plans. Estimates are made on the basis of NSSO Sample Surveys and on the basis of these estimates employment projections are also made. Changing demographic profile of the country and of the different States and its implications on the growth of labour force was considered in the Division while making projections for the future. The Division also handled matters relating to employment strategy, employment policy and other related issues.

3.121 Some of the important activities undertaken by the division during the year are as follows:

- (i) A lecture on "Employment Market Information Scheme - Coverage contents and Limitations" was delivered to the ISS Probationers.
- (ii) Working Group to finalise sample design, schedules and instructions etc. relating to sixth quinquennial survey on employment and unemployment and consumer expenditure during the NSSO 55th Round (July 98-June 99) was attended.
- (iii) Workshop on modernisation of Indian Statistical System held on 14-16 Sept.,1998 organised by Central Statistical Organisation was attended, in which data gaps in Labour Statistics and suggestion to bridge the gaps was discussed.
- (iv) A six week training course in official statistics and Related Methodology" for the participants at the 52nd term in regular courses in Statistics of International Statistical Educational Centre (ISEC), Calcutta was organised by the CSO. The overseas participants for this course had a session on Labour, Employment and Manpower conducted by the LEM Division. The participants were from Bhutan, Korea, Cambodia, Phillipines, Sri Lanka, Uganda etc.
- (v) The comprehensive estimates of employment and unemployment in the country are available with an interval of five years in case of NSSO surveys and 10 years in case of Census. An effort was made by the LEM Division, in collaboration with Institute of Applied Manpower Research, to evolve a methodology for generating annual estimates of employment.

(vi) A Report 'Towards full employment and eradication of Poverty in India' was prepared and presented at ILO Asian Regional Consultation on follow up to the World Summit for Social Development - Bangkok during 13-15 January, 1999 by Member-Secretary, Planning Commission.

3.122 The following Studies on Employment were undertaken in the Division during the year:

(i) In the context of evolving employment strategy for Five Year Plan, a regional perspective on employment and unemployment situation was attempted taking into consideration Work Force Participation rates (WFPRs) and Labour Force Participation Rates (LFPRs) of individual States and their changing demographic profile together with the prospects of economic growth at State levels.

(ii) An exercise aimed at explaining incidence of poverty at the state level was carried out with the objective of identifying factors affecting level of and change in incidence of poverty.

(iii) The issue relating to returns from employment in terms of average wages earned by workers in different states was examined in the Division as one of the indicators of quality of employment.

(iv) The Division is currently engaged in analysis of employment and unemployment data and projections of labour force was made according to the age structure. Projections of unemployment in the country in the long term perspective are also being made.

(v) A study on Structural Adjustment in India and Implications for Employment Generation and Structure on Employment was examined.

(vi) A study was made on educational attainment of unemployed persons.

(vii) A study was made on employment opportunities in rural non-farm sector over the years.

3.123 For the Ninth Five Year Plan, the chapter on Employment Perspective for the volume I of the Ninth Plan Document was prepared in the Division. The results of the studies listed at 3 (i) to (vi) were used in preparing this Employment Perspective.

3.124 The data base on employment and unemployment from different sources, viz., National Sample Surveys on Employment and Unemployment, Decennial Demographic Census, Economic Census, Rural Labour Enquiries, surveys by Labour Bureau on Living and Working Condition of Workers, Annual Survey of Industries, All India Census of Small Scale Industrial Units, Employment Market Information and Employment Exchanges Statistics (Directorate General of Employment & Training) etc. is being developed in the Division for use in planning exercise. It will also serve as reference and input for analysis of changes in employment situation during the past 20 to 25 years. The data on workforce, labour force, wages etc. are being compiled.

3.125 Government has decided that ten crore people should get employment opportunities over the next ten years. This

means that every year one crore people should get employment opportunities. A Task Force has been set up for this purpose.

Labour Welfare

3.126 The scheme of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) was appraised in the Division. Issues relating to Child Labour were examined in detail and Child Labour Projects were visited in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan by the representative of LEM Division as a part of a Central Team on Child Labour along with officials of the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Finance. Technical Report relating to Child Labour was prepared after the visits. The Project was finally approved by the Government.

3.127 Schemes of the Ministry of Labour were also evaluated and investment decisions were taken. Some of these schemes examined in the Division are, Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped Persons, Employment Market Information, Regional Vocational Training Institutes in Jaipur and Allahabad, Housing for Hammal (Head Load Carrying Workers), Scheme for Central Board of Workers Education, Central Staff Training & Research Institute etc.

3.128 Issues relating to labour policies and programmes are also handled in the Division. In this context, the Division examined issues like social security in both organised and unorganised sectors, present labour laws, vocational training institutions and role of employment exchanges etc.

3.129 Some of the important activities in which the Division was represented during the year are as follows: (a) National Seminar on "Women's Vocational Training -in search of New Vistas" organised by the Ministry of Labour. (b) Standing Labour Committee of the Indian Labour Conference, Ministry of Labour. (c) 34th Indian Labour Conference, Ministry of Labour. (d) Task Force on Social Security for Unorganised Workers, Ministry of Labour. (e) XIV meeting of the Inter-Departmental Direction Committee on Surveys of Workers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at Labour Bureau.

3.130 Syllabus for the following were examined and Ministry of Labour (Central Staff Training & Research Institute) was advised: (i) Syllabus for the trade of Mechanic TV (Video) under ATS (ii) Syllabus for the trade of Turner under CTS and ATS

3.131 Various papers were prepared in the Division during the year, some of which are mentioned below: (a) Paper prepared on "Women in Un-organised Sector" which was discussed in the National Seminar on Women's Vocational Training - in Search of New Vistas. (b) Paper on "Role of Government to Promote Women in Industry" which was discussed in the National Seminar on Women's Vocational Training - in Search of New Vistas.

3.132 Draft Chapter on "Craftsmen Training and Labour Welfare" of the Annual Plan 1997-98 document was prepared.

3.133 For the Ninth Five Year Plan chapter on Labour and Labour Welfare was prepared in the Division.

3.134 Proposal of the Ministry of Labour to set up a Second National Commission on Labour was critically examined in

the division. The need for setting up of a second Labour commission was examined in the light of the first report on National Labour Commission. The following issues were suggested for the Second National Commission on Labour:

- i. To review the condition of labour.
- ii. To assess the impact of various legislation enacted for improving the labour welfare.
- iii. To suggest the corrective measures to be adopted by the Labour Deptt. for covering the unprotected labour.
- iv. To review the social security scheme and their impact on labour as a whole.
- v. To review the conditions of child labour and women labour at work.
- vi. To suggest the measure for improving the earning of labour.
- vii. To suggest the measures for improving relations among unions, employers and employees for promoting healthy industrial relations.
- viii. To suggest measures for making the labour more productive and more disciplined.

Institute of Applied Manpower Research

3.135 The Division functions as the nodal Division in Planning Commission for the administrative control and guidance of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research. The Division also represents Planning Commission in the:

1. General Council
2. Executive Council
3. Standing Committee on Research Programmes of the Institute. It is also represented in the -
 - (i) Building and Campus Development Committee.
 - (ii) Meeting with the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language that came for inspection regarding use of Hindi in IAMR.
 - (iii) Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ishwar Dayal on Post Graduate Diploma Course on Human Resource Planning and Development for National Participants in IAMR.
 - (iv) Meeting of a Group of Officers under the Chairmanship of Principal Adviser (Admn.) Planning to discuss the issues of (a) Adoption of UGC pay scale for Research Faculty of IAMR (b) Introduction of pension scheme for employees of IAMR (c) Creation of 3 additional posts in IAMR to support the Post Graduate Diploma Course.

- (v) Inauguration of 40th International Training Programme on Human Resource Planning and Development (Residential) in IAMR.

LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

3.136 The Planning Commission Library continued to provide reference service and lending facilities to all staff members of the Planning Commission including PEO and NIC located at Yojana Bhavan. It has also provided Inter-Library Loan services to almost all Government of India and Public Sector Libraries. Consultation facilities and reference service to research scholars and officials of other Departments and Institutions were also provided.

3.137 The Library has computerised almost all its activities viz., circulation, documentation, acquisition and reference etc. These activities are being done on Pentium Computers using LIBSYS Software. Library continues to be a member of Delhi Library Network (DELNET). Electronic mail service is also available which helps in sending messages to the libraries connected with the electronic mail. BASISPLUS Software for library operations has also been installed in the library.

3.138 The library continues to bring out its publications, viz. (i) DOCPLAN : A list of selected articles culled out from selected journals received in the library; (ii) RECENT LIST OF ADDITIONS : A list of books added to the library; (iii) DIVISIONAL DOCUMENTS LIST : A list of such documents prepared by or on behalf of the Planning Commission; (iv) Annual List of periodicals is also brought out by the library.

3.139 During the period under report 1061 English and 408 Hindi books/publications have been added to the collection. By the end of March 99, it is expected that some more books in Hindi & English will be added in the Library. 283 Periodicals were also received in the Library. The library also provided about 16600 reference queries and attended to specific needs of about 1150 persons. About 13000 readers visited the library for consultation & reference work.

3.140 The Library is providing Inter Library Loan services to its readers as well as other libraries. Last year this facility was extended to approximately 45 libraries.

3.141 A proposal to install a CD-ROM unit in the library has been prepared and sent for approval. This will help us in preparation of CD-ROM of publications and publications of Planning Commission and other rare publications of the Library.

3.142 The Library catalogue is fully computerised. Two terminals have been provided to the readers for self-search of documents in the Library.

3.143 The Library provided practical training to some students of Library Science deputed by various academic institutions. Research scholars from different universities and from eminent institutions of the country visited this Library for reference for their research projects. All were provided with necessary reference services by this Library.

3.144 The Library staff was given training in advance techniques of Library computerisation and Information Retrieval procedures. The Library staff participated in national and

international conferences and presented papers on the relevant themes in the field of Library and Information science.

MULTI LEVEL PLANNING DIVISION

3.145 Multi Level Planning Unit is concerned with following sectors :

1. Backward Areas and Regional Imbalances;
2. Special Area Programmes namely Border Area Development Programme (BADP), Hill Area Development Programme (HADP), North Eastern Council (NEC), and
3. Long-Term Action Plan for KBK Districts in Orissa

Brief account of the performance with respect to these is given below :

Backward Areas and Regional Imbalances

3.146 MLP Division maintains a list of backward areas as identified by the State Governments. The State Governments are being requested to send latest list of areas identified as backward.

Special Area Programmes

(a) Border Area Development Programme (BADP) :

3.147 This programme was taken up during the year 1986-87 for balanced development of border areas of four States namely Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, this programme had been revamped and its coverage extended to the States on the Eastern border with Bangladesh and now includes West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura. From 1997-98, BADP has been extended to States bordering Myanmar viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram as well. The main objective of the programme continues to be the balanced development of remote inaccessible areas situated near the border in order to ensure their effective administration. After revamping of BADP in 1993-94, its scope has been reoriented to give a sharper focus for tackling the special problems which arise in areas contiguous to international borders. Schemes are approved by the State level Screening Committee headed by the Chief Secretary. The outlay in 1998-99 is Rs. 195 crore. The programme is being closely monitored by obtaining quarterly progress reports in physical and financial terms from the State Governments.

(b) Hill Area Development Programme (HADP)

3.148 Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) is being implemented for integrated development of certain designated hill areas since the inception of the Fifth Five Year Plan. The main objective of this programme is to ensure ecologically sustainable socio-economic development of hills, keeping in view the basic needs and interests of the people of hill areas.

Special Central Assistance (SCA) being provided under this Programme, is additive to the State Government's efforts towards accelerating development of hill areas. The outlay under the programme for 1998-99 is Rs. 390 crore.

(c) North-Eastern Council (NEC)

3.149 North-Eastern Council was set up in August, 1972 under the NEC Act, 1971 (with its Secretariat at Shillong) as an experiment of regional planning and development. As per provisions of the Statute under which it was constituted, the Council is envisaged as an Advisory Body empowered to discuss matters of common interest to the Union and NE States and recommend to the Central/State Governments any matter of common interest, inter-alia, in the fields of Economic and Social Planning, Inter-State Transport and Communications, Power and Flood Control, etc.

3.150 The projects financed by the NEC are implemented by the State agencies or by the Central Public Sector Undertakings/Organisations. The NEC Plan funds consist of Central Assistance, Loans from the LIC and SLR borrowings. Since its inception, the emphasis of the Council has been on the development of infrastructure in the NE Region, especially on projects with Inter-State ramifications. The Council has been concentrating on enlarging transport and communications and development of power and technical institutions.

3.151 With a view to making the Council a more effective organ for the development of the Region, the restructuring of the NEC has been receiving attention and suitable legislative action to amend the NEC Act is under consideration. The allocation for

1998-99 is Rs. 471 crore of which over 80% was for Power, Transport and Communication sectors.

Long-Term Action Plan for Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts in Orissa

3.152 A Long-Term Action Plan for development of undivided districts of Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (popularly known as KBK districts) in Orissa was launched in 1995 with the core objectives of drought proofing and development saturation. The area now has eight districts viz. Koraput, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Navrangpur, Bolangir, Sonepur, Kalahandi and Nuapada. In order to focus on high priority schemes, to deal with the basic problems of these districts, the Government of Orissa was asked to present a revised Plan. Accordingly, the State Government has drawn a Revised Long-Term Action Plan, 1998-99 to 2006-2007 from Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Plan. This includes an outlay of Rs. 606.51 crore for 1998-99. The eleven core sectors which are going to be funded under the Revised Long-Term Action Plan are Agriculture, Horticulture, Watershed Development, Afforestation, Rural Employment, Irrigation, Health, Emergency Feeding, Provision of Drinking Water, Rural Connectivity and Welfare of SC & ST.

NORTH-EASTERN REGION

3.153 The approach to the Ninth Five Year Plan envisages that attention will be focussed on identifying gaps in this Region in terms of critical infrastructure so that efforts could be made to bridge the same through supportive measures. This would enable the Region to join the mainstream of national economy. This objective would be appropriately pursued through the Five Year

Plans and the Annual Plans of the North-Eastern States and the Central Ministries/Agencies.

3.154 In the Conference of the Chief Ministers of North-Eastern States, including Sikkim, held on May 08, 1998 the Prime Minister observed that the strategy for accelerated economic development of the Region would have an accent on development of infrastructure, both physical and social; as also rapid enhancement of sustainable employment. A new approach for development of the North-East was adopted based on the following strategies :-

- (i) Restructuring of the North-Eastern Council (NEC) In order to make it more effective In formulation of projects and implementation thereof in a time bound manner. Sikkim will become a full- fledged member of the Council.**
- (ii) A "Project Approach" designed to progressively ensure that on-going projects and new projects included in the PM's New Initiatives for the North- East and those identified by the High Level Commission (constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S.P. Shukla, the then Member, Planning Commission) are completed/taken up for execution In a systematic manner.**
- (iii) Creation of a Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources by diverting the unspent balance of the Central Ministries' allocations earmarked for the North-Eastern Region.**

The Central Ministries/Departments have been advised to provide at least 10% of their funds for the Region. Action

concerned to complete the administrative and other steps required to operationalise Non-lapsable Central Pool is in hand.

WESTERN GHATS SECRETARIAT

3.155 Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP) was launched in 1974-75 as part of the programme for development of Hill Areas of the country. The Central theme of the Programme is eco-development, eco-restoration and eco-preservation of the areas covered by the Programme by securing active participation of the people living in the region. To achieve specific objective of the Programme, the approach for WGDP has been to take up development activities in an integrated manner on a compact watershed basis. The schemes under the programme seek to improve life style of inhabitants with a sustainable use of natural resources of the region.

3.156 The Programme covers 159 talukas of Western Ghats areas comprising 62 talukas of Maharashtra, 25 talukas of Tamil Nadu, 29 talukas of Kerala, 40 talukas of Karnataka and 3 talukas of Goa. In addition, 4 talukas of Nilgiris district are separately covered under HADP (Nilgiris) of Tamil Nadu. The criteria of elevation (600 metres above MSL), contiguity and taluka as the lowest administrative unit were adopted for delineation of areas for coverage by the Programme. Total area of 1.60 lakh sq. kms. and a population of 4.42 crores (1991 census) is covered under the Programme.

3.157 The important activities relating to WGDP and HADP (Nilgiris) during 1998-99 are as under :

3.158 The progress of implementation of WGDP in constituent States was reviewed in the meeting of Secretaries Committee on WGDP held in Thiruvananthapuram on 4.5.1998.

3.159 Annual Plan of 1998-99 of the constituent States under WGDP and HADP (Nilgiris) of Tamil Nadu have been finalised. Total Special Central Assistance of Rs. 58.50 crores (including Rs. 0.43 crore for Survey & Studies and Western Ghats Secretariat) has been allocated for all the constituent States of WGDP. Special Central Assistance of Rs. 21.70 crores has been allocated for HADP (Nilgiris) of Tamil Nadu.

3.160 The progress of implementation of WGDP and HADP (Nilgiris) is being monitored on financial and physical terms by the Western Ghats Secretariat.

3.161 As decided in the meeting of Secretaries Committee on WGDP, training courses for middle and top management officers of State Governments connected with the implementation of the programme are being organised. One such training for middle management level officers was organised in Ooty in July, 1998.

3.162 At the instance of Planning Commission, all the constituent States implementing WGDP were requested to take up Joint Evaluation Study with the Programme Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission. So far, such studies in respect of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra have been received. The findings of these studies have been referred to the respective State Governments for their follow-up action. Joint Evaluation Studies approved by the Planning Commission for the States of Kerala and Goa are yet to be completed.

3.163 In order to have a long term planning of WGDP, the State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra have prepared Perspective Plans of their WGDP areas. Efforts are being made to dovetail these Perspective Plans with the WGDP's Five Year Plans and Annual Plans.

3.164 It is envisaged to create a study centre in one of the existing institutes/universities in the Western Ghats region to serve as a focal point for documentation, dissemination and demonstration for research and development for the Western Ghats and Nilgiri regions. This Centre would also guide and advise State Governments on aspects of policy formulation including industrial policy, tourism policy etc. for Western Ghats. State Governments have been requested to send their proposals in this regard.

NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE - YOJANA BHAVAN UNIT

3.165 All computerisation needs of Planning Commission are being looked after by the NIC-YBU, stationed at Yojana Bhavan. A Local Area Network (LAN) consisting of five Pentium Systems and 320 terminals is operational in Planning Commission. The LAN in Planning Commission is also connected to NICNET, the NIC's Nationwide Computer Communication Network, which is already hooked to more than 700 nodes inclusive of all States/UTs/Districts/Central Government Departments etc. In addition to the LAN and its terminals, other Computer Equipment such as Pentiums/486SX/386/286/PC-XT/PC, Dot matrix, Inkjet and line printers, Plotters, Laser Printers are also installed in various Divisions and at workstations as common pool facility. Certain specialised

units have also been set up at Planning Commission. This includes Document Storage Retrieval System (DSRS), Desk Top Publishing (DTP), Video Conferencing etc. A brief account of various Computerisation activities of Planning Commission being looked after by NIC-YBU is as stated below :-

3.166 An Input/Output Model developed for Plan Modelling Exercises consisting of a core model and seven sub-models is maintained and serviced by the NIC-YBU. The model has been used for exercises related to the formulation and revision of Ninth Five Year Plan.

