

ANNUAL REPORT

1997-98



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING COMMISSION

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CHAPTER - 1

ECONOMY AND THE PLAN : AN OVERVIEW

Introduction

1.1 The year 1997 witnessed the culmination of the Eighth Five Year Plan and the beginning of the Ninth Plan period. It is in the light of this that stock can now be taken of the achievements during the Eighth Plan period in relation to the targets set.

1.2 The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97), was launched keeping in mind the necessity of implementing measures for stabilization and structural adjustment subsequent to the Balance of Payments (BOP) crisis of 1991. The Plan took into account the changes that were to be expected in the economy on account of the adoption of these reform measures, while keeping in mind the poor performance of the economy in the base year, 1991-92. In the base year the rate of inflation was in double digits, while the overall growth rate of GDP for that year was negligible. The BOP situation improved somewhat with a mild improvement in the foreign exchange reserves, while exports continued to be sluggish. It is in the light of these circumstances that the Eighth Five Year Plan set down macroeconomic targets which were somewhat cautious in comparison to the feasible. The targets fixed for the Plan included a rate of growth in GDP of 5.6 per cent, an average industrial growth rate of 7.5 per cent, a savings rate of 21.6 per cent, an investment rate of 23.2 per cent, a current account deficit (CAD) of 1.6 per cent as a percentage of GDP among others.

1.3 The Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan was prepared and presented to the National Development Council (NDC) in December 1996. It 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 on the basis of the accelerated growth scenario of 7 per cent. The Draft Ninth Five Year Plan was prepared by the Planning Commission on the basis of the approved Approach Paper, but it could not be put up to the NDC for approval due to the imminent change in government.

1.4 The Draft Ninth Five Year Plan seeks to further continue and consolidate the process of reforms. The targets set therein include a GDP growth rate of 7 per cent, an investment rate of 28.3 per cent, a savings rate of 26.2 per cent and a CAD to GDP ratio of 2.1.

Growth and Sectoral Output

1.5 The first year of the economic reforms and also the base year of the Eighth Plan, 1991-92, had a GDP growth rate of less than one per cent as compared to an average annual growth rate of 6 per cent during the Seventh Plan period. As the economy gradually absorbed the initial shock of the stabilisation measures, the GDP growth rates recovered over the years from 5.3 per cent in 1992-93 to 6 per cent in 1993-94, 7.2 per cent in 1994-95 as well as in 1995-96, and in 1996-97 stood at 7.5 per cent as per the latest estimates from CSO. Thus the average GDP growth rate during the Eighth Plan period was 6.64 per cent which is well above the targeted rate of 5.6 per cent, indicating a satisfactory performance in this front. The Advance Estimates indicate that the rate of growth in GDP in 1997-98 is likely to be about 5 per cent.

1.6 The good performance of the economy reflects in large measure the successive good performance of the Agricultural sector. After recording a decline of 2.3 per cent in 1991-92, agricultural GDP increased at an average growth rate of 3.96 per cent during the Eighth Plan period as per latest data available. Although there was a decline of 3.4 per cent in 1995-96, agricultural GDP recovered to a growth rate of 8.2 per cent in 1996-97 (at 1980-81 prices). Foodgrains production increased steadily from 168 million tonnes in 1991-92 to about 191.5 million tonnes in 1994-95, 185 million tonnes in 1995-96, and 198.2 million tonnes is expected in 1996-97. Overall the growth of Agricultural GDP during the Eighth Plan was 3.96 per cent which is well above the targetted growth rate of 3.1 per cent.

1.7 On the industrial front, all the major industry segments witnessed severe recession during 1991-92. The index of industrial production grew by less than 1 per cent in 1991-92, but picked up momentum from 1993-94 with a growth rate of 5.98 per cent, increasing to 9.35 per cent in 1994-95, and further to 12.14 per cent in 1995-96 but then fell to 7.28 per cent in 1996-97. The average industrial growth during the Eighth Plan period was 7.4 per cent, which is only marginally less than the target rate of 7.5 per cent. The index of manufacturing production grew consistently from 3.5 per cent in 1992-93 to 16.1 per cent in 1995-96 but declined to 6.8 per cent in 1996-97, to give an average growth rate of 9.1 per cent for the Eighth Plan period. The Advance Estimates indicate that the manufacturing sector is likely to grow by 6.4 per cent in 1997-98.

1.8 The performance of the Service sector during the Eighth Plan period was quite good, showing an average growth rate of 8.9 per cent during the Eighth Plan period, which exceeds the target rate of 6.2 per cent. The Service sector consists of trade, transport, communication, finance, insurance and community

and social services. The sectors which mainly contributed to this good performance are Trade, hotels and restaurants, with an average growth rate of 10 per cent during the Plan period, followed by Financing, insurance, real estate and business services with an average growth rate of 9 per cent during the Plan period.

Savings and Investment

1.9 Gross Domestic Saving as a proportion of GDP, averaged 24.32 per cent during the Eighth Plan period against a target level of 21.6 per cent. The improvement in the savings rate was made possible by a steady increase in the private corporate and the household savings rate during the Plan period. The average corporate savings rate and the average household savings rate was 3.7 per cent and 19 per cent respectively in the Plan period.

1.10 Gross Domestic Investment as a proportion of GDP, averaged 25.6 per cent as against a targetted rate of 23.2 per cent. The investment rate got a boost in 1994-95 to 26 per cent due to a higher savings rate of 24.9 per cent in 1994-95 and a CAD of about 1 per cent of GDP. The savings rate in 1996-97 is expected to be 26.1 per cent of GDP, with the CAD expected to be about 1 per cent of GDP. Thus the investment rate is likely to improve further in 1997-98.

Fiscal Developments

1.11 The Eighth Plan Document stated that a major aim of fiscal policy should be to roll back the fiscal deficit of the centre and States, taken together as a percentage of GDP, from an average of 10.6 per cent during the Seventh Plan, and from about 11 per cent in 1990-91, to an average of about 7 per cent during the Eighth Plan period. This implicitly meant that the Centre's fiscal deficit would be required to be brought down to an average of 5

per cent and that of the States to an average of about 2 per cent during the Eighth Plan period. However despite conscious efforts, the fiscal deficit to GDP rate of the Centre was about 6 per cent and that of the States was about 3 per cent during the Eighth Plan period. Although the Centre's fiscal deficit of 6 per cent seems high, over the years it has actually decreased from around 8.3 per cent in 1990-91 to 5 per cent in 1996-97 and is expected to be about 4.5 per cent in 1997-98 (BE) (according to the RBI Annual Report 1996-97). The Primary deficit of the Centre as a percentage of GDP has come down from 4.3 per cent in 1990-91 to 0.37 per cent in 1996-97 (RE) and is expected to be -0.18 per cent in 1997-98 (BE). Unfortunately interest payments as a percentage of GDP has increased continuously from 4 per cent in 1990-91 to 4.6 per cent in 1996-97, and on an average was 4.5 per cent for the Eighth Plan period. This has partly offset the efforts to further reduce the revenue deficit. Revenue deficit of the Central Government which was 3.5 per cent of GDP in 1990-91 has come down to about 2 per cent in 1996-97 (RE) and is likely to be about 2.08 per cent in 1997-98 (BE).

Inflation

1.12 The Eighth Plan envisaged that there will be a reasonable degree of price stability. It was surmised that the planned fiscal adjustment would bring down the borrowing requirements of the Government, including the borrowings from the RBI, which would ensure that the annual growth rate of money supply is brought down from about 17 per cent in the recent past to about 11-12 per cent in the Eighth Plan period. With income elasticity of demand for money estimated at about 1.5, and the economy planned to grow at about 5 to 6 per cent per year, it was anticipated that the projected monetary growth would enable the Government to contain the trend rate of inflation to about 5 per cent per year. The average inflation rate as measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) during the 8th five year plan was

about 8.7 per cent. In the terminal year of the plan, the inflation rate is expected to be about 6.4 per cent. Thus, the average inflation rate during the Eighth Plan period was about 8.7 per cent, significantly higher than the projected 5 per cent.

1.13 Initially, following the stabilisation measures, the overall inflation rate on a point-to-point basis fell from 13.6 per cent in 1991-92 to 7 per cent in 1992-93. However, it accelerated to 10.8 per cent in 1993-94 and to 10.4 per cent in 1994-95. The annual rate of inflation during 1995-96 has shown a downward trend recording a low of about 5 per cent since January, 1996 and is 6.9 per cent in 1996-97. Price rise continued to be subdued at about 5 per cent during the first half of 1996-97, but showed signs of acceleration during the second half, due to a hike in administered prices of petroleum products and coal.

Balance of Payments

1.14 The current account deficit which was about \$10 billion in 1990-91 has come down to about \$5.9 billion in 1995-96 and \$3.7 billion in 1996-97. As percentage of GDP, the current account deficit has declined from about 3.2 per cent in 1990-91 to 1.8 in 1995-96 and 1 per cent in 1996-97. On an average, in the Eighth Plan, the current account to GDP ratio has been about 1.2 per cent as against a targetted rate of 1.6 percent. Trade deficit (RBI data) as a percentage of GDP, which was 3.2 per cent in 1990-91, had fallen to about 1.6 in 1993-94 but increased significantly to about 3.4 per cent in 1995-96 and to 3.45 per cent in 1996-97.

1.15 Exports as a percentage of GDP has successively increased from 6.2 in 1990-91 to about 10 per cent in 1995-96 and 9.5 per cent in 1996-97. Net invisibles balance which was negative in 1990-91, improved significantly over the years to touch 1.65 per cent of GDP in 1995-96 and 2.41 per cent in 1996-97.

1.16 Despite widening of the current account deficit over the last three years, the foreign exchange reserves position has remained comfortable. India's foreign exchange reserves comprising of foreign currency assets, gold reserves and SDR balances, which stood at \$ 9.2 billion in March 1992 and increased steadily to over \$25 billion in March 1995. Although the foreign exchange reserves declined in 1995-96 to \$21.7 billion, it stood at \$26.4 billion in 1996-97. The movement in the reserves closely reflected the developments in the current account balance and the net capital inflows. The surge in capital inflows specially in the form of foreign portfolio investment helped build up substantial foreign exchange reserves since 1993-94.

1.17 The exchange rate of the rupee remained remarkably stable during 1993-94 and 1994-95 following the introduction of the market based exchange rate regime in March 1993. The Rupee however came under stress in the second half of 1995-96. An indication of the widening of the current account deficit and an ebbing of capital flows and the pronounced appreciation of the US dollar against major currencies triggered off market expectations and resulted in depreciation of the Rupee from about Rs. 31.50 in April, 1995 to about Rs. 35.60 per dollar in October, 1995. Following intervention by the R.B.I. the rupee stabilised in the range of Rupees 34 to 36 until January, 1996. In February, 1996, the rupee again suffered a bout of depreciation and touched a low of about Rs.38 per U.S. dollar. Following a number of measures by the R.B.I. in early February, 1996, the Rupee staged a strong recovery. In March- April, 1996 and has since remained in the range of Rs.35-36 per U.S. dollar. It stood at Rs.35.96 in 1996-97 as per the R.B.I. Annual Report 1996-97.

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 in India. The Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan was unanimously approved by the National Development Council in its meeting held on 16.01.1997.

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 (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 exercises for preparation of a Five Year Plan start with the consideration of the general 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.

2.4 Discussions are held by the Planning Commission, at both expert-level and political level. The dimensions of the States' Plan 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 resources available.

2.5 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 also is considered by the Union Cabinet, thereafter, final approval is given by the National Development Council (NDC), comprising members of Union Council of Ministers and State Chief Ministers and chaired by the Prime Minister.

Formulation of Annual Plans

2.6 The Five Year Plan gets operationalised through the mechanism of Annual Plans. The formulation of the Annual Plan provide the Planning Commission with an opportunity to assess previous year's Plan performance in the various sectors and to suggest a reorientation of policies and modifications of strategies consistent with the changing requirements so as to ensure achievement of the long-term objectives.

2.7 In the third quarter of each financial year, the Planning Commission indicates to the State Governments and the Central Ministries the 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, conforming to the guidelines referred to above and within the overall framework of their respective Five Year Plans. The State Governments are

advised to furnish their forecasts of financial resources, including proposals for mobilising additional resources, for their Annual Plans, keeping in view the resources and outlay targets fixed for the Five Year Plan, etc. The resource estimates of the State Governments thus furnished are discussed in-depth in a series of meetings 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.

2.8 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.

Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97)

2.9 The Eighth Plan commenced in April, 1992 against the backdrop of overall changes taking place in the world. These changes had profound impact on both the structure of international relations and the world economy.

2.10 Recognising the relevance of developmental planning in the changed scenario of globalisation of the economy, it was resolved that the Planning Commission would work on building a long-term strategic vision of the future with concentration on anticipating future trends and evolving integrated strategies for the achievement of higher possible level of development of the country in keeping with competitive international standards. The Eighth Plan document was endorsed by the National Development Council (NDC) in its forty-fourth meeting, held in May, 1992.

2.11 An attempt was made in the Eighth Plan to correct the fiscal imbalances from which the Sixth and Seventh Plan suffered. The non-inflationary manner to be adopted for funding of the Plan in order to avoid debt trap both internally and externally, called for a series of austerity measures which involved a reduction in Government's dissavings, higher resource mobilization both by the Centre and the States and improvement in the performance of public sector units .

2.12 The Eighth Plan recognised the essential need to involve people in the process of development. The Plan envisaged substantial devolution of power to the people's organisations at the district, block and village levels. Special attention was paid to employment in the rural areas with the objective of eradicating poverty.

2.13 An average growth rate of 5.6 per cent per annum was proposed during the Plan period. The level of national investment was proposed at Rs. 7,98,000 crore.

Eighth Plan (1992-97) Performance

2.14 The overall public sector plan outlay during the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) amounts to Rs. 4,34,100 crore at 1991-92 prices. The share of the Central Plan in this amount is Rs. 2,47,865 crore, or 57.1%, whereas the share of State Plans accounts for Rs. 1,79,985 crore, or 41.5%. The Plans of the Union Territories account for the remaining share of Rs. 6,250 crore, or 1.4% of the overall Eighth Plan Public Sector outlay. The Plan outlays by broad heads of development for the Eighth Plan 1992-97 for Centre, States and Union Territories are given in Annexure 2.1.

2.15 A review in real terms (i.e., after allowing for inflation and assuming that the revised estimates for 1995-96 and 1996-97

would materialise), has shown that the Plan performance in financial terms during the Eighth Plan (1992-97) accounts for about 95% of the approved Eighth Plan outlay in the Central Sector. The corresponding proportion works out to about 80% and 109% for State Plans and UT Plans, respectively. Thus, in the case of Centre, the short fall in anticipated Plan expenditure during the Eighth Plan period has been marginal vis-a-vis the approved Eighth Plan outlay Whereas there is no shortfall in the case of UT Plans, major shortfalls were likely to occur in the Plan provision as well as expenditure of States vis-a-vis their Eighth Plan approved outlays The reason for shortfall was lack of mobilising adequate resources due to deterioration in the balance of current revenues, erosion in the contribution of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and State Road Transport Corporations (SRTC), negative opening balances, mounting non-Plan expenditure and shortfalls in the collection of small savings, etc A statement showing the Eighth Plan outlays and progress of expenditure during the Eighth Plan (1992-97) for Centre, States and UTs is given in Annexure 2 2

Annual Plan (1997-98)

2 16 The total public sector outlay for the Annual Plan 1997-98 has been fixed at Rs 155750 89 crore This represents an increase of 7 68 per cent over the approved outlay of Rs 144635 87 crore for the Annual Plan 1996-97 The Plan aims at strengthening and providing support to the important programmes/projects/schemes in the States' Sector as well as in the Central Sector The details of the Plan outlays by broad heads of development for centre, States and Union Territories for the Annual Plan, 1997-98 are given in Annexure-2 3

Annual Plan (1998-99)

2.17 For the purpose of Vote on Account, the Central Ministries/Departments were requested to formulate plan proposal keeping the level of Gross Budget Support (GBS) at the same level as in 1997-98. Before this, Special Secretary had written to Finance Secretary enclosing the estimates or resources for the Annual Plan 1998-99 on November, 1997.

Annual Plan Document

2.18 During the year under report, the Annual Plan 1996-97 document was released and was subsequently placed in the Parliament Library.

2.19 The Eighth Five Year Plan had set the target of 5.6 per cent per annum during the Five Year period (1992-97). The growth recorded in the Gross Domestic Product was of the order of 5.3 per cent in 1992-93, 6.0 per cent in 1993-94 and 7.2 per cent during 1994-95, as well as in 1995-96 and 7.5 per cent in 1996-97 as per the latest estimates from CSO

Preparation of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)

2.20 As a first step for the formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), Planning Commission had set up a number of Steering Committees and Working Groups dealing with various sectors. These Steering Committees and Working Groups comprised of experts in the respective areas and undertook detailed exercises and submitted reports which formed the major input in the formulation of the draft Ninth Five Year Plan. In all, 23 Steering Committees and 116 Working Groups were set up for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

2.21 The Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan, approved unanimously by the National Development Council (NDC) in its meeting held on 16.01.1997 inter-alia includes the following salient features

- (i) The target growth rate of GDP for the Ninth Plan period will be 7 per cent per annum, with agriculture targetted to grow at 4.5 per cent per annum
- (ii) Emphasis to be placed on the Basic Minimum Services as decided in the Chief Ministers' Conference on Basic Minimum Services
- (iii) Revenue deficit of the Government, including Centre, States and PSUs to be sharply reduced through a combination of higher tax collections, control of inessential expenditures particularly non-transparent subsidies, and better recovery of user charges
- (iv) Decentralisation of planning and implementation through greater reliance being placed on States and Panchayati Raj Institutions
- (v) Sharp reduction in Centrally Sponsored Schemes, with the necessary funds being transferred to the States and the Panchayati Raj bodies

2.22 The objectives of the Ninth Plan arising from the Common Minimum Programme of the Government, the Chief Ministers' Conference on Basic Minimum Services and the suggestions put forward by the Chief Ministers of various States during extensive consultation have been spelt out in the Approach to the Ninth

Five Year Plan document. "Growth with Equity" is proposed to be achieved with the objectives outlined in the Approach Paper. These are to be viewed in the context of the four important dimensions of State policy viz., (a) quality of life of the citizens; (b) generation of productive employment; (c) regional balance; and (d) self-reliance.

2.23 The Approach Paper projected a 7% annual GDP growth scenario, with necessary targets of Domestic Savings Rate, Current Account Deficit, Incremental Capital Output Ratio, Investment Rate and total Public Sector Plan size of Rs. 8,75,000 crore.

2.24 The Internal Planning Commission undertook the exercise of working out the details of the Ninth Plan, within the framework of the Approach Paper adopted by the National Development Council. The draft Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) (Volume I & II) prepared at the meetings of the Internal Planning Commission was released by the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on 01.03.1998.

Decentralisation in Plan Formulation

2.25 In order to operationalise the concept of decentralised planning, assistance is provided to the States under the scheme of strengthening of planning machinery at State and district levels. For the Ninth Plan, new guidelines have been issued for the scheme. In keeping with the changed scenario consequent on the enactment of 73rd and 74th Amendment Act, States have been asked to set up/strengthen a cell for Panchayati Raj Institutions in the apex of planning bodies of the State Government. At the district level the existing scheme will continue. The guidelines allow the hiring of consultants for preparation of specific studies relating to Panchayati Raj Institutions and the planning process for preparation of district level plans.

2.26 Keeping the NDC's decisions in view, during the Ninth Plan and the Annual Plan (1997-98) discussions, the State Governments were impressed upon the need to allocate more untied funds to the PRIs & ULBs so as to enable them to formulate and implement developmental programmes as per the local requirements. As an effort to achieve the objective of improving the quality of life of the people, enhanced level of Additional Central Assistance was provided to the States for providing seven identified Basic Minimum Services and for Slum Development during the Annual Plan 1997-98. States have full flexibility to take up schemes within these services according to their requirements and needs

Annexure 2. 1

**PLAN OUTLAY BY BROAD HEADS OF DEVELOPMENT
FOR EIGHTH PLAN (1992-97)
(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 (\$)	12618.00	5.09	42374.50	22.75	54992.50	12.67
2	Rural Development	24170.00	9.75	10255.36	5.51	34425.36	7.93
3	Energy	66795.00	26.95	48766.09	26.19	115561.09	26.62
4	Industry and Minerals	37539.00	15.14	9382.75	5.04	46921.75	10.81
5	Transport	40977.00	16.53	14948.57	8.03	55925.57	12.88
6	Social Services	34445.45	13.90	44566.45	23.93	79011.90	18.20
7	Others (*)	31320.55	12.64	9191.12	4.94	40511.67	9.33
8	Area Programmes			6750.16	3.62	6750.16	1.56
	GRAND TOTAL	247965.00	100.00	196235.00	100.00	434100.00	100.00

(\$) Include Agriculture and Irrigation sectors.

(*) Include Communications, Science Technology & Environment, General Economic Services and General Services

Annexure 2.2

**EIGHTH PLAN OUTLAY AND PROGRESS OF EXPENDITURE :
CENTRE, STATES & UTs.**

Sl No	Sector	Eighth Plan Outlay at 1991-92 prices	Annual Plan at 1991-92 Prices					1996-97 R E	Anticipated Expenditure Eighth Plan (1992-97)
			1992-93 Actual Exp	1993-94 Actual Exp	1994-95 Actual Exp	1995-96 R E	1996-97 R E		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	1 Centre	247865	39903	46517	44823	52424	50915	234582 (94.6)	
	2 States	179985	25495	26538	28432	30261	33118	143844 (79.9)	
	3 Union Territories	6250	1134	1149	1256	1617	1678	6834 (109.3)	
	Total	434100	66532	74204	74511	84302	85711	385260 (88.8)	

Note: Figures in brackets indicate as percentage of the Eighth Plan Outlay.

Annexure 2.3

**PLAN OUTLAY BY BROAD HEADS OF DEVELOPMENT
FOR ANNUAL PLAN 1997-98**

(Rs. Crores)

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 (\$)	3292.23	3.58	14908.74	23.33	18200.97	11.69
2	Rural Development	5800.75	6.32	5449.41	8.53	11250.16	7.22
3	Energy	24234.53	26.39	12878.99	20.15	37113.52	23.83
4	Industry and Minerals	11199.80	12.20	2119.30	3.31	13319.10	8.55
5	Transport	15015.96	16.35	5573.61	8.72	20589.57	13.22
6	Social Services	15707.01	17.10	18514.50	28.97	34221.51	21.97
7	Others (*)	16588.43	18.06	3686.78	5.77	20275.21	13.02
8	Area Programmes	0.00	0.00	780.85	1.22	780.85	0.50
	GRAND TOTAL	91838.71	100.00	63912.18	100.00	155750.89	100.00

(\$) Include Agriculture and Irrigation sectors.

