



Annual Report

1996-97

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING COMMISSION

CONTENTS

		Page No.
CHAPTER I	Economy and The Plan : An Overview	1
CHAPTER II	Plan Progress	8
CHAPTER III	Major Activities - A Perspective	25
CHAPTER IV	Programme Evaluation Organisation	95
CHAPTER V	National Informatics Centre	97
CHAPTER VI	Grant -in-Aid	130
APPENDIX	Composition & Functions and Organisation Chart of Planning Commission.	145

CHAPTER - I

ECONOMY AND THE PLAN : AN OVERVIEW

Introduction

1.1 The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) was launched immediately after the initiation of a set of stabilisation and structural adjustment measures, which were designed to combat the then prevailing crisis in the balance of payments (BoP) and resources position of the Government, in 1991. The Plan took into account some of the changes that were expected to come about due to these reforms. The Plan also kept in view the poor performance of the economy in the base year (1991-92). The overall growth was estimated to be negligible during the base year. The annual inflation rate was ruling at double-digit level. On the balance of payments front, although there was some improvement in the foreign exchange reserves, exports were exceptionally sluggish. Given this performance of the economy in 1991-92, the Eighth Plan set down somewhat cautious macroeconomic targets. The plan aimed at an annual average growth rate of 5.6 per cent and an average industrial growth rate of about 7.5 per cent. These growth targets were planned to be achieved with relative price stability and a substantial improvement in the country's balance of payments. It was envisaged that the ratio of current account deficit will be maintained at about 1.6 per cent. The performance of the economy during the first four years of the Plan indicate that most macro-economic targets would be achieved by the end of the terminal year (1996-97).

Growth and Sectoral Output

1.2 In 1991-92, the base year of the Eighth Plan, and the first year of the economic reforms, GDP grew by less than 1 per cent as compared to an annual average growth at about 6 per cent during the Seventh Plan period. However, the economy soon absorbed the shock of the stabilisation measures and recovered within a year to record 5.1 per cent growth in 1992-93. The growth rate accelerated to 6.2 per cent in 1993-94 and over 7 per cent in the following two

years. Thus, on an average, GDP has grown by 6.4 per cent during the first four years of the Eighth Plan. Despite some early indications of slowdown of industrial growth in 1996-97 (the last year of the Plan), GDP may still grow at over 6 per cent. Accordingly, the average growth of GDP during the Eighth Plan is expected to be a little over 6 per cent which is significantly higher than the Plan target of 5.6 per cent.

1.3 The growth performance of the economy reflects in good 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 about 4.8 per cent per annum during the first three years of the Plan, before recording a marginal decline in 1995-96. Foodgrains production increased steadily from about 168 million tonnes in 1991-92 to about 191 million tonnes in 1994-95. Latest estimates suggest that the output of foodgrains during 1995-96 may be considerably lower at 185 million tonnes. However, following good monsoon during 1996, the production of foodgrains is likely to bounce back to its 1994-95 level or even exceed it. Overall, the growth of agricultural GDP during the Eighth Plan may be slightly above the targetted growth rate of 3.1 per cent.

1.4 On the industrial front, all the major segments witnessed severe recession during 1991-92. The index of industrial production grew by less than 1 per cent during 1991-92. The index of manufacturing production declined by about 1 per cent. GDP from industry, which had grown at about 7.5 per cent during the Seventh Plan period, registered a decline of 1.9 per cent in 1991-92. Since then its growth has picked up substantially to 4.3 per cent in 1992-93, 7.9 per cent in 1993-94, 9.9 per cent in 1994-95, and about 12.7 per cent in 1995-96. Thus the average growth of industrial GDP during the first four years of the Plan has been about 8.7 per cent. Despite indications of some slowdown in industrial production during 1996-97, industrial GDP may still grow at over 9 per cent in the terminal year of the Plan. Thus, the expected growth of industrial GDP at about 8.8 per cent per annum will be significantly higher than the Eighth Plan target of 7.5 per cent.

1.5 The performance of the service sector during the first four years of the Eighth Plan has been consistently good. Even during the height of recession during the base year of the Plan (1991-92), the service sector performed well by growing at about 5 per cent. The service sector, consisting of trade, transport, communication, finance, insurance and community and social services has grown at an average of over 7 per cent during the first four years of the Plan. In the terminal year (1996-97) of the Plan, the service sector is expected to grow at over 7 per cent. Thus, the target of 6.2 per cent set for the service sector in the Eighth Plan is likely to be exceeded by a significant margin. However, the creation of new capacities in a number of sectors has fallen significantly short of the target during the Eighth Plan, primarily due to the slower pace of investment.