3.167 A set of Softwares have been developed for the Construction of Input/Output table for the Indian Economy for 1989-90 that was utilized as the main input for 9th Plan modelling exercises. The construction of Input/Output table is a major exercise involving processing of data on large scale, small scale and unorganised household manufacturing sectors. Presently, the work on the construction of the Input/Output table of Indian economy for 1993-94 at 115 sectors is in progress and will be completed in the next few months.

3.168 At the instance of PMO, a database for Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), funded by Central Ministries, is being developed.

3.169 A database for monitoring the Basic Minimum Services (BMS) programme has been developed and the reports are being generated.

3.170 A database has been developed for the Central and Centrally Sponsored Plan Schemes. Already, data for more than 10,000 schemes is available and is regularly updated. This

database is extensively used by Divisions of Planning Commission especially at the time of Annual and State Plan discussions.

3.171 The data on Evaluation Studies conducted by the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of Planning Commission is processed by the NIC (YBU). The work on the Evaluation study on Employment Assurance Scheme is in progress.

3.172 Various other databases such as Personnel Information System, Department of Personnel Databases, Public Grievances monitoring system, Office automation support to Offices of Deputy Chairman, Member Secretary and other Senior Officers, Financial Accounting systems etc. have been developed and are in use.

3.173 NICNET facilities are extensively used in Planning Commission by various Divisions for transmission of data/information between Planning Commission and State capitals/Districts etc. Email and Internet access facility is also available to all LAN users in Planning Commission.

3.174 Graphics based Internet access is available to Officers at the level of JS and above. In order to provide this facility to large number of users in Planning Commission, a fast RF link along with a proxy server will be set up in the near future.

3.175 NIC-YBU renders dedicated Computer support for the preparation of important documents of Planning Commission such as Annual Plan, Annual Report, Summary Report of NDC meetings, special reports etc. Necessary computerisation

support was provided to prepare the draft document on Ninth Plan comprising nearly 1500 pages.

3.176 Training is an integral part of computer support activities of NIC (YBU). A number of In-house training programmes are organised every year for the benefit of Officers and staff of Planning Commission. During 1998-99 a large number of Officers/staff members of Planning Commission were trained by NIC (YBU) on the use of various computer softwares.

PERSPECTIVE PLANNING DIVISION

3.177 The work of Perspective Planning Division(PPD) relates to:

- (a) the overall integration of the plan into macro-economic framework delineating possibilities and constraints; and
- (b) projecting a long term vision of development in terms of potentials, constraints and critical issues.

3.178 The Division assists the Commission in planning and policy issues cutting across sectors of the economy including agriculture, industry, infrastructure, financial resources, foreign trade, balance of payments, social services, demography, poverty and employment. To bring about an inter-sectoral consistency in the plans, a system of plan models, sub-models and material balances is used. The exercises done in the Division help in evolving an overall macro framework, projecting the needs of consumption, investment and production structure, as well as, Social Development.

3.179 The Division, as a part of its regular activities:

- (i) prepares an overall framework for medium and long term plans by analysing implications of long term plan objectives for an appropriate strategy of development,
- (ii) examines the current policies and programmes in an inter-temporal, inter-regional and inter-sectoral context,
- (iii) studies consistency between plan objectives and plan allocation, conformity of regional distribution of public sector outlays with the regional needs of development, effect of price rise on consumption level of people in different income groups, trends in savings, investment and growth in economy, trends in foreign trade and the implications of various developments in the economy for public investment,
- (iv) renders advice on the influence of macro-economic developments on principal commodities such as food, crude oil and steel,
- (v) assists the Planning Commission in forming its views on technical issues pertaining to planning process, shift of a public sector programme from Non-Plan to Plan side of Government expenditure and vice-versa, and
- (vi) contributes to the response of Planning Commission on issues pertaining to "Planning Process" posed in the Parliament, forum of economists and economic editors, representatives of economic planning agencies in States, delegations from National Planning

Commissions from other countries and trans-national institutions, such as UN, SAARC and ESCAP.

3.180 On behalf of the Planning Commission, the Division estimates the number of poor in the country, at National and regional levels and carries out studies on poverty incidence. The Division functions as administrative Nodal Division for the "Development Planning Centre" established as an arm of Planning Commission in the Institute of Economic Growth.

The Division represents Planning Commission in:

- (i) Governing Council of NSSO,
- (ii) Advisory Committee on National Accounts of CSO
- (iii) National Advisory Board on Statistics
- (iv) Governing Council of the "Development Planning Centre" In the Institute of Economic Growth,
- (v) "Standing Research Advisory Committee" set up by Department of Statistics,
- (vi) Working Group for revision of current series of Whole Sale Price Index Numbers and its sub group on manufactured items and related matters set up by the Department of Industrial Development,
- (vii) "Expert Committee to examine wide variations in data sets on the same subjects" set up by Department of Statistics, and

(viii) Advisory Committee for the study of rationalisation of work of some Divisions of Department of Statistics, set up by Institute of Applied Manpower Research.

3.181 The Perspective Planning Division (PPD) is the nodal division for the preparation of Vol-I of the Ninth Five Year Plan 1997-2002. The principal focus of the work undertaken during 1998-99 by the Division in this regard was revision in Chapters 1 & 2 of Volume I of the draft Ninth Five Year Plan in conformity with revised data and new directions. A macro-economic model of the Indian Economy was used to generate alternative growth paths for consideration in revising the Ninth Five Year Plan.

3.182 The performance of external sector of the economy was periodically reviewed and information made available to various Divisions of Planning Commission for follow up action.

3.183 The following papers/documents were prepared by this Division or its officers during the year:

- (i) Note on the provisions of the WTO agreements with reference to India.
- (ii) Brief for the meeting on the Report of Expert Group on Trade, Investment and Development in connection with WTO.
- (iii) Examination of the overall BOP for the period 1990-91 to 1996-97.

- (iv) Note on the share of various sectors namely agriculture, sericulture, animal husbandry, fishery and industry in GDP and national exports during 1992-93 to 1996-97.
- (v) Import and Export vectors for the year 1994-95 at current prices for the Computable General Equilibrium Model.
- (vi) Status paper on Indian Electronics Industry and Exports.
- (vii) Note on performance of infrastructure industries.
- (viii) A Study on Sectoral Energy Demand in the Ninth Plan and the Perspective Period up to 2011-12. A Technical Note has since been prepared.

3.184 The work in progress in the Division includes:

- (i) Development of a Computable General Equilibrium Model for the Indian Economy in Real and Financial sector framework. The primary aim of this model is to study the impact of different policy measures on various macro-economic parameters (viz. rate of growth, inflation, balance of payments, fiscal deficit, etc.), as well as, to clearly understand the inter-linkages among different sectors of the economy. By focussing on the real and financial policy instruments currently at the disposal of the government, the model is likely to provide insights into trade-offs between the major goals of economic policy.
- (ii) Alternative scenarios for studying the impact of changes in tariff and other duties on revenue being done

on a specific computer software. The software systematically describes the structure of custom duties and quantitative restrictions and carries out simulations of proposed changes in them.

- (iii) A comprehensive study on the role of financial intermediation in growth and development, and nature of financial sector reforms desirable for India.

3.185 The Officers of the PPD participated in the following Seminars/Workshops/Training Programmes:

(a) Seminars :

- (i) International Technical Seminar on "Advances in Metallurgy" on 8th and 9th october, 1998 held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- (ii) Tenth Annual Meet of the Agro-Climatic Regional Planning on 20-21 November, 1998 at Ahmedabad.
- (iii) Seminar on Macro-Model for the Indian Economy organised by the Development Policy Centre of the Institute of Economic Growth.

(b) Workshops:

- (i) Workshop on Tools and Products organised by the Development Data Group of the World Bank in October, 1998 at New Delhi.

- (ii) Workshop on the New Trade Agenda, the WTO and India organised by ICAIER and EDI, World Bank during 7-11 December, 1998.
 - (iii) Workshop on Modernisation of the Statistical System in India organised by the Department of Statistics, Ministry of Planning & Programme Implementation at New Delhi during 14-16 September, 1998.
 - (iv) International Workshop Capacity Building in Environmental Governance for Sustainable Development.
- (c) Training:
- (i) Training Programme on Macro Economic Policy at Administrative Staff College of India at Hyderabad during 15-20 June, 1998.
 - (ii) Training Programme on the " Revised Minimum Standard Model-Extended" at the World Bank during 5-7 October, 1998.
 - (iii) In service Training Programme for the IES Officers during 17-21 August, 1998 at the UTI Institute of Capital Market, Vashi, Mumbai.
 - (iv) In-Service Training Programme for IES Officers organised by Institute of Economic Growth from 6th April to 1st May 1998 and presented a group seminar paper on "Industrial Policy and Reforms"
 - (v) Training Programme of two weeks duration on Management in Government at the Institute of

Management in Government(IMG), Cochin sponsored by the Department of Personnel and Training.

- (vi) Tenth Annual Meet of the Agro-Climatic Regional Planning Project on 20-21 November, 1998 at Ahmedabad.
- (vii) Seminar' on Macro-Model for the Indian Economy organised by the Institute of Economic Growth.

3.186 The Officers of P.P.Division participated in training the participants of:

- (i) Probationers of Indian Statistical Service
- (ii) Students of M.Stat course of Indian Statistical Institute attending the training programme in National and International Statistical Systems.
- (iii) Statistical Officers of Ministries/Departments of the Central/State/UT Governments and Public Sector Undertakings attending the Senior Certificate Course in Statistics.
- (iv) Participants of International Statistical Education Centre, Calcutta.
- (v) Participants of the training programme on "Urban Poverty; Dimensions and Approaches" organised by the Town and Country Planning Organisation, Government of India during 20-24 April, 1998.

- (vi) Participants of the 5th International Training Programme on Government Accounting and Financial Management in Government Sector organised by the National Institute of Financial Management during 9th November to 18th December, 1998.

PLAN COORDINATION DIVISION

3.187 This Division coordinates all activities concerning the formulation of Five Year Plans-Annual Plans, Annual Reports etc. The Central Sector Five Year/Annual Plan allocations to the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India is carried out in the Plan Coordination Division. In addition, the organisation and coordination of meetings of Full Planning Commission and National Development Council chaired by the Prime Minister, Internal meetings of the Planning Commission chaired by the Deputy Chairman, meetings of the Consultative Committee of the Members of Parliament attach to the Ministry of Planning are the responsibility of the Division. This Division also coordinates all Parliamentary work, as well as, other work of the Planning Commission which requires general coordination among various Divisions of the Commission and the other Ministries/Departments of the Government.

3.188 Summary of major activities undertaken in the Commission relating to formulation of Plans and other major items of work is sent to the Cabinet Secretariat and the Prime Minister's Office every month.

3.189 The major items of work included the following :

- i) Action Points emerging out of President's Address to the Parliament on 25.3.1998 were consolidated and circulated for further necessary action.
- ii) Action Points from the PMs inaugural address at the National Conference and Annual Session of the CII on 28.4.1998 were circulated and pursued.
- iii) Status Report on Action Point emerging from the Prime Minister's Address to the Nation on 15.8.1998 was prepared and circulated.
- iv) In the period of this report, the Division coordinated the exercise to revise the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002).
- v) The exercise for the Annual Plan, 1999-2000, including the preparation of guidelines to be kept in view for the Central Ministries/ Departments in formulating their Annual Plan proposals was undertaken as scheduled for the Centre Sector.
- vi) Annual Plan Document (1997-98) was prepared and tabled In the Parliament.

3.190 The meeting of the National Development Council is being organised on the 19.02.1999 to consider among other agenda items the draft Ninth Five Year Plan Document.

3.191 A number of internal meetings of the Planning Commission were held during the year 1998-99 to review the

Ninth Five Year Plan Document in light of the National Agenda for Governance and the Prime Minister's directive related to the formulation of SAP. Two meetings of the Full Planning Commission were also held, details of which are as follows :

- 1) 10.11.1998 : Finalisation of the Draft Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002).
- 2) 17.02.1998 : Agenda for the NDC meeting being held on 19.02.1999.

PLANNING COMMISSION CLUB

3.192 The Planning Commission Sports & Recreation Club conducts various sports and cultural activities in the Planning Commission. Shri G.S. Randhawa, Deputy Secretary (GA), Planning Commission is its Honorary President. Member-Secretary, Planning Commission is the patron of the Club.

3.193 The Planning Commission Club promotes sports amongst its members, which includes employees of Planning Commission and Programme Evaluation Organisation. Planning Commission was represented in various Inter-Ministry Tournaments and the performance of the players was praiseworthy.

3.194 During the year 1998-99, a tour was organised to Kullu-Manali (Himachal Pradesh) during the Dussehra holidays. A large number of families joined the tour and the effort of the Executive Committee was very much appreciated by all the members on this tour. One local tour is also being contemplated.

3.195 Internal Tournaments of the Planning Commission are being conducted and the Annual Athletic Meet is also being planned.

POWER AND ENERGY DIVISION

3.196 Power & Energy Division is concerned with all major plan related policies and programmes in the energy sector. This includes demand assessment, supplies side management and conservation efforts. The Division is also working on a National Energy Policy. The Division has three units dealing with Power and Energy Economics, Coal and Petroleum. Some important tasks handled by these units are mentioned below. The Power unit also examines proposals leading to investment approval for power schemes in the State Sector.

Power and Energy Economics unit

3.197 The Power and Energy Economics unit was involved in finalising Annual Report on the working of the State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments.

3.198 The Unit was involved in finalising the Ninth Plan Document in respect of Power Sector and Non-Conventional Sources of Energy. It organised and coordinated a workshop on Power Sector under the Chairmanship of Member (Energy) in connection with finalisation of Ninth Plan Chapter on energy.

3.199 The Unit was engaged in preparing the Draft Chapters of the Report of Energy Policy Committee. It examined various proposals of private sector in respect of Power for the consideration of High Powered Board.

3.200 The proposals of Ministry of Power on various issues such as setting up of Mega Power Projects, National Hydro Power Policy and issues relating to private sector participation in transmission and distribution in the country were also examined by this unit in the period of this report.

Coal Unit

3.201 The Coal Unit finalised Annual Plan 1998-99 of Ministry of Coal in continuation of the in-depth discussions held earlier on the proposals submitted by the Ministry.

3.202 In this regard, issues for consideration under Prime Minister's Special Action Plan for rapid development of coal sector were prepared. Accordingly, the draft Ninth Plan Chapter on Coal and Lignite was redrafted to incorporate the issues under SAP. In connection with the finalisation of Ninth Plan Chapter on Energy, the Unit organised and coordinated a workshop on Coal and Lignite Sector under the Chairmanship of Member (Energy).

3.203 The Unit also examined various proposals for consideration of Inter-Ministerial Group meetings/Public Investment Board meetings and Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

3.204 The officers of the Unit participated in various meetings of the Standing Committees of Long-term Coal Linkages, Standing Scientific Research Committee (SSRC), Inter-Ministerial Group, Public Investment Board, etc.

Petroleum Unit

3.205 The Unit provided inputs for the Action Plan for "Rapid Expansion and Improvement in Physical Infrastructure" covered under the "National Agenda for Governance" in respect of Petroleum and Natural Gas. It provided inputs on Petroleum and Natural Gas for preparation of a Paper for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI) outlining the further stimulus to be given to encourage investment in the infrastructure sector.

3.206 The Unit organised a Workshop on Petroleum and Natural Gas to review the Plan targets in respect of demand and capacity additions, appropriateness of the overall policy framework, role of private sector participation in capacity additions, and problems of resource mobilisation in public sector and financing problems in private sector.

3.207 The officers of the Unit participated in various meetings of the Expert Group on Tariff for Pipelines, the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), the Public Investment Board (PIB), and represented Planning Commission in different seminars on the Energy Sector. The Unit also examined various proposals and issues relating to Petroleum and Natural Gas projects for consideration of the IMG, PIB and CCEA.

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

3.208 Electricity is a key input for the socio-economic development of the country. The basic responsibility of the power sector is to provide adequate electricity at economic cost, while ensuring reliability and quality of supply. Despite

significant progress in capacity addition since independence, the demand for electricity continues to outstrip the supply resulting in continued peaking shortages in the economy. With an improvement in the pace of economic development, the demand for power in both rural and urban areas is likely to expand rapidly in the coming years. The major task of the power sector during the Ninth Plan will, therefore, be to ensure that the anticipated demand is met adequately and in a reliable and cost-effective manner. The capacity addition, both in public as well as private sector, fell short of the levels envisaged in the Eighth Plan and the total addition has been lower than what had been achieved during the Seventh Plan. It is expected that the impediments to private sector participation in the power sector would be sorted out and the public sector investment would be adequately supplemented by capacity additions in the private sector during the Ninth Plan.

3.209 To reduce the additional burden on railways by way of long distance coal movement, the Government would encourage setting up of mega power projects at pit-heads by both public and private sector. Coal India Limited (CIL) shall put up washeries at pit-heads and wherever CIL is not able to do so, private companies would be allowed to put up washeries. Supply of coal to power stations should progressively be on the basis of legally enforceable contracts.

3.210 Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector is being further deregulated with a view to encouraging private participation in the sector. The phased dismantling of Administered Price Mechanism (APM) for crude oil and petroleum products has commenced from April 1, 1998 and the prices will be totally deregulated w.e.f. April 1, 2002. A tax holiday for five years for

refining capacity and delicensing of refineries has been announced in the Union Budget for 1998-99.

PROJECT APPRAISAL & MANAGEMENT DIVISION

3.211 The Project Appraisal & Management Division (PAMD) was formed with the merger of two erstwhile Divisions namely Project Appraisal Division and Monitoring & Information Division of the Planning Commission. The functions of PAMD are as follows :

- a) To develop formats and guidelines for the submission of proposals for projects/programmes and for their techno-economic evaluation. To undertake techno-economic appraisal of major projects and programmes in the public sector,
- b) To assist Central Ministries and State Governments in establishing proper procedures for appraisal of projects and programmes;
- c) To provide assistance to Central Ministries, State Governments and Subject Divisions of Planning Commission in planning, developing, implementing, operating and monitoring information systems. To provide assistance in the analysis of PERT/CPM based implementation plans of major projects;
- d) To analyse managerial inputs for improving efficiency covering consultancy, training etc., to help in minimisation of time and cost overruns, improvement of

methodology and productivity and other aspects related to improvement In plan implementation;

- e) To assist in the improvement of Data Base of the economy and to develop and operate Central Data Bank in the Commission for use of all Divisions.