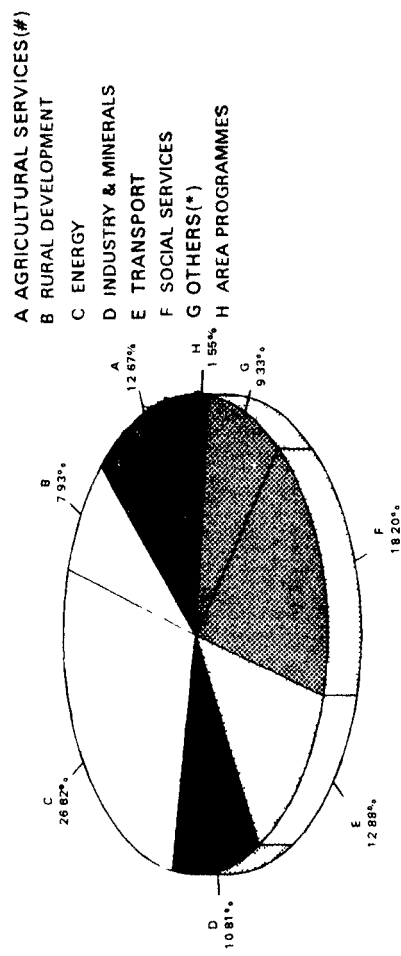
(*) Include Communications, Science Technology & Environment, General Economic Services and General Services.

e Provisional

PLAN OUTLAY BY BROAD HEADS OF DEVELOPMENT

EIGHTH PLAN 1992-97

Rs. 4341 00 Crore

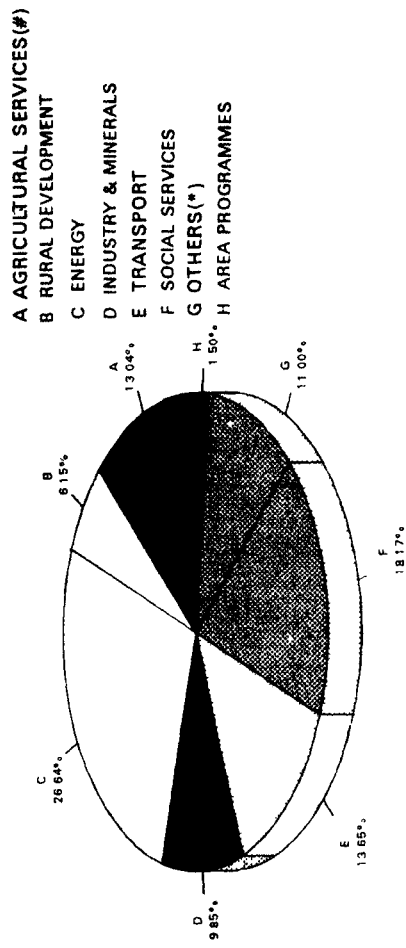


AGRI & SERVICES INCLUDES AGRICULTURAL & ALLIED SERVICES & IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL
 * OTHERS INCLUDE COMMUNICATIONS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT, GENERAL ECONOMIC SERVICES & GENERAL SERVICES

ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURE BY BROAD HEADS OF DEVELOPMENT

EIGHTH PLAN 1992-97

Rs. 385260 Crore



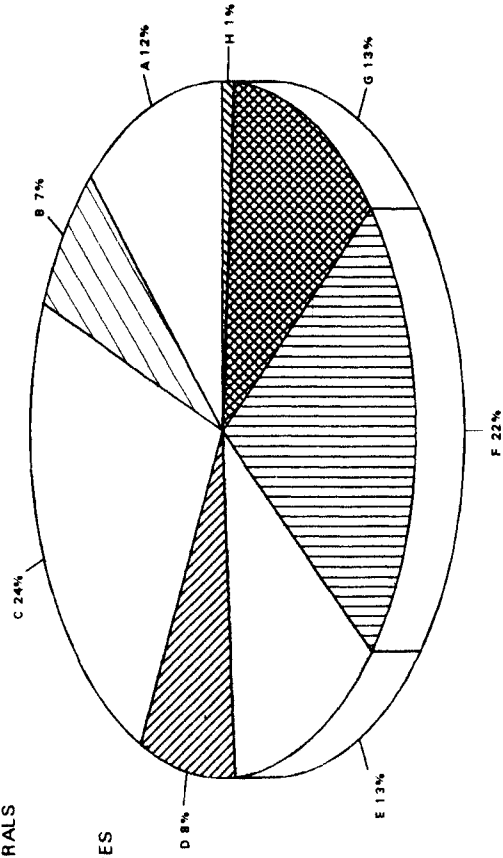
AGRI & SERVICES INCLUDES AGRICULTURAL & ALLIED SERVICES & IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL
 * OTHERS INCLUDE COMMUNICATIONS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT, GENERAL ECONOMIC SERVICES & GENERAL SERVICES

PLAN OUTLAY BY BROAD HEADS OF DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL PLAN 1997-98

- A AGRICULTURAL SERVICES (#)
- B RURAL DEVELOPMENT
- C ENERGY
- D INDUSTRY & MINERALS
- E TRANSPORT
- F SOCIAL SERVICES
- G OTHERS (*)
- H AREA PROGRAMMES

Rs 155750.89 Crore



13

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 - A PERSPECTIVE

3.1 The major activities undertaken by the Planning Commission during 1997-98 are given briefly in the following paragraphs:

Estimation of Poverty

3.2 The Planning Commission has decided, in principle, to adopt the methodology for poverty estimation recommended by the expert Committee chaired by Prof. D.T. Lakdawala. The Full Planning Commission in its meeting held on 10.03.1997 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister approved the proposal to adopt:

- (a) the Expert Group methodology for estimation of poverty and for use in all official matters where such estimates are required; and
- (b) the modification of the Expert Group methodology for updating the Urban poverty line on the basis of Consumer Price index of industrial worker alone instead of the average Consumer Price Index of industrial worker and Consumer Price Index of Urban Non-Manual Employees.

3.3 Accordingly, a note has been circulated for approval of Full Planning Commission to make State-wise allocations on poverty alleviation programmes based on the poverty ratio figures arrived at by following the new methodology.

Basic Minimum Services

3.4 Priority is being given to the identified seven Basic Minimum Services (BMS) with Additional Central Assistance (ACA) earmarked for these services with the objective of their complete coverage in a time-bound manner. These are safe drinking water, availability of primary health service facilities, universalisation of primary education, provision of public housing assistance to shelterless poor families, nutritional support to children, connectivity of all unconnected villages and habitations and streamlining the public distribution system with a focus on the poor. Policies and Programmes relating to these areas are being given a thrust in the Ninth Plan.

Primary Education as a Fundamental Right

3.5 The Education for all by 2000 AD is a broader goal which includes both Universalisation of Elementary Education and eradication of adult illiteracy from the country. Currently, the allocation to education sector (Plan + Non-Plan), States and Centre is about 3.2% of GDP. Government has expressed the resolve to formulate and implement plans to gradually raise the allocation for education to 6% of the GDP.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

3.6 Efforts are being made to transfer as many Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the States with resources as possible. A note on transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to States/UTs was circulated to all the States/UTs and concerned Central Ministries/Departments for their comments. Based on the replies received, a revised note has been prepared for the consideration of the Full Planning Commission and the National Development Council.

Central Assistance to States

3.7 After the last NDC meeting held in January, 1997, the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission wrote to all the Chief Ministers inviting their views on the revision of Gadgil Formula. The views of some of the Chief Ministers received and circulated to the Commission were noted by the Full Planning Commission. Based on the replies received, a revised note is being prepared for the consideration of the full Planning Commission and National Development Council (NDC).

Cooperative Federalism

3.8 The Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan approved by the National Development Council (NDC) envisages to promote the spirit of cooperative federalism to ensure harmonious relationship between the Centre and the States, among different States and also between the States and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). The essence of cooperative federalism is that the Centre and the State Governments should be guided by broader national concerns in using the available resources so as to ensure a minimum bundle of Basic Minimum Services and a nationally acceptable level of living for all the people of the country.

Infrastructure

3.9 Adequate quantity, quality and reliability of infrastructure are essential pre-condition not only for economic growth and development but also to make the country internationally competitive and attractive for investment. The investment needs in this sector are of a magnitude that are beyond the resources available to the Government. There is an imperative need, therefore, to motivate the private sector to participate in the development process, if the infrastructure gap has to be bridged.

The public sector which has carried the burden of infrastructure development so far will also benefit by the competition and partnership with the private sector. Successful development of this crucial sector will require bold policy initiatives, framing of schemes and setting up of an institutional environment which would provide a level playing field to all competitors whilst simultaneously safeguarding the rights of consumers. Legislative backing to these institutional reforms would also be required to be given. While new initiatives are being taken, existing structure should not be neglected. This needs to be done by technology upgradation, system improvement and ensuring public utilities function on commercial lines. Most importantly, care should be taken to ensure that in the provision of these services, the rural areas are provided their due share both in terms of magnitude as well as technology suited to their needs.

3 10 During the Ninth Plan period rural health care for all through optimally functioning network of PHCs and sub-Centres and reorganisation of the urban health infrastructure as a part of Basic Minimum Services shall constitute an absolute and total commitment. In addition the effective implementation of disease control programmes to address major public health problems such as malaria, Tuberculosis, leprosy, AIDS and Blindness will receive a major thrust.

Science and Technology

3 11 The major thrust in the Science and Technology Sector continues to be promotion of applied and basic research, leading to innovative and emerging technologies to achieve self-reliance, utilisation of appropriate technologies and integration of science and technology in the socio-economic and rural sectors to fulfil the basic needs. Concerted efforts were made to take up R&D in inter-disciplinary areas and also in new and emerging areas of science and technology, particularly, in the fields of atomic

energy, space sciences, bio-technology, industrial research and ocean sciences.

North-Eastern Region

3.12 In pursuance of the Prime Minister's announcement of "New Initiatives for the North-Eastern Region", Planning Commission had set up a High Level Commission to critically examine the backlog in respect of Basic Minimum Services and the gap in infrastructure for development of States in the North-Eastern Region. The High Level Commission has been asked to firm up the resources and modality of implementing the recommendations of the report. All Central Ministries/Departments have already been directed to provide at least 10 per cent of their funds for the North-Eastern Region. The Prime Minister is taking a meeting on 08.05.1998 with the Chief Ministers of North Eastern States including Sikkim to discuss economic development issues

3.13 To operationalise the recommendations of the Commission, the Planning Commission launched a State-wise exercise. The phasing of the requirements as well as the monitoring arrangements were worked out in consultation with the State. Since the requirements of the State in the North-Eastern Region could not be accommodated in the Plan proposals, it was decided to provide additional fund for the purpose through the mechanism of a Special Pool created out of the likely savings from the funds earmarked for the North-East in the budgets of the Central Ministries/Departments. The administrative and legislative steps required to operationalise the Special Pool are expected to be finalised soon.

North-Eastern Council

3 14 It has been decided to transfer the work of North- Eastern Council from Ministry of Home Affairs to the Planning Commission For this purpose, the NEC Act, 1971 will have to be amended The amendment proposal was approved by the Cabinet but could not be passed in the Lok Sabha as it was dissolved The amendment of the Act provides, inter alia, that the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission will be the ex-officio Chairman of the North-Eastern Council and the Chief Ministers of the North-Eastern States will be its members The Governors of the North-Eastern States who are presently Members of the NEC will not be included in the reconstituted Council It has also been decided that the security aspects will be excluded from the purview of North-Eastern Council

Rural Development

3 15 Among the recent initiatives taken by the Government in the Rural Development Sector are the universalisation of the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) to all the rural blocks of the country and the introduction of the Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) to provide ground water based irrigation facilities to small and marginal farmers living below the poverty line The Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) which attends to the housing needs of the lowest of the rural poor has also received a greater thrust

Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)

3 16 The importance of development of Water Resources Sector has been recognised in country keeping in view the agricultural development in particular and irrigation being a vital input in the agricultural production However, 'Irrigation' being a State subject, the plan provisions are mainly made in the State Plans In order to accelerate the completion of selected on-going

irrigation projects, the Central Government launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 with an outlay of Rs. 900 crore which was subsequently revised to Rs. 500 crore. For the Annual Plan 1997- 98, the Central Government provided an outlay of Rs. 1300 crore for AIBP which will form part of the resources of the concerned States.

Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)

3.17 Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) was started in 1995-96 to provide loans to the State Governments for financing rural infrastructure projects. During 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 2500 crore was provided under RIDF-III. This has resulted in additional resource mobilisation to the States for completion of mainly on going irrigation projects.

Integrated Water Resources Development Programme

3.18 The Government of India have constituted a High- powered Commission in September, 1996 for Integrated Water Resources Development Programme, 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 Committee has to submit its report in two years time.

Agriculture

3.19 On the agricultural front the country is likely to do well during 1997-98. Indications are that the production of foodgrains during 1997-98 will match the record level achieved during 1996-97.

3.20 Agricultural development will have to be given particular attention. There is need to enhance the flow of resources to agriculture from both public and private sources to implement

land reforms and to take steps towards more efficient use of soil and water while improving ecology and environment. Modern technology needs to be harnessed for raising productivity of land and water as well as preserving environment.

Power Generation

3.21 Energy, being the prime mover of economic growth plays a crucial role in development. The Government has accorded high priority to development of the energy sector through higher public investment and several incentives to attract private investment and technology upgradation. During Eighth Plan, the addition to installed capacity for electricity generation was only 16423 MW as against the target of 30538 MW. On positive side, the Plant Load Factor (PLF) went up from 55.3% to 64.4%. During the Ninth Plan, addition to installed capacity is proposed to be about 40,000 MW with a further improvement in capacity utilisation.

3.22 In order to augment capacity and availability of power, the field is now open for private sector including foreign companies to establish power projects and several such projects have been cleared by the Government. Alongwith measures to revamp the physical and financial performance of the State Electricity Boards, it is proposed to set up Electricity Regulatory Commissions at Central and State level for tariff fixation.

3.23 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 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.

3.24 In the petroleum and natural gas sector, major segments in exploration and production as well as refining and marketing services have been thrown open for private investment. In line with this policy, the Government have announced dismantling of Administered Price Mechanism (APM) in phases starting from April 1, 1998. Duties on crude and petroleum products will also be rationalised in a phased manner. The Government has also announced revised prices of natural gas.

Project Appraisal and Management

3.25 Recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on better and more efficient project cost estimation, appraisal and more effective project implementation were considered and approved by the Cabinet subject to certain modifications. With a view to cutting down delays in the appraisal of project proposals costing Rs. 15 crore and above, EFC/PIB procedure has been streamlined. Now it has been decided by the Planning Commission that the outer limit for giving management advice by the PAMD would be 4 weeks from the date of receipt of EFC/PIB Memorandum. In case Management advice for PAMD is not received within four weeks' time EFC/PIB meeting could be fixed and their views obtained in the meeting. By following the revised procedure, pendency beyond four weeks was reduced to zero as on 01.11.1997 and it is sustained.

3.26 As regards project proposals coming under the purview of the Standing Finance Committee (costing Rs. 1.5 crore and above but less than Rs. 15 crore), it has been decided that the concerned Ministry/Department can now convene SFC meeting without waiting for the comments of the subject Division of the Planning Commission provided that (i) the scheme is included in the Plan and (ii) no net increase in domestic budgetary support

(excluding externally aided projects) for the Ministry/Department is required. Further, in cases where only condition (ii) is fulfilled, SFC meeting may be held after four weeks in case Planning Commission's comments are not received within this time limit. During the period 01.04.1997 to 31.03.1998, 267 project/scheme proposals were appraised in the Division.

Resource Mobilisation

3.27 Efforts to improve the additional resource mobilisation through better tax realisation and broadening the tax base by the Centre and the States are necessary for improvement in areas like BMS, Poverty Alleviation, Irrigation, Power, Transport and other infrastructure and social sectors. Public Sector Enterprises have to generate more resources. They need to be internationally competitive and Government is considering providing autonomy, increase resource generation through disinvestment, etc. In order to stress the need for enhanced efficiency and commercial viability, emphasis has been laid to conduct the business on commercial lines and the public sector should show a healthy return on the capital employed. The Government would support such public sector undertakings, which have comparative advantages, in drive to become global giants.

3.28 In view of the overall resource crunch there is need for the public sector undertakings to reduce dependence on the budgetary support/borrowings and make concerted efforts in generating internal resources and attain financial self-sufficiency. State Governments may also endeavour in optimising their internal resources for financing their plans.

Implementation and Delivery System

3.29 Keeping in view the lessons from experience and also increasing financial and competitive pressures in which the Government has to operate, it has become necessary to introduce the required corrective to reverse many of the unsustainable trends in programme/project formulation and implementation. Implementation and delivery system will, therefore, be a priority of the Ninth Plan.

Parliamentary Committee Meetings

3.30 The Consultative Committee for the Ministries of Planning & Programme Implementation, Science & Technology and other Scientific Departments was reconstituted vide Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Notification No. 7/1/96-CB dated 19th August, 1997 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. Meetings of the Consultative Committee are normally arranged during Session period and inter-Session Period. The Committee deliberate on the agenda item and offer their views.

3.31 The combined Consultative Committee for the Ministries of Planning and Programme Implementation, Science and Technology and other Scientific Departments met on three occasions during the year. The details of the meetings held are given below:

Date	Subject
04.03.1997	"Nuclear Capability for peaceful purpose specially in the Generation of Power" (Deptt. of Space)
26.06.1997	"A Presentation on CSIR" (Deptt. of DSIR & CSIR).
17.11.1997	"Estimation of GDP its current status and the steps needed for more accurate data estimates." (Deptt. of Statistics)

Standing Committee on Finance

3.32 The Standing Committee on Finance set up by Lok Sabha under the Chairmanship of Shri Biju Patnaik, examined the Demands for Grants for 1997-98. After the demise of Shri Biju Patnaik, Shri Sharad Yadav took over Chairmanship of the Committee w.e.f. 26.04.1997. Senior Officers appeared for Oral Evidence before the Committee on 02.05.1997.

3.33 Standing Committee Meetings were also held on 11.07.1997, 21.07.1997 and 05.09.1997 to discuss "Approach paper to the Ninth Plan (1997-2002). Detailed replies to the points indicated by the Standing Committee were submitted to Committee. Views of Hon'ble Members were taken note of for formulation of Ninth Plan.

AGRICULTURE DIVISION

3.34 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 had completed the draft report, which has been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture for further necessary action.

3.35 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.

3.36 During the year 1997-98, the work relating to formulating of Annual Plan 1997-98 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. The working group meetings for agriculture and

allied sector for the finalisation of state's programmes for Ninth Five Year Plan were held and recommendations were made.

3.37 Planning Commission in collaboration with ICAR, organised a Workshop on Land Use Planning on 28th and 29th November, 1997.

Agro-Climatic Regional Planning Project

3.38 ACRP Project has been approved for continuance during Ninth Plan. In 1997-98, the crucial exercise under Agro-climatic Regional Planning 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 is included in the plan of 1997-98.

3.39 Implementation of institutionalisation of ACRP approach emerged as decentralised planning system. In view of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment the ACRP approach for district and down below levels is accorded higher importance. Institutionalisation of ACRP approach has been extended for implementation in selected eleven states. The activity in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and UP is to be completed during 1997-98.

3.40 The other thrust area under ACRP is strengthening of ACRP Documentation and Dissemination Centre(ADDC) at Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research (SPIESR), Ahmedabad. This includes taking up of the activities of data building base training in ACRP approach, creation of ACRP dissemination material and publicity through electronic and other media.

3.41 The other major activity under ACRP is regarding setting up of Agro-Planning and Information Bank (APIB) included for completion of activities of information through satellite by National Remote Sensing Service Centre (NRSSC) and National Natural Resource System Secretariat(NNRSS) of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for wider use of the facility by group of users. During 1997-98, APIB will be 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 the planning. During the year 1997-98, APIB will provide 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.

3.42 To revamp the process of guidance and technical suggestion for implementation of 15 Agro-Climatic Regional Planning, Zonal Planning Teams were re-constituted in July, 1997 under the Chairmanship of Vice Chancellors of Agricultural Universities with larger jurisdiction in a Zone, for Ninth Five Year Plan period.

BACKWARD CLASSES DIVISION

3.43 The Backward Classes Division of the Planning Commission is primarily engaged in the welfare and development of the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and the Minorities. The programmes envisaged for these groups are essentially for empowering them socially and economically, besides ensuring social justice for them with an ultimate objective of raising their status on par with the rest of the society.

3.44 The Division closely interacted with the nodal Ministry of Welfare and the other line Ministries in the exercises relating to the formulation of the need-based policies and programmes for the welfare and development of SCs/STs/OBCs and Minorities.

3.45 In order to accord priority for economic independence and self-reliance amongst the Special Groups through employment-cum-income generation programmes, the Division interacted with the Ministry of Welfare and its subordinate Organizations viz, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation, Tribal Cooperative and marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED), Minorities Finance Development Corporation, Backward Classes Finance Development Corporation.

3.46 In the context of the formulation of the Ninth Five year Plan (1997-2002), Report of the Steering Group on 'Welfare and Development of SCs, STs, OBCs and the Minorities' and the draft Chapter on 'Empowerment of the Socially Disadvantaged Groups' were prepared and finalised for incorporating the same in the document of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002).

3.47 As part of the process of preparing the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Division examined the budgetary proposals of the Ministry of Welfare for both the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) and the Annual Plan (1997-98), in respect of the Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes and held discussion to finalize the same. Similar exercises were also made in respect of the State Sector programmes also.

3.48 In order to ensure adequate flow of funds to fill the gaps in the family oriented income generating programmes for the families living below the poverty line, necessary guidelines have been issued for earmarking of funds under SCP and TSP in proportion to their population by different Central

Ministries/Departments and States/UTs in the Ninth Five Year Plan proposals. As follow-up exercise, the Division has also requested the States/UTs and the Central Ministries/Departments to adopt the Maharashtra Model.

3.49 During the year, the Division also examined and gave its comments in respect of five Cabinet Notes and eight EFC/SFC Memoranda relating to various programmes.

3.50 The Division critically examined and offered its comments on various research proposals/projects relating to development of SC/ST submitted by NGOs and academic institutions which had applied for financial assistance from the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Welfare.

3.51 To review the functioning and implementation of various developmental programmes/projects relating to SCs, STs, OBCs and Minorities, officers of the Division visited the States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

CAREER MANAGEMENT & VIGILANCE DESK

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

Vigilance Unit

3.53 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, Central Vigilance Commission and C.A.T. on the subject.

3.54 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 the application for jobs/passports and their release from the Planning Commission on transfer or retirement etc. The Unit advises administrative sections on other disciplinary cases which may be referred to it for advice.

3.55 The Unit functions under the Chief Vigilance Officer assisted by one Desk Officer and one Stenographer Grade (D).

3.56 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 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

(Administration)/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 Group Coordinating Officers concerned. The names are forwarded to the nodal Ministry after approval from Deputy Chairman. 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 Adviser (Administration), Member-Secretary, Deputy Chairman. 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 clearance 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.

(e) Orders regarding release of:

Foreign Exchange, Authority letters for personal incidental expenditure through State Bank are issued.

COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING DIVISION

3.57 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.

3.58 Telecommunications 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 National Telecom Policy and its follow-up action, follow up of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission pertaining to telecom sector and opening of the basic telecom services. The major policy issues examined included modification of terms and licence conditions for basic and cellular mobile services, restructuring of the two telecom equipment manufacturing PSUs i.e. Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) and Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd. (HTL) and issuance of Letters of Intent (LOIs) to basic service operators in different telecom circles.

3.59 Following the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI), a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Member Secretary, Planning Commission was formed to make recommendations on the Policy on Internet and Related Matters. The other members of the Committee were Secretary, Deptt. of Telecommunications, Secretary, Deptt. of Electronics, Secretary, Deptt. of Power, Chairman, Railway Board and Principal Adviser(C&I), Planning Commission. The Committee submitted its Report in October, 1997. The Division provided the necessary secretarial assistance and was actively associated with the deliberations and finalisation of the Report.

3.60 A detailed note on Telecommunications sector was prepared for preparation of a comprehensive paper for use of Members of Parliament on the occasion of special Session of Parliament to celebrate Golden Jubilee of India's Independence.

3.61 Ninth Plan proposals of the Deptt. of Telecommunications, Deptt. of Posts and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting were discussed in a series of meetings. Annual Plan proposals (1997-98) submitted by the Deptt. of Telecommunications, Deptt. of Posts and Ministry of I&B were examined and their Plans finalized.

3.62 In consultation with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, it was decided to prepare a film covering the activities of Planning Commission. The Division coordinated the work relating to preparation of necessary script, material etc. in consultation with the concerned divisions in the Planning Commission and Films Division of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

3.63 The work relating to implementation of scheme formulated by the Planning Commission regarding "Basic Minimum Services (BMS) : Dissemination of best practices to States for greater effectiveness" was initiated. The division took necessary follow-up action for setting up two committees as provided under the scheme namely : (i) Policy level Coordinating Group which would provide policy guidelines on matters relating to implementation of the programme and (ii) A Technical Committee which would take decisions on the choice of producers and other administrative and financial arrangements.

3.64 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

3.65 Development Policy Division examined various issues pertaining to Price Policy on various agricultural commodities, Food Security Policy and Policy on Public Distribution System.

3.66 Development Policy Division monitored the major economic indicators and reviewed the macro-economic performance of the economy during the year.

3.67 Development Policy Division was involved in policy formulation and planning for Basic Minimum Services and development of the North-East region.

3.68 Development Policy Division also acted as the nodal Division for the Ministry of Civil Supplies in the context of the Annual Plan proposals relating to the Public Distribution System.

EDUCATION DIVISION

3.69 Education Division during the year continued to interact actively with the nodal Departments of Education, Art & Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs. The major interaction is related to the preparation of Ninth Plan formulations.

3.70 The Division finalised the reports of the four Steering Committees for formulation of Ninth Plan. The reports are based on the 12 Working Groups constituted for this purpose.

3.71 Based upon the final version of the Steering Committees, an Approach to the sectors of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs & Sports as part of the Approach Paper on Ninth Plan was finalised. Further, the Division also worked on the chapters related to Education, Art & Culture and Youth Affairs and Sports of the Ninth Plan document.

3.72 The Technology Development Mission (TDM) projects which are being in operation at IITs and IISc., Bangalore have been closely monitored by the Division. The TDM project are now slated to be completed by end March, 1998.