Savings and Investment

1.6 Gross domestic savings as a proportion of GDP averaged 23.2 per cent during 1992-93 to 1995-96. The savings rate which was relatively low, at 21.1 per cent in the first two years, staged a dramatic recovery in 1994-95. A record private corporate savings rate of 3.9 per cent and a substantial recovery of household savings rate at 19.2 per cent helped push the gross domestic savings rate to a new peak of 24.9 per cent in 1994-95. Quick estimates of the CSO indicate that savings rate has moved upwards to 25.5 per cent during 1995-96 despite decline of household financial savings rate by about 2 percentage points.

1.7 Gross domestic investment (adjusted for errors and omissions) as a proportion of GDP averaged 24.5 per cent during 1992-93 to 1995-96. The investment rate which was relatively low at 22.3 per cent during the first two years of Eighth Plan, received a boost in 1994-95. A relatively higher savings rate at 24.9 per cent and a current account deficit of about 1 per cent of GDP pushed the investment rate to 26 per cent in 1994-95. With the savings rate estimated to be around 25.5 per cent and the current account deficit estimated at about 1.7 per cent of GDP, the investment rate during 1995-96 may exceed 27 per cent of GDP.

Fiscal Developments

1.8 The Eighth Plan document stated that a major aim of fiscal policy should be to roll back the fiscal deficit of the Centre and the 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. Fiscal developments during the Eighth Plan period suggest that these targets, despite conscious efforts, would remain unfulfilled. The fiscal deficits of the States and the Centre during the full five year period is likely to remain at about 3 and 6 per cent of GDP, respectively.

1.9 Though on average the Centre's fiscal deficit at about 6 per cent of GDP during the Eighth Plan period appears high, it represents significant reduction from its level in 1990-91. Over the past six budgets, the fiscal deficit of the Centre has declined from 8.3 per cent in 1990-91 to a budgeted 5 per cent in 1996-97. More significantly, the primary deficit of the Centre has come down from 4.3 per cent in 1990-91 to only 0.2 per cent in 1996-97(BE). Unfortunately, interest payments as a percentage of GDP has increased continuously from 4 per cent in 1990-91 to 4.8 per cent in 1996-97(BE). This has partly offset the efforts to reduce revenue deficit. Revenue deficit of the Central Government which was 3.5 per cent of GDP in 1990-91 has come down by only 1 percentage point in 1996-97(BE).

1.10 In effecting fiscal correction it is imperative in the Indian context to see that the Plan budget of the Government is not adversely affected. The Plan expenditure of the Centre, which consists of budgetary support for the Central Plan and Central assistance to the States and UT Plans, accounted for 5.3 per cent of GDP in 1990-91. Except in 1993-94, when the Plan expenditure constituted 5.4 per cent of GDP, this ratio has tended to decline over the years. In the last two years of the Eighth Plan, the Plan

expenditure has come down to about 4.4 per cent of GDP. Decline in Plan expenditure has adversely affected the budget support to the Central Plan, which has come down from 3.3 per cent of GDP in 1990-91 to 2.6 per cent in 1996-97 (BE). Though marginally, the Central assistance to States & UT Plans has also been adversely affected. This has happened in spite of significant reduction in non-plan expenditure, which has come down from 14.4 per cent of GDP in 1990-91 to 12.1 per cent in 1996-97 (BE).

1.11 Within the Plan budget, there has been a compositional change of expenditure. Expenditure on economic services (budget support) which accounted for 2.6 per cent of GDP in 1990-91 declined to 1.7 per cent in 1996-97 (BE). In contrast, expenditure on social services increased from 0.7 per cent of GDP in 1990-91 to over 0.9 per cent in 1996-97 (BE). Within economic services group, there has been some shift of expenditure away from conventional sectors such as energy, transport and communication and industry and minerals to agriculture, irrigation and rural development.