Appraisal Work

3.212 As a part of techno-economic appraisal, PAMD appraises Central Sector schemes/projects costing more than Rs. 15 crore and prepares Appraisal Notes in consultation with the subject Divisions of the Planning Commission before these are considered by the Public Investment Board (PIB), Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and Committee of Public Investment Board (CPIB) depending upon the nature and size of the proposal. The Division has started appraisal of proposals from the Ministry of Railways costing Rs. 50 crore and above from 1995-96.

3.213 Planning Commission, with a view to cut down delays, inter-alia, in appraisal of project proposals and to ensure PIB/EFC decision within 4-6 weeks of receipt of PIB/EFC Memorandum from the Departments/Ministries had decided during 1997-98 as under :

- a) PAMD would act as a Management Adviser to the PIB/EFC and on receipt of PIB/EFC proposal, based on the information contained in the PIB/EFC Memorandum, it will complete appraisal and management advice tendered to PIB/EFC

- b) With a view to ensuring that the appraisal carried out by the PAMD is comprehensive and meaningful, the project authorities/administrative Ministries have been requested to submit only such proposals which are complete in all respects.
- c) The outer limit for issue of appraisal note by the PAMD has been fixed at four weeks from the date of receipt of PIB/EFC proposal. In case PAMD fails to appraise the proposal within the prescribed time limit, PIB/EFC meeting could be fixed and their views obtained in the meeting.
- d) Proposals on projects/schemes costing Rs.1.5 crore and more but less than Rs. 15 crore are to be considered by the Standing Finance Committee (SFC). The concerned Ministry/Department can now convene SFC meeting without waiting for comments of the Planning Commission provided that (i) the scheme is included in the plan and (ii) no net increase in domestic budgetary support (excluding EAPs) for the Ministry/Department is required.
- e) In cases where only condition (ii) in (d) above is fulfilled, SFC Meeting may be held after 4 weeks in case Planning Commission comments are not received within the said time limit. Comments, if any, of the Planning Commission would be offered in the meeting itself.

3.214 During the year 1997-98, 267 projects involving a total project cost of Rs.148756.61 crore were appraised in

the Division. During 1998-99 (1.4.98 to 30.11.98) 152 projects involving a total project cost of Rs.91318.95 crore were appraised. Whereas earlier all the projects/schemes costing Rs.5 crores and above were appraised, from 6th August, 1997 as per the guidelines issued by the Deptt. of Expenditure (Plan Finance-II) only projects/schemes costing Rs. 15 crores and above are being appraised. The projects appraised included both the new as well as the proposals on revised cost estimates.

3.215 The sectoral distribution of projects appraised during the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 is given in Table A. More than 82% of the projects appraised during 1998-99 relate to Surface Transport, Agriculture, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Health & Family Welfare, Energy, HRD, Railways, Environment & Forests, Social Justice and Empowerment Sectors. These sectors, however, accounted for only about 63% of the projects appraised during 1997-98.

Data Bank of Appraised Projects

3.216 As an effort to develop Data Bank on project statistics, data pertaining to projects were taken out from the files and appraisal notes of the projects appraised in the PAMD, in the past, and computerised. The data on 3515 projects have been computerised upto November, 1998.

Data Bank of Planning Commission

3.217 The Data Bank of the Planning Commission on Minimum Data Record (MDR) comprising of comprehensive information on Central and Centrally Sponsored Plan Schemes

relating to different sectors was updated and assistance provided to subject divisions to analysis and develop various statements with the active support of National Informatics Centre for use in the Annual Plan discussions. Information is available for about 12750 central and centrally sponsored Plan Schemes in the Data Bank.

3.218 The Cabinet at its meeting held on December 29, 1997, inter-alia, decided: "Financial Advisers of concerned Ministries would be responsible for yearly updation of project costs (costing Rs.50 crs. and above) and communicating the result of such updation to the Planning Commission before the Annual Plan exercise. They would also indicate whether the updated cost is different from the phasing of expenditure based on completion cost".

3.219 In order to ensure that, the uniform methodology is adopted for updation, Planning Commission finalised guidelines in consultation with Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure and Department of Programme Implementation and circulated the same to the Financial Advisers of all the Ministries/Departments. This exercise is to be taken up in respect of all central sector projects/plan schemes costing Rs.50 crs. and above with effect from 1999-2000.

3.220 In pursuance of the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs taken at its meeting held on 25.6.1998 regarding fixation of responsibility for time and cost overruns, Planning Commission, has devised a mechanism and with the approval of the Deputy Chairman has circulated the same to all the Ministries/Department during August, 1998. The mechanism envisages setting up

of a Standing Committee in each Ministry/Department to be headed by an Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary with representatives of Planning Commission, Department of Expenditure, Department of Programme Implementation as members. The Standing Committee will examine all the proposals on Revised Cost Estimates (costing Rs.50 crs. and above) irrespective of percentage of time and cost overruns except cases where Administrative Ministry itself is competent to sanction the increase in the project cost under its own delegated powers.

3.221 Equipment Support Services as a part of management Support Services were continued to all Divisions of the Planning Commission.

TABLE : A

(Cost in Rs. crore)

S.No	Sector	1997-98 (1.4.98 to 30.11.98)		1998-99	
		No. of projects cost	Total capital cost	No. of projects cost	Total capital cost
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Agriculture, water resources	20	3951.05	39	12886.41
2.	Energy including coal	22	10964.11	10	8401.30
3.	Surface Transport	39	2789.78	8	1148.83
4.	Petroleum & Natural Gas	11	28511.25	11	20667.12
5.	Petrochemicals & Fertilisers.	10	14608.76	4	1538.16
6.	Electronics	6	180.29		
7.	Bio-technology	2	25.61		
8.	Information & Broadcasting and Communications	13	117.41		
9.	Steel & Mines	2	2728.72		
10.	Industry & SSI	10	2399.27	2	395.68
11.	Civil Aviation	3	904.85		
12.	Urban Development	3	6662.49	3	133.83
13.	Rural Areas & Employment	4	4752.00	3	312.30
14.	Textiles	3	1136.63	3	908.99
15.	Commerce	3	43.30	2	96.00
16.	Planning Commission	1	70.00		
17.	Environment & Forests	9	4913.61	10	1565.39
18.	Home Affairs & DOP	6	500.46	1	38.08
19.	Health & Family Welfare	14	6422.29	9	11590.48
20.	HRD (Women & Child Dev. Education & Culture Welfare)	21	43238.66	10	26806.63
21.	Welfare	11	3626.20	16	1361.77
22.	Science & Technology	4	149.46	2	175.23
23.	Labour	5	1065.88	1	303.22
24.	Post	2	36.70		
25.	Railways	22	7740.14	12	2415.37
26.	Youth Affairs & Sports	5	119.25	2	231.08
27.	Ocean Development	4	106.80	1	24.00
28.	Statistics	6	61.19	1	45.00
29.	Scientific & Industrial Research	4	474.45	2	274.08
30.	Civil Supplies				
31.	Tourism	1	100.00		
32.	Economic Affairs	1	356.00		
Total :		267	148756.61	152	91318.95

RURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

3.222 During the year under report the Rural Development Division conducted an assessment of on-going poverty alleviation and area development programmes, land reforms, panchayati raj and rural housing with a view to bringing about improvements in these programmes for their effective implementation in the Ninth Plan.

3.223 The Division conducted an analytical scrutiny on the EFC memoranda relating to the Rural Housing. The Division also examined the Cabinet proposal on the (a) Restructuring of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP); (b) Rural Housing; (c) Amendment of Land Acquisition Act 1894; (d) National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation of persons/families adversely affected/displaced on account of compulsory acquisition of land; (e) Streamlining of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY); and (f) Modification in National Social Assistance Programme (NSAD) guidelines. In addition, the Division prepared a Note on determination of a suitable criterion for apportionment of funds to the States/UTs under rural poverty alleviation programmes in the Ninth Plan for consideration of the National Development Council (NDC).

3.224 The Rural Development Division prepared the chapters for the Annual Plan Document for 1997-98 on Rural Development & Poverty Alleviation and Basic Minimum Services. Further, it examined the proposals of the Department of Rural Development and Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation for the Annual Plan 1998-99. It also examined the proposals of the State Governments/UTs for the Rural Development Sector for the current year 1998-99.

3.225 The Division critically analysed and offered its comments on various research proposals submitted by NGOs and academic institutions that had applied for financial assistance from the Planning Commission. In addition, it dealt with several issues relating to the voluntary sector. These inter-alia included work on updating the Directory of Schemes for voluntary organisations brought out by the Planning Commission, and other routine matters like responding to the representations from voluntary organisations, answering VIP references and Parliament Questions.

3.226 The Rural Development Division functioned as the nodal agency for initiating follow up action on the recommendations of the Chief Minister's Conference on Basic Minimum Services (BMS) programme. A BMS cell has since been set up in the Rural Development Division to carry out all the work connected with the BMS. It is the nodal unit for this programme. An inter-Ministerial Steering Committee was also constituted for the effective implementation and monitoring of the BMS programme. The outlays for BMS were discussed with the States/UTs in order to ensure adequate investment or a minimum adequate provision for these seven basic services in their respective Plans. Detailed guidelines for implementation of BMS programme have been prepared and circulated to all State/UTs Governments.

3.227 The Rural Development Division finalised the Chapter on 'Poverty Alleviation' in Rural India: Programme and Strategy and Sections on Decentralisation and Panchayati Raj; Area Development Programmes (i.e. Drought Prone Area Programme and Desert Development Programme) and Basic Minimum Services for the Ninth Plan Document. Further, the Division

prepared a Special Action Plan for Social Infrastructure; Rural Housing; to be implemented in the Ninth Plan.

3.228 The Division prepared a draft Cabinet Note on Transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to the States as a follow up of the recommendations of the Chief Minister's Conference and the National Development Council (NDC). After approval of Cabinet, it will be placed before the NDC for a final decision.

3.229 The Rural Development Division functioned as the secretariat to take up follow up action towards implementation of the Hashim Committee Report on the Review and Rationalisation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation.

3.230 The Rural Development Division was identified for coordinating the work relating to the preparation of State's Human Development Reports.

3.231 The work on the subject "Decentralised Planning" was transferred to the Rural Development Division from the Multi-Level Planning Division.

3.232 A presentation on 'Kudumbashree' an integrated programme for tackling the poverty problem through community participation and self-help, by Government of Kerala was organised by the Division.

3.233 The Adviser (Rural Development) has been a representative on several Committees which include among others (i) Advisory Committee of the Micro Impact of Macro and Adjustment Policies (MIMAP) - India Project and Advisory Committee of Programme of Research in Human Development

Project of National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER); (ii) Core Group on Child Labour set up by the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute. (iii) Committee to review the support for Administrative Cost under various programmes in the Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation (DREPA). The Adviser (RD) had also participated in the 36th Session of the United Nations Commission on Social Development in New York, and the First Session of the ESCAP - Committee on socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas held in Bangkok, Thailand. The Deputy Adviser (RD) had participated in the Seminar on Measures for Rural Employment Generation organised by the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) and hosted by the Government of Socialist Republic of Vietnam in Hanoi.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

3.234 Officers of the S&T Division actively participated in the finalisation of the Annual Plan 1998-99. The Ninth Five Year Plan Chapter pertaining to S&T Division was revised and submitted. The S&T Chapter was finalised for the Annual Plan document 1997-98 of Planning Commission. A number of notes for the Cabinet, EFC and SFC memos etc. were examined in the division during the period of report.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WOMEN'S PROGRAMMES (SD & WP) DIVISION

3.235 The SD & WP Division deals with the welfare, rehabilitation, development and empowerment of women, children, persons with disabilities; older persons; street children, destitutes and social deviants viz., juvenile delinquents/ vagrants;

alcoholics/drug addicts; sex workers/child sex workers etc. Apart from the routine work, other important activities undertaken by the division during the year 1998-99 include the following :

Women and Child Development

3.236 In the context of adopting the objective of 'Empowering Women' and 'Development of Children' in the Ninth Plan, the Division continued to coordinate effectively with the women-specific nodal Department of Women and Child Development and the other women-related Central Ministries/Departments to ensure that the policy and programme commitments are put into action in the direction of achieving the Ninth Plan commitments. The major effort of the Division during the year was to familiarize with the new strategy of 'Women's Component Plan' so that the concerned sectors, in general, do not by-pass women specific issues and that there is adequate flow of funds/benefits for the stated objectives. In this regard, the Division was instrumental in providing requisite guidelines not only to the Centre and States/UTs, but also to various Divisions within the Planning Commission.

3.237 The Division continued its efforts to ensure that the development of children during the Ninth Plan is based on commitments of 'survival, protection and development' of children in line with the National Plans of Action adopted - one for Children and the other, exclusively for the Girl Child. The Ninth Plan Chapter on 'Empowerment of Women and Development of Children' has been revised to incorporate the commitments related to women and children in the National Agenda for Governance and of the Special Action Plan (1998).

3.238 A close interaction with the nodal Department of Women and Child Development continued during the year under report for formulation/implementation of the need-based policies and programmes, monitoring and evaluation of the on-going programmes, critical appraisal of the new proposals, resource allocation etc. The Division also assisted in the assessment of fund requirement for the programmes of D/WCD in the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997- 2002).

3.239 The Division, in close collaboration with the Project Appraisal and Monitoring Division (PAMD) of the Planning Commission examined/cleared various Plan programmes, Cabinet Notes and EFC/SFC Memos concerning women and child development viz., Short-Stay Homes; World Bank-assisted ICDS Project-III and its related programmes of training of ICDS functionaries and ICDS components of Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project (APERP); and National Resource Centre for Women and State Resource Centres for Women.

3.240 As a special initiative, a Consultative Group on Empowerment of Women and Development of Children was set up during the year under reference. The Group held its first meeting in October, 1998 and discussed the Draft Ninth Five Year Plan Chapters on 'Empowerment of Women and Development of Children' and 'Health and Family Welfare'. Besides offering comments on the Draft Chapters, they have also provided inputs based on their field experiences to strengthen the on-going efforts for empowering women and development of children.

3.241 A special contribution of the Division during the year was participation, as Members of the Joint Study Team of the Department of Women and Child Development and the

Planning Commission for conducting a quick evaluation of Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY). The Joint Study Team went around 10 selected States, viz. Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Goa, Orissa, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh and submitted its Report to the Planning Commission. The follow-up action on this Report is in progress. It has also extended help and guidance to the Department in re-casting/restructuring the programme of Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) through convergence of services already available through Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)

3.242 The other initiatives of the Division include participation in - i) Core Group on Gender Sensitisation of 2001 Census, so as to continue the efforts initiated in 1991 Census to capture 'Women's Work', ii) National Workshop to develop Gender Development Indices (GDI) and Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) held at New Delhi in November, 1998; iii) Annual Conferences of State Ministries/Secretaries in-charge of Women and Child Development held during the year under report; iv) UN Regional Workshop on 'Spending Priorities in the Social Service Sectors' held at Bangkok in July, 1998; and v) UN Workshop on 'Mainstreaming Gender- A follow-up of Beijing' organised by UNIFEM at Kathmandu in August, 1998.

Social Welfare

3.243 In the context of adoption of the National Agenda for Governance and the objective of the Special Action Plan, various on-going social welfare programmes and schemes were improvised/amended while revising the Ninth Plan Chapter on Social Welfare.

3.244 As the Ninth Plan initiated the approach of 'empowering the persons with disabilities', the Division in coordination with the nodal Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and other concerned Ministries/Departments, initiated action towards effective implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, especially to ensure that the services reach the unreached in rural areas. At the instance of PMO, the Planning Commission has been monitoring the implementation of the P.D. Act, 1995.

3.245 The Division was actively, involved in drafting and finalisation of the 'National Policy on Older Persons' through which the well-being of the older persons is sought by extending financial support, medical facilities, shelter, access to information etc. Programmes for street children received priority attention in the Ninth Plan with a special focus on the working children. In this context, the continuing scheme of welfare and development of street children was reviewed and restructured. In consultation with the nodal Ministry, keeping in view the Child's Rights with a perspective for necessary expansion to extend community-based non-institutional services for their care, protection and development.

3.246 During the year under report, 16 proposals for revision of various social welfare schemes in the form of Cabinet Notes and EFC and SFC Memoranda were examined and necessary comments were offered towards improvisation and effective implementation of the same in the Ninth Plan. The Division constantly interacted with the nodal Ministry and monitored the implementation of various social welfare programmes directed towards the welfare and development of the disadvantaged groups.

STATE PLANS DIVISION

3.247 The main function of the State Plans (Coordination) Division is to help the Commission finalise the Five Year Plans and Annual Plans of States/UTs. In addition, the Division performs the following functions :-

- i) Co-ordinating the Plans of States/UTs by issuing guidelines for formulation of Plans, organising meetings between Deputy Chairman and Chief Ministers/ Governors/ Lt. Governors of States/UTs for deciding the Plan size, as also organising Working Group meetings for finalising the sectoral outlays of States/UTs Plans.**
- ii) Dealing with matters relating to sanction of Additional Central Assistance to States/UTs for specific schemes/projects.**
- iii) Dealing with proposals relating to revised outlays of States/UTs.**
- iv) Dealing with VIP references and Parliament Questions relating to the States/UTs approved Plan outlays, revised outlays, expenditure, Central Assistance etc.**
- v) Dealing with matters relating to the meetings of Inter-Ministerial Group and National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) Committee.**
- vi) Coordinating the work relating to Sarkaria Commission recommendations and Inter-State Council.**

vii) Coordinating the work relating to Tenth Finance Commission recommendations regarding updating the standards of administration.

viii) The Division maintains data base on the plan outlays and expenditure of States/UTs and also central assistance. This data base is updated from time to time and used as a reference by all the divisions of the Commission.

Annual Plan 1998-99

3.248 The Annual Plan discussions to finalise the Plan size of different States/UTs for the year 1998-99 were held during August/September/October, 1998. An outlay of Rs. 80720.31 crore has been approved for all States/UTs for the Annual Plan 1998-99 as compared to an outlay of Rs. 64065.96 crore approved for the year 1997-98. The outlay for 1998-99 includes Rs. 3364.73 crore and Rs. 350.00 crore towards Additional Central Assistance for Basic Minimum Services and Slum Development respectively. The States/UTs are given the option to allocate the amount provided for seven Basic Minimum Services in accordance with their priorities. A separate provision of Rs. 471.00 crore has been made for the Plan of North-Eastern Council during the year 1998-99.

Ninth Plan (1997-2002)

3.249 The Ninth Plan targets at breaking structural backwardness of the economy, raising income levels of its agricultural workers, small and marginal farmers and artisans and all the historically disadvantaged groups in a decisive manner.

Sustained and long lasting solution to the problem of poverty depends on the creation of adequate employment opportunities through a broad based programme of development and economic growth. However, these, in themselves, may not be sufficient to improve the living conditions of the poor. They need to be accompanied by measures which enhance the quality of life. The process of development that is contemplated in the Ninth Plan seeks to empower all the disadvantaged sections of the population to integrate them in the mainstream.

3.250 The objectives of the Plan have been defined nationally but the States and local Governments are being encouraged on the choice of programmes, phasing of schemes and selection of appropriate instruments of finance.