3.73 The Division had detailed discussions with the various Divisions of the MHRD in the formulation of 1997-98 Annual Plan as well as of the Ninth Plan schemes and constructive suggestions were made on the various schemes for purpose of streamlining them. Similarly, the Division also had discussion with the State Governments with respect to their Annual Plan 1997-98 and schemes related to Ninth Five Year Plan.

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

3.75 Technical officers of the Division participated actively and provided academic and technical inputs in the deliberations at various forums and in the proceedings of the meeting 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 & FOREST UNIT

3.76 The Environment and Forests Unit of Planning Commission deals with formulation of Five Year Plans, Annual Plans and Policies pertaining to the Environment and Forest Sector and Wasteland Development. The Environment and Forest Unit also functions as secretariat of the Island Development Authority (IDA) under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister and its Standing Committee chaired by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.

3.77 During the year 1997-98 the following works were attended to:

- i) The Proposals for the Ninth Five Year Plan and Annual Plan of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Department of Wastelands, Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment were discussed at length and approved.
- ii) The Proposals for the Ninth Five Year Plan and Annual Plan pertaining to the Environment and Forests sector of the States were discussed in various Working Group meetings and approved.
- iii) The draft Chapter on Environment and Forests for the Ninth Five Year Plan document was prepared.

- iv) On the basis of discussions of the Working Group for the Ninth Five Year Plan with the States, issued guidelines to all the concerned States, Ministries and Institutions on Management of Solid wastes including Hospital waste, combating problems of Land degradation, Air pollution, Conservation of Rivers and Earmarking of JRY/EAS funds in the forestry sector.
- v) The Steering Committee on the Integrated Development of Himalayas set up for the environmentally sound development of Himalayas met under the Chairmanship of Dr G Thimmaiah, the then Member (Environment) while Prof. Madhu Dandavate, the then Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission was the Chief Guest. Under the Steering Committee six Sub-Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretaries of the concerned States were set up to assist the Steering Committee in formulation of policies for the development of Himalayas
- vi) A High Power Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission, to study the requirement of minimum water flow in the River Yamuna so as to combat Water pollution.
- vii) Regular meetings of the monitoring committee for reviewing the progress in National River Conservation Plan (including Ganga Action Plan) under the Chairmanship

of Member, Planning Commission have been held.

- viii) The meeting of the Monitoring Committee for reviewing the progress of Capacity -21 programme under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission was held.
- ix) A Working group has been 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.
- x) Number of SFC, EFC and CCEA notes were processed in the Environment, Forests and Wasteland sectors for various proposals.
- XI) Preparations were done for the Tenth Meeting of Island Development Authority under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, Agenda items etc. were prepared. Follow up action was taken in respect of the decisions taken during the Sixth meeting of the Standing Committee of IDA.
- xii) With a view to sensitizing the Senior policy levels in the government to environmental concerns as also to enable a proactive role of the country at International fora Climate Change and Bio-diversity issues are being focussed upon. Indepth interaction with outside experts is being organised.

xiii) Member (Environment) and other senior officers undertook field tours and held discussions with the State/ field officials, public and NGOs.

xiv) Agenda 21: Country Action Plan - India has been drafted.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES DIVISION

3.78 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 the Centre and the States

3.79 During the period under review the Division has completed the exercise of resource assessment of the Centre and the States for the Annual Plan 1997-98 as well as projections for Ninth Five Year Plan 1997-2002. The endeavour has been to bridge the gap between the estimated resource requirement and resource availability on a realistic basis. This involved a rigorous exercise.

3.80 The process for preparation of Annual Plan 1998-99 has been initiated. Detailed guidelines have been issued to all States for formulating the scheme of financing the States' 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 Adviser of the Financial Resources Division. The Working Group would comprise officers from FR Division, Department of

Expenditure, Department of Economic Affairs, Reserve Bank of India and respective State Governments. The consensus arrived at in the Working Group would form the basis of discussion between Deputy Chairman and State Chief Ministers for finalisation of outlay for the Annual Plan.

3.81 The Chapter on Financial Resources together with annexures providing detailed statistical information on Annual Plans 1996-97 and 1997-98 as well as Eighth Five Year Plan was prepared for inclusion in the Ninth Five Year Plan document. The Chapter also included projection for Ninth Five Year Plan keeping in view the Centre-State financial relations, fiscal policy reforms etc. as evolved through economic reforms process over the years.

3.82 A number of representations/memoranda received from Chief Ministers, and other VIPs relating to financial resources were examined and suitable replies were sent. The Division was actively involved in providing Planning Commission's view point relating to Sarkaria Commission's recommendations for consideration of inter-State council meetings, alternative scheme of devolution recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission and report of the Tax Reform Committee etc. with a view to facilitate improvement in financial resource mobilisation.

3.83 Officers of the Division were associated in the exercise undertaken by Department of Expenditure for the assessment of IEBR of Central Public Sector Enterprises for Annual Plans and Ninth Five Year Plan. Besides, the Division played an active role in deciding the criteria for allocation of Central Assistance to States' Plan under Basic Minimum Services, Slum Development and Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) etc. During the year 1997-98, Central Assistance under BMS is allocated to States on the basis of the gaps which are measured as deviation from identified national norms. Central Assistance

under slum development are allocated on the basis of slum population and that under AIBP is done on the basis of eligible on-going irrigation projects in the States. Following Papers/notes have been prepared by the Division

- i) 'Role of External Aid in Plan Financing with special reference to States' for use of Member, Planning Commission.
- ii) A note on 'Revision of Gadgil Formula' has been prepared on the basis of the views/comments received from the Chief Ministers of all States, past experience as well as emerging national priorities for the consideration in the internal meeting of the Planning Commission at the first instance.
- iii) Balance from Current Revenue during Eighth Five Year Plan - an Analysis' for internal use.
- iv) A note on 'Additional Resource Mobilisation by all States during Eighth Five Year Plan' for internal use.
- v) A paper on 'Transfer of Resources from Centre to States for discussion in the Standing Committee of inter-State Council'.
- vi) A paper entitled 'Changing Perspective of the Indian Economy and the Ninth Five Year Plan : Exceptions from Indian Banks and Financial Institutions' was prepared and presented in a Conference organised by National Institute of Bank Management, Pune in March, 1997.

3.84 Other regular items of work like review of progress in the implementation of Externally Aided Projects, trends in revenue collection from Central taxes and examination of various facets of State and Central finances including State-Central financial relation, referred to the FR Division by other

Ministries/Departments were also attended to during the period under review.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DIVISION

Ninth Plan Formulation:

3.85 Planning Commission had constituted three Steering Committees and eleven Working Groups to provide inputs to the formulation of Ninth Plan. Representatives of the Division participated in the Working Groups; report of Working Group on Population stabilization was prepared by the Division. The Division prepared the background documents for the three Steering Committees. The Steering Committees considered these documents and also the recommendations of the High Power Committee on Urban Solid Waste Management constituted by Planning Commission under the chairmanship of Member (Health) and the Expert Group constituted by the Department of Health under the chairmanship of Member (Health) to review the existing public health system in India and suggest measures for improving it. After detailed discussion the Steering Committees made unanimous recommendations on the objectives , approach and strategies for the 9th Plan. These recommendations formed the basis for the Sections on Population, Family Welfare and Health in the Approach Paper to the 9th Plan.

3.86 Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan endorsed by the National Development Council (NDC) identified containing population growth as one of the major objectives of the Ninth Five Year Plan. Provision of primary health care facilities, both in rural and urban areas is one of the seven Basic Minimum Services (BMS) which should be provided to all in a time bound manner. Steps are to be initiated to develop well structured organized urban primary health care system for provision of basic health and family welfare services to the under-privileged

urban population. Efforts will also be made to establish appropriate linkages between primary, secondary and tertiary health care facilities in geographically defined urban areas. Additional Central Assistance under BMS being provided to the States will be utilised for filling critical gaps in primary health care facilities in both urban and rural areas.

Implementation of the Recommendation of NDC Sub-Committee on Population

3.87 In order to provide new thrust and dynamism to the Family Welfare Programme the sub-committee of NDC on population made several recommendations which were endorsed by NDC in its meeting on Sept. 18, 1993. One of the major recommendation of the NDC sub-committee was that there should be decentralized area specific micro-planning and implementation of the F.W. Programme so that Programme is geared to assess and meet the local needs. As the first step in implementing this recommendation the Deptt. of F.W. abolished centrally defined method specific targets for Family Planning in two States and eighteen districts in 1995-96

3.88 Encouraged by the response in these two States, the Deptt. of Family Welfare, has from 1 4.96, initiated a nationwide decentralised, PHC based need assessment and area specific micro-planning to meet all the felt needs for contraception. Another major recommendation of the NDC was that there is a need to provide integrated health care to children, adolescent and women of all age groups. The Deptt. of Family Welfare has initiated the Reproductive and Child Health Care Programme aimed at providing need based, demand driven, high quality integrated RCH Services to children, adolescents and women.

National Tuberculosis Control Programme

3.89 Tuberculosis is a major health problem in India and the National Tuberculosis Control Programme is a 50:50 centrally sponsored scheme aimed at early case detection and effective chemotherapy. During the last three decades the Programme has not succeeded in bringing down the disease burden in spite of availability of effective chemotherapy because of low case detection, case holding and cure rates. Lack of continuous supply of drugs was one of the major factors responsible for poor continuation rates. In order to improve the availability of short-course chemotherapy and improve cure rates the Planning Commission had approved 100% funding of drugs cost by the Central Govt. It is expected that with effective implementation of the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme during the 9th Plan, there will be substantial improvement in cure rates and reduction in deaths due to Tuberculosis.

National Malaria Eradication Programme

3.90 During the Eighth Plan there had been focal outbreaks of malaria with high morbidity and mortality, increase in malaria especially falciparum malaria, rising drug resistance and vector resistance to insecticides. To ensure that lack of financial resources of States does not come in the way of intensive and effective implementation of the Malaria Eradication Programme, Planning Commission has approved 100% central plan funding of this CSS in malaria endemic areas including 7 NE States and 100 districts in 7 other States and 19 cities/ town during the 9th Plan period. With effective implementation of the Programme it is expected that by the end of the 9th Plan there will be a 25% reduction in morbidity and mortality due to malaria.

Restructuring of Urban Health Care

3.91 Nearly 30% of India's population live in urban areas. Urban migration over the last decade resulted in rapid growth of people living in urban slums, environmental deterioration and poor sanitation. In many cities health status of slums dwellers is worse than that of rural population. Available urban health care infrastructure is insufficient to meet the health care needs of growing urban population. Unlike Rural health services there has not been well planned organised efforts to provide primary, secondary and tertiary care services with appropriate referral linkage in a geographically defined urban area. Planning Commission had identified reorganisation of urban health care with the focus on evolving a well structured organisation or urban primary health care to provide access to health care in the vicinity of their homes as one of the major priorities during the 9th Plan period. The Planning Commission has provided additional outlay in one metropolitan city and one medium size city for development of model urban health care infrastructure through establishment of urban primary health care and establishment of appropriate linkages between primary, secondary and tertiary care centres in defined geographical areas. It is also envisaged that there will be effective coordination of the related sectors such as sanitation, safe drinking water, women and child development, so that optimum benefits from all these programmes will become available to the community and vulnerable segments will receive attention they need. Nagar Palika will be the main instrument for ensuring effective inter-sectoral coordination.

Hospital infection control and Waste management

3.92 Planning Commission had constituted a High Power Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. J.S. Bajaj, Member (Health) to look into Urban Solid Waste Management in India

and to suggest suitable model for the development of cost effective and environment friendly approach to promote sanitary methods of collection/ transportation and disposal of solid waste in Indian cities and towns, especially those with a population size exceeding one million. The Committee's report was discussed in the internal meeting of Planning Commission on 23.11.1995 and the action plan suggested in the report was endorsed. One of the major section of the committee's recommendations dealt with steps to improve hospital waste management.

3.93 Increasing incidence of hospital acquired infection and accidental infection in health care providers and people involved in waste disposal renders it imperative that efforts are made to improve infection control and waste management through utilisation of appropriate affordable technology at all level of health care. The recommendations of the High Power Committee are currently being implemented in pilot projects in many States at primary, secondary and tertiary care institutions. Planning Commission has provided Additional Central Assistance to a pilot project for implementing appropriate infection control and waste management in major tertiary care institutions in one State. It is expected that experiences from these pilot projects would be of assistance in ensuring rapid and effective implementation of hospital infection control and waste management programmes during the Ninth Plan.

Programme Review

3.94 The Division reviewed the implementation of various Health & Family Welfare Programmes as a part of the Annual Plan review. Mid course corrections and suggestions for improving the programmes during the remaining period of the Eighth Plan were communicated.

Project Appraisals

3.95 Various project proposals including Externally Aided Projects received from Department of Health, Department of Family Welfare and State Governments were examined in the Division for technical appraisal and suggestions were made for improving the projects. Besides appraisal of various ongoing projects of Department of Health and Department of Family Welfare was also made and suggestions for improvement were offered.

HINDI SECTION

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

3.97 The progress in the use of Hindi for various official purposes in the Planning Commission was also reviewed in the meetings of the Official Language Implementation Committee of the Planning Commission. Hindi Fortnight was observed in the Planning Commission from 15th to 26th of September, 1997

3.98 In the context of "Hindi Day" and "Hindi Fortnight", an appeal was issued on 12.9.97 by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Planning & Programme Implementation, 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 away the certificates and the prizes by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Planning & Programme Implementation in a function organised at the end of the fortnight. The fortnight was concluded with a "KAVI SAMMELAN" in which 10 poets of repute recited their poems.

3.99 Under the "Kautilya Puraskar Yojana" of the Planning Commission, two prizes viz. Ist & IInd Prize amounting to Rs.10,000/- and Rs. 7,000/- respectively were awarded to the authors who wrote original books during the year 1995 on the technical subjects relating to Planning Commission. These Prizes were awarded on the basis of the recommendations made by the Evaluation Committee constituted for the purpose. The awards were given away by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Planning in a function held on 26th Sept. 1997.

3.100 In order to encourage the Sections of the Planning Commission to do most of their work in Hindi, a running shield was awarded to Admn-V Section as winner of the Ist Prize and the second prize was given to Admn-IV Section for their performace in the use of Hindi during the year 1996-97. These prizes were also awarded by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Planning and Programme Implementation in the above function.

3.101 In addition to above, a Hindi workshop was also organised in the Planning Commission to impart training to the employees having working knowledge of Hindi/possessing proficiency in Hindi to enable them to make use of Hindi for their various official purposes.

HOUSING, URBAN DEVELOPMENT & WATER SUPPLY DIVISION

3.102 During the year under report, the Division continued to formulate and monitor the 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.

3.103 In order to examine the issues relating to formulation of policy guidelines, objectives and strategies for Housing, Urban Poverty Alleviation, Urban Development, Urban Infrastructure including Urban Water Supply and Sanitation, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation and Housing in connection with formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan, the Division had set up two Steering Committees on Urban Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Poverty and Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Housing under the chairmanship of the Member, Planning Commission. In order to deliberate exclusively on the issues relating to Urban Housing, Urban Poverty, Urban development including Urban Transport, Urban Water Supply & Sanitation and Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Housing, five Working Groups on the above mentioned subjects had also been set up. The Division was closely associated in deliberations of all these Steering Committees and Working Groups and finalisation of their reports. The Reports of all these Working Groups provided the input for formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan, Chapter on Housing, Urban Development, Water Supply and Civic amenities.

3.104 Inter se allocation among the States/UTs of Rs.330 crore, included in the Union Budget 1997-98 as additional Central assistance for slum development programmes in the States/UTs for the Annual Plan 1997-98, was worked out by this Division and guidelines formulated for its utilisation. In view of the importance of slum development as a social objective, the wide ranging concern about the growth of slum population in the country and the allocation of Plan funds towards slum

development, a working Group on slums has been constituted under the chairmanship of Adviser(HUD&WS) to consider and recommend the basis on which funds earmarked for slum development should be allocated during the rest of the period of Ninth Plan. Two meetings of the Working Group were held in which wide ranging discussions on all the aspects of the problem took place.

3.105 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:

- Empowered Committee on Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission.
- Review meetings with State Govt. officials on "Urban Low Cost Sanitation Scheme" and "Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme for Small Towns".
- SSRC on Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission.
- SSRC on the scheme of "Integrated Development in Mega Cities".
- SSRC on Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns.

International Conferences attended by Adviser:-

- XVI Session of U. N. Commission on Human Settlement at Nairobi.

- Study the Green City Concept in Denmark & feasibility for its development in India from 15th-21st September 1997.
- International consultation on partnership in the Water Sector for African Cities at Cape Town, South Africa.

3.106 The Division participated in the Working Group discussions in respect of Housing, Urban Development, Water Supply & Sanitation of the various States/UTs in connection with the formulation of their Ninth Plan and Annual Plan 1997-98.

INDIA JAPAN STUDY COMMITTEE

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

3.108 The limited numbers of Indians who are familiar with Japan and Japanese language is perceived as a major constraint in the further development of Indo-Japanese cooperation. The Committee discussed a proposal to start teaching of Japanese language in India. It was agreed that Japan Foundation in India will initiate a programme for about 10-12 Japanese teachers to teach Japanese language upto secondary level in 11 identified Indian institutions. The Committee also accepted the India Committee's proposal to set up a Golden Jubilee Technology Institute for Vocational Training in India, which will train Indian

workers in Japanese skills. This proposal has been taken up with the Finance Ministry and is presently under their consideration.

3.109 The India Committee has re-started publication of a India Japan Quarterly Journal, which will contain academic studies, sectoral reports and an up-date on statistics & information on both countries. The journal will be a regular feature of IJSC's activities with inputs from both Japan Committee and India Committee.

INDUSTRY AND MINERALS DIVISION

3.110 Most of the Working Groups/ Task Force Reports that were constituted for the Ninth Five year Plan were discussed during 1996-97. Their recommendations constituted important inputs in the preparation of Ninth Plan Chapter on Industry and Minerals sector.

3.111 Planning Commission has been participating in performance appraisal of PSUs under various Ministries. Turn-Around Proposal (TAP) of Bharat Refractory Limited (BRL) was approved by the Planning Commission with the result, that the BRL which was a sick unit and referred to BIFR, was able to come out of a sickness.

3.112 Growth Centre scheme continues to be under implementation and a number of additional growth centres were considered and approved for various States.

3.113 A proposal on new Industrial Policy for introducing a fresh incentive package for promotion of industrialisation in the North Eastern Region was examined for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

3.114 Various proposals for industrial and minerals development and on foreign trade sector, formulated for consideration of the Cabinet by various Ministries, were examined and views of the Planning Commission conveyed.

3.115 In pursuance of the direction given by the Prime Minister in a meeting held on 2nd September, 1997, the patent offices functioning under the Department of Industrial Development would be modernised to bring them up to international standards during the Ninth Plan period and for this an Empowered Committee comprising Member-Secretary, Planning Commission, Secretary (ID), Secretary (DSIR) and representative of Secretary (Expenditure) was constituted to consider short term and medium term measures needed for modernization of patent offices. The Committee has worked out a strategy for its restructuring, removal of backlog of patent applications, improvement to provide quality of search and examination and cater to inventive and innovative activities including the frontier areas like genetic engineering, biotechnology, new materials etc

3.116 As per the new role of the Planning Commission, a meeting was held in the Commission with Secondary Lead & Zinc Industry Association to consider implication of the Basel Convention on Lead-Zinc Industry.

3.117 In order to exchange ideas and to suggest innovative views, Member (GT) initiated a series of monthly meetings with the officers of the I&M Division.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS DIVISION

3.118 The International Economics 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 in the

context of the planning process. The Division also handles work relating to bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation. In this context, the Division is also engaged in analysing the trends and issues in the international economy. During the financial year 1997-98, 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), South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation (SAARC) etc. and India's missions abroad for supply of information and data.

3.119 The Division was actively involved in the exercises relating to the formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan for the external sector. Based on the Report of the Working Group on Balance of Payments for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), finalised in the Division, a Sectoral Approach Paper was prepared as input to the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan(1997-2002). Several empirical exercises were done in the Division as part of a policy paper giving trends and projections on Balance of Payments as input in preparation of the Draft Ninth Plan Document.

3.120 The Division was engaged in studies concerning policy issues in the external sector with the objective of articulating views of Planning Commission. The areas studied included problems faced by exporters in various countries, futures trading, movements in exchange rates and foreign direct investment, issues concerning the WTO agreements, phasing out of

quantitative restrictions, bilateral promotion and protection of investment, and project implementation performance in Asian countries.

3.121 The Division handled work relating to Parliamentary conferences and other Parliamentary matters. A detailed paper was prepared for the briefing meeting of the Indian delegation to the 43rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Mauritius in September 1997. The Division submitted replies to the issues raised in the meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance for the Ministry of Planning and Programme implementation as well as the Department Related Standing Committee for Ministry of Industry.

3.122 The Division was deeply engaged in work relating to the bilateral and technical cooperation. Following the visit of Deputy Chairman to Royal Kingdom of Bhutan, position papers were prepared reflecting views of Planning Commission on aid to that country for their Eighth Plan (1997-2002). The Division participated in Development Plan Talks in February 1998 with the delegation from Bhutan for quantum of assistance during 1998-99, particularly in the context of aid under Government of India Plan expenditure. In the context of development cooperation with neighboring countries of SAARC, a study on developments in the region was prepared after a visit to SAARC secretariat in Kathmandu.

3.123 Another major initiative in the area of technical cooperation was in connection with the visit of South African Gauteng Province Minister of Planning in October-November, 1997. A comprehensive meeting was chaired by Deputy Chairman where interaction between Members of Planning Commission and South African Delegation on issues pertaining to Planning took place. A report was also prepared on the visit of

this delegation to Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra. Planning Commission has agreed to support the proposal of an institutional arrangement on development cooperation with South Africa.

3.124 Three major delegations were received from the People's Republic of China. These were respectively led by Huang Hua, former Foreign Minister of China; Zheng Xinli, Director General of State Planning Committee and Zhang Haoruo, Executive Vice Minister of State Commission for Restructuring Economic Systems of the Peoples Republic of China. The Division in this context prepared comprehensive briefing papers on trends in PR China and Indo-Chinese' economic relations.

3.125 In addition several other delegations were received. These included Zanzibar Minister of Planning, delegations from Japan separately from OECF, JCIF, MITI and their Engineering Consultant Association, Chairman of Finance Commission of Srilanka, Oman Minister of Science and Technology and Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Planning of Uganda. The teams of two international credit agencies, Standards and Poor, and Duffs and Phelps were also received and briefed on the Indian economy.

3.126 In the area of multi-lateral cooperation, the Division provided inputs for the ESCAP Study on Asia and Pacific into the 21st Century and for the 53rd and 54th Annual Sessions of ESCAP. A team of WTO-Trade Policy Review Mechanism was received in the Planning Commission and briefed on the developments in the Indian economy. The Division also prepared briefs on WTO related issues such as the First Ministerial Conference, phasing out of quantitative restrictions and Aggregate Measure of Support. Comments were also prepared on issue before the Asian Group of 77 meeting on UNCTAD IX. An official of the OECD also visited the Planning Commission and

was briefed on Indian Planning process. Papers were also prepared on studies originating from Asian Development Bank.

3.127 The Division prepared several papers/briefs on diverse subjects, such as,

- India's Exports to the European Union with special reference to UK
- Globalisation and Policy Reforms in developing countries, an analysis of Latin American and South Asian experiences
- SAARC Some Major Issues Concerning Poverty and Development
- India's foreign trade Emerging Trends
- Exchange Rate Policy
- Impact of Trade Reforms Since 1991
- South Africa, Gauteng and Indo-South Africa Development Cooperation
- External Sector Policies and Objectives During the Ninth Plan

IRRIGATION AND COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

3 128 In connection with the formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan, a Steering Group and Five Working Groups relevant to the important component of Irrigation & Flood Control were constituted. The Working Group reports on Major & Medium Irrigation, Minor Irrigation, Flood Control, Command Area Development and Participatory Irrigation Management have been received in the Planning Commission. These reports were examined in the Division.

3.129 The draft Chapter for the Ninth Five Year Plan in regard to Irrigation, Flood Control & Command Area Development Programme was prepared.

3.130 The process of formulation of Annual Plan 1996-97 for various States and the Ministry of Water Resources had been completed. The Chapter on Irrigation, Flood Control & Command Area Development for the Annual Plan 1996-97 was finalised.

3.131 The process of formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 1997-98 for various States had been completed. Similar exercises were undertaken in respect of Plan proposals of 1997-98 of the Ministry of Water Resources to finalise the plan outlays for Irrigation, Flood Control & CAD Programmes.