TRANSPORT DIVISION

3.251 . The Transport Division is involved in the planning for transportation sector in order to meet the growing demand for such services throughout the country. It is concerned with the overall budgetary and physical planning for various sub-sectors of transport and the efforts are directed towards attaining an appropriate inter-modal mix in the transport network. Some of the important activities of the Transport Division are delineated below :-

- i) Demand assessment (passenger and goods traffic) for transport services;
- ii) Assessment of existing capacity of different modes and estimation of resource requirements for capacity increases;

- iii) Determining the optimal inter-modal mix for safe and cost effective transportation of passengers and goods traffic, keeping in view the comparative cost as well as the efficiency of operations;
- iv) Evolving the scope of private sector's role in infrastructure investment in view of the resource crunch being experienced by the economy; and working towards a speedy removal of sectoral bottlenecks.

3.252 During the period in question, the following salient activities were undertaken by the Transport Division:

- i) A detailed Action Plan for rapid improvement in physical infrastructure was finalised and sent to various Central Ministries and State Governments for comments.
- ii) Action Plan on infrastructure, as approved, was suitably dovetailed with the existing draft Ninth Five Year Plan.
- iii) The draft of the Ninth Plan Chapter on Tourism was revised.
- iv) A series of workshops focussing on the overall policy framework were held on various sub-sectors of transport. Various issues including inter-alia those related to transport capacity vis-a-vis requirements, inter-modal mix, problem of resource mobilization and formulation of investment strategy, private sector

initiatives etc. were discussed in depth. As a sequel to these workshops, two more workshops were organised and these focussed on (i) the role of financial institutions in infrastructure financing and (ii) air safety. The workshops were attended by sector experts, economists, academicians and senior representatives of both public and private sector.

- v) Outline for the Ninth Plan and Annual Plan 1998-99 in respect of transport and tourism sectors of various States/UTs and NEC were finalised after in-depth examination/ discussions.
- vi) In addition to compilation of different physical/financial parameters of Road Transport Undertakings, their performance was reviewed and corrective measures were recommended to improve their physical and financial performance.
- vii) Examination of investment proposals formulated by the various Administrative Ministries, viz. Surface Transport, Railways, Civil Aviation and Tourism was undertaken.

VILLAGE & SMALL INDUSTRIES DIVISION

3.253 The Village & Small Industries (V&SI) Division is looking after the following Ministries/Departments covering the following sub-sectors :

- 1. Dept. of SSIA&RI
 - Small Scale Industries
 - Khadi & Village Ind.
 - Coir Industry

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 2. Min. of Textiles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handlooms - Powerlooms - Handicrafts - Sericulture - Wool Development |
| 3. Min. of Food Processing Ind. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food Processing Industries. |

3.254 * Plan proposals for 1998-99 including the new schemes to be taken up in the Ninth Plan under VSI sector have been examined and approved.

3.255 The Ministry of Textiles have set up an Expert Group for formulating new 'Textile Policy' under the Chairmanship of Shri M. Satyam, Ex-Secretary Textiles, Adviser (I&M & VSI) is representing the Planning Commission on this Group.

3.256 Deputy Adviser, VSI has represented Planning Commission as an expert for the committees set up by Ministry of Food Processing Industries for meat and meat processing in N.E. region and Ministry of Textiles for handlooms in N.E. region. Deputy Adviser (VSI) has represented Planning Commission as an expert for a committee set up by Ministry of Textiles for development of wool sector.

CHAPTER - IV

PROGRAMME EVALUATION ORGANISATION

4.1 Eradication of poverty and improvement in the quality of life of people are the basic objectives of planning in India. To meet these objectives, the Government has been formulating and implementing various development Programmes/schemes with provision of adequate funds for social sector development in successive Five Year Plans. However, all these efforts in the last four and a half decades of development planning have not yielded the intended results. This is because of inherent inadequacies in both planning and formulation, as well as, in implementation of these programmes. To make these development programmes more effective and result oriented, it is desirable to identify and remove the various inadequacies. This requires a rigorous monitoring and evaluation of these programmes.

4.2 The Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) undertakes evaluation of selected programmes/schemes under implementation as required by the various Divisions of Planning Commission and Ministries/Departments of Government of India. The evaluation studies are designed to assess the performance, process of implementation, effectiveness of the delivery systems and impact of programmes. These studies also aim at identifying the factors contributing to success and failure of various programmes and deriving lessons for improving the performance of existing schemes through mid-course corrections and for better design of future programmes. The organisational chart of Programme Evaluation Organisation is given at Annexure.

4.3. In order to guide the work of PEO with regard to prioritisation of studies to be taken up for evaluation, methodologies to be adopted and establishment of linkages with various evaluation research and academic institutions, the Planning Commission has set-up an Evaluation Advisory Committee. This Committee was reconstituted in July, 1998. The reconstituted Evaluation Advisory Committee includes experts from the Planning Commission and from various disciplines outside the Planning Commission. The first meeting of the reconstituted Evaluation Advisory Committee was held on 22nd September, 1998 at New Delhi.

Functions and Objectives

4.4. The main functions of the PEO is to undertake evaluation studies which encompass :

- (i) Assessment of the achievement of plan programmes against the stated objectives and targets;
- (ii) Measurement of their impact on the beneficiaries;
- (iii) The impact on the socio-economic structure of the community;
- (iv) The process and adequacy of the delivery mechanism, etc.; and
- (v) In addition to the above, the PEO has also been providing technical advice/guidance to the State Evaluation Organisations and background materials for various documents/ publications of Planning Commission.

Progress of Work

4.5. The PEO has so far conducted 174 Evaluation Studies, of which 17 studies were completed during the Eighth Five Year Plan period. Some programmes of national importance like Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Mahila Samridhhi Yojana (MSY), Non-Formal Education (NFE) and Short Stay Homes for Women and Girls have recently been evaluated. The Planning Commission has also decided to release the findings of these evaluation studies to the press. To provide ready access to the findings of the evaluation studies of similar programmes implemented in the past, a compendium is under preparation. Its first two volumes (Volume-I & II) have already been released and the third volume is under preparation. Further, evaluation studies of some of the important on-going schemes like the Adequacy and Functioning of Community Health Centres (CHCs), Border Area Development Programme (BADP), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Functioning of State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), Khadi and Village Industries Programme (KVIP) and Construction of Godowns and purchase of Vans/Trucks for strengthening of Public Distribution System-Infrastructure are underway. These studies are at various stages of completion.

4.6. The status of various evaluation studies undertaken by PEO during 1998-99 is as under :-

Sl.No.	Name of Study/Activity	Status
1	2	3
1.	Evaluation Study on the Impact of Non-Formal Education (NFE) on Universalisation of Elementary Education.	Completed (May, 1998)
2.	Compendium of Evaluation Studies conducted by PEO (Vol. II).	Completed (July, 1998)
3.	Evaluation Study on the Scheme of Short Stay Homes for Women and Girls (SSHs) - Final Report.	Under revision
4.	Evaluation Study on Border Area Programme.(BADP).	Likely to be Development completed during 1998-99.
5.	Evaluation Study on Adequacy and Functioning of Community Health Centres (CHCs)	-- do --
6.	Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribals under Sub-Plan.	-- do --
7.	Study of the functioning of State Pollution Control Boards.	Field survey is in progress.
8.	Evaluation Study on Khadi & Village Industries Programme in general and its impact on rural employment generation.	Study launched in the field in Oct.98.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>9. Evaluation study of Social Safety Net Programme (SSNP) for PHCs. of study Report on CHCs at S.No.5.</p> | <p>The drafting of report will be taken up after completion</p> |
| <p>10. Evaluation Study on Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)</p> | <p>Processing of data is in progress.</p> |
| <p>11. Evaluation Study on Construction of Godowns and purchase of Vans/ Trucks for strengthening of Public Distribution System-Infrastructure in the States/UTs.</p> | <p>Preparation of Study design and instruments is in progress.</p> |

Other Activities

4.7. Other activities carried out by Programme Evaluation Organisation during 1998-99 are as under :

- (i) Developed concept papers and background materials for the preparation of the Ninth Five Year Plan document.
- (ii) An Orientation Seminar was held on 23rd, 24th & 25th of September, 1998 at New Delhi for discussion of the design/instruments of the study on Khadi & Village Industries Programme (KVIP).
- (iii) Installation of Computer System in all the seven REOs has been completed. Necessary computer training to the officers and staff of REOs is being imparted and all the REOs have been linked through E-mail facility.

CHAPTER V

NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE (NIC)

5.1 The National Informatics Centre (NIC) is the nodal information technology development and service organisation. The Delegation of Financial Power Rules of Government of India has designated the nation-wide Computer-Communication Network NICNET, set up by the National Informatics Centre, as the Government Network requiring all Ministries/Departments and Government organisations to ensure compatibility with it so as to facilitate transfer, storage and processing of information.

5.2 In order to optimally utilise the capacity of NIC and NICNET as well as to give the benefit of economy of scale developed by NIC for promoting national development, Government has approved the following terms of responsibility for NIC:

(a) "Informatics and computer network support of NIC/NICNET will be utilised for the following categories of public and private organisations which are users/ beneficiaries of or implementers/ franchisees engaged in the promotional activities/ projects/ programmes of national importance":

* Decision support and Management Information Systems (MIS) In organisations under the President of India or Governors of States including Government Ministries/Departments, attached and subordinate offices, semi-government organisations, public sector units, as well as autonomous societies, cooperatives and other organisations having majority funding by the Government.

- * Monitoring and control of the implementation of projects and programmes under the Central schemes, Centrally sponsored schemes, State Schemes and aided projects for minimising time overruns, cost over-runs and bottlenecks.
- * Research institutions, educational institutions and libraries for promoting cooperative R&D, intellectual resource sharing and network based integrated information support.
- * Health, Medical and Family Welfare Sector for realising the goal of Health for all.
- Public access to legal information systems for speeding up the clearance of pending cases in Courts and Lok Adalats.
- * Information access for decentralised planning and Panchayatiraj institutions.
- * Information access supporting rural development projects and programmes including support to voluntary organisations engaged in the same.
- * Information support to Parliament, Parliamentarians, Legislative Assemblies and Members of Legislative Assemblies.
- * Information access to organisations involved in Women and Child Welfare programmes.
- * E-Mail, EDI, Database and other informatics support to organisations engaged in export promotion, exporters and export-support organisations.
- * Computer Aided Testing for Public Service Examinations.

- * Network based Integrated Information Systems for Water Management and Irrigation.
- * Sustainable development projects and programmes benefiting people below the poverty line.
- * Indian Missions and Trade Promotion bodies abroad.
- * Welfare of SC/ST and other weaker sections
- * Backward Area development.
- * National infrastructure monitoring for removal of bottlenecks and coordination operation in the Steel, Coal, Power, Cement and Transport sectors.
- * Marketing of Government databases, after desensitising and de-classifying by NIC for wider dissemination to the public.

(b) For utilisation of NIC/NICNET services, expertise and infrastructure for the approved categories of organisations and promotional activities on a charging basis, the following enabling facilities are given to NIC:

- * Priority allocation of frequency Spots/Bands for nation-wide re-use.
- * Permitting NICNET data broadcast access to any organisation installing their own Receive-Only terminals for linkage to NICNET

- * Direct connectivity to Administrative Management Domains (ADMD), E-Mail/EDI Service providers in India and abroad.
- * Connectivity to NICNET of independent/transit/terminal network.
- * Direct hiring by NIC of transponders on satellites.
- * Direct up-linking from NICNET to global beams of international/commercial satellites for international network connectivity.
- * The Voice-over-data service over NICNET on shared channel basis.
- * Internet linkages to the NICNET domain
- * Any value added service over NICNET carrier for approved promotional purposes.

7(c) The National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development has given the following mandates to NIC (Extraordinary Gazette of India No. 160 dated July 25, 1998, Part-I, Section-I):

- * The Cabinet has approved NIC's proposal to make government Information, other than that having a bearing on security, available to the public. This decision shall be implemented by suitably empowering NIC to do so. This recommendation addresses the felt need for easy availability and extensive transparency of government information.

* District Information System (DISNIC) Plan Programme shall be made widespread and databases updated online, shall be made available to the public and Panchayats, among others. Courts Information System(COURTIS), Parliament Information System (PARLIS), Computerised Rural Information System Programme (CRISP) and other such databases shall be updated online over NICNET and access to public facilitated .

* NIC, at the national level, and technology service organisations at the State level, shall establish 'Framework Contracts', on a non-exclusive basis, with reputed suppliers to provide a wide range of IT consultancy, specialist services and IT products to Government agencies to reach the benefit of lower costs through bulk purchases.

* The Government of India shall set up a central repository of data elements in Government with the NIC and make it accessible through NICNET.

* An Information Security Agency shall be set up at the National level to play the role of Cyber Cop. On security related issues an Inter-Ministerial Committee shall be set up consisting of the representatives of DOT, Cabinet Secretariat, MHA, MOD, DOE and NIC and representatives from NASSCOM to look into the technical aspects of monitoring of communications in this sector (including Internet) to enable the setting up of the monitoring infrastructure (which in many cases would have to be funded by the Internet ISPs) and incorporation of suitable clauses in the licence agreements.

Currently Available Infrastructure

5.3 In pursuance of the above responsibilities of NIC, NICNET has been established in all the Civilian Central Government Departments and several associated organisations, secretariats of 32 State Governments/UT Administrations and 540 District Centres to facilitate Informatics development for decision support and information exchange. The high speed NICNET National Info Highway which was set up as an incremental overlay over the artery network, has become the backbone network for implementation of the assigned responsibilities of NIC.

5.4 During the current year, NICNET has 800 C-200 VSATs, 32 very high speed SCPC VSATs, 250 FTDMA VSATs (GILAT Skystar Advantage), 150 IPA VSATs (Hughes Network TDMA) and 1060 Broadcast RO-VSATs (1000 Hughes Network DirecPC, 60 GILAT Sky Surfer). An important installation made during the year is the low cost Internet VSAT configurations which have uplink capability of 64 Kbps and down-link capability of between 256 Kbps and 3 Mbps. NICNET is the only National Information Infrastructure (NII) in India at present having both C-band and Ku-band VSATs, Wireless MANs and LANs with a reach upto all the Districts and several Tehsils/Blocks so as to facilitate IT-led development in Government and promotional applications of national importance.

5.5 To give promotional and commercial impetus to the activities of NIC, the following autonomous organisations have been set up:

* National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSIS) set up under Section 25 of the Companies Act to utilise NICNET for promotional and commercial activities;

* National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI) as a joint venture with India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO); and

* Regional Computer Centres at Chandigarh and Calcutta as autonomous scientific societies.

5.6 NICNET provides a wide range of network services such as Internet Service, X.400 mail service, X.500 Directory Services, Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), five-city simultaneous Video Conferencing facility (multi point and point-to-point) and Web services. XTACACS SLIP/PPP authorisation and authentication software is integrated with X.500 Directory Server using LDAP protocol. It is providing authentication and authorisation of users coming through dial-up to NICNET. It is also providing Web Based Directory User Agent to change the password of the user. PINE Mail Interface Software is customized to pick-up e-mail addresses from X.500 Directory Server using LDAP protocol. Concept of Global Distribution lists has been implemented at NIC mail servers. Network decentralisation has been achieved with the installation of Local Area Networks (LANs) with NICNET Gateway In various Central and State Government offices throughout the country. Informatics scientists and technologists of NIC are involved in the design and development of decision support system in Central Government and State Governments including -Transaction Processing, Database Development, Management Information System, GIS-based Decision Support system, Executive Support System, Multimedia Information System and Indian Language based Computer processing. A NICNET International gateway at E2 level of 6 Mbps has been set up at New Delhi and lower capacity gateways at Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai and Calcutta.

HUB Based WIRELESS DATA NETWORK

5.7 Hub based Wireless Data Network is being established to provide last-mile connectivity to NICNET in all the Metropolitan cities state/UT capitals, district headquarters and also sub-district levels, facilitating high-speed NICNET and Internet connectivity. This data network is operating at 2.4000 GHz to 2.4835 GHz frequency range using Spread-Spectrum (Direct Sequence) Wireless technology. This technology is highly interference resistant ensuring availability of robust wireless link all the time and providing high level of security. This Network provides speed ranging from 64kbps to 2 mbps connectivity within city limits at a competitive price avoiding completely the long waiting period of PSTN lease lines. This Network is operational in Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Agartala, Shillong and Warana Nagar connecting thousands of users to NICNET and installation at Jaipur, Calcutta, Chennai, Bhubaneswar and Mumbai was under way.

National Information Technology Promotional Units (NITPUs)

5.8 In order to promote Information Technology in the country, focussing on INTERNET Technology based Value-added Services in the area of Industry, Business and Commerce, NIC has established National Information Technology Promotional Units (NITPUs) at major industrial/ Commercial cities viz.- Ahmedabad, Bangalore , Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Calcutta, Chandigarh Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kochi, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Mumbai, Nagpur, Panipat, Patna, Pune, Shimla, Tripur and Vishakapatnam. These centres provide Video-conferencing facilities, EDI services and other

INTERNET Technology based Services over NICNET. A feasibility study for setting up new centres at Surat and Kandla was taken up. It is also proposed to set up training centres at few selected NITPUs and a cost benefit analysis to set up the training centre was carried out

NICNET Video Conferencing Facility

5.9 Video Conferencing facility have been established at New Delhi, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Lucknow (Northern Region); Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bhopal (Western Region); Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Tripur (Southern Region); Calcutta, Patna, Bhubaneswar (Eastern Region). During the Year 1998-99, Video Conferencing facilities were made operational at Gangtok, North- Eastern Council (NEC) Headquarters, Guwahati, and Agartala. NIC has provided Video-conferencing services for the International Conference on Women and Child organised by Pravara Medical Trust, (Loni - Maharashtra) and a Video Conference between the Hon'able Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and the Villagers and District Officers of Gudihatnor, which is a remote village, In the district of Adilabad of the Andhra Pradesh State, using portable SCPC VSAT. Video-Conferencing facilities were also used by Ministry of Industry, Agriculture, Information & Broadcasting, etc., for both domestic and International meetings. NIC has conducted Review promotion of its S&T Officers (about 350) through Video-conferencing in 14 cities. It has been planned to set up NICNET Video Conferencing facilities at Kohima, Imphal, Itanagar, Aizwal and also to expand Video conferencing services over local area Network (NICNET-LAN) established in various Central Government Bhavans.

IT Five-Year Plans for the Central Government Departments

5.10 As recommended by the Expert Group of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, for the Computerisation of information on Personnel and Citizen Services, NIC has prepared IT Five-Year Plan for the following Sectors and submitted to the concerned Central Government Departments: Agriculture, Industry, Mines, Steel, Company Affairs, Fisheries, Fertilizers, Bio-technology, Banking and Insurance, Indian Parliament, Rural Development, Indian Audit and Accounts, Information and Broadcasting, Cabinet Secretariat, Cooperatives, Civil Aviation, Food Processing, Urban Affairs and Employment, Customs and Central Excise, Surface Transport, Power, Coal, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Chemical and Petro-chemicals, Environment and Forests, Water Resources, Food and Consumer Affairs, Central Vigilance Commission, Natural Disaster Management, Soil & Water Conservation, Non-Conventional Energy, Courts, Education, Programme Implementation, and Electronic Commerce & EDI., for further necessary action. On the basis of these IT Plans submitted by NIC, various Central Government Departments have already set up IT Task Force to formulate both Central Sectors and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to implement these IT Plans during the Ninth Five Year Plan Period.

WARANA WIRED VILLAGE PROJECT

5.11 On the initiative of the Prime Minister's Office, NIC has implemented "Warana Wired Village Project" to facilitate integrated development of the cooperative movement at grass-root level through the state-of-the-art IT tools. This project

demonstrates the effective contribution of the IT infrastructure in the accelerated socio-economic development over a cluster of 70 contiguous villages around Warana in the Kolhapur and Sangli districts of Maharashtra. This project has been implemented in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra and the Warana Vibhag Shikshan Mandal with the Project cost shared in the ratio of 50:40:10 respectively. The project aims (a) to utilise IT to increase the efficiency/productivity of the existing cooperative societies, (b) to provide greater transparency in the working of cooperative societies, (c) to provide agricultural, medical and educational information to villagers by establishing networked "Facilitation Booths" in 70 villages, (d) to bring the world knowledge at the door-steps of Warana through INTERNET via NICNET, (e) to provide Tele-education at Primary and higher level educational institutes, and (f) to develop user-friendly Map based information systems for better administration.

National Task Force on Information Technology & Software Development

5.12 The Central Government set up National task Force on Information Technology and Software Development, vide Prime Minister's Office notification no. 360/31/C/10/98-ES.II dated 22.5.98, comprising representatives from Government Departments, Public & Private Sectors, Industry Associations professionals, etc., to formulate the draft National Policy on Informatics to enable India to emerge as an Information Technology superpower within the next ten years. NIC is providing secretariat support to the Task Force. It submitted its first report on Information Technology Action Plan on 4th July 1998 containing 108 recommendations aimed at accomplishing Info-Infrastructure Drive, target for a \$ 50 billion annual export

of IT software and IT Services by the year 2008 and IT for All by 2008. The Central Government accepted the recommendations and the Government Notification for the same was issued on 25th July 1998. The Task Force has already submitted its second report on Information Technology Action Plan (Part - II): Development, Manufacture and Export of Information Technology Hardware which is under consideration. The Task Force set up workings groups on : (i) Working Group on citizen - IT Interface, (ii) Working Group on content creation and content Industry, (iii) Working Group on IT Research, Design and Development and (iv) Working Group on IT Human Resource Development who have also already finalised their reports for consideration by the Task Force.

North-East and Handicapped Area Data Communication Infrastructure

5.13 Improvement of the Information Technology infrastructure in the areas which are economically underdeveloped and geographically isolated, such as the North Eastern Region of the country was taken up as distinct programme. Augmentation of the computing and communication resources at NIC centres at the seven state capitals of the region and several district units was taken up. Video conferencing infrastructure was provided at Guwahati, Shillong, Agartala and Gangtok and planned for Imphal, Itanagar, Kohima and Aizwal. The video conferencing facility at Agartala, Guwahati, Shillong and Sikkim is being used regularly by state government departments and central government agencies. Upgradation of the satellite based data communication infrastructure was taken up at Guwahati, Shillong, Kohima and Imphal by providing IPA VSATS.

Establishment of LAN with NICNET gateway for Internet/ Intranet Access and Resources Sharing

5.14 Local Area Network (LAN) with facilities of E-mail and INTERNET browsing was established for all Departments / Ministries located in Udyog Bhavan, Shastri Bhavan, Krishi Bhawan, Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan, Yojna Bhawan, Sewa Bhawan, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Shram Shakti Bhawan, CGO (Block - B&14) and NIC Hqrs. LANs in these Bhawan are operational for 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. LAN infrastructure of these Bhavans caters to about 2500 client nodes. Significant progress has been achieved for departments/ ministries located in Nirman Bhavan and North Block. LAN with NICNET Gateway for Internet services was also successfully established for following ministries / departments/organisations and State Secretariats:-

- Ministry of Food & Civil Supplies
- Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Programms Implementation
- Department of Fertilizer
- Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms
- Department of Agriculture and Cooperation
- Indian Council of Agriculture Research
- Central Water Commission
- Wireless Planning & Coordination
- Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission
- Lal Bhadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie
- U.P. Govt. Secretariat Buildings at Lucknow

- Tamil Nadu Govt. Secretariat Buildings at Chennai
- Maharashtra Govt. Secretariat at Mumbai
- Karnataka Power Cooperation Ltd, Bangalore,
- Haryana Secretariat, Chandigarh

NIC SERVICES INCORPORATED (NICS)

5.15 National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICS) is a Government of India Enterprise (under NIC) registered under the Section 25 of the Indian Companies Act. NICS is providing cost effective state-of-the art IT solutions to NICNET users such as Government organisations, Public Sector Undertakings, State Government and international bodies. NICS has got VSAT orders from many organisations like Milk Co-operative Federation, Customs, Food Corporation of India, National Fertiliser Ltd, Indian Council of Agriculture Research, etc. NICS has undertaken large turnkey projects for Director General of Foreign Trade, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) for Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Andaman & Nicobar, Meghalya, Government of U.P. Treasury Department, etc. NICS has been given the "Most Favoured Customer" Status by IBM, MICROSOFT, CISCO, Huges Network System, Tydac Inc., etc. NICS has earned a profit of Rs.3.43 crores for the year 1997-98 after taxes.

REGIONAL COMPUTER CENTRES

5.16 Regional Computer Centre (Calcutta) and Regional Computer Centre (Chandigarh) which are the registered Scientific Societies under NIC, continued to provide "TOTAL-IT" solutions on turn-key basis to both State and Central Government Organisations, Corporate Sectors and Public Sectors. The

services of RCCs include turn-key IT projects, networking, education and consultancy services. RCC (Calcutta) has undertaken the development of external aid management information system for the Ministry of Finance, 9 State Finance Departments and 6 Central Government Departments with Asian Development Bank funding. RCCs have submitted project proposals for undertaking computerisation of Agricultural Census (1995-96) and Input Survey (1996-97) data, on a turn key basis. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was being to be signed between NIC and RCCs in the Month of February, 1999. RCCS have also been designated to offer IT consultancy services to ICAR for its National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP).

India Image Programme

5.17 "India-Image" is a unique project of National Informatics Centre envisaged with a view to present a true perspective of India and its Government before the Internet Community. Under the programme, NIC has developed informative Web Sites for various Government Ministries, Departments, State Governments, Public Sector Organisations etc. These sites were also hosted on NIC's own World Wide Web (WWW) Server (HYPERLINK <http://www.nic.in>). Some of the major web sites developed and hosted under the 'India-Image' Programme during 1998-99 are related to Punjab Government, Madhya Pradesh State, Indian Armed Forces, Prime Minister's Councils, IT Task Force, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Union Budget (98-99), Economic Survey (97-98), Punjab Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), CAPART, National Aids Control Organisation (NACO), Gas Authority of India (GAIL), Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC), NSIC, Almora, IGNC, Ministry of Rural Areas

& Employment, Tihar Prison , Department of ISM&H, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare etc

Information and Facilitation Counter (IFC) and Web Site for Citizen Charters

5.18 On the recommendation of Chief Minister's Conference, NIC was asked to establish IFCs in various Government Departments with a view to provide information from various Govt. Departments to the citizens. More than 50 IFCs have been established in various Central Government Departments. In the next step, every state is asked to establish one IFC in the State Hqr., and Five IFCs at the selected districts. Additionally the Citizens' Charters being finalized by the Department of Personnel are being put on Web site for wider circulation.

Public grievances Redress and Monitoring System Over NICNET

5.19 As desired by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Uniform & On-line Public grievances monitoring system was designed and implemented in more than 60 Departments of Government of India. In the second phase of the project, a WEB enabled version of Uniform Public Grievances Redress & Monitoring System has been designed and demonstrated to Standing Committee of Secretaries on Public Grievance Redress & Monitoring. The system is being currently in evaluation phase by DOPT prior to its installation in entire government sector.

Review of the Year 2000 (Y2k) problem and its compliance

5.20 A high level Action Force was set up by the Government of India to oversee Y2K compliance in the country. NIC has been designated as the Secretariate for this Action Force. In addition to achieving Y2K compliance of products and services being provided by it, NIC also assisted various ministries and departments of the Central and State Governments in achieving Y2K compliance in the organisations under their purview.

Government Informatics Training Programme

5.21 NIC has trained large number of Central/ State Government employees in the effective use of information technology through their Training Divisions set up at HQ and State Centres. Major emphasis has been given on the spread and absorption of new technologies such as Windows based Office Productivity Tools, Client/ Server Technology, Networking, office automation, Web enabled application Development etc. NIC training programmes fall in the following categories - Executive Development Programmes, Windows based Programmes on Office Productivity Tools, Trainers Training Programmes in Information Management Tools, Sectoral Development Programmes, Computer Programmes in Hindi. Many of these programmes are being customised for various Government Departments and other Public Sector organisations and some are being sponsored by Department of Personnel & Training including in-service IAS training programmes. A few Computer Programmes in Hindi are being sponsored by Department of Official language. International Programmes to share NIC expertise and experience were also organised for

the benefit of policy makers and working managers from developing countries.

5.22 NIC conducted Technology Seminars, Software Tools Training and On Project Training in the areas such as Client/Server technology, Web enabled application development, Migration Strategy for DB2 and Windows NT environment, Groupware Technology, Computer Communication Networks, JAVA, Setting up and Management of Intranets, Managing Year 2000 Problem for its S&T officers at HQ and outstation via Video Conferencing NIC has initiated Country-wide Class Room (CCR) Project to provide live broadcast from a central site to a number of remote DirecPC sites. The Training Division infrastructural facilities have been augmented with the latest hardware and software facilities for imparting training and development of Web enabled applications.

Database and Software products

5.23 The RDBMS presently being used are DB2/UDB, SQL 7.0 and ORACLE for the development of decision support systems in the area of Government Informatics. In order to facilitate the Client-Server, web based computing, the state-of-the-art products such as Lotus Millineum SmartSuite, Office 97, Visual Studio 6.0, Visual Age, Domino Server 4.6, MS BackOffice, MS Exchange, Crystal Reports 7.0 etc. are being used. In order to get benefit out of the Paradigm shift in software technology, human resources development programmes on Object Oriented Analysis and Design have been given thrust.

Standardisation in Software Development

5.24 Standardisation of Operating System and application development environment has the advantage in terms of training staff, usage and supporting of these products besides providing advantage of scale in price of these products. NIC has adopted a new strategy, keeping in tune with International Scenario, as far as the software aspects of IT are concerned. NIC has adopted MS-Windows NT/ Windows 95/NT Workstation as the OS environment. NIC has also standardised on the Public domain OS (LINUX) and UNIPLEX for UNIX based applications. NIC has developed a Linux variant called Linux Binaries from NIC (LBFN) and is available for NICNET users on chargeable basis. Application Development Environment using NT and DB2/UDB, SQL Server platforms and LINUX and UNIPLEX platforms facilitate smooth transition both from the point of view of developing Client-Server Technology based applications and legacy applications.

5.25 This standardization also facilitates (i) developing solutions for co-existence of client based machines and multilingual terminals with respect to a server so that the host based operations and Client-Server operations can be undertaken simultaneously, (ii) developing a solution for ensuring multilingual support, (iii) developing a solution for massive data entry operations using the existing character terminals on NT/DB2 and SQL Server platforms, (iv) developing web-enabled applications, (v) rapid development of INTERNET and INTRANET applications, and (vi) safeguarding the existing hardware and application software of NIC.

GIS Software Development and Support

5.26 NICNET with large bandwidth capabilities and high-speed transmission through KU-Band based Info Super Highway ideally provides the infrastructure for promotion of GIS applications and related activities. A four node PARAM 9000 US, having architecture for parallel processing has been installed as GIS Server with peripherals along with image processing and GIS software such as EASI/PACE, SPANS, GISNIC etc. At GIS Lab., NIC Hq, New Delhi, a versatile environment for processing spatial data, including satellite imagery processing capabilities have been created. A compatible environment is under creation at the NIC State Units with an objective to facilitate distributed and decentralized thematic database around GIS core, over NICNET. A number of pilot projects were undertaken and completed, using IRS LISS-III, PAN, SOI Toposheets and other spatial data sets of soil, forest and so on, in different areas, e.g., Watershed Management, Sedimentation Analysis, Forest Mapping etc. The software developed by NIC maintains full compatibility with high-end GIS software, being used by NIC.

Utility Mapping Project

5.27 The Utility Mapping Project has established base maps for two districts of Delhi. Work related to mapping of water lines In one district of Delhi has been completed. An agreement has been reached with Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to cover entire Delhi in two years. A pilot project for mapping of cable routes in Chennai has been established at Tamilnadu Electricity Board. The project is working out feasibility to take up Cadastral mapping in several states. A software package has been

developed for catering to the requirements of these projects. The project group is now ready for expanding its activities to other large cities in the country.

GISTNIC Services

5.28 Data Warehousing Techniques to facilitate in-depth analysis of the GISTNIC databases were implemented. Results of Secondary School Examination of the Government of Tamilnadu were made available for access over NICNET during this year. E.mail based Information Dissemination Service, Telnet, WWW and FTP Service, an Information Newsletter on GISTNIC Databases were launched.

Global Market Informatics

5.29 NIC provides NICNET based Global Market Informatics related to about 165 countries to Indian Traders, through its networking with GTPNet of Electronic Trading Opportunity (ETO) System, developed by United Nations Trade Point Development Centre (UNTPDC), which is a joint subsidiary sub-organization of special program under UNCTAD responsibility. ETO system shares demand and offer of various products originated from about 165 countries through their GTPNet programme. Under the Integrated Business Information System project, CD-ROM on EXPO India was released with addresses of nearly 30,000 companies. A comprehensive WEB site HYPERLINK <http://www.nic.in/tradenic> was designed and developed.

Graphics, Design & Modelling

5.30 The sale of two licenses of SESAM Software to ONGC (Oil & Natural Gas Corporation), Mumbai has been executed and training on the SESAM to four engineers of IEOT (Institute of Engineering & Ocean Technology), ONGC was provided by NIC. Sale of SESAM Software to UP Irrigation & Design Organization, Roorkee is being pursued. The project of providing Total Solution involving CAD, Software (ICEM DDN) & hardware for the Handicrafts Development Commission is being executed. The installation of hardware & the sale of two licenses of ICEM DDN Software have been effected to the two Handicraft Design Centers at Okhla & Bangalore. Installation of hardware & ICEM DDN software at the remaining five Design Centers is being pursued.

Research and Education Network of NIC (RENNIC):

5.31 Research and Education Network of NIC (RENNIC) continued to provide INTERNET services, database access services (MEDLARS, Patent and Knowhow databases, Bibliographic databases), to the academic institutions, recognised and funded by UGC, AICTE, DBT, ICSSR, ICAR, ICMR, CSIR, Central and State/UT Governments. Access to NICNET for domestic and international E-mail are being provided from NIC centres in 500 cities and towns in the country, through dial-up modem in a very cost effective manner. More institutes and laboratories of CSIR, ICSSR, ICFR&E, SAUs, VCI, ICMR, ICAR, DBT, DRDO have installed NICNET Ku-band VSATs for faster INTERNET Services and also establishing INTRANETS. As a follow up to the MOU signed between AICTE and NIC, 25 engineering colleges will be provided

NICNET/Internet connectivity during this year. Also all the regional offices of AICTE will be provided NICNET connectivity for Internet/Intranet services. ICAR has decided to install one domain server at NIC hqrs for Agricultural Research Information System (ARIS) network.

Courts Informatics (Court-IS)

5.32 Out of the 430 District Courts which NIC has taken up for their computerisation, in most of the District Courts, the computer hardware has been installed, training has been provided to the Courts Officials, workshops have been arranged for the District Judges. In the District Courts of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, and 5 District Courts of UP which were taken up for computerisation in this year, terminals and printers have been installed in the Court rooms. All these courts are generating their Daily Cause Lists. Day-to-Day Judgements are typed on the computer terminals and the Case Law data bank is being developed. JUDIS-CD has been developed on Linux OS platform and distributed to the District Courts, where Local Area Network (LAN) has been established. All High Courts have also been provided with UNIXWARE version of JUDIS CDs to enable the judges to access Supreme Court Caselaws. COURTNIC the pending cases information system of Supreme Court is now available on Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system for the litigants and advocates.

Bibliographic Information Services

5.33 The Bibliographic Informatics Services Division, of NIC, continued to provide biomedical information from various

international databases to the medical community in India, including the MEDLARS databases of National Library of Medicine, USA. At present over 150 medical colleges/institutions are accessing registered the MEDLINE database available at NIC. Information was also provided from other MEDLARS databases, CD-ROM databases as well as resources accessible over INTERNET. Information on EPIDEMIC DROPSY was compiled from MEDLINE and other databases and given to the Health Minister, Delhi Government including full-text of journal articles. The coverage of the IndMED database was expanded to include data from 77 Indian journals (1986 onwards) and these are journals which have not been included in any other international database.

5.34 NIC continued to provide the patent information services to R&D labs both with-in government sector and private sector. NIC is the premier organization in India to provide ON-LINE access, through its own website, to 30 Million patent references of INPADOC-EPIDOS, a database compiled from 65 patent offices by European Patent Office. NIC also provides complete document service from US, Europe and WIPO patents.

REN-Bibliographic Services

5.35 Under REN Bibliographic services support continued to extend to DELNET (Delhi Library Network). Under this Network, the member libraries have increased to 100. The targets were achieved as per the original plan. All the District Centres of NIC have been provided Basisplus software for the text based applications. Under this a suite of applications were bundled along with Basisplus software. Technical support has been extended to various libraries who are using

Techlib/Basisplus. A commercial training programme has also been conducted on the Basis Plus / Techlib.

Land Records Computerisation Programme:

5.36 Land Records computerisation programme is being implemented as joint effort of Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, NIC and respective State Governments with specific responsibilities to each of them. As a part of NIC's responsibility, NIC is to strengthen its district centres to enable State Governments to implement the project using these facilities. Further, NIC is to develop application software for the project and also train the revenue functionaries.

5.37 NIC has completed strengthening of NIC districts in all those districts which are sanctioned for implementation of land records. This is numbering about 166. With this, in all 514 districts are covered so far since the starting of this project. Further, the application software is already standardized at state level. Training to about 3000 persons of revenue departments of State Government was conducted. With the changing environment in Information technology, NIC is now undertaking the work relating to implmenting this project on client/server environment using Windows NT/ACCESS/Visual Basic/ISM.