3.132 A number of EFCs and PIB Memo received from the Ministry of Water Resources were examined and detailed comments were sent to the Ministry of Water Resources. A number of Parliament Questions received during the Parliament Session were promptly replied.

3.133 The Officers of the I&CAD Division participated in the number of Conferences, Seminars, review meetings of the Ministry of Water Resources and Central Water Commission in respect of Externally Aided Irrigation, Flood Control and CAD Programme. Several VIP references were also dealt appropriately.

3.134 Various Projects in the sector were considered by the Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control & Multi-purpose Projects of the Ministry of Water Resources. Based on the Committee's recommendations, investment approvals were issued, details of which are indicated in Annexure.

3.135 The importance of development of water resources in the country has been recognised keeping in view the need for agricultural development. During the year 1997-98, the Union Government provided additional central assistance by way of loans to the States for timely completion of selected Irrigation & Multi-purpose projects.

3.136 Rural Infrastructure Development Fund(RIDF) was started in 1995-96 to provide loans to the State Govts. for financing Rural infrastructure Projects including Irrigation, Soil Conservation & Water-shed Management etc. During 1997-98, under RIDF-III, an amount of Rs.2500 crore was allocated. NABARD is sanctioning loans to the State Govts. 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 lingering on projects.

3.137 As a follow-up of report of the Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water, the Planning Commission constituted a Group of Officers, under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Planning Commission and Members from selected States and concerned Govt. 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. And subsequently after achieving O&M level, the individual States might review the status to decide appropriate action to manage the water rates to cover the one percent of capital cost also. In addition to the above, setting up of the Irrigation & Water Pricing Board by all the 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 also recommended the formation of Water User Associations and transferring the maintenance and management of water system through them so that each system

may manage its own finances both for O&M and eventually for expansion and improvement of facilities.

3.138 The Govt. of India have constituted a High Power Commission in September, 1996 for Integrated Water Resources Development Programme i.e. to take a holistic view of the overall water resources in the country and maximising the availability and its utilisation including consideration of inter-basin transfers. Member (Agriculture & Irrigation), Planning Commission is at present the Chairman of the Commission. The Commission has to submit their report in three years time.

ANNEXURE

List of Irrigation and Flood Control Schemes sanctioned by Planning Commission during 1997-98 (1.1.97 to 31.03.1998)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Estimated cost (Rs.Lakhs)	Date of sanction
1	2	3	4
1.	Investment clearance of scheme on Right Side to Brahmaputra Dyke from Desangmukh to Dikhowmukh - Assam	232.83	7.1.1997
2.	Investment clearance of scheme on Raising and Strengthening of Brahmaputra Dyke from Desangmukh to Dikhowmukh (Corrigendum) - Assam.	232.83	20.1.1997
3.	Shah Mahar Irrigation Project (H.P.) - Himachal Pradesh	14432.00	21.2.1997
4.	Benesatura Medium Irrigation project of Maharashtra.	1211.98	25.2.1997
5.	Anti-erosion measures to protect the Brahmaputra Dyke on Left Bank from Gumi to Kalatoli, Assam	160.10	25.2.1997
6.	Anti erosion measure for protection of Brahmaputra dyke near Khutiaputa check bound against erosion at Kalbari area - Assam.	149.36	25.2.1997
7.	Raising & Strengthening of the Brahmaputra dyke from Neamati P.W.D. road to Gohain-Gaon - Assam.	220.28	25.2.1997
8.	Anti-Erosion works of Likhov both banks are different reaches near Simaluguri and Nazira Town - Assam.	345.00	25.2.1997
9.	Wan Major Irrigation scheme, Maharashtra	4685.00	15.4.1997
10.	Upper Manar Medium Irrigation Project	2618.342	15.4.1997
11.	Anti erosion measures to protect both of Puthimari Embankment from R.G.Railway line to Baramboi to its outfall at different erosion sites - Assam	262.12	12.5.1997
12.	Anti-Erosion measures to the extension of protection works at Kuruabahi area against erosion of river Dhansiri from Chainage 4700 m to 5495 m "	128.11	12.5.1997

13. Gunta Dam Medium Irrigation Project - Uttar Pradesh	1941.00	19.6.1997
14. Rengali Irrigation Sub Project LBC II - Orissa (Part of Revised Estt.)	70515.00	14.7.1997
15. Scheme on "Construction of Embankment from Molakhowaghat to Kathalbari to protect Hatsingimari area from the flooding of river Brahmaputra and Jinjiram Phase-I Assam.	162.61	4.8.1997
16. Scheme on "Anti-erosion measures to protect both banks of Puthimari embankment from Mukaldonga to R.G.Railway Line at different erosion sites" - Assam.	305.70	4.8.1997
17. Drainage of Patidarrange and its adjoining low lying area under Mangaldai Civil Sub-Division - Assam.	765.00	7.10.1997
18. Protection of Garal area from Garal to Mazirgaon from the erosion of river Brahmaputra Ph-I.	344.87	6.10.1997
19. Sukli Medium Irrigation project of Rajasthan	1869.80	10.12.1997
20. Bandi Sendra Medium Irrigation Project of Rajasthan	1304.10	10.12.1997
21. Modernisation of Gambhiri Canal System of Rajasthan	1176.26	16.12.1997
22. Bisalpur Drinking Water cum Irrigation Project (Major) of Rajasthan	30907.00	16.12.1997
23. Clearance of Modernisation of Jamuna Irrigation Project - Assam	6027.00	17.12.1997
24. Goma Irrigation Scheme (Medium) of Gujarat	4757.00	30.12.1997
25. Investment clearance of Scheme on Raising and Strengthening of Dikhow bund Right Bank embankment from Darbar field to Dikhowmukh including anti- erosion measures Phase-I. - Assam	337.65	31.12.1997
26. Investment clearance of Scheme on Anti- erosion measures to protect the Brahmaputra Dyke Left Bank from Palasbari to Gumi (Construction of deflector at Ch. 20800 m. including construction of check dam at old kulshimukh).	204.14	31.12.1997
27. Scheme of Extension of A/E measure at Chunpura Bazar area along right bank of river Lohit	111.67	10.03.1998

28. Scheme on strengthening of Anti-erosion works at Arimorasuti to protect Brahmaputra Dyke from Jamuguri to Kharoi outfall (providing check bund at 29th km.)	208.44	10.03.1998
20. Scheme on construction of dowel bund along FWD road from Kamalabarito B/Dyke from Dakhinpat to Kamalabari Ph-I	310.00	10.03.1998
30. Indira Gandhi Nahar Project (Major), of Rajasthan	339891.00	11.03.1998
31. Investment clearance for Restoration of Govardhan Drain for reach & falling in Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh	347.59	11.03.1998
32. Sindh River Phase-II Major Project of Madhya Pradesh	51094.00	17.03.1998
33. Scheme Controlling of Gaindi for protection of Railway & Road Communication for Arunachal Pradesh	349.00	18.03.1998
34. Scheme R/S to B/Dyke from Khutiapota Check bund to N/R Dyke Ph-II	336.95	18.03.1998
35. Scheme Anti-Erosion measures to protect Barak Dyke from Gonirgram to Katigorah on its right bank at Santipur (Ch. 3700 m to 4210 m) on river Barak	206.43	18.03.1998
36. Scheme Raising and strengthening to dyke along right Bank of Borak from Gonirgram to Katigorah Ph-III (Ch. 18000 m to 24150 m)	320.71	18.03.1998
37. Jarauli Pump Canal Project Uttar Pradesh	4792.00	23.03.1998

LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT & MANPOWER DIVISION

3.139 The Division continued to handle matters relating to employment strategy, employment policy and issues, labour policies and programmes and manpower planning.

3.140 The Division interacted with various Central Ministries/Departments in formulation and implementation of their employment schemes.

3.141 To chalk out a strategy for the Ninth Plan on the issues like social security in both organised and unorganised sectors, labour policy, labour laws, vocational training institutions and role of employment exchanges, the Division organised a meeting with the Secretary, Ministry of Labour. Dr. A.K. Sengupta, Member (LEM) Planning Commission chaired the meeting and senior officials of the Ministry of Labour were present.

3.142 Some of the important Committees/Groups in which the Division was represented during the year are as follows:

- (a) Standing Advisory Committee on Labour, Planning Commission.
- (b) Standing Labour Committee of the Indian Labour Conference, Ministry of Labour.
- (c) Indian Labour Conference, Ministry of Labour.
- (c) Working Group on Social Security for Unorganised Workers, Ministry of Labour.
- (e) Committee on Convention, Ministry of Labour.
- (f) National Council on Vocational Training, Ministry of Labour.
- (g) Central Apprenticeship Council, Ministry of Labour.
- (h) Central Advisory Board on Child Labour, Ministry of Labour.
- (i) Committee of Direction of the Central Institute for Research and Training in Employment Services set up by the Ministry of Labour.

(j) Research Advisory Committee of Planning Commission.

(k) The General Council, the Executive Council and the Standing Committee on Research Programmes of IAMR.

3.143 The Institute of Applied Manpower Research(IAMR) is a society carrying out training and research activities. The Institute is supported by grants-in-aid from Planning Commission. The Division continued to look after matters, both technical and administrative, relating to the IAMR. An investment decision has been taken to develop a new campus of IAMR at Narela, Delhi Research capabilities of IAMR for carrying out research in employment and unemployment were strengthened.

3.144 Various proposals on Development of Labour and Employment were examined in the light of on-going economic liberalisation and restructuring programme in the country.

3.145 Various papers were prepared in the Division during the year, some of which are mention below

- (a) Paper prepared on Employment for Special Session of the Parliament for the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the India's Independence
- (b) Paper on Employment Scenario prepared in connection with the Standing Committee on Finance.
- (c) Paper on Employment in a globalising world prepared for 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Cairo (Egypt).

(d) Paper prepared on Employment situation in the North Eastern Region.

3.146 Draft Chapter on "Craftsmen Training and Labour Welfare" of the Annual Plan 1996-97 document and Draft Ninth Plan Chapter on Labour and Labour Welfare and "Employment Perspective" were prepared.

3.147 The Division analysed 50th round data of NSSO on Employment and Unemployment at both State level and All India Level and projection of Labour Force and Work Force in the coming years which formed an input in the chapter on Employment Perspective in the Ninth Five Year Plan document.

3.148 Issues relating to Child Labour were discussed in the meeting with the Ministry of Labour.

LIBRARY

3.149 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 Bhawan. 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.

3.150 The Library has computerised almost all its activities viz., circulation, documentation, acquisition and reference etc. These activities are being done at Pentium through LIBSYS software. Library continues to be the 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. Pentium based system alongwith BASISPLUS software for library operations has been installed in the library.

3.151 The library is also bringing out its publication, 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.

3.152 During the period under report 1135 English and 171 Hindi books/publications have been added to the collection. 330 Periodicals were also received in the Library. The Library also provided about 18000 references queries and attended to specific needs of about 1500 persons. About 20000 readers visited the library for consultation and reference work.

3.153 The Library catalogue is fully computerised. Two terminals have been provided to the readers for search of documents by themselves in the Library.

Academic Activities :

3.154 Practical training has also been provided to some students of Library Science deputed by various academic institutions

3.155 About 120 research scholars from different universities and from eminent institutions of the country visited this Library for reference for their research project. All were given necessary references from this Library. Library is also providing Inter Library Loan services to the users. It provided these facilities approximately to 40 libraries.

3.156 Clippings of important articles from Economic Times and Financial Express are being maintained. These are also being indexed in DOCPLAN brought out by the Library.

MULTI LEVEL PLANNING DIVISION

3.157 Multi Level Planning Division is concerned with the following sectors:

- (i) Decentralisation of Planning;**
- (ii) Backward Areas and Regional Imbalances;
and**
- (iii) Special Area Programme namely Border Area Development Programme (BADP)/Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) /North Eastern Council (NEC).**

3.158 Brief account of the performance with respect to the above sectors is given below

- (a) Planning Commission has been promoting the concept of decentralisation of the planning process down to district level and below. In 1969, comprehensive guidelines were issued for the first time for district planning. In 1982, a Working Group was set up to review the progress of district planning. This report on district planning became available in 1984 and has been the basis of further efforts in this direction. Revised guidelines for the scheme have been issued in 1997-98 under which States have been asked to set up a Panchayati Raj Cell in the apex Planning Body at the State level. At the district level**

the existing scheme would continue. However, only those States which have hitherto not availed of schemes at district level will be eligible for funds.

(b) As part of its efforts to decentralise planning, the Commission provides assistance to states for strengthening planning machinery at State and District levels. The scheme of strengthening of planning machinery provides for two-thirds of expenditure on new technical planning staff at the State level and for half the expenditure at district level.

(ii) Backward Areas and Regional Imbalances: MLP Division maintains a list of Backward Areas as identified by State Governments. The State Governments are being requested to send the latest list of areas identified as backward.

(iii) Special Area Programmes:

Border Area Development Programme (BADP):

This programme was taken up during the year 1986-87 for balanced development of border areas of four States, namely, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Gujarat and Rajasthan. During the Eighth Five Year Plan this programme has been revamped and its coverage extended to the States on the Eastern border with Bangladesh viz. 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 objectives of the programme continue to be balanced development of remote inaccessible areas situated near border in order to ensure their effective administration.

The outlay for the programme in the Eighth Five Year Plan was Rs. 640 crore (at 1991-92 prices) but total releases have been Rs. 735.92 crore during the Eighth Plan. After revamping of BADP in 1993-94, its scope has been reoriented to give 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. Outlay during 1997-98 is Rs.176 crore.

Hill Area Development Programme (HADP)

HADP is being implemented for integrated development of certain designated hill areas since the inception of Fifth Five Year Plan. The main objective of this programme is to ensure ecologically sustainable socio-economic development of hill areas, keeping in view the basic needs 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.

3.159 During the Eighth Plan, attention was focussed on productive sectors of the hill economies especially modernising of agricultural practices and small scale industries at household, cottage and village levels. Here involvement of people was considered very important. The aim was to meet the actual basic needs of the people through improved management of the land and water resources.

3.160 As against Rs. 1450 crore of agreed outlay for the Eighth Five Year Plan the allocation on year to year basis, aggregates to Rs. 1634.01 crore.

3.161 A Working Group was constituted for Hill Area Development Programme/ Western Ghat Development Programme for the Ninth Five Year Plan under the Chairmanship

of Special Secretary (Planning Commission) with representatives of Planning Commission, concerned Central Ministries, and HADP / WGDP States and two non-official members. The Working Group has already submitted its report. The outlay during the programme for 1997-98 is Rs. 352 crore.

WESTERN GHATS SECRETARIAT

3.162 Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP) was introduced in 1974-75 as part of programme for development of Hill Areas. The WGDP covers 163 talukas of Western Ghats areas comprising parts of Maharashtra (62 talukas), Tamil Nadu (29 talukas including 4 talukas of HADP Nilgiris), Kerala (29 talukas), Karnataka (40 talukas) and Goa (3 talukas). Special Central Assistance (SCA) is given to constituent States for supplementing their own efforts for development of areas covered by the Programme.

3.163 The Western Ghats region of the country has been recognised as ecologically fragile, environmentally degraded and requiring special attention for preservation of its ecology. Central theme of Western Ghats Development Programme is eco-restoration, eco-conservation and eco-development and aims at bringing about harmony between development of area and protection, improvement etc. of ecological and environmental assets. The schemes being implemented under the Programme are meant for improving life style of inhabitants of Western Ghats, with sustainable use of natural resources of the area.

3.164 The important activities relating to WGDP and HADP (Nilgiris) during 1997-98 are indicated below :

- (i) The progress of implementation of WGDP in constituent States was reviewed in the meetings of the Secretaries Committee on WGDP held in Kodaikanal on 18.8.1997 and in Goa on 22.10.1997.
- (ii) Annual Plan 1997-98 of the constituent States under WGDP and HADP for Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu was finalised and Annual Plans of 1998-99 are under finalisation. Total Special Central Assistance allocated for Annual Plan 1997-98 under WGDP was Rs.46.08 crore (excluding Surveys & Studies and Western Ghats Sectt.) for all the constituent States. For HADP (Nilgiris) - Tamil Nadu, the SCA allocated for 1997-98 was Rs.19.62 crore.
- (iii) The progress of implementation of both the programmes viz. WGDP and HADP (Nilgiris) in financial and physical terms is being monitored by the Western Ghats Secretariat, on quarterly basis.
- (iv) At the instance of Planning Commission, Government of Karnataka and Programme Evaluation Organisation carried out a joint evaluation of WGDP in Karnataka. Similar study has also been completed in Maharashtra and findings of this evaluation study have been referred to the State Government of Maharashtra for their follow-up action. The report is yet to be received from the Government of Maharashtra. Joint evaluation studies have been approved by the Planning Commission for the States of Kerala

and Goa and these studies are in progress. The report is expected to be made available shortly in Planning Commission.

- (v) The Government of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Kerala have got their perspective plans prepared for the WGDP being implemented in their respective States. Draft perspective plan for Maharashtra had been submitted and the State Government was requested to revise their perspective plan in the light of observations made by the Planning Commission. This revised perspective plan is yet to be received. The perspective plan for the WGDP region in Goa is under preparation.
- (vi) Necessary formats for computerisation of WGDP data and linking it through NICNET have been finalised in consultation with participating States and necessary softwares have been despatched to constituent States for transmission of data relating to WGDP to the Planning Commission through NICNET. The transmission of data in WGDP through NICNET has been initiated in constituent States of WGDP.

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 with 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 Govt. Depts. etc. In addition to the LAN and its terminals, various other Computer Equipments such as Pentiums/486SX/386/286/PC-XT/PC, Dot matrix, Inkjet and line printers, Plotters, Laser Printers are also installed with various Divisions and at workstations as common pool facility. Certain specialised units have also been set up at Planning Commission namely 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 is developed for Plan Modelling Exercises which consists of a core model and seven sub-models and is used to work out the Output levels required in the terminal year of a given Plan to satisfy a given level of final demands. 9th Plan exercises were done using this Model.

3.167 A set of Softwares have been developed for the Construction of Input/Output table for the Indian Economy for 1989-90 which was utilized as the main input for 9th Plan Modelling exercises. The construction of Input/Output table is a major exercise which requires processing of data corresponding to Large scale, small scale and unorganised household manufacturing sectors.

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

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 is 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 processing of the Consumer expenditure data pertaining to 50th Round on NSSO and containing about 6 million records of data was completed.

3.172 The data of Evaluation studies conducted by the Programme Evaluation Organisation(PEO) of Planning Commission is processed by the NIC(YBU). The work on the Evaluation studies on Integrated Tribal development Projects and Impact of Non-formal education on universalisation of Elementary education was completed

3.173 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

3.174 Necessary Computerisation support was provided to prepare the draft document on 9th Plan comprising nearly 1500 pages. Also necessary work was carried out for putting the document on Internet.

3.175 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.

3.176 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.

3.177 Training is an integral part of Computer support activities of NIC(YBU). A number of inhouse training programmes are organised every year for the benefit of the Officers and staff of Planning commission. During 1997-98 also 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

3.178 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.

3.179 The Division assists the Commission in planning and policy issues which span across multiple sectors of the economy such as agriculture, industry, infrastructure, financial resources, foreign trade, balance of payments, social services, demography, poverty and employment. To bring about 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 the overall macro framework, projecting the needs of consumption, investment and production structure as well as Social Development.

3.180 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 the appropriate strategy of development,**
- (ii) examines the current policies and programmes in the inter-temporal, inter-regional and inter-sectoral contexts,**
- (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 development 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 by Planning Commission on issues pertaining to "Planning Process" posed by Parliament, forum of economists and economic editors, representatives of economic planning agencies in the States, delegations from National Planning Commissions from other countries and trans-national institutions, such as UN, SAARC and ESCAP; the interaction with trans-national institutions being through the respective nodal Ministries of Government.

3.181 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 situation. 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

3.182 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" setup 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.
- (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.

3.183 The principal focus of the work undertaken by the Division in 1997-98 was preparation of the draft Ninth Five Year Plan. As the nodal division for Volume I of the Plan document, most of the work was related to this activity. These included inter-alia:

- (a) C.S.O's input output table of 1989-90 was updated to the base year of the Ninth Plan,(1996-97).This is the critical step in updating the long-term planning model which is used in plan formulation.
- (b) Estimation of Sectoral private investment function for the Ninth FiveYear Plan and sectoral Incremental Capital Output Ratios and associated lag structures were carried out.
- (c) Trend analysis of Foreign Direct Investment and Foreign Institutional Investment into India was undertaken and forecasts derived.

- (d) Material Balances for principal commodities** /viz. Electricity, Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Petroleum Products, Finished Steel, iron ore, cement etc. were revised for the Ninth Five Year Plan.
- (e) Material Balances for principal commodities** under multiple scenarios of economic development for the Ninth as well as Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plans were prepared.
- (f) Life Indices for various minerals and metals** were prepared.
- (g) Import Vector and Export Vector for the Ninth Five Year Plan** were prepared. Export items and sources of import items were analysed in detail.

3.184 A macro economic model of the Indian Economy was developed using the results of the various analysis described above. The model was used to generate alternative growth paths for consideration in formulating the Ninth Plan. On adoption of the recommendations of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakdawala Committee) for estimation of poverty by the Planning Commission, state specific poverty lines and incidence of poverty separately for rural and urban areas as well as for the state as a whole have been re-worked for the years for which estimates of poverty have been made available. These estimates have been widely disseminated and are presently used for making allocation under various anti-poverty programmes.

3.185 The performance of external sector of the country was periodically reviewed and information made available to the various Divisions of Planning Commission for information and

follow up action. A Seminar on "Macro-economic model of the Indian Economy for Short term and Medium Term Forecasting and Policy Simulation" was organised in October, 1997.

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

- (i) Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections.**
- (ii) A Press Note "Estimates of Poverty" containing revised estimates for the years 1973-74, 1977-78, 1983 1987-88 and 1993-94**
- (iii) Technical Note on Mathematical Model for estimating demand and supply and of agricultural commodities and associated inputs for the Ninth Plan.**
- (iv) "Provisional Papers on International Support for Poverty Eradication for SAARC**
- (v) "Annual Report of 1996-97 on Poverty Eradication for SAARC Secretariat.**
- (vi) Status Paper on the import and export of agricultural and allied Products.**
- (vii) Agriculture Development in Bihar.**
- (viii) An Overview of Annual Plan 1996-97.**
- (ix) Draft Chapter on Social Sector for inclusion in Economic Survey 1996-97.**

3.187 The work in progress in the Division includes:

- (i) Development of data base, model structure and review of literature for the Computable General equilibrium (CGE) Model proposed to be developed in the Planning Commission in collaboration with experts from Netherlands.**
- (ii) Linkage of the Short Term Macro Model with the Input Output based long term sectoral planning model is being attempted in order to ensure consistency between the short and medium-term growth paths of the economy.**

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

(a) Seminars on

- (i) A Survey on Migrant Slum Dwellers in Delhi. Some selected results on occupation and Health held on 27.3.1998 at New Delhi.**
- (ii) A workshop at Chennai in connection with ACCAR project jointly undertaken by Australian National University and Madras School of Economics held in November 21-22.**
- (iii) Investment in Growth in Agriculture and Fertiliser held in December, 1997 by the Fertiliser Association of India.**

- (iv) "Macro-economic model of the Indian Economy for Short and Medium Term Forecasting and Policy Simulation"

(b) Training on

Management Development Programme on Macro Economic Management and Policy held at Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad in July, 1997.

3.189 The officers of P.P. Division participated in imparting training to the participants of

- (i) Probationers of Indian Statistical Service
- (ii) Junior Certificate Course in statistics organised by Central Statistical Organisation
- (iii) Training Programmes organised by Central Statistical Organisation for Statistical Officers Centre /State/ UTs/PSUs.

PLAN COORDINATION DIVISION

3.190 This Division coordinates all activities relating to the formulation of the Five Year Plans/Annual Plans, Annual Report etc. The Central Sector Five Year/Annual Plan allocations to Ministries/Departments of the Government of India is the responsibility of the Plan Coordination Division. Organisation and coordination of the meetings of the Full Planning Commission and National Development Council (NDC), both chaired by the Prime Minister and the Chairman, Planning Commission, meetings of the Consultative Committee of the Members of Parliament attached to the Ministry of Planning, and also the internal meetings of the Commission chaired by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, are some of the other

important functions of the Division. This Division coordinates all the Parliamentary work as well as other works of the Planning Commission which require general coordination among various Divisions.

3.191 A summary of the major activities undertaken in the Commission relating to the formulation of Plans, and other major work undertaken during the course of the month is sent to the Cabinet Secretary and the Prime Minister's Office every month.

3.192 This Division formulated the guidelines to be kept in view by the Central Ministries and Departments in the formulation of their Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) and Annual Plan 1998-99 proposals. Also, the series of meetings between the Member Secretary, Planning Commission and the Secretaries of Central Ministries/Departments to discuss their Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) and Annual Plan (1997-98) proposals were organised and coordinated by the Plan Coordination Division.

3.193 The Chapters namely (1) Public Sector Plan Outlay (2) General Economic Services and (3) General Services were prepared in the Division for the Annual Plan document 1996-97. This Division also coordinated the work in the preparation of the Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan (1997-2002).

3.194 A meeting of the National Development Council was organised on the 16th January, 1997 to consider the draft Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister. This meeting in addition was attended by all the Chief Ministers/Governors/Lt. Governors and Members of Planning Commission. The meeting was also attended by Senior Central and State Officials. After a day long deliberations on the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan, the document was unanimously approved by the National Development Council.

3.195 A total of 28 internal meetings of the Planning Commission were held during the year 1997-98 to consider draft Chapters of the Ninth Five Year Plan. Two meetings of the full Planning Commission were also held, the details of which were as follows:

1. 10-3-97 :
 - i) Revised methodology for estimation of poverty.

2. 09-6-97 :
 - i) Progress of the Ninth Plan exercises;
 - ii) Transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes;
 - iii) NDC Committee on Power; and
 - iv) Suggestions received from States on Gadgil Formula - Note for information.

3.196 The exercise for determining the indicative outlays for Central Ministries for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) was undertaken and the consolidated statement after approval of the PMO, was sent to the Central Ministries/Departments for undertaking the Plan exercises.

PLANNING COMMISSION CLUB

3.197 The Planning Commission Club conducts sports and cultural activities in the Planning Commission. Shri A.S. Lamba, Addl. Adviser, Planning Commission is its Hon'y. President. The Member-Secretary, Planning Commission is the Patron of the Club.

3.198 The Planning Commission Club promotes sports amongst its members. The Sportsmen/Sportswomen of the Planning Commission participated in various Inter-Ministry tournaments and have brought laurels to the Planning Commission by winning prizes in badminton, etc. This year a table tennis team and an athletic team of the Planning Commission also participated in the Inter-Ministry tournament.

3.199 The Club through its cultural activities encourages the development of talent amongst the staff members and their children. During the year 1997-98, the Planning Commission organised an excursion trip successfully to Damdama Lake, Gurgaon on 18.04.1998.

3 200 Annual Athletic meet and Internal tournaments of the Planning Commission were held on 10.02.1998. The executive committee of the club took a decision to bring out a yearly magazine in the 50th year of India's Independence with the objective of providing a forum conducive to development of potential literary talents among the budding writers in the Planning Commission.

POWER & ENERGY DIVISION

3.201 Power & Energy Division is concerned with all major plan related policies and programmes in the Energy Sector including demand assessment, supply side management and conservation efforts. The Division is working on a National Energy Policy. The Division has three distinct units dealing with power, coal and petroleum. Some important tasks handled by these units are narrated below. The Power Unit also examines proposals leading to accord of investment approval to power schemes in the State Sector.

Power Unit

3.202 The Power Unit is involved in finalising Annual Report on the Working Group of the States Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments.

3.203 The Unit examined the report of the Ninth Plan Working Group on Power and Non-conventional Energy Sources and prepared the Draft Chapter for the Ninth Plan Document.

3.204 The Unit organised several meetings of the Energy Policy Committee set up by Planning Commission and presently is in the process of finalising the report.

3.205 The Unit examined and prepared a detailed comment of NDC Committee on Power for consideration of internal and full Planning Commission meeting.

3.206 The Unit examined the various proposals of private sectors in respect of power for the consideration in the meetings of High Powered Board,

3.207 The Unit also prepared material for the presentation given to Prime Minister on 19-8-1997.

Coal Unit

3.208 The Unit examined the report of Working Group of Coal and Lignite for the Ninth Plan and prepared material for the Draft Chapter on Energy for the Ninth Plan Document.

3.209 The Unit has organised and co-ordinated a series of meetings of the Committee on Incremental Coal Production to discuss about the feasibility for Incremental Coal Production to discuss about the feasibility for incremental coal production from

Coal India Ltd. (CIL) sources in the Ninth Plan as per the directives of Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI).

3.210 The Unit has prepared a detailed schematic presentation on Coal & Lignite sector as a part of the Presentation on Energy Sector, bringing out the major issues pertaining to the Coal & Lignite Sector for consideration of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

3.211 The Unit has examined various proposals and issues relating to Coal & Lignite projects for Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) meetings, Public Investment Board (PIB) meetings and Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) consideration etc.

3.212 The officers of the Unit participated in various meetings of the Standing Committees of Long-term Coal Linkages, Standing Scientific Research Committee, Inter-Ministerial Group, Public Investment Board, etc. and represented Planning Commission in different Seminars on the topics related to Energy.

Petroleum Unit

3.213 The Petroleum Unit assisted the technical group constituted by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to examine the issues related to dismantling of APM and restructuring of Tariff Structure. The final report has been submitted in September, 1997.

3.214 The Unit examined/appraised large number of project proposals for upstream and downstream segments of oil industry including JV proposals with private and foreign oil companies. Various policy related papers on Government disinvestment in oil sector PSUs and capital restructuring of PSUs were also examined.

3.215 The Unit prepared material for presentation on Energy Sector to the Hon'ble Prime Minister held in 18-9-1997.

3.216 The Unit examined the Working Group report on Petroleum & Natural Gas and prepared material for Ninth Plan Chapter on Energy.

3.217 The Unit was involved in examining the revision of Report of the Gas Pricing Committee and also the issue of Naphtha use for Fertilizer production vis-a-vis natural gas and import of urea

PROJECT APPRAISAL AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

3.218 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, so formed, 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 developing and

operating, implementing, planning 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 as service function to all Divisions.

Appraisal Work

3.219 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.

3.220 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 has recently decided 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 this time limit. Comments, if any, of the Planning Commission would be offered in the meeting itself.

3.221 During the year 1996-97, 294 projects involving a total project cost of Rs. 142397 crore were appraised in the Division. During 1997-98 (1.4.97 to 31.03.98) 267 projects involving a total project cost of Rs. 148757 crore were appraised. Whereas earlier all the projects/schemes costing Rs. 5 crore 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 crore and above are being appraised. The projects appraised included both the new as well as the proposals on revised cost estimates.

3.222 The sectoral distribution of projects appraised during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given in Table. More than 78% of the projects appraised during 1996-97 related to Surface Transport, Agriculture, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Health & Family Welfare, Energy, HRD, Railways, Environment & Forests, Information & Broadcasting Sectors. These sectors account for more than 66% of the projects appraised during 1997-98.

Management Consultancy Development

3.223 A Plan Scheme on Management Consultancy Development was taken up with a view to developing institutional set up for In-house Management Consultancy Services in selected public utilities which in turn would lead to introduction of improved management systems and procedures, improvement in performance and efficient functioning of these organisations. With this in view, the In-house Management Consultancy Groups (IMCGs)

established in 9 State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and 3 State Road Transport Corporations (SRTC) have undertaken studies for solving management problems, leading to better efficiency and productivity as also cost reduction. The faculty support and other expert assistance are being provided by the Management Consultancy Development Institute, Gurgaon. The total number of consultancy projects either completed or in progress is 173. Of the total 173 projects conducted by the 12 SEBs/SRTCs, more than 50% have been implemented and remaining are awaiting approval of the management of the respective SEBs/SRTCs.

3.224 Apart from the above, studies/work for the development of management consultancy profession as an instrument for improving efficiency, productivity and plan implementation in the country have also been initiated under this scheme. In this connection, the Division recommended the following two studies in the year 1995. The report on these studies have been finalised and received in the Planning Commission.

- (i) Study on Export of Management Consultancy Services in the areas of Corporate and General Management, Management Information Systems, Project Management Operations and Manufacturing Management, Financial Management and Marketing Management - conducted by National Productivity Council (NPC).
- (ii) Study on Impact of Liberalisation on Need and Use of Management Consultancy in India - conducted by the Institute of Management Consultants of India (IMCI). The plan scheme has now been completed.

Data Bank of Appraised Projects

3.225 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 of 3350 projects has been computerised upto March, 1998.

Data Bank of Planning Commission

3.226 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 analyse and develop various statements with the active support of National Informatics Centre for use in the Annual Plan discussions. Information is available for about 12450 central and centrally sponsored Plan Schemes in the Data Bank.

3.227 The Construction Industry Development Council has been set up under the Administrative purview of Planning Commission.

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

TABLE**(Cost in Rs. crore)**

S No	Sector	1996-97		1997-98 (1.4 97 to 31 03 98)	
		No of projects	Total capital cost	No of projects	Total capital cost
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	Agriculture, water resources	33	7838 04	20	3951 05
2	Energy including coal	17	13579 16	22	10964 11
3	Surface Transport	45	3856 01	39	2789 78
4	Petroleum & Natural Gas	37	52755 48	11	28511 25
5	Petrochemicals & Fertilisers	10	3753 00	10	14608 76
6	Electronics	2	566 56	6	180 29
7	Bio-technology	3	98 81	2	25 61
8	Information & Broadcasting and Communications	12	170 15	13	117 41
9	Steel & Mines	6	6399 65	2	2728 72
10	Industry & SSI	6	737 93	10	2399 27
11	Civil Aviation	5	607 57	3	904 85
12	Urban Development	3	145 27	3	6662 49
13	Rural Areas & Empl	4	36497 85	4	4752 00
14	Textiles	1	10 00	3	1136 63
15	Commerce	7	178 90	3	43 30
16	Planning Commission	2	29 78	1	70 00
17	Environment & Forests	13	413 93	9	4913 61
18	Home Affairs & DOP	-	-	6	500 46
19	Health & Family Wel	26	1689 17	14	6422 29
20	HRD (Women & Child Dev Edu & Cul)	16	1174 74	21	43238 66
21	Welfare	6	4682 69	11	3626 20
22	Science & Technology	5	122 79	4	149 46
23	Labour	5	185 41	5	1065 88
24	Post	4	126 26	2	36 70
25	Railways	22	6679 80	22	7740 14
26	Youth Affairs & Sports	2	32 50	5	119 25
27	Ocean Development			4	106 80
28	Statistics	1	55 93	6	61 19
29	Scientific & Industrial Research			4	474 45
30	Civil Supplies	1	9 50		
31	Tourism			1	100 00
32	Economic Affairs			1	356 00
Total		294	142396 88	267	148756 61

RURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

3.229 During the year under report the Rural Development Division conducted an assessment of on-going poverty alleviation and area development programmes with a view to

bringing about improvements in these programmes for their effective implementation as part of the Ninth Plan strategy.

3.230 The Division conducted an analytical scrutiny on several EFC Memoranda relating to the (a) allocation and funds to intermediate level panchayats under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), (b) Information Education and Communication (IEC) strategy for Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programme; (c) Assistance to States/District level rural development organisations and setting up of Rural Building Centres (RBCs) ;(d) Modification of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP); (e) Merger of Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) with Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP); (f) Support to community based pro-poor initiatives. The Division also examined the Cabinet proposal on the involvement of Members of Parliament in the implementation of rural poverty alleviation programmes.

3.231 The Rural Development Division examined the proposals of the Department of Rural Development and Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation to determine the Central outlay for the Annual Plan 1997-98 and the Ninth Plan. It also examined in detail the proposals of the State Governments /UTs for finalising their outlay for the Rural Development Sector both in the current financial year 1997-98 and the Ninth Plan.

3.232 The Division critically analysed and offered its comments on various research proposals submitted by NGOs and academic institutions which 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 updation of the Directory of Schemes for voluntary organisations brought out by the States and the Planning Commission, work relating to the framing of common guidelines for involvement of voluntary organisations in development activities started at the

initiative of the Prime Minister's Office and other routine matters like responding to the representations from voluntary organisations, answering VIP references and Parliament Questions.

3.233 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 Unit has since been set up in the Rural Development Division which will carry out all the work connected with the BMS. It would be the nodal unit for this programme. An inter-ministerial Steering Committee has also been 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 Minimum adequate provision for these seven basic services in the Plans of the States.

3.234 The Division finalised the Steering Group report on Poverty Alleviation and Area Development in Rural India and two Sub-Groups Reports prepared on 'Land Reforms' and 'Instances of some Anti-Poor Govt. Policies in India' for the Ninth Plan. These documents are under print. The Rural Development Division prepared the Chapter on 'Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation' and sections on Rural Housing, Decentralised Planning and Panchayati Raj and Area Development Programmes (i.e. Drought Prone Area Programme and Desert Development Programme) and BMS Programme for the Ninth Plan Document.

3.235 The Division prepared a comprehensive note on Transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to the States as a follow up of the recommendations of the Chief Minister's Conference. This note was circulated to all concerned Central Ministries/Departments and all State Govts./UTs for comments. A revised note was prepared for consideration and approval of

the Full Planning Commission and the National Development Council (NDC).

3.236 The RD Division functioned as the secretariat for the Committee to Review and Rationalise the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation. The recommendations of the Committee on revamping of self-employment schemes have been accepted by the Government and necessary directives have been given to the concerned Ministries/Departments to restructure their self-employment schemes accordingly.

3.237 The Adviser (Rural Development) has been a representative on several Committees which include among others (i) Screening Committee on Innovative and Special Projects under JRY;(ii) the Advisory Committee on Local Level Finances; (iii) Working Group on Training for the Ninth Five Year Plan; (iv) Working Group on Employment Trends, Estimates and Projections; Steering Group on women and Child; (v) Steering Committee on Employment Planning and Policy; (vi) Steering Group on Water Supply and Rural Housing' (vii) Steering Group on Agro-Climatic Planning'(viii) Steering Committee to formulate a sound data base on seven BMS components (ix) the Expert Committee on small Statistics (xii) and the Steering Committee on Basic Minimum Services (BMS) programme. The Adviser (RD) had also participated in the workshops on Pro-Poor Planning and social mobilisation organised by South Asian Perspective Network Association (SAPNA) in Dhaka, Bangla Desh and on Integrating paid and unpaid work into the National Policies organised by UNDP in Seoul, South Korea.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

3.238 Officers of the S&T Division actively participated in the finalisation of the Annual Plan 1997-98 and the Ninth Five Year Plan. The report of the Steering Committee on S&T for the Ninth Five Year Plan has been finalised and submitted. The draft chapter for the Ninth Five Year Plan on S&T has been finalised. The Member-Secretary, Planning Commission took a meeting with the concerned Secretaries of the Scientific Departments for simplification of financial procedures for flexible and responsive management of autonomous R&D institutions under the administrative control of the scientific departments. Number of Notes for the Cabinet, EFC and SFC Memos etc. were examined in the Division during the period of report.

SOCIAL WELFARE & NUTRITION DIVISION

3.239 The Women and Child Development, Social Welfare and Nutrition Division deals with the welfare, rehabilitation and development of - women and children; the disabled; the aged; the social deviants; and nutrition. Apart from the routine work, the other important activities undertaken by the Division during the year 1997-98 include:

Women and Child Development

3.240 In the context of the formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan, the reports of the Steering Group on 'Women and Child Development' and the draft chapter on 'Empowerment of Women and Development of Children' were prepared.

3.241 In connection with the formulation/implementation of the need-based policies and programmes, monitoring and evaluation of the ongoing programmes, critical appraisal of the new proposals, resource allocation etc. in the field of welfare and

development of women and children, close inter-action continued with the nodal Department of Woman and Child Development. In the Central Sector, the Division also assisted in assessment of fund requirement for the programmes of the D/WCD in the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) and Annual Plan (1997-98).

3.242 The Working Groups were set up to finalize the sectoral outlays for all the States and UTs in respect of Women and Child Development in the Ninth Five Year Plan and Annual Plan (1997-98). The Working Groups reviewed the policies, programmes and progress achieved in the field of Women and Child Development in the Eighth Plan, assessed the scheme-wise requirement of resources and recommended the outlays for the Ninth Plan and Annual Plan (1997-98).

3.243 The Division, in close collaboration with the Project Appraisal and Monitoring Division (PAMD) of the Planning Commission, examined/cleared various Plan programmes EFC Memos concerning women and child Development viz., Short Stay Homes; ICDS Programme in the Ninth Plan; Training for ICDS Functionaries; National Resource Centre for Women and National/State/District Commissioners for Womens' Rights, IFAD assisted Rural Women's Development & Empowerment Project.

3.244 The Planning Commission, as Executing Agency on behalf of the Government of India sponsored a study on 'Human Development Profile for India' through National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) during the period 1992-95 with the assistance from UNDP. The primary objective of the study was to build a human development profile of selected population groups in terms of various developmental indicators. The report has brought out over 300 indicators of human development covering various dimensions of levels of living,

literacy and education, health etc. A detailed analysis of All India report titled 'Human Development Profile of India - Inter State and Inter-Group Differential' submitted by the NCAER was carried out. State Profiles are still under preparation.

3.245 The Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) programme with an integrated approach for empowerment of women was launched in 1995-96 in 200 blocks on pilot basis covering the whole country. Keeping in view the proposal of the nodal Department of Women & Child Development to expand the programme, Planning Commission suggested a quick evaluation of the scheme as a pre-requisite for its expansion during the Ninth Plan by a joint study team of both Planning Commission and Department of Woman and Child Development. Of the 10 States selected viz., Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Goa, Orissa, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, officers of the Division visited Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Goa, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh.

Social Welfare & Nutrition

3.246 In the preparation of the formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan, the reports of the Steering Groups on Social Welfare and Nutrition as well as the draft Chapters on 'Social Welfare' and 'Nutrition' were prepared.

3.247 As part of the process of the finalization of the Ninth Five Year Plan(1997-2002), the Division has examined the proposals of the Ninth Five Year Plan and the Annual Plan (1997-98) of the Ministry of Welfare in respect of social welfare and the Department of Women and Child Development in respect of Nutrition and held detailed discussions for finalization of the outlays for these sectors. Similar exercises were undertaken for

the State sector programmes of Social Welfare and Nutrition in respect of all the States and UTs.

3.248 The Division in close collaboration with the Project Appraisal and Monitoring Division (PAMD) of the Planning Commission examined various EFC/SFC Memoranda relating to Rehabilitation Service Building at National Institute for Rehabilitation Training and Research (NIRTAR), Cuttack; Establishment of National Institute of Multiple Disabilities, Tamil Nadu; National Programme for Rehabilitation of the Disabled; Construction of the Boys and the Girls Hostel and Training Building at National Institute of Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH) and NIRTAR.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH UNIT

3 249 The scheme of Souci-Economic Research (SER) has been in operation for nearly 45 years. The objective is to promote research for a better understanding of Planning Process. Grant-in-aid is provided to Universities and Research Institutions for carrying out research studies. The programme has also supported for Seminars, Workshops and Conferences to stimulate an informed debate on research themes/topics relevant to Development Planning.

3.250 The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) headed by Chairman supervises the operation of SER Scheme.

3.251 A review of operation of the scheme of Socio - Economic Research in the Eighth Plan period (1992-97) was carried out recently.

3.252 A set of Guidelines for the operation of Socio - Economic Research Scheme in the Ninth Plan period (1997-2000) was

approved in October, 1997 to enable quicker processing of proposals received.

STATE PLANS DIVISION

3.253 The main responsibility of the Division is to help the Commission finalise the Annual Plans and Five Year Plans of States/UTs. The work of the Division involves coordination of all activities relating to formulation of the Plans of States/UTs such as issuing guidelines for formulation of Plans, organisation of meetings between Deputy Chairman and Chief Ministers/Governor/Lt. Governor of States/UTs for deciding the Plan size of States/UTs as well as Working Group meetings for finalisation of sectoral outlays of States/UTs Plans. The Division also deals with matters relating to sanction of Additional Central Assistance to States/UTs for specific schemes/projects.

3.254 Proposals regarding revised outlays of States/UTs are also handled in this division. The division also deals with VIP references and Parliament Questions relating to the States/UTs approved plan outlays, revised outlays, expenditure, Central Assistance etc. The State Plans Division is the repository of various information relating to States/UTs plan outlays & expenditure, Central Assistance etc. This Division's data base is updated & improved from time to time and acts as a reference for use by the Commission.

3.255 The Division also handled the work relating the meetings of Inter Ministerial Group and NFCR Committee. Sarkaria Commission recommendations in the sphere of Economic & Social Planning were re-examined and proposals formulated for providing greater autonomy to the States. The Division also coordinated the work relating to Tenth Finance Commission recommendations for grants for upgradation of Administration,

Special Problems like providing drinking water in Primary Schools, Fire Services and Education etc.

Annual Plan 1997-98

3.256 The Annual Plan discussions to finalise the plan size of different States and UTs for Annual Plan 1997-98 were held during January / February 1997. An Outlay of Rs. 64320.69 crore has been approved for all the States/UTs for the Annual Plan 1997-98 as compared to an outlay of Rs. 57711.56 crore approved for the year 1996-97. The outlay for 1997-98 includes an amount of Rs. 2970.00 crore and Rs. 330 crore towards Additional Central Assistance for Basic Minimum Services and Slum development respectively. The States/ UTs have been given the option to allocate the amount provided for seven Basic Minimum Services in accordance with their priorities. A separate provision of Rs. 406.50 crore has been made for the plan of North Eastern Council during the year 1997-98.

3.257 With a view to ensure investment in priority sectors as per plan objectives, the practice of earmarking of outlays under selected schemes / projects was continued. Outlays under various schemes in selected sectors of importance to the States economy, Special Area Programmes, Externally Aided Projects, Basic Minimum Services and some Irrigation and Power projects were earmarked.

Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)

3.258 Detailed guidelines as well as formats for formulation of Annual Plan 1997-98 and Ninth Five Year Plan which were circulated to all States/ UTs provided broad indications regarding the priorities of the Ninth Plan / Annual Plan 1997-98. The thrust of the plan will be to accelerate the growth rate leading to higher growth in employment, eradication of poverty and enhancing

domestic capabilities in mobilising resources for development. In order to improve the quality of life of the people emphasis will be laid on providing Basic Minimum Services which include drinking water, primary health services, primary schools, connectivity of villages and the Public Distribution system. Agriculture and Rural Development will continue to get particular attention in addition to physical infrastructure, reforms of public sector enterprises. Keeping in view the objective of advancing the principle of economic federalism, States would be allowed greater autonomy in formulation of plans during the Ninth Plan.

3.259 In the background of above objectives, the Ninth Plan discussions to finalise the Plan size of different States/UTs were held during June - July 1997. Subsequently, sectorwise / sub-sectorwise outlays for the Ninth Plan as well as for Annual Plan 1997-98 were finalised in the official level Working Group discussions in respect of all the States/UTs during August - October, 1997. During the Working Group discussions the progress during the Eighth Plan and the strategy to be followed to achieve the Ninth Plan objectives was also discussed in detail

TRANSPORT DIVISION

3.260 Transport Division is concerned with planning for development of transport sector to meet the growing demand for transport services through an appropriate inter modal mix viz. rail, road, airways, shipping and inland waterways which involve.

- i) assessment of demand for transport services, for both passenger and goods traffic;
- ii) analysis of the existing capacity of various modes of transport;

- iii) determination of an appropriate inter-modal mix keeping in view the comparative cost and efficiency of operations;
- iv) estimation of investments required for planned capacity increases;
- v) optimum allocation of available resources;
- vi) identification of the role of private sector to meet emerging demand for infrastructure;
- vii) approval of projects in the various transport sub-sectors.

3.261 The Division is also responsible for the formulation of plans for the development of Transport Sector.

3.262 Appraisal of investment proposals formulated by the Ministries of Surface Transport, Railways, civil Aviation and Tourism were undertaken.

3.263 The Report of the Steering Committee on Inter Modal Linkages and programmes for Approach to 9th Five Year Plan (Transport Sector) was finalised and circulated to the concerned Ministries and the State Govts. for utilising its recommendations in the formulation of 9th Five Year Plan proposals relating to Transport Sector.

3.264 The Reports of the Working Group of Roads, Road Transport, Railways, Ports, Shipping, Inland Water Transport, Civil Aviation and Tourism sub-sectors were examined and discussed along with Ninth Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 1997-98 proposals received from Central Ministries in the Transport and Tourism Sectors. Similarly, the outlays for the Ninth Plan and Annual Plan 1997-98 in respect of Transport and Tourism Sectors of various States and Union Territories were

finalised after the detailed discussion of the proposals received from them in the meeting of the Working Group.

3.265 The work relating to drafting of chapter regarding Transport and Tourism sectors for the Ninth Plan documents were initiated.