Grass Root Input to Districts (GRID) Programme

5.38 This programme aims at strengthening of the micro level planing, land records maintenance and other rural development related institutions, through computer based information systems and databases at sub-district level. Establishment of sub-district level computer communication network and databases will

cater to the needs of block and tehsil level administration for the fast implementation of the various development projects. This project was successfully implemented on pilot basis in few districts upto last year. Presently, the land records data entry work is in advanced stage of completion in some districts. As soon as this work is completed, efforts will be made to make this operational at sub district level.

Weather Database & Modelling

5.39 WEATHER RESOURCE SYSTEM FOR INDIA " based on the live Meteorological Information for India/World available on various Web sites on Internet was developed and made available on NICNET (<http://www.rainbow.delhi.nic.in>). This system provides information on the following :

- . Current observations (80 observatories)
- . Daily maps of Rainfall, Max/Min Temperature
- . 5-days weather forecast for 45 Indian cities
- . Cloud Images for World/Asia
- . Sea Surface Temperature
- . Climate Prediction
- . Climate of World (Monthly averages)
- . Cyclone Status/ Plot of Track / Animation of Clouds
- . Ocean Conditions/Forecast
- . Meteorological Analysis for Tropics by NCEP
- . El-nino forecast
- . Reports of IMD (All India Bulletins)

5.40 By studying the entire information on a daily basis, it was possible to predict sever weather/ cyclonic storms in 4 days advance of its occurance. The System is being used to provide

information to the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, ICAR, Department of Animal husbandry and Dairying, and Planning Commission. The System was extensively used by NIC State and District Units of Andhra Pradesh during the recent heavy rains/ cyclone. NIC has created a very large database by downloading the information on cloud images, analyzed charts and various reports issued by national and international agencies for the period Monsoon 1998 onwards and made available under its Weather Resources System. The information is about 3 MB per day. NIC provided support to the Ministry of Agriculture for its weekly review of crop conditions, input supply position and the effect of weather on crops through the Crop-Weather Watch System. NICNET is being used to collect the information from some of the State Directorates of Agricultural regularly.

NICNET Services to Central Government Ministries and Departments

5.41 NIC Centres established in the Central Government Ministries and Departments continued to provide NICNET Support for the development of Information System/databases for decision support. Informatics development activities undertaken in various Central Government Ministries and Departments are given in the following sections.

NICNET based Informatic Services to the Ministry of External Affairs

5.42 NIC has provided operational support for fully computerised Passport Offices at Delhi, Mumbai, Goa, Bangalore, Kozhikode, Cochin, Thiruvanthapuram, Chennai,

Tiruchirapalli, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Chandigarh and Calcutta, and other Ministry Divisions at Akbar Bhavan, South Block, Patiala House, ICCR, and ISIL Building etc. To augment the existing communication facility at Akbar Bhawan and South Block, NIC has installed 2 Mbps high frequency spread spectrum Wireless Link and connected to Proxy Servers in these locations. Over 125 Missions abroad have been provided with E-mail facility. Further Proxy Server was also installed in Patiala House and connected to NICNET through dedicated line.

5.43 Tele-enquiry system has been installed to handle multilingual queries by the public. Database development activities on (a) duplicate applications in Passport Offices, (b) Personnel Posting and Transfer Management System, (c) Simulation System on Cadre Management, and (d) NRI Database Management System for 160 Missions abroad were undertaken.

Indian Maritime Informatics

5.44 High speed IPA VSATs installed at Major Ports to provide them with Internet/EDI connectivity. Offices of Inland Waterways Authority of India at NOIDA, Calcutta, Patna, Guahati, Bhagalpur and Kochi were connected to NICNET. Development of Intranet over +NICNET to strengthen Indian Maritime Informatics was undertaken.

Transport and Highways Informatics

5.45 Databases on Road Statistics, Motor Transport Statistics and Performance of State Road Transport Undertakings

(STUs) were updated and made available over NICNET for access. NIC jointly with Ministry of Surface Transport(Roads Wing) conducted Training Workshops on "Computerised MIS for Roads Sector using NICNET" at Bangalore, Gandhinagar and Bhubaneswar for the officials of State PWDs of Southern, Western and Eastern regions of the country. Data Warehousing Techniques were introduced to strengthen the Decision Support System (DSS).

Civil Aviation Informatics

5.46 A comprehensive computerisation plan was prepared in consultation with the Bureau Of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) for automation of photo identity cards being used for entry to various airports. The system has been implemented at four regional offices of BCAS in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai.

Central Government Office Procedure Automation (OPA)

5.47 NIC has standardised the file tracking software, Office Procedure Automation (OPA) for implementation in Central Government Departments/ Ministries. A client/ server version of the software over NT/DB2 has been developed and implementation of the same is underway in various Central Government Departments/ Ministries.

Central Government Composite Payroll Software System

5.48 On the recommendation of the Department of Administrative Reforms, NIC has undertaken the design and

development of a standardised composite payroll system. This software product is likely to be released during this year.

Food & Consumer Affairs

5.49 **NICNET BASED INFORMATION SYSTEMS ON Procurement, Movement, Storage capacities, Stocks position and Distribution of foodgrains** were operational with added features on consolidation. Information on production and sale of sugar from 474 sugar factories, vegetable oils production information and retail/ wholesale prices of 12 essential commodities collected from 33 selected centres etc. were compiled for MIS. Networking of field offices of Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation was underway. Operations at divisions In CWC hqrs are being computerised by developing application softwares. An Accounting Software developed for requirements at FCI offices is under implementation. Public Services Information system is being developed for the Consumer Information Centres set up by NGOs.

Rural Development Informatics

5.50 All the offices in the ministry of Rural Areas and Employment have been provided with Local Area Network, connected to INTERNET via NICNET Video Conferencing facility in the ministry is being utilised for monitoring statewise progress under various rural development and poverty alleviation schemes. A proposal has been submitted to the ministry for computerising all the DRDAs in the country to facilitate planning and monitoring the rural development programmes at the district level. Home Page for the ministry has

been put on the web and is being updated regularly. A Web based 'Programme Status Report' software has been developed and is under implementation. A GIS based model for Watershed Development Management has been developed for Kodarnala Watershed and five more projects have been undertaken. Consultancy has been provided to the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission for procurement of hardware and preparation of Software Requirement Specification. Consultancy has been provided to National Institute of Agriculture Marketing, State Institutes of Rural Development (Jaipur, Patna, and Nilokheri), CAPART (New Delhi, Guwahati, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, and Jaipur) for Internet / Intranet Services.

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

5.51 Letter of Credit Monitoring System has been developed and implemented at the Principal Accounts Office of Ministry of I&B. Video Conferencing through ISDN line has been established In the Chamber of Honourable Minister for Information & Broadcasting. The generation of Press in India Report using the Registration Database, has been automated for the Registrar of Newspapers for India.

Parliament Informatics

5.52 Biographical sketches of 12th Lok Sabha / Rajya Sabha MPs were made available on Internet by taking digital photographs of MPs. Facility was also added to Parliament Home Page(PHP) for simultaneous viewing Hindi/English debate text. Software for Committee on Government Assurances

was developed and implemented. Email/ Internet facilities and related training was provided to more than 200 MPs.

Ministry of Communications

5.53 Computerisation of LR section, Frequency section and SACFA at Sardar Patel Bhavan is in progress. Major computerisation of SACFA has been completed. Computerisation of Postal Accounts Office (PACT) is nearing completion. A proposal for computerisation of Cash Certificates work in all the Postal Accounts offices throughout the country is submitted for approval. Five sites will be undertaken this year in the First phase. Remaining 14 will be taken in the IInd phase after the completion of Ist phase. Upgradation of some old systems in PLI offices and computerisation of RPLI activities at regions are in progress. System study for the computerisation of Budget Section in DOP is in progress. Software support for PLI and Savings Bank packages was provided during the year. Work on PLI software to make it Y2K compliance is in progress. MIS software for PLI offices have been developed and implemented in all Postal circles through out the country. Enhancement of Telecom Accounting (TACT) package was completed as desired by DDG(TA). Development of MIS package for DOT is in progress using MS-ACCESS. Old computer system in Minister office was replaced by new Pentium based system. The computer facility was extended to Minister of State for Communication also.

Railways

5.54 The " NICNET based Daily Train Movement Reporting System" for Northern Railways (NR) was fully made operational in five divisions and is likely to be made available to other

Divisions of NR as soon as the communication links are made available. A new project on NICNET based Public Grievance Monitoring for Railways has been taken and initially 100 railway stations are being provided with a grievance counter and appropriate grievance monitoring software. These grievance counters at the railway stations are connected to their divisional headquarters to send e-mails via NICNET for redressal of the grievances.

Cooperatives Informatics

5.55 Ministry of Agriculture has decided to implement NICNET based Information system on Cooperatives throughout the country. Himachal Pradesh has implemented this on Pilot basis. Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul) has installed 16 IP- Advantage VSATs. A Project proposal on a turn-key solution for the total IT upgradation in the National Cooperative Development Corporation has been submitted. Email facilities through NICNET has been provided to various offices of NABARD, NAFED, GCMMF, National Cooperative Union, Institutions of Cooperative Management, National Tree Growers Cooperative Federation and their zonal offices, state and district level Cooperative Milk Unions. IFFCO has been using NICNET through FTDMA VSATs for their INTRANET operations between plants and zonal offices.

Programme Implementation

5.56 NIC continued to support the Department of Programme Implementation through its NICNET based project monitoring of (a) MPLAD scheme, (b) Twenty Point Programme, (c) Flash Reporting of monthly monitoring of projects costing Rs. 100

crores and above, and quarterly monitoring of projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above. Project activities were initiated to establish an INTRANET server (Web database) for access by all the concerned departments/ministries/PSUs over NICNET.

Industry Informatics

5.57 NIC provided computerisation support to the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Steel & Mines, Department of company Affairs, BIFR, BICP and MRTP Commission. The main areas of computerisation include industrial approvals, production details, public enterprises survey, wholesale price index, mining leases, establishing of LAN infrastructure and initiation of web enabled softwares.

5.58 NIC has undertaken major turn-key projects which include computerisation and networking of Registrar of Company Affairs (ROC) offices and computerisation of District Industries Centre (DIC). As a result of success of Phase - I of the ROC Project, Phase - II dealing with process of registration has been initiated. Computerisation of DIC project envisages establishment of NICNET based network for smooth flow of SSI related data from DICs to State Directorates of Industries and DCSSI Headquarters and dissemination of information from States Directorates of Industries to DICs. Functional areas taken up for computerisation are SSI registration and Index of Industrial production. NICNET based information system for SSI Registration. Project has been successfully implemented. Four major regional workshops were successfully organised. Y2K compliance has been achieved for software and services being provided by NIC.

Ministry of Home Affairs

5.59 The Immigration Control System developed and implemented at IGIA, Delhi and Sahar Airport, Mumbai has further been modified and implemented at Goa Airport, NSCBI Airport, Calcutta and Haridaspur LCP on Indo Bangladesh border. The Information System developed for respective Awards were successfully utilised for (a) Padma Awards 1999, (b) Police Medal Awards 1998 & (c) Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards 1998. NICNET based e-mail & Internet browsing facility has been provided in the offices of Home Secretary & Senior officers of MHA. An unified Internet access and Video Conferencing through ISDN has been established in the office of Hon'ble Home Minister.

Department of Official Language

5.60 A new server computer was installed to which 13 client computers, purchased by the Department of Official Language, was connected to it. The packages relating to daily Diary system and Hindi books List Monitoring System were converted to Windows based technology. Other MIS regarding Hindi Teaching Scheme Examination Result Processing, Quarterly Report Analysis, Monitoring of town Language Implementation Committees, Official Language Information system, Translator's Panel system continued to be implemented.

Legal Informatics

5.61 The computing infrastructure at the Ministry of Law, Justice and company Affairs was augmented by providing two

server systems. The India Code database was updated. Web pages were created for the Law Commission, Inter-State Council and Tihar Jail. Training programmes were organised for the officers and staff of the Legal Affairs Department and the Official Language wing of the Ministry on the use of office management suite of softwares.

Customs Computerisation

5.62 Indian Customs EDI System (ICES) software developed by NIC for the Central Board of Excise and Customs has been further augmented by additional number of modules, and implemented at all the Customs Houses located throughout the country. Both the import and export modules have been operationalised, and this has helped transfer the Customs Houses into nearly "paperless" office. The Duty drawback payments are directly credited to the accounts of exports, thereby boosting international trade. A number of procedures were reengineered to facilitate trade. Customs linkage with DGFT, Ports, Airports, Banks and AEPC were completed in ICES software through EDI. Customs linkages with Plant Quarantine and Fumigation Stations (PQFS) and Animal Quarantine Stations of the Ministry of Agriculture would be taken very shortly.

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system implementation

5.63 NIC continued to provide EDI connectivity on NICNET to Custom House Agents, Imports and Exports at Delhi Custom House. DGFT, AEPC, Punjab National Bank (PNB) and RBI were also connected to the Custom House. All the required documents in Customs and DGFT were mapped into EDIFACT standards on the NICNET platform. NIC installed an Electronic Commerce Server, the Trading Post, on NICNET for providing

the state-of-the-art web based Electronic Commerce (EC) and EDI solution over the INTERNET from a universal browser This approach was used to create EC/EDI solutions for Customs, DGFT and Central Excise. Pilot projects were initiated in all these areas with the Trading Post.

Central Excise Computerisation

5.64 The system for Excise Revenue and Monitoring (SERMON) was made Y2K Compliant while all the budget charges were incorporated in the software package. Implementation of SERMON was speeded up at a large number of sites. A web site was created for the Central Excise Department. SERMON was revised to allow Assessors to file excise documents electronically from their premises, using Trading Post on NICNET Pilot project trials were conducted through NICNET in Delhi Commissionerate for submission data to SERMON which was web-enabled.

Environment & Forests Informatics

5.65 A WEB site for the Ministry of Environment & Forests has been created on NICNET 's C-WEB. Environment and Forest Clearance for Development projects are being provided on line in the web site of this Ministry. A decision support system for resource management and setting up research priorities related to Forest has been developed for the Indian Council of Forest Research and Education. An application for generating Risk Contours for Industrial Pockets using GIS has been developed for Vapi. Species Recognition System has been developed for Forest Research Institute for identifying the wood samples being provided by different organisations.

Social Justice and Empowerment

5.66 Computer systems were provided to all officers and sections and Local area network (LAN) has been established. Information for WEB site has been provided prepared for Ministry and Disabilities Commission. Projects on "Monitoring of grants to voluntary organisations" and "Dairy and file monitoring and tracking system" using client /server approach has been taken up.

Human Resource Development

5.67 NIC established local area network (LAN) and provided MIS support to Departments of Education , Youth Affairs and Sports, Culture and Women and Child Development. Home pages have been launched for Youth Affairs & Sports, Education Consultants India and Cultural fund. CD-ROM on fifty years of education has been prepared Computer based information on all schemes operated by Ministry is being provided in the facilitation counter.

5.68 Perspective IT plan document has been prepared for Department of Education. Consultation and Technical services were provided to Kendriya Vidyalaya Sanghatan, National Council for Teacher Education, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language , Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan etc. Data bases for "award of Scholarship grants and grants to NGOs " for Department of Culture have been developed.

5.69 Data base of Sixth All India Educational Survey on educational facilities in villages / towns , infrastructure facilities in all schools and teacher information system has been prepared and number of reports have been generated. Nine

national level publications have been brought out and eleven CD-ROMs consisting of reports and databases have been prepared.

Water Resources Informatics

5.70 NICNET BASED Reservoir Level Monitoring system was continued to be used by the ministry of Water Resources. Flood Forecasting & Warning Network Appraisal System is being continuously supported. Design and Development of INTRANET for the Water Resources sector was initiated. Project activities of Computerisation of Minor Irrigation Census 1993-94 was underway. NICNET connectivity has been provided to Central Ground Water Board, Jamnagar House, Command Area Development, Minor Irrigation Wing at Krishi Bhavan, Indus/ER at CGO Complex, CSMRS and National Water Development Agency. Internet/Email services have been provided to all the organisations of Ministry of Water Resources in Delhi. Support was extended to Hydrology Project which was funded by World Bank.

Economic Affairs

5.71 NIC has provided computerisation support for the Budget 1998-1999 preparation. NIC has designed and developed the software for monitoring of Externally Assisted Projects (EAMIS) and made operational in the Ministries of Finance, Power, Agriculture, Surface Transport, Health and Family Welfare, and Urban Affairs and Employment, and also in 9 States. EAMIS software supports on-line monitoring of projects. Internet access has been provided to MoF (North Block) for 150 nodes with radio frequency link.

Health and Family Welfare Informatics

5.72 For accessing the subject based data bases from Internet and to provide extensive e-mail services to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, high band width RF link based LAN with mail and proxy servers has been made operational. This in turn would facilitate inter and intra Ministry work flow applications. A District level data base has been developed for monitoring and evaluating the performance of Community Needs Assignment Approach Programme of Dept. of Family Welfare. Video Conferencing Facility on NICNET has been established in the Ministry. Home Page containing the information related to Dept of Family Welfare, Dept. of Indian Systems of Medicine and homeopathy and National Aids Control organisations has been created under URL address : [HYPERLINK http://www.nic.in/mohfw](http://www.nic.in/mohfw).

Tourism Informatics

5.73 To bring transparency in administration an Information & Facilitation Counter was set up in the Ministry for dissemination of information related to Tourism Infrastructure, economic opportunities in the sector, arrival trends of foreign Tourists etc to planners, research workers and general public. Project activities includes analysis of tourist arrivals, foreign exchange earnings, promotional expenditure in major countries etc. evaluation and performance of Hotel and Travel Trade Industry.

Commerce Informatics

5.74 NIC has taken up development of web enabled application for licence processing and its electronic interface with trade and

industry. The Export - Import Policy, procedure, ITC(HS) database and Rate Contract information were hosted on Internet. An Electronic Data Interchange based system for the benefit of Small and Medium enterprises were developed for interaction with Regional offices of Directorate General of Foreign Trade. The major Regional offices of Directorate General of Supply and Disposal have also been integrated into NICNET base processing.

Textile Informatics

5.75 NIC has taken up a project for establishment of Information Technology driven Economic Research and Market Intelligence units for Ministry of Textiles, Textiles Commissioner and Textile Committee to provide necessary information base for Textile Sector. A detailed information Technology plan for Textile Sector has also been worked out. The important offices of Textile sector like Textile Commissioner, Development Commissioner etc. have been integrated into NICNET / Internet based environment.

Press Information Bureau

5.76 Nearly 100 new desktop PCs were installed at PIB Hqs., and Regional / Branch offices as part of 9th plan scheme of computerisation. All computers at PIB Hqs. Were networked to provide for NICNET / Internet access. Training was provided to all users enabling fully computerised office work. PIB's WEB site was redesigned by NIC to incorporate all publicity output in English, Hindi and Urdu languages. Newspaper quality image editing and duplication facility was setup at four Regional offices.