3.266 The performance of State Road Transport Undertakings (SRTUs) was reviewed and corrective measures recommended to improve the physical and financial performance. The assessment of resources for the Annual Plan 1997-98 was carried out and information on different parameters of road transport undertakings was compiled and circulated to all concerned. Guidelines were also issued to the State Govts./SRTUs for submission of detailed report for scrutiny of the Planning Commission for assessment of the resources for the Annual Plan 1998-99.

VILLAGE AND SMALL INDUSTRIES DIVISION

3.267 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
 - Handlooms
 - Powerlooms
 - Handicrafts
 - Sericulture
 - Wool Development
3. Ministry of Food Processing Industries
 - Food Processing Industries

3.268 An Informal group was set up by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. G. Thimmaiah, Member, to look into inadequacies of credit to SSI sector from financial institutions/banks to find out measures for enhancing capacity utilisation in the SSI units. The report of the Informal Group was prepared in the V&SI Division and circulated to the concerned Ministries/Departments/financial institutions/banks, etc.

3.269 Plan proposals including new schemes for the Ninth Plan under VSI sector have been examined. Besides the schemes for the Annual Plan 1997-98 have been examined and approved for suitable allocation of outlays.

3.270 The Division has also examined and given comments on notes for Cabinet, Committee of Secretaries, etc. The officers of the Division attended the meetings of the Committee under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Commerce) to review the sector. The Division has also given comments on enhancement of investment ceiling in plant and machinery for SSI sector.

CHAPTER - IV

PROGRAMME EVALUATION ORGANISATION

4.1 Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) undertakes evaluation of selected programmes/schemes under implementation, suggested by 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 programmes and better designing future programmes. The Planning Commission has reconstituted an Evaluation advisory Committee for advising Programme Evaluation Organisation on the evaluation studies to be taken up, methodologies to be adopted, and linkages to be established with evaluation, research and academic institutions. During the year the meetings of the Committee were held on 16th May, 1997 at Hyderabad and on 8th January, 1998 at Bhubaneshwar.

4.2 The status of various evaluation studies undertaken by PEO during 1997-98 is as under :

<u>Sl.No.</u>	<u>Name of the Study</u>	<u>Status</u>
1.	Evaluation Report on utilisation of funds under Article 275(1) for the development of the Scheduled Tribes	Completed (March,1997)
2.	Manual on Evaluation Advisory Committees/Boards of PEO/States/UTs	Completed (March,1997)
3.	Evaluation Report on Integrated Tribal Development Projects	Completed (July,1997)

4.	Compendium of Evaluation Studies conducted by PEO since its inception in 1952 to 1970 - Volume I.	Completed(Sept. 1997)
5.	Evaluation Study on the Scheme of Short Stay Homes for Women and Girls (SSHs)- An interim Report	Completed (March,1998)
6.	Directory of Evaluation Studies conducted by States/UTs and PEO.	Completed (March,1998)
7.	Special Central Assistance to Tribals under Tribal Sub-Plan	
8.	Evaluation Study on Adequacy and Functioning of Community Health Centres (CHCs).	Drafting of Report is in progress
9.	Evaluation Study on Impact of Non-Formal Education on Universalisation of Elementary Education (NFE)	
10.	Evaluation Study of Border Area Development Programme (BADP)	
11.	Evaluation Study of Social Safety Net Programme (SSNP)	Processing of data is in progress
12.	Evaluation Study on Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)	
13.	Evaluation Study on the Scheme of Short Stay Homes for Women and Girls(SSHs)- Final Report	
14.	Study of the Functioning of State Design/Instruments are Pollution Control Boards.	under finalisation.
15.	Compendium of Evaluation Studies conducted by PEO - Volume II.	Drafting is in progress.

4.3 Other activities carried out by Programme Evaluation Organisation during 1997-98 were as under :

(i) Developed concept papers and background materials for the preparation of the Ninth Five Year Plan document, and for the books and publicity materials to be brought out by Planning

Commission in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of India's Independence.

(ii) Two Regional Orientation Seminars were held at Chandigarh and Bhubaneswar for the field staff of PEO.

(iii) The Planning Commission has recently decided to release the Evaluation Reports brought out by PEO to the Press to disseminate the programme related information to the public at large and also to give wider publicity to PEO reports. As a consequence of this, Evaluation Reports brought by PEO on Mahila Samridhi Yojana, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and Integrated Tribal Development Projects were released to the Press during this year.

(iv) Installation of Computer System in six REOs completed . Necessary computer training to the officers of REOs is being imparted.

(v) PEO reviewed the capacity and organisational set-up of the State Evaluation Organisations and brought out a report. Based on this report, Planning Commission has requested State Governments to bring about the necessary changes in the composition of their Evaluation Advisory Boards/Committees and organisational set-up.

CHAPTER V

NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE (NIC)

5.1 National Informatics Centre is the nodal Science & Technology organisation for Informatics Development and Networking in Government and Corporate Sector for decision support. NICNET facility have been established in all Central Government Departments, 32 States/UTs and about 500 District Centres to facilitate informatics development for decision support and information exchange. A high speed NICNET National Info-highway, an incremental overlay over the existing Network, has been set up with SCPC VSATs, FTDMA VSATs (Gilat Skystar Advantage), TDMA VSATs (Hughes Network IP-Advantage) and broadcast VSATs (Hughes Network DirecPC and Gilat Skysurfer) technology, and Wireless MAN to take advantage of INTERNET technology in India. National Information Technology Promotion Units (NITPUs) are being established in 70 major industrial/export potential cities/towns in the country to facilitate the Indian exporters to take advantage of the globalisation of Indian Economy. NICNET has thus become the only National Information Infrastructure (NII) in India having both C-band and KU-band VSAT Technology, Wireless MAN technology, and LAN technology, with the reach upto the block level, to facilitate IT-led development in Government and Corporate Sectors. In order to provide NICNET services to private sector and the public who are subscribing to IT-led economic growth in the country, NIC has planned to establish NII facilitation centres in states and districts during the Ninth Plan.

5.2 Value Added Network services, Virtual Network, Turn-key projects, and Informatics services were taken up to increase revenue earnings. As a major effort in this category, NIC has set

up (i) National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI) under Section 25 of the Companies Act to utilise NICNET for promotional activities; (ii) National Centre for Trade Information(NCTI) as a joint venture with the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), and (iii) Regional Computer Centres at Chandigarh and Calcutta as the Societies. NICNET provides wide range of Network services such as Internet Services, X.400 Mail Services and X.500 Directory Services, Electronic Document Interchange (EDI), Video-conferencing (multi-Point and Point-to-Point), and Web Services. Network Decentralisation has been achieved with the installation of LAN with NICNET Gateway in various Central and State Government office complexes throughout the country.

5.3 Informatics Scientists of NIC are involved in design and development of informatics for decision support in both the Central Government and State Governments which include (i) Transaction Processing (ii) Database Development (iii) Management Information System (iv) GIS based Decision Support System (v) Expert system and Knowledge Bases, (vi) Executive Support System, and (vii) Multi-Media Information system.

NICNET EXPANSION

5.4 A high speed NICNET National Info-highway using KU-band technology, which is an incremental overlay over the existing C-band Network, has been set up with SCPC VSATs, FTDMA VSATs (Gilat Skystar Advantage), TDMA VSATs (Hughes Network IP-Advantage) and broadcast VSATs (Hughes Network DirecPC and Gilat Skysurfer) technology, and Wireless MAN to take advantage of INTERNET technology in India. Skystar Hub, IP-Advantage Hub, and DirecPC Hub were made operational. About 400 FTDMA and TDMA VSATs, and about 1100 DirecPC VSATs were being integrated with NICNET.

SCPC VSATs which are being used for DAMA operation, were relocated to INTELSAT during 1997-98. Advance preparations were undertaken to relocate all FTDMA VSATs to the INTELSAT during April, 1998. NIC has planned to overlay 2 MBPS Broadcast channel on FTDMA Network and also upgrade IP-Advantage transmit speed to 128 KBPS during 1998-99. Further, NIC has integrated DirecPC with C-200 VSAT and FTDMA VSAT for data transmission. Skystar Advantage, IP-Advantage and DirecPC VSATs are capable of supporting X.28, X.25 and TCP/IP facilitating INTERNET/INTRANET connectivity.

5.5 NICNET international gateway was equipped with two T1 Gateway (3 MBPS) at New Delhi and one T1 Gateway (1.5 MBPS) at Mumbai, for faster Internet Access. INTERNET gateways at Bangalore, Chennai and Calcutta were made operational at 256 Kpbs speed.

HUB BASED WIRELESS DATA NETWORK

5.6 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 and Hyderabad. Installation at Jaipur, Chandigarh, Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai was under way. A long range Wireless Network operating at 9.6 kbps in

UHF range is operational in Delhi, Faridabad (Haryana) and Kuppam village (Andhra Pradesh). NIC has already got the required frequency assignments and clearances from the designated regulatory authorities. The basic equipments for establishing NICNET/INTERNET Connectivity are LAN compatible or PC compatible.

ESTABLISHMENT OF LAN WITH NICNET GATEWAY FOR INTERNET/INTRANET ACCESS AND RESOURCES SHARING

5.7 Local Area Network (LAN) established at Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals, Department of Petroleum, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Power, Ministry of labour, Ministry of Water Resources, Department of Food and Civil Supplies, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (Krishi Bhawan and Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan), DGS&D, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, Delhi High Court, Wireless Planning Cell (WPC), LBSSNA, Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of External Affairs (South Block), and Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) were continued to function with 99% uptime.

5.8 Establishment of LAN was completed in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fertilisers, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, National Wasteland Development Board, Punjab & Haryana High Court, President's Secretariat, Cabinet Secretariat, Rajniwas of NCT of Delhi ; extension of similar facility to the remaining premises of the Ministry of External Affairs; and establishment of LAN with 116 terminals at Central Water Commission (CWC), were underway. About 600

terminals connectivity were provided to various Central Government Ministries.

5.9 Extension of LAN was undertaken in the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Petroleum and Petro-chemicals, and Supreme Court. Feasibility Studies on Campuswide networking in Gujarat High Court, Karnataka Power Corporation, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, National Institute of Rural Development (Ranchi), Ministry of Human Resources Development, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Railways (Railways Board), and the State Government Secretariates of Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana.

NICNET INTERNET SERVICES

5.10 Distributed Internet E-mail Services were made operational from 20 NITPU centres located through out the country, in addition to the already established 500+NICNET District centres, 32 NICNET State Centres, and 60+NICNET Central Government Department/Ministry Centres. NICNET E-mail Directory services using ISODE software were also made operational.

NETWORK SOFTWARE SUPPORT SERVICES

5.11 NIC has become the Member of ISODE limited to have access to the source code of X.400 mail service, X.500 directory service, SMTP gateway and WEB gateway software to enhance NICNET services. ISODE source code of X.400/X.500 is made operational on SUN solaris 2.5 platform over TCP/IP and X.25 communication stacks. ISODE Message Handling Systems (MHS)'s MIME gateway was made operational for INTERNET mails. ENTREPRISE MAIL RUA with integrated directory user agent, was made available for access to the ISODE based

X.400/X.500 server over dial-up using SLIP/PPP protocol. Lightweight Mail Access Protocol (LMAP) was also configured and made operational using Microsoft Exchange over Windows-95 for X.400 mail transfer with ISODE based mail server. WEB Gateway software was implemented for viewing X.500 directory services using WEB Browser. ISODE based FAX gateway has been made operational to provide outgoing fax services. Fax gateway is a channel with ISODE based Message Handling System that converts e-mails to G3FAX formatted messages. This service makes it possible for any NICNET user to send an e-mail message to a recipient who is not a subscriber of any e-mail service but has the fax facility. The fax message goes as an e-mail message till the nearest e-mail servers, where this mail is automatically converted to a FAX message and delivered using a modem connected to the server and a telephone connection. This facility will facilitate the exporters to send and receive FAX Messages to the exporting countries at a reduced rate through INTERNET.

NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION UNITS (NITPUs)

5.12 In order to provide NICNET services (Internet/Intranet) in the areas of business, industry and commerce facilitating the Indian Exporters to exploit the international markets, NIC has planned to set up NITPUs at 70 major industrial and commercial towns/cities with the state-of-the-art KU-band VSATs, Video Conferencing facility, EDI servers, and Internet/Intranet servers. NIC has established NITPUs in 21 cities/towns (Kochi, Thirupur, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Bhuvaneshwar, Calcutta, Guwahati, Patna, Lucknow, Kanpur, New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Jaipur, Panipat, Chandigarh, and Ludhiana) which are operational round the clock. Establishment of NITPUs at Shimla and Vishakapatnam was on-going.

NICNET VIDEO CONFERENCING FACILITY

5.13 NIC has already established Video Conferencing Studios at New Delhi, Chandigarh, Jaipur and Lucknow (northern region); Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad and Bhopal (western region); Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Tirupur (southern region); and Calcutta, Patna and Bhuvaneshwar (eastern region). NIC has also set up its ISDN based Videoconferencing facilities in (i) 16 Central Government Ministries including the President's Secretariate, Cabinet Secretariate, and Parliament Secretariat; and (ii) State Secretariats at Calcutta, Chennai, Nagpur, Hyderabad, NCT of Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Jaipur.

5.14 NICNET Video Conferencing facility was dedicated to the Nation on 22-August-1997 by the Cabinet Secretary. Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, among the others, have been constantly using the NICNET Videoconferencing Facilities to review progress of central sector schemes and centrally sponsored schemes with the state/central government agencies located elsewhere in the country. This has resulted in savings in time and cost due to travel by the Government officials for such meetings to Delhi.

REPORT OF THE EXPERT GROUP FOR COMPUTERISATION OF THE INFORMATION ON PERSONNEL AND CITIZEN SERVICES

5.15 In order to increase the availability and use of computers for government computerisation, the Expert Group has recommended (i) organizational and human resources development programmes with greater involvement of Ministries, (ii) Five Year Plan for Information Technology, (iii) Workshops and Seminar involving all levels of administration

from the highest to the lowest preferably in the model of vertical integration courses in IAS. This group has also recommended that NIC Ministry Coordination Committee (NMCC) needs to be strengthened and also a minimum 2-3 percent of the departmental budget to be set aside for introducing IT. As desired by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, various Sectoral Applications Divisions have prepared IT Plans and submitted to the Central Government Departments.

NICNET BASED PUBLIC INFORMATION AND FACILITATION CENTERS (PIFCs)

5.16 As desired by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, NICNET based Public Information and Facilitation Centres (PIFCs) are being established in various Government Ministries and Departments to provide speedy and easy access of "Public Information" to the common public. In the first phase, PIFCs have been set up in 40 Central Ministries/Departments and made operational with NICNET/INTERNET capabilities. Establishment of PIFCs at State levels was underway. Development of INTRANETs and Web Databases on Government Schemes and Policies to facilitate PIFC was on-going. A web page on "how to become a successful Indian Exporter" was also launched.

STANDARDISATION IN SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

5.17 Standardisation of Operating System and application development environment has the advantage in terms of training of staff, usage and supporting of these products besides providing advantage of scale in price of these products. Quality manual based on ISO 9001 has been adopted by NIC for quality software development and providing quality service to user organisations. 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-WindowsNT/Windows95/NT Workstation as the OS environment and standardised on Object-Relational DBMS (ORDBMS) like DB2 Universal DataBase. NIC has also standardised on the Public domain OS (LINUX) and UNIPLEX for UNIX based applications. Application Development Environment using NT and DB2 platforms and LINUX and UNIPLEX platforms facilitate smooth transition both from the point of view of developing Client-Server Technology based applications and also legacy applications.

5.18 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 undertaking massive data entry operations using the existing character terminals on NT/DB2 platforms, (iv) developing web-enable client/server applications, (v) rapid development of INTERNET and INTRANET applications, and (vi) safeguarding the existing installed base of hardware/software of NIC.

REVIEW OF YEAR-2000 (Y2K) PROBLEM AND ITS COMPLIANCE

5.19 Review of Year-2000 Problem (Y2K) was undertaken and project activities were initiated to make the installed base of hardwares and softwares of NIC, Y2K compliant. This strategy includes, among the others, conversion, discard, replacement and new development.

DATABASE PRODUCTS

5.20 DB2/UDB ORDBMS has been progressively used for the development of decision support systems in area of Government Informatics. In order to facilitate the Client-Server Computing, the state-of-the-art products such as Lotus Smartsuite, Visual Age, MS-Office97, Domino Server & Lotus Notes, Visual Studio, Netscape, and Netmanage are progressively being used. Development of Web enabled client/server applications using IBM Net.Data was underway. In order to get benefit out of the Paradigm shift in software technology, human resources development programmes on Object Oriented analysis and design has been given thrust.

BASISplus and TECHLIBplus SOFTWARE FOR LIBRARY AUTOMATION AND TEXT BASE MANAGEMENT

5.21 BASISplus and TECHLIBplus software products are introduced for the development of text databases and document management. BASISplus is a Relational DBMS, with full text retrieval and object management capabilities in a client-server environment. TECHLIBplus is a complete Library Automation package having facilities for (i) on-line Patron Access Catalogue), (ii) Cataloguing, (iii) Serial Control, (iv) Circulation Control, (v) Acquisition Control and (vi) administration. BASISplus facilitates to develop WEB sites over NICNET and also WWW based applications for INTRANET/INTERNET environment. Interfaces to Oracle databases and Foxplus Databases were also developed to operate in client/server mode. NIC is the value-added seller of the BASISPlus in India.

GIS SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

5.22 In order to process Remote Sensing Imageries, NIC has installed PARAM Openframe Parallel Computing facility which has 4 Ultra Sparc-I Processors nodes and One Pentium Pro Machine as front-end, with Plotter, Scanner and Digitizer at NIC Headquarters. EASI/PACE Software (Parallel version) has been installed to process Satellite Imagery Data. The indigenous software GISNIC Ver.3.0 has been released. Setting up of GIS Infrastructural facilities with the state-of-the-art GIS software SPAN GIS at NIC State Units for the development of Decision Support Systems using GIS technology was under way.

ANALYTIC AND MODELLING SOFTWARE PRODUCTS

5.23 NIC has already introduced software products such as SPSS, STATGRAPHICS, ANALYST, GPGS, and MS-PROJECT, to undertake computer-aided quantitative analysis and to build up modelbases.

INDIA IMAGE PROGRAMME

5.24 Under the "India Image Programme", NIC has created HOME Pages for various Central Government Departments and APEX bodies such as (i) Department of Bio-technology, (ii) Press Information Bureau, (iii) Department of Science & Technology, (iv) Ministry of Finance, (v) Ministry of Environment & Forest, (vi) the Parliament of India, (vii) Indian Airlines, (viii) Delhi Library Network (DELNET), (ix) MPEDA, (x) NCTI, (xi) Department of Education, (xii) Ministry of Finance, (xiii) Ministry of Food Processing Industries, (xiv) Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, (xv) State of Goa, and (xvi) Union Territory of Chandigarh. The NIC has Web site with the URL <http://www.nic.in>, to provide WWW services over NICNET National Info-highway

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NETWORK OF NIC (RENNIC)

5.25 Research and Education Network of NIC (RENNIC) provides INTERNET services, X.500 directory 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. Institutes and laboratories of CSIR, ICSSR, ICFR&E, SAUs, VCI, ICMR, ICAR, DBT, DRDO are in the process of installing NICNET Ku-band VSATs for faster INTERNET Services and also establishing INTRANETS. NIC has signed an MOU with All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) to provide NICNET Services (E-MAIL and INTERNET) to about 500 Engineering Colleges in India and on this basis NICNET connectivity are being established to these Engineering Colleges through NITPU Centres.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATICS TRAINING PROGRAMME

5.26 During 1997-98, NIC has conducted (i) computer appreciation programmes, (ii) DOP&T sponsored in-service IAS training programme and trainers training programme in Information Management Tools, (iii) Executive Development Programmes, (iv) Sectoral Development Programmes and (v) Update Programme in the area of Internet Technology, Networking Technology, GIS Technology, Database Technology & Multi-media Technology. The major emphasis has been on the spread and absorption of new technologies such as Windows

based Office Productivity Tools, Client Server Technology and Web enabled Application Development. NIC has also conducted International Training Programmes sponsored by UNDP and ITEC(MEA).

5.27 A large number of government employees were given IT training, through its centres at NIC Headquarters, Regional Centres, State and District Centres. NIC has conducted a series of Technology Update Programmes in the area of NT/DB2 and Front-end tools such as MS-Office, Smart-suite, Visual Age, etc. for the S&T Personnel of NIC. NIC has also conducted 3 months probationary IT Training for the newly recruited Programming Assistants. The Training Division is equipped with the state-of-the-art hardware/software for training and development of INTERNET/INTRANET Applications.

NETWORK CUSTOMER SUPPORT SERVICES

5.28 NIC has set up Network Customer Support Services Division to provide e-mail based single-window services to the NICNET users and also effective coordination with various Support services Divisions of NIC.

MODELLING, GRAPHICS AND DESIGN PROGRAMME

5.29 The Finite Element Analysis of Yoke Girder Stresses and New Epoxy Resin Concrete Blockout of Singur Project using SESAM Software is being taken up for Irrigation and CAD (PW) Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The sale of two licenses of SESAM Software including Hydrodynamic modules to IEOT/ONGC, Panvel, New Mumbai is being finalised. As a part of software export initiative under the Computer Integrated Manufacture (CIM) Project, NIC was executing the development project on Translators with the Control Data/Systems/ICEM System of USA. ICEM Software was installed at seven Design

Institutes/Centers of the Directorates of Handicrafts Development (Ministry of Textiles) which will facilitate new designs in the area of handicrafts related to Brassware, Glass, Ceramics, Stoneware, Wood, etc., to exploit the global market potential.

1998-PARLIAMENT ELECTION RESULTS ANALYSIS

5.30 NIC has established NICNET based Election Results Wide Area Networking to collect, transmit, tabulate and analyse round-by-round elections results from 543 constituencies during the actual counting of the 1998-Parliament Election and also for Exit-Poll results analysis. This project was executed on a contract basis for the Doordarshan (Indian TV) of the Government of India.

NIC SERVICES INCORPORATED (NICS)

5.31 NIC Services Incorporated (NICS) which is a Government of India Enterprise under NIC, has been providing cost effective state-of-the-art IT solution to NICNET users such as Government Organisations, Public Sector Undertakings, Corporate Sectors and International bodies. NICS has received orders for Ku-band VSATs to ICAR, State Agricultural Universities, IFFCO, Indian Customs, Directorate of Industries, Milk Cooperatives Federation, FCI, GIC, NFL, Public Sector Banks, Research & Educational Institutions etc. NICS has also successfully undertaken IT projects for Employees Provident Funds Organisations, and High Courts. NICS has been retained as Consultant for IT Projects for the World Bank aided projects such as Agricultural Human Resources Development, and also for Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission of the Central Government. NICS has been given the "Most Favoured Customer" Status by IBM, Microsoft, and CISCO for their products.

REGIONAL COMPUTER CENTRES

5.32 Regional Computer Centre (Calcutta) and Regional Computer Centre (Chandigarh) which are the registered societies set up under NIC, continue to provide "TOTAL-IT" solutions on turn-key basis to both State and Central Government Organizations, Corporate Sectors and Public Sectors. RCC (Chandigarh) has set up its Regional Offices at Shimla and Lucknow. The services of RCCs include turn-key IT projects, networking education and consultancy services.

COURT INFORMATION SYSTEM PROGRAMME (COURT-IS)

5.33 Installation of Software for District Court computerisation (DCIS) in 430 District Courts was on-going. The Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court was computerised. India Code Information System (ICIS) and Judgement Information System (JUDIS) were made available on INTERNET and CD-ROM on JUDIS was released by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India. In order to access the Court Information System Databases over NICNET, NICS I has been authorised to provide Membership to legal professionals.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATICS SERVICES PROGRAMME

5.34 NIC has been providing NICNET based MEDLARS Services in the area of Bio-medical Services and Health Care in the country. The MEDLARS Database is very large database having more than six million records of more than 15 gigabytes. More than 120 Institutions in the country utilize this service. NICNET connectivity through Ku-band VSAT has been

established at B.P. Koirala Institute of Medical Sciences (Nepal) to access MEDLARS Databases. NIC has been exempted from payment of Royalty to the National Library of Medicine (NLM) for MEDLINE access. IndMED which is a bibliographic database on Indian Biomedical literature comprising of about 64 current journals, is available from the NIC Website. Database on Indian Medical Professionals was under development.

5.35 Bibliographic Information System on Agriculture and Fisheries Database was made available on NICNET for access through dial-up connection. NIC has subscribed to the database (ExtraMED) with input from 220 Bio-medical journals of the 3rd World countries. NIC also conducts training courses for medical professionals using the multi-media CD-ROM database "digital human".

5.36 NIC continued to provide Patent Information Services to R&D laboratories and Institutions of Defence, CSIR, Public Sector Undertaking and Private Sector. NIC is the premier organisation in India to provide ON-LINE access to INPADOC/EPIDOS huge databases containing 30 million records from 65 countries.

GENERAL INFORMATION SERVICES TERMINAL (GISTNIC)

5.37 GISTNIC Services were continued to be available over NICNET for common public and government departments and organisations. GISTNIC WEB site was launched. Re-engineering of GISTNIC databases and web-enabled application for information access was undertaken to take advantage of the NT/DB2 development platform.

UTILITY MAPPING PROJECT

5.38 The Utility Mapping Project has established base maps for one district in Delhi in addition to the already on-going pilot projects. Feasibility studies were completed for Chennai, Chandigarh, and Sikkim. Project discussions were held with the Government of NCT of Delhi to fund the Utility Mapping Project in Delhi.

NATURAL RESOURCE INFORMATICS PROJECT

5.39 NIC has developed GIS based Natural Resource Information System for sustainable development, in Bulandshahr district and made operationalised through the required financial support of the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). Similar efforts were on in the districts of Aligarh and Mathura where NIC has already developed NRIS in collaboration with the Aligarh Muslim University. "NICNET based Natural Resource Informatics for Sustainable Development, at Grass-Root Level" has been launched, to provide spatial data inventory of natural resource information on NICNET, in coordination with agencies like NBSS&LUP, IIRS, NRSA, State Remote Sensing Centres. In collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, pilot projects were initiated for the development of "GIS for Watershed Development" in the states of Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Meghalaya and Punjab.

ANALYTICS & MODELLING

5.40 NIC has implemented a number of projects which include Computer Aided Reservoir Storage System, software system for Box-Jenkins-ARIMA methodology, new UNIX version of Analyst including Graphical module, Transportation & Distribution system for PDS commodities

movement planning in the state of Gujarat, and Export Performance Analysis System. Analytical reports were generated for the Sixth All India Education Survey.

LIBRARY NETWORKING

5.41 DELNET (Delhi Library Network) has already commissioned. DELNET System for Information Services (DELSIS), which is an integrated Union Catalogue package for library networking and resource sharing activities in various information centres, was continued. Conversion of applications and databases of DELNET into web based applications using the BASIS WEBserver were under implementation.

5.42 Implementation of BASISPlus and TECHLIBPlus suite of software products in Engineering Colleges Libraries (a joint venture project of AICTE and NIC), and Agricultural University Libraries and ICAR Institutes Libraries was proposed. Project has been initiated with ICAR for implementing AGRILIBNET (Agricultural Libraries Network over NICNET) for networking and resource sharing among Agricultural libraries. Networking of libraries located at National Labour Institute (Noida), National Institute of Financial Management (Faridabad), H.P Vidansabha, Maharastra Vidansabha, Rastrapathi Secretariate, PMO, National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (Jaipur), and Punjab University (Chandigarh) was undertaken.

INTEGRATED BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEM

5.43 CD-ROM on "EXPO-India" Project with information details on 1,18,000 companies was released. Web page on the Indian Investment Centre was also designed. NIC conducted a feasibility study, for RIICO, on providing communication facilities to the Software Technology Park located in the Export Promotion Industrial Park (Jaipur).

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR TRADE INFORMATION (NCTI)

5.44 NCTI, a joint venture of ITPO and NIC has been incorporated with the objective of facilitating creation, augmentation of information base at the trade promotional organisations for creating specialised information systems and a strong interactive information base.

5.45 During 1997-98, NCTI created 10 databases on electronic media comprising details in respect of Indian Exporters, Overseas Importers, ETOs, Trade Promotion bodies and PSUs etc. The databases broadly cover regulatory /promotional/commercial activities in international trade. NCTI also established on-line connectivity with FT-Profile of the Financial Times, London, VANS.COM, BISNET of FICCI, GREENBUSS of the Netherlands, WTCA database of World Trade Association and IDSS - Investment Decision Support System. As on 31.3.1998, a total of approx. 1600 Members are on the roll of NCTI including regular members, subscribing members, uploading members, members for internet home page service and overseas members. NCTI added an interactive and dynamic Website to cater to the on-line trade information requirements of the members. During the month of December, 1997, NCTI launched a new Quarterly Publication entitled "TRADE CONNECT" for overseas circulation exclusively. So as to spread awareness about electronic commerce NCTI organised Symposiums/Seminars on Electronic Commerce and Trade Point at Mumbai, Calcutta, New Delhi, Pune & Bangalore. NCTI so far has signed nine MOUs for exchange of trade information with Croatia, Mongolia, Slovenia, Solvackia, Russia, Czech Republic, Republic of Romania, Republic of Hungary and Egypt and MOUs with Cyprus, Israel and Turkey are in the final stage of negotiation.

NICNET SERVICES TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS

5.46 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.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

5.47 NIC has provided computerisation support for the Interim Budget (1998-99) preparation. NIC has executed the project "Development of network based monitoring information system for Externally Aided Projects", which was funded by Asian Development Bank. Establishment of nodes in various participating Ministries under this project was underway.

AUDIT COMPUTERISATION

5.48 NIC has given MIS support to the Indian Audit and Accounts Department for its audit functions. During this year, NIC has submitted the project proposal "AGNET over NICNET" for networking to all the Accountant General Offices, Principal Director of Audit offices, Regional Training Institutes for information exchange between CAG office and its field offices. CAG has already approved the proposal. NIC has installed one Ku-band FTDMA VSAT at CAG Headquarters for INTERNET Services, which will facilitate integration of the LAN already established at the CAG Headquarters. As desired by the CAG, NIC has placed the services of an officer at the level of Deputy Director General to function as Principal Director (Software) in the office of CAG.

CUSTOMS COMPUTERISATION:

5.49 Indian Customs EDI System (ICES) software developed by NIC has been ported in the hardware platform purchased by the Central Excise and Customs Department. The ICES software has been tuned to meet the requirements of land and sea customs. NICNET EDI connectivity has been established at Inland Container Depot (Tughlakabad), Punjab National Bank, RBI, Director General of Foreign Trade and Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC).

ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE (EDI) SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

5.50 NIC has implemented EDI system in the Customs Sector. It was proposed to implement for Financial Transaction between Departments and Banks. NIC has provided faculty members to teach EDI in the Executive Development Programmes of AIMA, FIEO, and IIFT.

CENTRAL EXCISE COMPUTERISATION

5.51 The System for Excise Revenue and Monitoring (SERMON) was extensively modified to incorporate the budget changes introduced in the 1997-98 Budget. The reconciliation of SERMON Database with the Revenue Data from the REVACT Database operational in the Pay & Accounts Offices (PAOs) of the Excise Commissionerates was completed. In order to improve the NICNET connectivity for transmission of notifications as well as for MODVAT checking, NIC has installed an exclusive domain server "EXCISE". With the installation of the Excise Domain Server, the establishment of INTRANET for the Central Excise Department is completed.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS COMPUTERISATION

5.52 NICNET based Government Accounts Computerisation Network (GAONET) was proposed to facilitate Accounts information exchange within the Department, CGA and Ministry of Finance. Accounting packages GAINS, CONTEXT, ACT, SCT, FINEACT and IMPROVE were implemented in Central Government Accounts Offices. Project activities were taken up for introducing NICNET based EDI services between PAO and the assigned Public Sector Bank. Review of Government accounting packages was taken up for process re-engineering. Development of integrated Financial Management Information System in the Department of Fertilizers was taken up as a paid project.

COMPUTERISED CENTRAL PENSION ACCOUNTING OFFICE

5 53 Computerised Central Pension Accounting Office 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 up to the stage of 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 any of the NICNET/INTERNET sites.

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

5.54 NIC continued to support the Department of Programme Implementation, through its NICNET based project monitoring of (a) MPLAD programmes, (b) 20 Point programmes, (c) flash reporting of monthly monitoring of projects costing Rs.100 Crore and above, and quarterly monitoring of projects costing Rs.20 Crore and above. NICNET based information system for "basic minimum services" and Common Minimum Programme

(CMP) were developed and implemented. Project activities were initiated to establish an INTRANET server (web database) for access by all the concerned departments/ministries over NICNET.

INFORMATICS SUPPORT TO PLANNING COMMISSION

5.55 NICNET was utilised extensively for information exchange between the Planning Commission and the State/UTS. MDR database, State Plan Information system, Database on externally aided projects and NGOs database were updated. Analytical reports were generated on the "evaluation studies on Accelerated Water Supply and Integrated Tribal development schemes". Design of I/O table for 89-90 of the Indian Economy and processing of consumer expenditure data of 50th round of NSSO for use of the 9th Plan Model, were undertaken. NICNET Video Conferencing facility has been utilised to arrange meeting between the State Governments and the Planning Commission.

AGRICULTURAL INFORMATICS

5.56 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, Animal Husbandry Informatics, Horticulture Informatics, Agricultural Extension Informatics Network, Agricultural Research Informatics, Plant Protection Informatics, Fisheries Informatics, SEED Informatics, Crops Informatics, Agricultural Marketing Informatics Network, Agricultural Credit Informatics, Watershed GIS for rainfed farming, etc.

5.57 Ministry of Agriculture has approved the proposal of computerisation of Agricultural Census Project in India, with the

project cost estimate of about Rs.11 Crores, for execution by NIC. Implementation of NICNET based Horticulture Information System, APEDA Computerisation Project, Computerisation of nine Crops Directorates, etc., were ongoing. Development of Databases/Information systems divisionwise was underway. 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 prepared. IT Plan for Fisheries Sector was submitted to the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. IT Plan for the Animal Husbandry sector "NICNET based Animal Health and Production Informatics Network" was under preparation.

5.58 AS a major step to establish NICNET Information Super Highway to strengthen the Agricultural Research Information System (ARIS) of ICAR Institutions and State Agricultural Universities, ICAR has sanctioned NICNET KU-band FTDMA VSATs for installation for ICAR Institutions and State Agricultural Universities

ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST INFORMATICS

5.59 In order to strengthen informatics support for forestry research and education, Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) has sanctioned NICNET KU-band VSATs for its Institutions. Zoning Atlas for siting industries for six districts under the Project of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and networking of all the towns of Haryana under National River Action Plan (NRAP) were completed. A Proposal to provide NICNET connectivity to Wildlife Reserves, National Parks, and Sanctuaries in India was initiated. NIC has implemented a DSS on resource management and setting-up research priorities in ICFRE (Dehradun). Pollution Control

Boards Network (PCBN) and multimedia Information systems on Wildlife and Indian Plants were initiated.

FERTILIZER INFORMATICS

5.60 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.

5.61 FERTNET: A closed user group over NICNET has been established by installing FTDMA VSATs at Department of Fertilizers and different sites of IFFCO, MFL, GNFC alongwith dial-up connectivity to FCI, and HFCL. NFL has sanctioned a project to install FTDMA VSAs with Voice and dial-up connectivity to Plants and area offices to strengthen their decision support system. Project initiatives were undertaken to extend NICNET connectivity to other companies of fertilizer sector.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

5.62 NIC has provided MIS support for the Department of Education, Department of Women and Child Development, Department of Youth Welfare and Sports, and the Ministry of Welfare. CD-ROM on 50 Years of India Education was designed and developed by NIC for the Department of Education. Networking and computerisation of Kendriya Vidyalaya Hqs, National Council of Teachers Education and its regional centres was taken up.

5.63 Data base for 6th All India Education Survey for schools (i) on enrollment and availability of infrastructure and educational

facilities in villages and towns and (ii) on teachers for a sample of selected development blocks, was created. Detailed analytical reports were generated for distribution at national and state level and also made available on NICNET for access. Creating these databases on a CD-ROM was also planned.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

5.64 Proposal was submitted to establish LAN in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for approval. Informatics support was provided to National Commission for SC/ST, Minorities Commission etc.

LABOUR INFORMATICS

5.65 Computerised Employees Pension System (CEPS) version 1.0.1 and 1.0.2 software's; and Computerised Receipt Account System (CRAS) version 2.0 were released and under implementation 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 Training.

RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT

5.66 NICNET connectivity to National Institute of Rural Development, 16 State Institutes of Rural Development and CAPART and its regional centres were established. Multi-media Training Package on "Convergence of Services" for National Institute of Rural Development, and also on "Hill Area Development" for the State Institute of Rural Development (Lucknow), as a turn-key Projects, were developed. NIC has provided MIS support for monitoring of Poverty Alleviation Programmes, concurrent evaluation of IRDP and Rajiv Gandhi

National Drinking Mission (RGNDM). NIC/NICSI has been retained as a consultant for the RGNDM project.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE INFORMATICS

5.67 NIC has provided NICNET support to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for information collection, transmission over NICNET from districts and preparation of analytical reports on Pulse Polio Immunization Programme in the country. NICNET Based Information System for target-free approach and decentralised planning for family welfare programme was developed with the facility to generate analytical reports at district, state and central levels. Health Management Information System (Ver.2.0) was under implementation in about 10 States of the country. Home Page on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was released.

INDUSTRY INFORMATICS

5.68 NIC provided computerisation support to the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, 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, census-cum-survey of SSI, investors grievances with companies, Steel and Food Processing Sectors.

5.69 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). ROC computerisation has resulted in reduction of processing time of Name approval application from few months to 2-3 days typically and increased revenue collection. Design

and Development of INTRANET for ROC and Business Process re-engineering were initiated.

5.70 Computerisation of DIC project envisages establishment of NICNET based network for smooth flow of SSI related data from DICs to States' Directorates of Industries and DCSSI Headquarters and dissemination of information from States' Directorates of Industries to DICs. Functional areas proposed for computerisation are PMRY, SSI registration, and Index of Industrial production. NICNET based information system for SSI Registration was implemented.

COMMERCE INFORMATICS

5.71 NIC has taken up database developmental activities on (i) Export promotion Capital Goods System, (ii) Export obligation monitoring system (Duty Exemption Scheme), (iii) Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme, (iv) Inspection details of DGS&D, (v) Suppliers Payment Details, (vi) India's Exports and Imports at micro and macro levels etc.

CIVIL AVIATION

5.72 LAN with NICNET gateway has been established in the Ministry and DGCA for NICNET/INTERNET access. NICNET E-mail connection was provided to 12 Regional Offices of DGCA, 5 offices of BCAS.

5.73 Computerization of File Movement: NIC has standardised the software for monitoring the file movement, developed in consultation with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, for implementation in other Central Government Ministries. Implementation of this software was underway in various Central Government Departments. Design and Development over NT/DB2 was undertaken.

ENERGY INFORMATICS

5.74 NIC provided NICNET services and MIS support to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Power. NICNET based information systems and databases on petroleum, coal, non-conventional sources, and power, for decision support were implemented. Proposal for installation of KU band VSATs for State Electricity Boards (SEBs), under POWERNET programme, was submitted to the Power Finance Corporation (PFC). Detailed requirement analysis report on POWERNET was submitted to USAID for its approval and was also agreed to. NIC has initiated Project discussion with the SEBs of Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya and Maharashtra, with respect to the implementation of POWERNET. Design and Development of Web Databases on Energy Sector was planned for access over INTRANET in the Energy Sector.

5.75 NICNET based Financial performance monitoring system on Public Sector Units of the Ministries, was implemented. NICNET based Project data transmission from power projects, coal projects and petroleum projects were operational.

5.76 Ten FTDMA VSATs were installed at Project sites of Karnataka Power Corporation Limited, Bangalore. NICNET connectivity was extended to BBMB, HSEB, KSEB, BSEB, BHEL, NEECPO and RSEP.

CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS INFORMATICS

5.77 Design and Development of Decision Support System in the Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals, using Client-Server architecture was undertaken.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

5.78 The Regional Passport offices are fully computerised at Delhi, Mumbai, Goa, Bangalore, Kozhikode, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai, Tiruchirapalli, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Chandigarh and Calcutta. The remaining Passport offices in the country are in the process of computerisation. About 100 Mission abroad has been provided with E-mail facility. Telephone Enquiry System was developed and interfaced with the computerized Passport Information System, to facilitate the common public to enquire about the status of their Passport Application through Telephone. Software for the new Passport Control and Issuance System was under implementation in various Passport Offices.

5.79 Design and Development of Decision Support System over LAN for the various Offices of the Ministry of External Affairs located at South Block, Akbar Bhavan, and Patiala House was underway.

WATER RESOURCES INFORMATICS

5.80 NICNET based Reservoirs Level Monitoring System was continued to be used by the Ministry of Water Resources. 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 Command Area Development, Minor Irrigation wing at Krishi Bhavan, WM Wing at Lok Nayak Bhavan, Indus/ER wing 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 is funded by World Bank.

WEATHER-RELATED DATABASES

5.81 Meteorological Information System Terminal of NIC(MIST-NIC) was made operational. MIST-NIC provides current weather conditions of about 500 cities in India, and can be accessed from any NICNET Node. GIS component of MIST-NIC was under development.

5.82 NICNET based Weather-Watch system was implemented for the Ministry of Agriculture for weekly review of crop conditions, inputs supply position and the effect of weather on crops in various states. State Agricultural Departments transmit the data for Weather-Watch system through NICNET. Ministry of Agriculture has planned to establish an Informatics sub-network linking 127 Agricultural Zonal Research Centres, 26 IPM Centres, 32 State/UT Agricultural Departments, for strengthening the Crop-Weather Watch System in India.

COOPERATIVE INFORMATICS

5.83 Ministry of Agriculture has decided to implement NICNET based Information System on Cooperatives throughout the country. Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited (Amul) Headquarters/Zonal Offices, NAFED Offices, National Tree Growers Cooperative Federations, and their Zonal Offices, State and District Cooperative Milk Unions (under the initiative of NDDDB) were provided with NICNET connectivity for E-mail Services. Project discussion was on-going for installing Ku-band VSATs in 5 locations of the Zonal Offices of AMUL in the country. An exclusive INTERNET server for cooperative sector was installed at NIC Headquarters.

INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

5.84 NIC undertook computerisation and networking of headquarters and various regional offices of Registrar of Newspapers of India (RNI), as a turn-key project. NICNET connectivity has been established in 22 Regional Offices of Directorate of Field Publicity. Press Information Bureau uses NICNET Video Conferencing facilities available at various cities for Press Conferences of Central Government Ministers.

5.85 NIC continued its support for the mission-critical News Room Automation at Doordarshan and more than 1000 continuous News Bulletins. Doordarshan utilized NICNET services, on commercial basis, for the 1998 - Parliament Elections Results Analysis.

INFORMATICS SUPPORT TO THE PARLIAMENT SECRETARIATE

5.86 Web Databases on Parliament proceedings, Speeches of President of India, Independence Day Address to the Nation by the various Presidents of India since 1947, were created for INTRANET/INTERNET access over NICNET. NIC continue to provide E-mail and INTERNET Services to the Members of Parliament through NICNET. The "50th Anniversary of Independence" function held in the Central Hall of Parliament on 14/15th August 1997 was telecast live on INTERNET through <http://www.nic.in/parliament>.

INFORMATICS SUPPORT TO URBAN DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

5.87 NIC continued to provide informatics support to the directorate of estate house allotment, Central Public Works Department (CPWD).

INFORMATICS SUPPORT TO MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

5.88 As desired by the Northern Railways, NIC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for establishing INTRANET over NICNET for its divisional and zonal offices. FTDMA Ku-band VSAT was made operational at Railway Coach Factory, Kapurthala. Proposal for establishing LAN with 250 nodes was submitted to the Railway Board. NICNET connectivity was provided to the Department of Railway Electrification and its various field offices, and four Offices of Divisional Railway Managers of the North-Eastern Railways.

INFORMATICS SUPPORT TO MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

5.89 NIC has successfully implemented "directory enquiry system (for 197)" for the Department of Telecommunication and is being used by MTNL (Mumbai) which is the biggest exchange in the country, and Pune telecom district. There is a demand from DOT to install this software at Chennai, Nagpur, Surat, Bangalore Telecom Exchanges. Computerisation of Postal Accounts (PACT) upto Circle level was approved by the Department of Posts and the implementation of PACT software was underway in many circle. Computerisation of Rural Postal Life Insurance Scheme was undertaken using NICNET facilities through out the country. Design and Development of software for PLI transactions at Head Post Offices (HPOTPS) was completed and implementation/training was progressing in 837 HPOs. Design and Development of INTRANET for the Ministry of Communications, linking all of its subordinate and attached offices, public sector undertakings, and R&D centres over NICNET, was proposed.

INFORMATICS SUPPORT TO THE MINISTRY OF FOOD & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

5.90 NICNET based Information Systems on PDS (Procurement, Movement, Storage and Distribution), and Information system on Retail Prices /Wholesale Prices on selected commodities from 32 Centres were operational. Design and Development of INTRANETs for Central Warehousing Corporation and Food Corporation of India over NICNET was under way. Project initiatives were undertaken to setup NICNET based Citizens Information System with involvement of NGOs, under the financial assistance from the Ministry of Food & Consumer Affairs.

BIO-INFORMATICS NETWORK

5.91 Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has established Bio-Informatics Network linking its Bio-informatics centres located at 32 premier institutions located 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 on-going. Design and Development of INTRANET on Bio-Informatics was taken up.

TEXTILE INFORMATICS

5.92 Project activities for setting up a CAD/CAM centre in 8 Regional Training Design Centre of the Development Commissionerate of Handicrafts, as a turn-key project, were undertaken.

INFORMATICS SUPPORT TO MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

5.93 NIC has successfully designed, developed and implemented (i) Police Medal Awards Information System, (ii) Padma Awards Information System, (iii) Recruitment Monitoring System, and (iv) Modified Visa Control System for the Ministry of Home Affairs. NICNET based E-Mail Services and Internet connectivity have been provided in office of Home Secretary and other officers of Ministry of Home Affairs. A point-to-point Video Conferencing facility was also set up in the office of Home Secretary.

TOURISM INFORMATICS

5.94 Project activities related to (i) assessment of existing trends and to make realistic projections of tourist traffic and foreign exchange earnings from International Tourist during Ninth Plan period and beyond; (ii) evaluation of performance of hotels and travel trades, (iii) database on investment in tourism infrastructure, and (iv) MIS support for policy research, were undertaken. Development of NICNET based TOURISMNET for the Tourism sector was also proposed.

TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS INFORMATICS

5.95 NICNET based port connecting 11 major ports was established. NICNET connectivity for Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and its offices at Noida, Calcutta, Patna, Guwahati, Kochi and Allahabad was established. Data bases on Road Statistics, Indian Shipping Statistics, and Indian Ship Building and Repair Statistics were created and made available over NICNET. NICNET connectivity was established at National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and its project offices. Database on performances of State Road Transport

Corporations was created and made available over NICNET for access.

NICNET SUPPORT TO STATE GOVERNMENT INFORMATICS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

5.96 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.

5.97 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.

5.98 During 1997-98, 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.

5.99 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 schemes, Urban areas and employment schemes, PMRY, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Animal Disease Surveillance, IRDP indicators, Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme, Rainfall Data, FCI offtake etc.

5.100 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) Employment Exchanges Computerisation, (xvii) Commercial Taxes computerisation, (xviii) Transport Computerisation, (xix) DISNIC Programme, and (xx) CRISP programme.

5.101 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 Educational Institutions connected under RENNIC Services programme, Medlars services, GISTNIC services. Both State and District NIC Centres provided NETWORK Support for the 1998-Parliament Election.

DISTRICT LEVEL INFORMATICS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME DISNIC PROGRAMME

5.102 NIC Orissa State Unit has got the approval of the Government of Orissa for the implementation of DISNIC-PLAN

(Phase-II) and the revised Proformae for information collection were distributed to the district authorities. An IT Plan "Project Proposal for strengthening Planning Machinery in districts over NICNET", during the Ninth Plan Period was submitted for the approval of the Director General of NIC. Technical Report on "DISNIC-PLAN Programme: A Perspective & Prospective View" was published. Design and Development of an INTRANET on DISNIC Programme was initiated.

5.103 DISNIC Programme Division provided Informatics Support, including Data collection from 500+ districts for building up the database and the indicators and Data Analysis, for the Committee of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, "to identify 100 most backward and poorest districts in the country".

LAND RECORDS COMPUTERISATION PROGRAMME

5.104 The Project was operational in 354 districts in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment. This Project was extended to cover all the districts in the country. Under this Project, NIC has provided state-of-the-art computer hardware and software using the state-of-the-art RDBMS tool (Oracle 7.x) and the data entry on land records was underway. Development of application software on NT/DB2 environment using Object Oriented Technology was taken up. In collaboration with the District Administration, design and development of decision support system using Land Records Databases was initiated.