5.77 PIB conducted training program on desktop publishing and use of Internet for Urdu media persons of Lucknow region at Lucknow in association with NIC. PIB setup media center for International Film festival of India 1999 at Hyderabad with support of NIC. Publicity material in four languages and photographs were updated daily from Hyderabad on PIB's WEB site in NIC Hqs.

Energy Informatics

5.78 NIC provided NICNET services and MIS support to Central Electricity Authority(CEA), Ministry of Power(MOP), Ministry of Coal(MOC), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MOP&NG), Department of Chemical & Petrochemicals (DC&PC) and Ministry of Non conventional Energy Sources (MNES). IT plan report has been prepared for MOP, MOC, MOP&NG, DC&PC and MNES. RF link connectivity has been extended to CEA, PFC, MOP, MOC, MOP&NG, DC&PC. VSAT connectivity has been provided at CMPDI(Ranchi) , GEB (Gandhinagar) and NPTI (Faridabad), NEDA (Lucknow), ANERT (Trivendrum). Implemented LAN at KPCL Hqrs. And Design offices, MOC, MOP&NG, DC&PC, MNES. Video Conferencing has been extended to Power Minister's office and was used between CM(AP) and power minister.

5.79 The database on Chemical & Petro Chemicals made up to date. The web page of MOP&NG has been launched on 2nd October, 1998. 30 officers of MOP&NG connected on LAN. The information on power sector on Daily generation, Monthly performance statistics, Monthly Peak Demand, Power Supply Position has been put by CEA on NICNET for the usage of

MOP/CEA. The web site of MOP was enhanced to include competitive bidding, policy initiatives/ clarifications, electricity reform etc. Thirty pentium machines were connected on LAN in MNES and e-mail & internet services were provided to all officers of MNES. Training was imparted on Window NT, Window 95, MS-Office , access of information on internet. LAN at MNES was extended to cover all the officers up to SO level. Web site of MNES has been launched on 1st Jan.,1999.

5.80 USAID has approved NIC's proposal on implementation of POWERNET project & PFC awarded the project to NIC/ NICS I for implementation. Three VSATs under POWERNET has been installed at RSEB, MSEB, & HPSEB location. A feasibility study on implementation of Intranet at MSEB was conducted and the same was submitted to Chairman, MSEB A proposal of networking power sector PSUs has been prepared and submitted to MOP for consideration.

Agricultural Informatics

5.81 In order to strengthen NICNET based Agricultural Informatics and Communication for sustainable agricultural development , NIC has undertaken, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, various project activities for the development of Fertiliser Informatics, Livestock Informatics, Horticulture Informatics, Agricultural Extension Informatics Network, Agricultural Research Informatics, Plant Protection Informatics, Fisheries Informatics, Seed Informatics, Crops Informatics, Agriculture Marketing Informatics Network, Agriculture Credit Informatics, Watershed GIS for rainfed farming, etc. DAC has been already equipped with NICNET LAN (as a backbone) with a high speed KU-band VSAT and RF

link for Intranet/Internet services at Krishi Bhawan, Shastri Bhawan and Krishi Vistar Bhawan. NICNET based Public Information and Facilitation Centre (PIFC) has already been made functional for information access at Krishi Bhawan.

5.82 IT Plan for the Agriculture Sector "NICNET based Agricultural Informatics and Communication to facilitate higher sustainable agriculture productivity and establish Indian Agriculture on-line in the country " was submitted to the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) and to this effect, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme was under preparation by DAC for EFC approval. As desired by the EFC of DAC, a proposal on "NICNET based Early Warning Information System Network on Agricultural Situation in India" was under submission to DAC. IT Plan for the Soil & Water Conservation Division, Rainfed Farming Division, Fertilisers Division and Natural Disaster Management Division have been submitted.

5.83 National Horticulture Board (NHB) has established its Intranet over NICNET linking their 5 regional offices and networking of their remaining 25 offices are on-going. Various functional units of DAC have also initiated networking of their attached offices and sub-ordinate offices, programme implementing agencies, etc. Plant Protection and Quarantine Informatics Network over NICNET was under implementation.

5.84 Agricultural Economics and Statistics Network (AGRIESNET) is a Close-User-Group of Agricultural Economics And Statistics Agencies on NICNET. Decision Support Systems have been developed for Area Production Yield, Land-Use statistics, Whole Sale and retail prices, Livestock Census etc. Web enabled application has been developed on NICNET to collect weekly information on Crop prospects in the country

through the network of Market Intelligence Units. System Requirement Specifications study has been completed to build up the Historical Databases on Information related to Agriculture.

5.85 NIC has been entrusted with the computerisation of Agricultural Census (1995-96) and Input Survey (1996-97) data, by DAC on a turn-key basis. This project will be executed through NIC State Units, NIC Regional Centres, and NIC's Regional Computer Centres. To strengthen the Agricultural Extension under the Technology Dissemination Component (TDC) of the NATP, DAC has approved utilisation of NICNET services and its connectivity at identified districts and blocks. An Informatics Network on watersheds Development programmes is contemplated.

Livestock and Fisheries Informatics

5.86 Animal Production and Health Informatics Network (APHNET) and Fisheries Informatics Network (FISHNET) as the Close-User-Group (CUGs) of NICNET are being developed by NIC for the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. This would provide effective Informatics and Communications facilities for Livestock and Fisheries development activities in the country. Under APHNET and FISHNET, the subordinate offices of DAH&D and the State Directorates of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services and Fisheries are being provided with NICNET Connectivity. Informatics Technology Proposals for the development of APHNET and FISHNET have been submitted by NIC to the DAH&D for bringing IT revolution in these sectors. Exhaustive APHNET IT Proposal for providing NICNET Connectivity to all the Livestock Production and Health

Units at State/District levels is being submitted to DAH & D during this financial year.

NICNET based Agricultural Research Information Network (ARISNET)

5.87 Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has taken a major step with regards to the development of the Agricultural Research Information System (ARIS) as a Close-User- Group (CUG) over NICNET Information Super Highway. Under this ARIS project, 80% of the ARIS Centers established at State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and ICAR Institutes/NRCs/PDs are presently using NICNET - FTDMA VSATs and dial-up NICNET connectivity for effective E-mail and Internet accesses. NICNET LANs are operational at Krishi Bhawan and Krishi Anusandhan Bhavan. Presently, NIC is implementing a turn-key Project of about Rs. 2 Crores for the ARIS Center at ICAR Headquarter. World Bank Aided National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) of ICAR has been extensively using NICNET facilities including International Video-Conferencing with IOWA State University, USA and FAO - Rome. ICAR has taken a strategic decision to use NICNET Services for effective implementation of Information System Development (ISD) component of NATP ARISNET links 89 ICAR Institutions, 28 State Agricultural Universities, 107 Agricultural University Colleges, 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras, and about 850 Agricultural Research Stations located through out the country.

Fertilizer Informatics

5.88 NIC is executing the turnkey paid project titled "Integrated Fertilizer MIS [IFMIS] of worth Rs. 1.70 crores to develop Planning, Movement, Import, Handling-Payment, Project Monitoring, Performance Monitoring-Evaluation, Finance and Budget Systems to strengthen fertilizer informatics for decision support. User manuals on various modules, based on IEEE standards, have been prepared and submitted to the Department. IT Plan for the Fertiliser Sector was submitted and accepted by the Department of Fertilizers. Fertiliser Informatics Network (FERTNET), which is a closed user group over NICNET, has been established by installing FTDMA VSATs at Department of Fertilizers and different sites of IFFCO, NFL, MFL, GNFC, alongwith dial-up connectivity to FCI and HFCL. FTDMA VSATs with voice to NFL Plants and dial-up connectivity to 30 NFL Area offices have been established to strengthen their decision support system. Project initiatives were undertaken to extend NICNET connectivity to other companies of fertilizer sector to strengthen FERTNET.

Audit Computerisation

5.89 NIC has given MIS support to the Indian Audit and Accounts Department for its audit and house keeping functions. During this year, NIC has developed the software packages for Budget/Expenditure Monitoring for CAG HQ, which takes Expenditure data from field offices on floppies. A separate package for field offices is also developed by which Expenditure data is entered, and floppy is prepared for CAG HQ. The budget releases given by CAG HQ to its field offices quarterly are also entered and monitored. The software package for Empanelment of

CA Firms has been developed and implemented by NIC. This data is sent to Company Affairs, again entered and then the letters are issued. These two packages are now linked up so that the data sent through E-mail is accepted by Company Affairs. The data being confidential is encrypted before sending.

5.90 NIC has installed KU-band VSAT at CAG Headquarters for INTERNET Services. NIC has also established a RF link connection at CAG HQ. NIC is assisting CAG in the plan, implementation of large IT projects. NIC has deputed one Officer at the level of Deputy Director General to the office of the CAG, as Advisor(IT).

Central Government Accounts

5.91 The National Informatics Centre (NIC) has been actively working for the development and implementation of computer based information systems in the office of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). A new procedure/report has been included in the IMPROVE package to consolidate the data-wise DDO-wise data and this data sent as a text file is used in the revised CONTACT software for implementation in CCA offices. Provision has been made to take the data into multiple volumes for incorporation into CONTACT.

5.92 Government Accounting Information System (GAINS) has been maintained and implemented by NIC to generate all the required reports sent to Ministry of Finance every month. During this year five additional reports using Developer/2000 on state plan/central plan expenditure, debts and liabilities have been prepared. Substantial effort has been made to make all

the Accounting Software packages Y2K compliant in the office of CGA.

Tele-Informatics Development & Division

5.93 Election Results System using NICNET facilities was developed for the State Assembly Elections held in the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Delhi. Interactive Voice Response System for Lawyers and Litigants to utilize COURTNIC Services was developed and made operational. A Web-based News Magazine was developed to deliver the Election Results Information to the Doordarshan studio for Live Broadcast.

Labour Informatics Network (LabourNet)

5.94 NIC has continued to provide Informatics support to the Ministry of Labour and its associated organisations such as Employee's Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Office of the Chief Labour Commissioner, Directorate General of Employment & Training, Directorate General of Labour Welfare, Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and Labour Bureau. Implementation of NICNET based Integrated Labour Informatics was on-going. Computerised Employees Pension system (CEPS) version 1.0.1 and 1.0.2 softwares, and Computerised Receipt Account System (CRAS) version 2.0 were released and implemented in the offices of Employees Provident Fund Organisation. NIC has undertaken development of MIS for Vocational Training Scheme, assisted by the World Bank, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Employment and Training. Launching of Homepage on LabourNet was undertaken.

Computerised Central Pension Accounting Office

5.95 Computerised Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO) has been set up as a joint venture project between NIC and Ministry of Finance. All the functions of this office such as receipt/diarying, verification, validation upto the state of despatch have been computerised. This has eliminated manual registers and implemented the concept of less-paper office. INTERNET E-mail service over NICNET has been established facilitating the departments and pensioners to exchange e-mails with CPAO. Efforts were on to install a web server at CPAO which will facilitate the pensioners to enquire about status of their pension from other NICNET/INTERNET sites.

NICNET based Bio-Informatics Network

5.96 Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has established Bio-informatics Network linking its Bio-Informatics centres located at 32 premier institutions throughout the country, using NICNET facilities. NIC continued to provide informatics support to the Department of Biotechnology. In order to provide INTERNET access to these centres, installation of NICNET Ku-band VSATs was supported. As and when new centres are established, NIC would consider developing linkages of these centres with NICNET. INTRANET in the Department of Biotechnology was developed through the joint efforts of NIC and DBT. A state-of-the-art Local Area Network with full access to INTERNET has been established enabling all scientific officers to have access to scientific databases on the INTERNET

Ministry of Personnel and Administrative Reforms

5.97 A Web site for the Ministry of Personnel has been created with information on circulars of the Pension Department and Establishment Officer, foreign training circular, and All India Services Conduct Rules, released on the NIC's Web Server. All developed/ implemented application packages implemented in the Ministry of Personnel by NIC, are made Y2K compliant. Civil Services Examination (1997) results were published in the Web site.

Informatics Support to Planning Commission

5.98 NICNET services were utilised for information exchange between the Planning Commission between State/Central Government departments. Input-Output Table for the Year 1993-94 for the Indian Economy was under preparation. Minimum Data Record (MDR) database was updated and made available for access to various divisions of the Planning Commission. Draft Ninth Plan document was made available on HYPERLINK <http://www.nic.in> Data processing support was provided to the projects on Evaluation studies on Integrated Tribal Development programme, Employment Assurance Scheme, and Khadi and Village Industries.

Analytical and Modelling Project studies

5.99 NIC has completed Analytical and Modelling Project studies on (a) the Sixth All India Educational Survey (SIF-II), and (b) transportation and distribution system for PDS commodities viz. Wheat, sugar and rice in the state of Gujarat.

NIC has developed generic Transportation & Distribution system based on multi-objective optimization technique.. Studies on (a) CPM/PERT based project monitoring system for management of Central Sector projects and (b) Macro Simulation system for pre-execution monitoring of projects were completed.

NICNET support to State Government Informatics Development Programme.

5.100 NIC has set up NICNET facilities in 25 State capitals, 7 Union Territories and 500 district centres, NICNET facilities were utilised for the development of computer based Government Informatics at the state/district level. NIC-State Coordination Committees (NSCC) as well as NIC-District Co-ordination Committees (NDCC) reviewed the informatics development programmes at state and district levels for smooth implementation. State Government departments utilised NICNET facilities for on-line monitoring of various sectors of economy and social developments on a regular basis, and also for database development for administration and development planning.

5.101 NICNET based UUCP connectivity for facilitating E-mails between districts and State headquarters were established with the mail servers installed at NIC State units. LAN/WAN connectivity has been established at NIC State units to provide NICNET/INTERNET services. State level Departmental Heads were being provided with NICNET/INTERNET E-mail Addresses for information exchange.

5.102 During 1998-99, in all the States, NICNET facilities were used for development of decisions support system and NICNET

based information system for project monitoring and schemes monitoring very effectively.

5.103 NIC State units have implemented MIS projects on NMEP, ICDS, Public Grievances, Pension Payment, TDS, wholesale and retail prices of essential and agricultural commodities, Weather Watch, 20 point programme, Rural area and employment scheme, Urban areas and employment schemes, PMRY, Intergated Pest Management (IPM), Animal Disease Surveillance, IRDP indicators, Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme, Rainfall Data, FCI offtake etc.

5.104 NIC State units were involved in the implementation of (i) Treasury computerisation, (ii) Land records computerisation, (iii) 6th All-India Education Survey, (iv) Courts Computerisation, (v) Agricultural census and Livestock census computerisation, (vi) ROC offices computerisation, (vii) Regional Passport Office computerisation, (viii) Provident Fund Office computerisation, (ix) Central excise computerisation, (x) Immigration office computerisation, (xi) PLI computerisation, (xii) CAT Computerisation, (xiii) DGFT Office Computerisation, (xiv) State Cooperative Agricultural and Rural Development Banks Computerisation, (xv) FCI Computerisation, (xvi) Emploument Exchanges Computerisation, (xvii) Commercial Taxes Computerisation, (xviii) Transport Computerisation, (xix) DISNIC Programme, and (xx) CRISP Programme.

5.105 State Governments utilise NICNET facilities in districts to send weekly, fortnightly and monthly reports from district level departments resulting in reduction of submission time of various periodic reports. NIC State Units have also provided NICNET support services for Research and Education Institutions connected under RENNIC Services Programmes, MEDLARS

Services, GISTNIC Services. Both State and District NIC Centres provided Network Support for Assembly Elections held in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Mizoram.

5.106 NIC State Units have taken steps to prepare Five Year IT Plans for various sectors dovetailing IT Plans prepared for the various sectors at Central Government level, in the States. Project activities were undertaken to convert all the software modules operational in various NIC State/District units, Y2K compliant. Efforts were on to host Web pages for various State Government Departments. All NIC District Centres and State Units have been provided with Receive-only VSAT (Direc-PC) for heavy downloading of Web documents. NIC(Pune) has successfully implemented the National Project "WARANA Wired Village" at Warana Nagar in the State of Maharashtra. UT of Lakshadweep Administration has got NICNET based INTERNET Services to schools located in the island.

DISNIC programme

5.107 DISNIC databases were utilised in the State of Madhya Pradesh to prepare the Madhya Pradesh Human Development Information base, which has been acknowledged in the Madhya Pradesh Human Development Report (1998). NIC has provided informatics and analytical support to the Planning Commission Committee to identify 100 Most backward and Poorest Districts In the Country, under the Chairmanship of Dr.E.A.S. Sarma, the then Principal Advisor, Planning Commission. As a follow up of this report, NIC has undertaken repeat analysis for the State of Haryana for ground truth verification. The Internal Committee of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, which has examined the Sarma Committee Report, has appreciated the work done by NIC. A

proposal on Agriculture Scenario - A Thematic View" has been prepared and submitted for the approval. IT Plan for the DISNIC-PLAN project has been submitted.

Natural Resources Informatics Project

5.108 Natural Resources Informatics Development Programme (NRIS) aims to provide spatial data on various Natural Resources Themes over NICNET, in coordination with agencies like NBSS&LUP, NRSA, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and State Level Resource Organizations. Over 50 thematic layers were identified and developed using remote sensing, field survey and GIS techniques in 1:2,50,000 scale, which are important input for integrated planning, in districts. Data generation for resource themes on geology, geomorphology, soil, land use / land cover etc. was undertaken by Aligarh Muslim University for four districts, namely, Aligarh, Bulandshahr, Mathura and Bharatpur. Data survey for district Thane in Maharashtra is in progress through IIT, Bombay. In addition to above, Natural Resources Informatics Projects have been evolved and developed in the area of soil and water conservation, watershed management and various other related natural resources problem domain.

Computerised Rural Information Systems Project (CRISP)

5.109 CRISP Project is sponsored by Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (MRA&E) and NIC is Technical Consultant to the Project. The project started in 1986 on pilot basis and was expanded to all the DRDAs in 1987. CRISP software package was designed and developed by NIC and deployment and training was organised by NIC through its NIC State and

District units. Computing environment at the DRDAs has been upgraded by MRA&E. SRS Document for enhancing the CRISP project component has been submitted to MRA&E. Action has been taken to prepare GIS based decision Support system on Poverty Alleviation programmes at district level. NIC organises IT Training programmes for DRDA officials on regular basis.

CHAPTER VI

GRANT-IN-AID FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH

6.1 The Socio-Economic Research (SER) Unit assists Planning Commission in implementing the scheme of grant-in-aid to Universities/Institutions for research on Planning and Development.

6.2 A Group of Advisers headed by Member Secretary, Planning Commission has been constituted for the purpose of considering the research proposals on studies, seminars, institution development and publication of research work. This Group met twice upto December, 1998.

6.3 Grant-in-Aid amounting to Rs. 1,37,50,710/- have been released during 1998-99 (as on 5th January, 1999) for the following activities :

i) Institution Development	Rs. 10,42,000/-
ii) Research Studies	Rs. 2,56,850/-
iii) Seminar/Workshops	Rs. 1,65,000/-
iv) Others	Rs. 6,600/-
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Total :	Rs. 14,70,450/-
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Institution-wise details of grant provided during 1998-99 is at Annexure-I.