GRASS ROOT INPUT TO DISTRICTS (GRID) PROGRAMME

5.105 This programme aims at strengthening of the micro level planning, 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 developmental projects. This programme has been made operational in Mysore District and Faridabad District. The GRID Programme uses the state-of-the-art hub based wireless data network for network services. As desired by the then Cabinet Secretary, NIC has submitted its proposal to extend NICNET to sub-district level throughout the country.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT NETWORK PROGRAMME

5.106 NIC has initiated various project activities to strengthen the "Informatics of Sustainable Development Programme" in India in accordance with the recommendations of the AGENDA 21. NICNET based sustainable development Network programme was initiated.

CHAPTER - VI

GRANT-IN-AID

6.1 The Socio-Economic Research (SER) Unit assists Planning Commission in providing grant-in-aid to Universities/Institutions for carrying out Research Studies, for holding Seminars and for Institution Development under the guidance of Research Advisory Committee (RAC) in order to encourage an informed debate on Development issues and the Role of Planning.

6.2 The Research Advisory Committee was reconstituted in 1997-98 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Madhu Dandavate. The composition as specified in the order of 24th June, 1997 and Terms of Reference are given at Annexure - 6.1

6.3 Grant-in-Aid amounting to Rs. 1,40,65,210 have been released during 1997-98 under the following programme :

1. Institution Development	Rs. 1,11,71,330
2. Research Studies	Rs. 21,14,834
3. Seminar/Workshops	Rs. 6,79,046
4. Publication Grant	Rs. 1,00,000

6.4 The Institution-wise details of grant provided during the year 1997-98 for Research Studies and Seminars are given in Annexure - 6.2.

6.5 The Scheme of Socio-Economic Research of Planning Commission has been in operation for more than two decade and reviewed in September, 1997

Review of the Scheme:

6.6. The scheme has had the distinction and tradition of pioneering innovative research, including the time of Late Prof. Sukhumoy Chakravarty who served as Chairman of RAC for a number of years during the seventies. Just as an illustrative example a study on finances of Municipal Bodies during the Eighth Plan created a useful database laying the preparatory base for devolving financial responsibilities to local bodies.

6.7 Research studies completed in Eighth Plan were 48 in number, 16 Universities/ Research institutions were provided endowments for establishing or continuing the already established Units for research in development planning and 74 sets of proceedings of seminars on issues pertaining to planning and development and supported under the scheme were received. About 130 to 150 approvals for grant were given during the Eighth Plan; nearly 500 proposals were received in this period.

6.8 Thirteen Research Studies have been completed during 1997- 98 and the draft and final reports are received. The Subject- wise details are given at Annexure - 6.3.

6.9 Proceedings and recommendations of the Seminar/Conferences supported under the SER Programme of Planning Commission received during 1997-98 from thirteen Institutions are listed at Annexure-6.4.

Annexure - 6.1

**(TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE OF INDIA,
PART-1, SECTION-1)**

**No.0.15011/2/90-SER
Government of India
Planning Commission
(Socio-Economic Research Unit)**

....

**Yojana Bhavan, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi, the 24th June.,97**

RESOLUTION

**Reference Planning Commission's Resolution No.
0.15011/2/96-SER dt. 18th October, 1996.**

1. The Planning Commission has decided to reconstitute its Research Advisory Committee set up to advise it on research in areas relating to Planning with immediate effect. Its composition and terms of reference are set out below:

COMPOSITION

**1. Prof. Madhu Dandavate, Chairman
5, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi-110001**

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------|
| 2. Prof. Susheela Bhan
Director, Institute of Peace,
Research & Action, 81 Gagan Vihar,
Delhi-110057 | - | Member |
| 3. Prof. S.S. Varde
'Kapilavastu', Swami
Vivekananda Marg, Bandra (W),
Mumbai-400050 | - | Member |
| 4. Dr. R. Radhakrishna
Member-Secretary, ICSSR,
Aruna Asaf Ali Marg,
New Delhi-110067 | - | Member |
| 5. Dr. A. Sarma
Head, Delhi Centre, ISI,
7, SJS Sansanswat Marg,
New Delhi-110016 | - | Member |
| 6. Dr. Rakesh Mohan
Director-General,
NCAER, 11, Parisila Bhavan,
11, I.P. Estate,
New Delhi-110002. | - | Member |
| 7. Dr. Bimal Jalan,
Member Secretary (PC) | - | Member |
| 8. Prof. S.R. Hashim,
Member (PC) | - | Member |

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 9. Dr. J.S. Bajaj,
Member (PC) | - | Member |
| 10. Sh. N. Parthasarthy,
JS, FA (PC) | - | Member |
| 11. Sh. Shailendra Sharma,
Adviser (LEM) (PC) | | Member - Secretary |

2. In respect of research proposals which are generated internally in the Planning Commission, a Sub-Committee of the Research Advisory Committee shall be empowered to take the appropriate decisions. The composition of the Sub-Committee will be as follows-

COMPOSITION OF SUB - COMMITTEE

1. Prof. Madhu Dandavate - Chairman
2. Dr. Bimal Jalan, Member Secretary (PC) - Member
3. Prof. S.R. Hashim, Member (PC) - Member
4. Dr. J.S. Bajaj, Member (PC) - Member
5. Sh. N. Parthasarthy, JS, FA (PC) - Member
6. Sh. Shailendra Sharma, Adviser (LEM)(PC)- Member-Secretary

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- i) To identify areas of research essential for planning, identify scholars and institutions for undertaking research in these areas, get appropriate research projects formulated and process them for approval for financing by the Planning commission;**
- ii) To examine research study proposals received from institutions/scholars on their own in areas relevant to planning and advise on their suitability for financing by the Planning commission;**
- iii) To advise on the research programmes that are financed in various research institutions by recurring block grants from the Planning commission i.e., those in the Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, Pune and the Department of Economics, Bombay University, Bombay, etc;**
- iv) To advise on the training and research-cum-training programmes organised in different research institutions with financial assistance from the Planning Commission;**
- v) To consider the research programme of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research with a view to dovetailing it with the other research studies sponsored by the Planning Commission.**
- vi) To advise on the suitability of the completed studies for publication with financial assistance from the Planning Commission;**
- vii) To advise on the suitability of financing, partly or wholly, seminars, which may be organised to discuss identified development problems;**

viii) To build up internal research capacity of the Planning commission and undertake research studies internally towards this end;

ix) To coordinate the research and consultancy activities undertaken/sponsored by the different Divisions of the Planning commission as well as those relevant to planning undertaken/sponsored by other central Ministries and other agencies;

x) To coordinate information and data systems of Ministries and different government agencies(including NIC) and utilisation of their data base for planning and policy purposes;

xi) To support development of methodologies for planning exercise at the State and lower levels and promote training in the methodology of decentralised planning; and

xii) To advise on any other matter relevant or incidental to the discharge of the above functions.

3. The terms of this Committee shall be for a period of three years unless otherwise notified by the Govt.

4. The committee may meet as often as may be decided by its Chairman. Normally, its meeting will be held at new Delhi.

5. The Socio-Economic Research Unit of the Planning Commission will function as the secretariat of the Committee.

(G.S. Randhawa)
Dy. Secretary

ORDER

Ordered that a copy of the Resolution be communicated to all concerned and that it be published in the Gazette of India for general information.

**(G.S. Randhawa)
Dy. Secretary**

To

**The Manager
Govt. of India Press
Faridabad (with a copy of Hindi version)**

No. 0.15011/2/90-SER New Delhi, dt. 24th June,97

- 1. PS to Prime Minister**
- 2. PS to Dy. Chairman**
- 3. PS to Minister of Agriculture**
- 4. PS to Minister of Finance**
- 5. PS to All Members (Planning Commission)**
- 6. PS to Cabinet Secretary**
- 7. Chairman and members of Research Advisory committee**
- 8. PS to Secretary, Planning Commission**
- 9. The Chief Secretaries of all the States Govts.**
- 10. The administrator of all Union Territories**
- 11. All the Ministeries and Deptt. of Govt. of India**

Copy also to:

**All Heads of Divisions in the Planning Commission
Special Secretary, Planning Commission.**

**(G.S. Randhawa)
Dy. Secretary.**

ANNEXURE -6.2

**LIST OF RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS /UNIVERSITIES
TO WHOM GRANT-IN-AID WAS RELEASED DURING
1997-98 FOR INSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT,
CARRYING OUT RESEARCH STUDIES, SEMINARS /
WORKSHOPS AND PUBLICATIONS UNDER SOCIO-
ECONOMIC-RESEARCH PROGRAMME OF THE
PLANNING COMMISSION.**

Sl.No.	Title	Name of Instt.	Amt.Released
I - INSTITUTION DEVELOPMENT			
1.	CRPD Programme	University of Mumbai, Mumbai	11,71,330
2.	Setting up a Dev. Plg. Centre at IEG.	Inst. of Economic Growth, Delhi.	1,00,000,00
		Sub-Total	1,11,71,330
II - RESEARCH STUDIES.			
1.	Pre-Census Population Project in India. O-15012/16/92-SER	Socio Economic Re- Research Instt. Calcutta.	98,670
2.	Formulation of Guidelines for the State Finance Commission in r/o the Finance of Municipalities O-15012/37/93-SER	National Inst. of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi	50,430
3.	Forms and linkages of Common property land in Kosi Embankment area of North Bihar. O-15012/21/84-SER	University of Delhi, Delhi	19,000

<p>4. Financing of Secondary Education in India during 1980-90, 6th & 7th Five Plan in the Prespective Plan. O-15012/30/92-SER</p>	<p>J.N.U., New Delhi</p>	<p>33,000</p>
<p>5. Evaluation of National Rural Employment Programme. O-15012/25/88-SER</p>	<p>Techno-Economic Research Instt., New Delhi</p>	<p>23,000</p>
<p>6. Subsidies in the Housing Sector in India O-15012/48/93-SER</p>	<p>National Instt. of Public Finance and Policy.</p>	<p>2,10,400</p>
<p>7. Research Study on Status Impact and determinants of farmers participation in irrigation management in India. O-15012/13/95-SER</p>	<p>Instt for Resource Management and Economics Development, New Delhi.</p>	<p>2,05,470</p>
<p>8. Agricultural Growth in India during 1980-83 to 1990-93, O-15012/27/94-SER</p>	<p>Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi</p>	<p>82,950</p>
<p>9. Behaviour pattern of different operators in Indian capital Market. O-15012/25/92-8ER</p>	<p>International Instt. for Development Studies, Calcutta.</p>	<p>47,400</p>
<p>10. Roll of Panchayati Raj in Rural Development and Planning in West Bengal, O-15012/37/94-SER</p>	<p>Joshi Adhikari Instt for Social Studies, Calcutta</p>	<p>1,48,500</p>
<p>11. Strengthening Voluntary organisation in Bihar O-15012/17/94-SER</p>	<p>Association for Social Engineering Research and Training, Patna</p>	<p>99,000</p>
<p>12. Sucess and failure of the Entrepreneurs. O-15012/07/93-SER Calcutta</p>	<p>Indian Instt. of Psychometry,</p>	<p>73,500</p>

13. Co-operation Research Programme on Prospective Development Studies for the North East Region. O-15012/07/94-SER	Indian Association of Social Science Instt., New Delhi	1,30,000
14. Regional Disparities and Environmental Implication in HP. O-15012/05/94-SER	Allahabad Univer. Allahabad	1,47,390
15. Strategic for future Dev. of Tribes in Southern state of India. O-15012/30/93-SER	Pondicherry Uni. Pondicherry.	54,524
16. Beneficiaries of DWCRA Programme with spl. reference to their product in Bihar. O-15012/41/94-SER	Society of Professional Incentive in Dev, Patna	19,600
17. Research / Seminars on Social development issues. O-15012/11/95-SER	Council for Social Dev. New Delhi.	5,00,000
18. Socio-Eco. and Dev. Potential Survey of Majuli Island in river Brahamputra. _15012/24/96-SER	Majuli Island Protection & Dev. Council ,Dispur, Guwhati	17,000
19. Socio-Economic Aspects of Aging in the contemporary Family & Society. An Inter-Disciplinary Research in the context of Development. O-15012/37/97-SER	University of Baroda, Baroda.	80,000
20. Preparation of Biography of Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda O-15017/1/96-SER	Indian Association of Social Science Institution, New Delhi.	75,000
	Sub-Total	21,14,834

III - SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

1. Plant Physiology for sustainable Agriculture O-15018/49/96-SER	Indian Society for plant Physiology New Delhi	30,000
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2. International Seminar on Globalisation and Developing countries O-15018/28/96-SER	Indian Centre for International Co-operation, New Delhi.	37,500
3. 32nd Annual meeting of National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi O-15018/5/93-SER	National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.	3,500
4. National Seminar on Manpower and Employment implication of Economics Restructuring O-15018/19/92-SER	Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi	15,650
5. National Seminar on Panchayati Raj Restropective & Prospective: To Commorate the 50th Anniversary of India;s Independence. O-15018/12/96-SER	Institute of Socio-Economic Dev. Bhubneshwar.	1,00,000
6. Regional Workshop of Expert NGO's representative of Training Institutions and state Governments. O-15018/3/97-SER	KARUNA, All India Society for Welfare of Women & Children, New Delhi.	25,000
7. National Seminar on Pluralist Model of Nation Building . O-15018/29/96-SER	Indian Social Instt., New Delhi	25,000
8. XXth Indian Social Science Congress O-15018/15/96-SER	Indian Academy of Social Sciences Allahabad.	50,000
9. International Conf. on Ecological Agri. towards Sustainable Development. O-15018/29/97-SER	Centre for Research in Rural Industrial Development, Chandigarh.	25,000
10. Three day Seminar on informal Sector: Emerging Perspective in Dev. O-15018/33/97-SER	Indian Society of Labour Eco, Research and Dev. Delhi	25,000

11. 25th International Regional Science Conference. O-15018/09/92-SER	Regional Science Asso. C/O I.I.T Khargpur.	3,000
12. Workshop on Dev. of Cross Road: the case of Bihar O-15018/02/97-SER	Lal Bahadur Shastri Inst. of Rural Management & Rural Dev. Patna	25,000
13. XXI Indian Social Science Congress. O-15018/32/97-SER	Indian Academy of Social Sciences, Delhi	25,000
14. Seminar on " 50th Years of Indian Independence O-15018/25/96-SER	Indian Centre for Socialist Studies, Ghaziabad.	12,500
15. Seminar on " Study of State Level Public Enterprises O-15018/22/89-SER	Inst. of Public Enterprises, Hyderabad.	2,200
16. 33rd Annual Conf. of TIES O-15018/20/96-SER	University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad.	25,000
17. International Con. on Kerala's Dev Experience: its National & Global Dimension. O-15018/08/96-SER	Inst. of Social Sciences, N.Delhi	1,00,000
18. Seminar on Perspective Plg. for Agricultural Dev-2000 A.D O-15018/04/88-SER	Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar.	39,696
19. 39th Annual Conf. of Indian Society of Labour Economics. O-15018/14/97-SER	Indian Society of Labour Eco. IAMR New Delhi.	25,000
20. 1st Anrit Indian Eco. Association Conference. O-15018/27/97-SER	Indian Eco. Association, Calcutta.	25,000
21. 1998 Inter-Disciplinary Dialogue on " Malthus & Mende: Population, Sci. & Food Security. O-15018/45/97-SER	M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai.	25,000

22. XXXVI Annual Conference
of Indian Association for
Advancement of Medical
Education. O-15018/43/97-SER

Indian Association
for Advancement of
Medical Edu. Chennai.

25,000

23. International Conf.
on Women & the new
paradigms of Dev. -,
recasting, Philosophy,
Policy and Programme.

International Centre
for Science, Culture
and consciousness.

10,000

Sub-Total

6,79,046

IV - Publication Grant:-

1. Publication of Monumental
Treaties Capt. Laxmi and
Rani Jhansi Regiment.
O-15017/1/97-SER

Sadhana Trust,
Poona.

1,00,000

Sub-Total

1,00,000

Grand Total Rs.1,40,65,210

Annexure-6.3

THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITIES / RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS HAVE COMPLETED THE RESEARCH STUDIES DURING 1997- 98 UNDER THE SOCIO ECONOMIC RESEARCH PROGRAMME OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

Sl.No.	Title	Name of Instt.
1.	Formulation of Guidelines for the State finance Commission in r/o the Finance of Municipalities	National Inst. of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi
2.	Forms and linkages of Common property land in Kosi Embankment area of North Bihar.	University of Delhi, Delhi
3.	Financing of Secondary Education in India during 1980-90, 6th & 7th Five year Plan in Prespective Planning.	Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi
4.	Evaluation of National Rural Development Prog.	Techno-Economic Research Instt., New Delhi
5.	Subsidies in the Housing Sector in India	National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi.
6.	Pre-census population Project in India.	Socio-Economic Research Instt. Calcutta.
7.	Behaviour pattern of different operators in Indian capital Market.	International Instt. for Development Studies, Calcutta.
8.	Roll of Panchayati Raj in Rural Development and Planning in West Bengal,	Joshi Adhikari Instt for Social Studies, Calcutta

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|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9. | Success and failure of the Entrepreneurs. | Indian Instt. of Psychometry, Calcutta |
| 10. | Strengthening Voluntary Organisation in Bihar Problem and Prospects | Association for Social Engineering, Research and Training, Patna. |
| 11. | Strategy for future Dev. of Tribes in Southern states of India. | Pondicherry University, Pondicherry. |
| 12. | Preparation of Biography of Shri Gulzarilal Nanda | Indian Association of Social Science Instt. New Delhi. |
| 13. | Beneficiaries of DWCRA Programme with special reference to their product in Bihar. | Society for professional initiative in development, Patna. |
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Annexure-6.4

**THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS HAVE
ORGANISED THE
SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS / SYMPOSIAM
/CONFERENCES
UNDER/SOCIO ECONOMIC RESEARCH PROGRAMME
OF PLANNING
COMMISSION AND FURNISHED THE PROCEEDINGS /
RECOMMENDATIONS DURING 1997-98.**

Sl.No.	Title	Name of Instt.
1.	32nd Annual meeting of National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi	National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
2.	National Seminar on Manpower and Employment implication of Economics Restructuring.	Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi.
3.	National Seminar on Panchayati Raj Economic Retrospective - and Prospective".	Inst. for Socio Development, Bhubneshwar.
4.	National Seminar on Pluralit Model of Nation building : Challanges Responses and Opportunities.	Indian Social Institute New Delhi.
5.	XX Indian Social Science Congress.	Indian Academy of Social Sciences, Allahabad.
6.	25th International Regional Science Conference.	Indian Society of Labour Economics, Research & Dev. Trust, New Delhi.
7.	Seminar on " State level Public Enterprises."	Institute of Public Enterprises, Hyderabad.
8.	33rd Annual Conference of TIES.	University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad.

9. International Conference on Kerala's Development Experience, its National and Global Dimension.

Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi.

10. Seminar on Prospective Planning for Agricultural Development.

Haryana Agriculture Uni. Hissar.

11. International Conference on " Women and the new Paradigms & Dev."

International Centre for Science Culture and Consciousness, New Delhi.

12. National Seminar on Plant Physiology for Sustainable Dev.

Indian Society for Plant Physiology, IARI, New Delhi.

13. Regional workshop on Training Women elected to local bodies. Children,

KARUNA, All India Society for Welfare of Women and New Delhi.

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. With the new government taking over after the general elections, Shri Madhu Dandavate, Deputy Chairman and other full time Members of the Planning Commission submitted their resignations. 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. Shri Ram Naik has subsequently been given the additional charge as the Minister of State (Planning & Programme Implementation). The reconstitution of the Planning Commission has yet to take place.

5. Dr. S.R. Hashim took over charge of the Member-Secretary of the Planning Commission w.e.f. 20.01.1998. The organisational chart of the Planning Commission as on 31.03.1998 is attached.

6. 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

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. The emphasis of the Commission will be on maximizing 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

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

ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

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

17. 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

18. 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.

19. 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'.

20. 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.

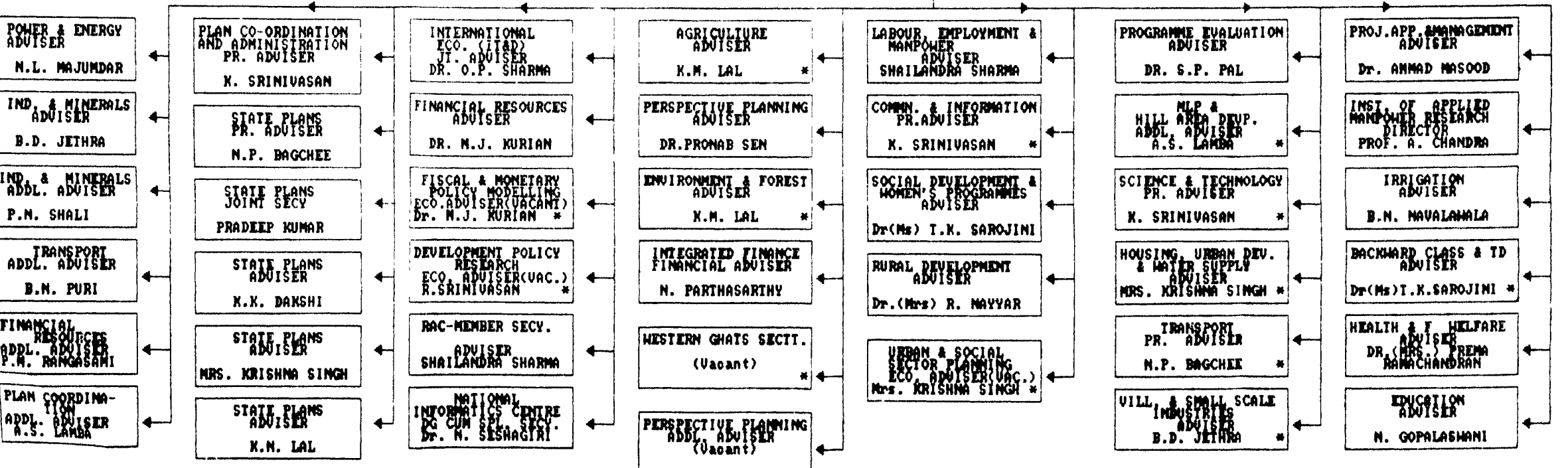
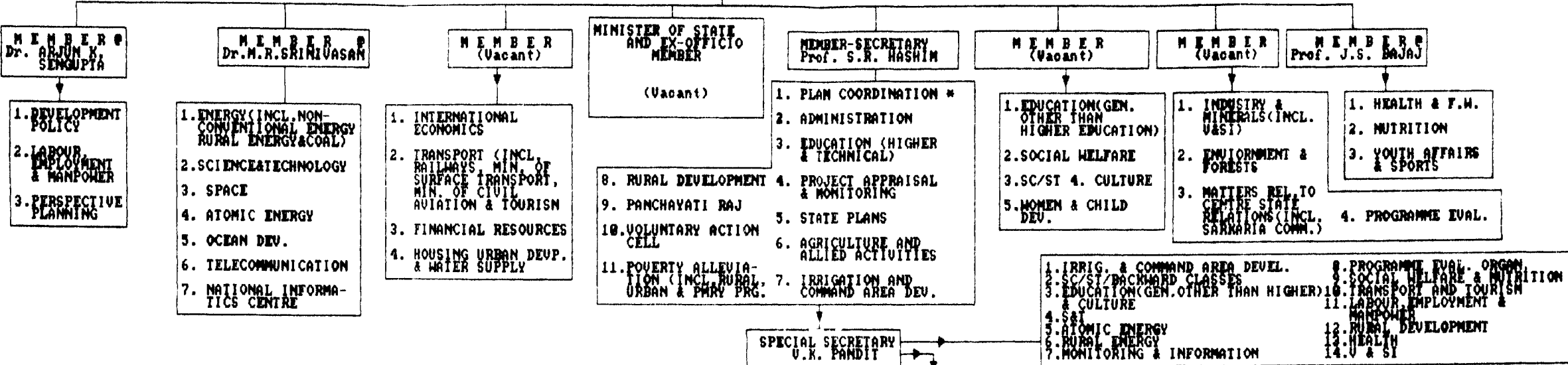
21. Officers and Staff of the Commission are exposed to various training programmes conducted within and outside the country by various national and international organisations of repute. Senior Officers also participate in various seminars & symposia

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.

22. 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 supervision of an Advisory Council consisting of Senior Officers of the Commission.

23. 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/Dy. Secretary.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
JASHANT SINGH



MGIPF—113 PC/98—3,500

प्रबन्धक, भारत सरकार मुद्रणालय, फरीदाबाद द्वारा मुद्रित, 1998

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