6.4 Planning Commission has also provided grant-in-aid to Universities/Research Institution for setting up of Centres, Chairs and Units in Planning and Development. These are set up at the following Institutions/Universities :

- 1) Development Planning Centre at IEG
- 2) Plan and Policy Research Unit at Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi Centre.
- 3) Allahabad University, Allahabad
- 4) Mysore University, Mysore
- 5) University of Mumbai, Mumbai
- 6) University of Rajasthan, Jaipur
- 7) Punjabi University, Patiala
- 8) Siyaji Rao University, Baroda
- 9) Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvantapuram
- 10) Vishwa Bharthi Shantiniketan, West Bengal
- 11) Jadavpur University, Jadavpur
- 12) Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

13) University of Madras, Chennai

14) Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune

The Development Planning Centre at IEG (DPC)

6.5 The Development Planning Centre was set up to carry out research on techniques of development planning in the changing economic environment. The DPC has been conducting a number of Research projects on Employment generation. A major research work being done for Planning Commission is the development of a macro economic model.

6.6 Advisory Committees have been set up in nine Universities/Research Institutions. The purpose of the Advisory Committee are to advise on promotion of research in Planning and Development.

Centre for Research in Planning and Development (CRPD), Mumbai.

6.7 Planning Commission has set up a Centre for Research In Planning and Development Unit in the Department of Economics, Mumbai University. The thrust area of research in the Unit is social dynamics in urban areas. CRPD has completed a project on Integrated Development on Small and Medium Towns with special reference to Maharashtra State.

6.8 The unit has guidelines framed for processing the research and seminar proposals.

6.9 Four Research Studies have been completed during 1998-99 and the draft and final reports are received. Details are at Annexure-II.

6.10 Proceedings and recommendations of the Seminar/Conferences supported under the SER Programme have been received from six institutions during 1998-99. Details are at Annexure-III.

6.11 The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) was reconstituted on 21st Aug., 1998 under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. It includes eminent scientists and economists as members. The scope of work of this Committee is broader than the earlier RAC. In view of the on going economic reforms and the changing scenario of world economy, the type of research required in various disciplines has undergone a major change. The Committee will mainly focus attention on the national level research requirements. This includes assessment of and advice on the future directions of social, economic and industrial development of the country.

The main terms of reference are :

(i) The Committee will assess and advice on the future directions of social, economic and industrial development of the country. In this context, the Committee will deliberate upon the current and future technological needs and options of the Nation for all spheres of economic activities, and its work should provide the agenda for research and development, and technology acquisition by Government and industry.

(ii) To advise on any other matter relevant or incidental to discharge the above function.

(iii) The Committee may meet as often as may be decided by its Chairman. Normally, its meeting will be held at New Delhi.

(iv) Planning Commission will provide the secretariat of the Committee.

ANNEXURE-I

LIST OF RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS/UNIVERSITIES TO WHOM GRANT-IN-AID WAS RELEASED DURING 1998-99 (*) FOR INSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT, CARRYING OUT RESEARCH STUDIES AND SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS UNDER SOCIO- ECONOMIC-RESEARCH PROGRAMME OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION:-

S.No.	Title	Name of Institution	Amount
I. INSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT :-			
1.	Establishing a Centre for Research in Planning and Development.	University of Mumbai, Mumbai.	10,42,000/=
Sub Total - I			<u>10,42,000/=</u>
II. RESEARCH STUDIES :-			
1.	Potential of Property Tax in some of the major cities in India.	National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi.	15,000/=
2.	Status, Impact & Determination of Farmers Participation in Irrigation Management in India.	Institute for Resource Management & Economic Development, New Delhi.	1,44,500/=
3.	Changing Agrarian Relation and New Directions for Policies in India.	Gandhian Institute of Studies, Varanasi.	0,19,500/=
4.	Involving Academic Bodies in Studies of Productive Development Strategies in North-East Region.	Indian Association of Social Sciences Institution, New Delhi.	0,20,000/=
5.	Agriculture Growth in India During 1980-83 and 1990-93. A District Level Study.	Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi.	0,57,850/=
Sub Total - II			<u>2,56,850/=</u>

III. SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

1. International Conference on "Globalisation and Developing Countries".	Indian Centre for International Co-operation, New Delhi.	0,37,500)/=
2. XXXVI Annual Conference of Indian Association for Advancement of Medical Education.	Indian Association for Advancement of Medical Education, Chennai.	0,25,000)/=
3. 39th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Labour Economics, New Delhi.	Indian Society of Labour Economics, New Delhi.	0,25,000)/=
4. Three day Seminar on "Internal Sector, Emerging Perspective in Development."	Indian Society of Labour Economics Research and Development Trust, Delhi.	0,25,000)/=
5. 30th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Labour Economics.	Indian Society of Labour Economics, New Delhi.	0,02,500)/=
6. 1st Amrit (80th Jubilee) Indian Economic Association.	Indian Economic Association Calcutta.	0,25,000)/=
7. 21st Indian Social Science Congress.	Indian Academy of Social Sciences, Allahabad.	0,25,000)/=
Sub Total - III		<u>1,65,000)/=</u>
IV. OTHERS :-		
Payment of Honorarium to the External Expert for evaluating The Research Proposals/Reports	Sub Total - IV	<u>0,06,600)/=</u>
Grant Total (I+II+III+IV) =		<u>14,70,450)/=</u>

* As on 31st December, 1998.

ANNEXURE - II

THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITIES/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS HAVE COMPLETED THE RESEARCH STUDIES DURING 1998-99 (*) UNDER THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH PROGRAMME OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION :-

S. No.	Title of Study	Name of Universities/ Institutions
1.	Potential of Property Tax in Major Cities of India. New Delhi.	National Institute of Public Finance and Policy,
2.	Changing Agrarian Relation and new Development for Policies in North Bihar.	Gandhian Institute of Studies, Varanasi.
3.	Involving Academic Bodies in Studies of Perspective Development Strategies in North-East Region.	Indian Association of Social Science Institutions, New Delhi.
4.	Agriculture Growth in India during 1980-83 and 1990-93 A District Level Study.	Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi.

*** As on 31st December, 1998.**

ANNEXURE - III

THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITIES/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS HAVE ORGANISED THE SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS/SYMPIOSIUM DURING 1998-99 (*) UNDER THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH PROGRAMME OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

S.No.	Title of Study	Name of Universities/Institutions
1.	International Conference on "Globalisation & Developing Countries".	Indian Centre for International Co-operation, New Delhi.
2.	XXXVI Annual Conference of Indian Association for Advancement of Medical Education.	Indian Association for Advancement of Medical Education, Chennai.
3.	39th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Labour Economics, New Delhi.	Indian Society of Labour Economics, New Delhi.
4.	Three day Seminar on "Internal Sector, Emerging Perspective in Development."	Indian Society of Labour Economics Research and Development Trust, Delhi.
5.	30th Annual Conference of Indian Society of Labour Economics.	Indian Society of Labour Economics, New Delhi.
6.	1st Amrit (80th Jubilee) Indian Economic Association	Indian Economic Association, Calcutta.
7.	21st Indian Social Science Congress.	Indian Academy of Social Sciences, Allahabad.

* As on 31st December, 1998.

APPENDIX

ROLE, COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS

1. The Planning Commission was constituted in March, 1950 by a Resolution of the Government of India, and works under the overall guidance of the National Development Council. The Planning Commission consults the Central Ministries and the State Governments while formulating Five Year Plans and Annual Plans and also oversees their implementation. The Commission also functions as an advisory body at the apex level.

FUNCTIONS:

2. The following functions have been assigned to the Planning Commission.

(a) Make an assessment of the material, capital and human resources of the country, including technical personnel and investigate the possibilities of augmenting such of these resources as are found to be deficient in relation to the nation's requirements;

(b) formulate a Plan for the most effective and balanced utilisation of country's resources;

(c) on a determination of priorities, define the stages in which the Plan should be carried out and propose the allocation of resources for the due completion of each stage;

(d) indicate the factors which are tending to retard economic development, and determine the conditions, which in view of the current social and political situation, should be established for the successful execution of the Plan;

(e) determine the nature of the machinery which will be necessary for securing the successful implementation of each stage of the Plan in all its aspects;

(f) appraise from time to time the progress achieved in the execution of each stage of the Plan and recommend the adjustments of policy and measures that such appraisal may show to be necessary; and

(g) make such interim or ancillary recommendations as appear to it to be appropriate either for facilitating the discharge of the duties assigned to it or on a consideration of prevailing economic conditions, current policies, measures and development programmes or on an examination of such specific problems as may be referred to it for advice by Central or State Governments.

3. Besides, the Planning Commission has been entrusted with the responsibility in the following areas as per Allocation of Business Rules:

(a) Public Cooperation in National Development;

(b) Hill Area Development Programme;

(c) Institute of Applied Manpower Research; and

(d) National Informatics Centre (NIC).

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION

4. Shri A.B. Vajpayee, the Prime Minister, who is the ex-officio Chairman of the Commission, appointed Shri Jaswant

Singh as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission on 25-3-1998. Shri Ram Naik Minister of State for Railways has been given the additional charge for the Ministry of Planning & Programme Implementation. Dr. S.R. Hashim was appointed as Member Secretary of the Planning Commission w.e.f 20.01.1998. Subsequently, Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia was appointed as Member on 17.08.1998.

5. The Planning Commission was reconstituted as per the notification issued on 4.2.1999 as follows :

Shri A.B. Vajpayee - Chairman
Prime Minister

Shri K.C. Pant - Deputy Chairman (with the rank of
Cabinet Minister)

Shri Jaswant Singh - Member
Minister of External
Affairs and Minister of
Electronics

Shri Yashwant Sinha - Member
Minister of Finance

Shri Montek Singh - Member
Ahluwalia

Dr. S.P. Gupta - Member

Dr. S.R. Hashim - Member

Dr. D.N. Tiwari - Member

As per the Notification issued on 19-2-1999, Shri Ram Naik, Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation has also been appointed as ex-officio Member of the Planning Commission.

6. The organisational chart of the Planning Commission as on 17.02.1999 is attached.

7. The Prime Minister in his capacity as Chairman of the Planning Commission, participates and gives direction to the Commission on all major issues of policy.

ROLE OF PLANNING COMMISSION

8. From a highly centralised planning system, the Indian economy is gradually moving towards indicative planning where Planning Commission will concern itself with the building of a long term strategic vision of the future and decide on priorities of nation. It will work out sectoral targets and provide promotional stimulus to the economy to grow in the desired direction.

9. Planning Commission will play an integrative role in the development of a holistic approach to the policy formulation in critical areas of human and economic development. In the social sector, schemes which require coordination and synthesis like rural health, drinking water, rural energy needs, literacy and environment protection have yet to be subjected to coordinated policy formulation. It has led to multiplicity of agencies. An

integrated approach can lead to better results at much lower costs.

10. The emphasis of the Commission will be on maximising the output by using our limited resources optimally. Instead of looking for mere increase in the plan outlays, the effort will be to look for increases in the efficiency of utilisation of the allocations being made. The priorities, programmes and strategies of the Plan, therefore, have to take into account all these factors.

11. With the emergence of severe constraints on available budgetary resources, the resource allocation system between the States and Ministries of the Central Government will be under strain. This will require the Planning Commission to play a mediatory and facilitating role, keeping in view the best interest of all concerned. It will have to ensure smooth management of the change and help in creating a culture of high productivity and efficiency in the Government.

12. The key to efficient utilisation of resources lies in the creation of appropriate self-managed organisations at all levels. In this area, Planning Commission will play a systems change role and provide consultancy within the Government for developing better systems.

13. In order to spread the gains of experience more widely, Planning Commission will also play an information dissemination role.

ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP

14. The Planning Commission functions through several technical/subject Divisions. Each Division is headed by a Senior Officer designated as Pr. Adviser/ Adviser/Addl. Adviser/Jt. Secretary/Jt. Adviser who function under the overall supervision and guidance of the Member-Secretary.

15. The Deputy Chairman and the full time Members of the Planning Commission function as a composite body in the matter of detailed plan formulation. They provide advice and guidance to the subject Divisions of the Commission in the various exercises undertaken for the formulation of Approach to the Five Year Plans, and Annual Plans. Their expert guidance is also available to the subject Divisions for monitoring and evaluating the Plan programmes, projects and schemes. Planning Commission was set up through a Cabinet Secretariat resolution No.I-P(C)/50 dated the 15th March, 1950.

16. The various Divisions in the Commission fall under two broad categories:

- (I) General Divisions which are concerned with aspects of the entire economy; and
- (II) Subject Divisions which are concerned with specified fields of development.

17. The General Divisions functioning in the Planning Commission are:

- (i) Development Policy Division,
- (ii) Financial Resources Division,

- ((iii) International Economics Division,**
- ((iv) Labour, Employment and Manpower Division,**
- ((v) National Informatics Centre; Yojana Bhavan Unit,**
- ((vi) Perspective Planning Division,**
- ((vii) Plan Coordination Division,**
- ((viii) Project Appraisal and Management Division,**
- ((ix) Socio-Economic Research Unit,**
- ((x) State Plan Division, including Multi Level Planning, Border Area Development Programme, Hill Area Development and North Eastern Region (NER), and**
- ((xi) Statistics and Surveys Division,**

The Subject Divisions are:

- ((i) Agriculture Division,**
- ((ii) Backward Classes Division,**
- ((iii) Communication & Information Division,**
- ((iv) Education Division,**
- ((v) Environment and Forests Division,**
- ((vi) Health & Family Welfare Division,**
- ((vii) Housing, Urban Development & Water Supply Division,**
- ((viii) Indo-Japan Study Committee,**
- ((ix) Industry & Minerals Division,**
- ((x) Irrigation & Command Area Development Division,**
- ((xi) Power & Energy Division (including Rural Energy, Non-Conventional Energy Sources and Energy Policy Cell)**
- ((xii) Rural Development Division,**
- ((xiii) Science & Technology Division,**
- ((xiv) Social Welfare & Nutrition Division,**
- ((xv) Transport Division,**
- ((xvi) Village & Small Industries Division, and**
- ((xvii) Western Ghats Secretariat.**

18. The Programme Evaluation Organisation undertakes evaluation studies to assess the impact of selected Plan programmes/schemes in order to provide useful feedback to planners and implementing agencies.

ADMINISTRATION

19. Apart from the Divisions mentioned above, which are primarily concerned with Plan formulation, monitoring and evaluation, the Planning Commission is supported by the services of house-keeping branches to look after the matters of establishment, accounts, general administration, vigilance and career management, including training requirements of personnel belonging to the Commission.

20. The use of Hindi in official work is monitored by an Official Language Unit. The details of the achievements of the Hindi Section are mentioned in this Report under the heading 'Hindi Section'.

21. To provide for the welfare and redressal of the grievances of the employees, Senior Officers have been entrusted with responsibility for prompt action. An officer designated as Liaison Officer for Scheduled Castes /Scheduled Tribes functions in the Commission who in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs ensures the reservation of posts and provision of other assistance to SC/ST Staff and Officers. Similarly, the interest of Other Backward Classes and minority Communities are being taken care of in pursuance of the policy formulated by the Ministry of Welfare in this regard.

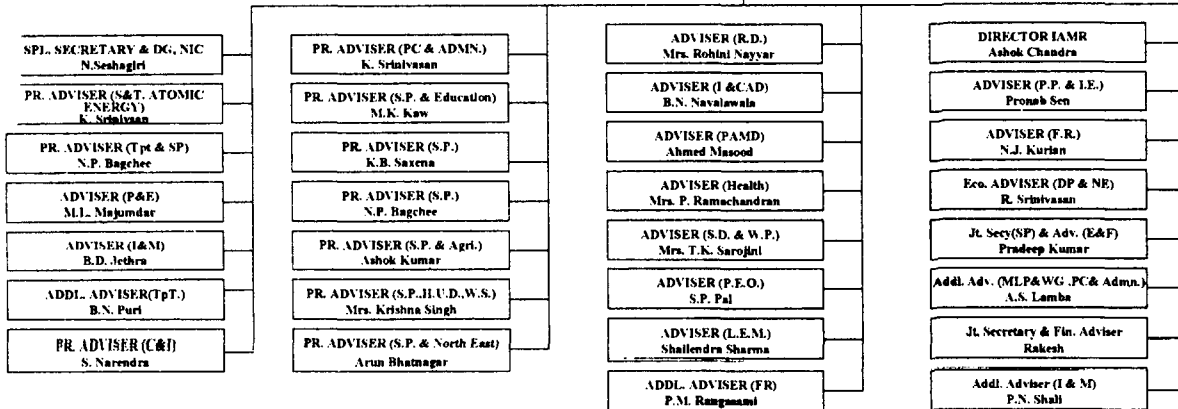
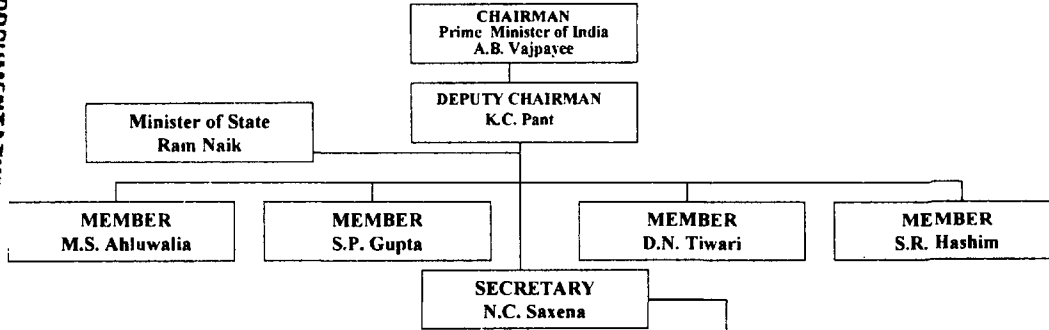
22. Officers and Staff of the Commission are exposed to various training programmes conducted within and outside the

country by various national and international organisations of repute. Senior Officers also participate in various seminars & symposia organised by Indian and international organisations. In addition, short-term training programmes are organised and imparted on planning process for various categories of trainees from India and abroad.

23. The Commission maintains a well-equipped library, housing a large collection of books, periodicals and journals covering a wide spectrum of subjects, particularly on the subject of developmental planning. The library functions under the supervision of an Advisory Council consisting of Senior Officers of the Commission.

24. The Officers of the Planning Commission do not come into contact with the general public in its day-to-day work. However, for the redressal of complaints/grievances etc., from the serving as well as retired employees of the Planning Commission, including those of the Programme Evaluation Organisation and the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, an Internal Grievance Redressal Machinery has been set up as per guidelines issued by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. Principal Adviser (PC & Admn.) is the in-charge of the Grievance Redressal Machinery and is assisted by the Staff Grievance Officers of the level of Director/Deputy Secretary.

**ORGANISATION CHART
PLANNING COMMISSION (Government of India)**
(as on 17th February 1999)



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