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 Reserve Bank of India, which would ensure that the annual growth of money supply is brought down from about 17 per cent in the recent past to about 11 to 12 per cent during 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. In the event, none of the assumptions behind the anticipated inflation rate came true. As a consequence, average inflation rate as measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) during the first four years of the plan exceeded 9 per cent. In the terminal year of the plan, the inflation rate is expected to be about

7 per cent. Thus, the average inflation rate during the Eighth Plan period would be a little less than 9 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 further by 10.4 per cent in 1994-95. The annual rate of inflation during 1995-96 had shown downward trend, recording a low of about 5 per cent since January, 1996. The average inflation rate during 1995-96 was higher at 7.8 per cent. Price rise continued to be subdued at about 5 per cent during the first half of 1996-97, and has shown signs of acceleration during the second half, due to 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 \$5.5 billion in 1995-96. In some of the intervening years, it reached as low as \$ 1.2 billion. As percentage of GDP, the current account deficit has declined from about 3.2 in 1990-91 to 1.7 in 1995-96. On average, during the first four years of the Eighth Plan, the current account - GDP ratio has been about 1.2 per cent and is likely to hover around 1.5 per cent for the full five year period, almost the same as projected in the Eighth Plan document.

1.15 Improvement in the current account deficit since 1990-91 has been brought about by improved trade balance as well as improved balance of the invisibles account. Trade deficit (RBI data) as a percentage of GDP, which was 3.2 in 1990-91, had declined to about 1.6 in 1994-95, but increased significantly to about 2.7 in 1995-96. The improvement in trade deficit has been largely due to improved export performance. Exports as a percentage of GDP has successively increased from 6.2 in 1990-91 to about 10 in 1995-96. Net invisibles balance, which was negative in 1990-91, improved significantly over the years to touch 1 per cent of GDP in 1995-96.

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 foreign currency assets, gold reserves and SDR balances, which stood at \$9.2 billion in March, 1992 increased steadily to over \$25 billion in March, 1995. It declined significantly to about \$21.7 billion in March, 1996. By the end of June, 1996, however, there has been a modest build-up in the reserves to a level of \$22.1 billion. The movement in the reserves closely reflected the developments in the current account balance and the net capital inflows. The surge in capital inflows, especially 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 introduction of the market based exchanged rate regime in March, 1993. The Rupee, however, came under stress in the second half of 1995-96. An indication of 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 US dollar in October, 1995. Following intervention by the RBI, the Rupee stabilised in the range of Rs.34-36 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 RBI 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 US dollar.

CHAPTER - II

PLAN PROGRESS

FIVE YEAR PLANS

2.1 Planning in India is intended 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, seven Five Year Plans were implemented in India and the Eighth Plan commenced in 1992-93. The current year is the last year of the Plan. An Approach Document to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) has unanimously been approved. The Ninth Five Year Plan will commence on April 1, 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 current problems; and (d) determination of measures and policies for future growth.

2.3 The preliminary exercises for preparation of a Five Year Plan starts 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 would 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

also, 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 and, 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 of budgetary provisions for the Plan for the ensuing year.

THE EIGHTH FIVE YEAR PLAN 1992-97

2.9 The current financial year, 1996-97 is the last year of the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97). 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 mobilisation 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 1994-95 and 1995-96 and budget estimates for 1996-97 would materialise), has shown that the Plan performance in financial terms during the Eighth Plan (1992-97) accounts for about 100% of the approved Eighth Plan

outlay in the Central Sector. The corresponding proportion works out to about 81% and 116%, for State Plans and UT Plans, respectively. Thus, in the case of Centre, the Plan expenditure during the Eighth Plan period (1992-97) is likely to be as envisaged. While no shortfall in the case of UT Plans is expected, major shortfalls are likely occur in the Plan provision as well as expenditure of States vis-a-vis their Eighth Plan approved outlays. 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. The details of overall expenditure of the Eighth Plan vis-a-vis the expenditure for Seventh Plan and two subsequent separate Annual Plans may be seen in Annexure 2.3.

Annual Plans 1992-97

2.16 For Annual Plan 1992-93, the first year of the Eighth Plan 1992-97, the actual expenditure for Centre, States and UTs amounts to Rs. 72852.44 crore which is less by Rs. 7919.52 crore (nearly 10%) than the approved outlay of Rs. 80771.96 crore. The shortfall in utilisation of outlays has been reflected both in the Central and States/UTs sectors.

2.17 The Annual Plan 1993-94 envisaged a total public sector outlay of Rs. 1,00,120.16 crore. The actual expenditure for Centre, States and UTs amounts to Rs. 88080.66 crore, which is lower by 12.03% than the Budget Estimates for the Plan. The actual expenditure for Central Plan for 1993-94 amounting to Rs. 55215.88 crore, against the budget estimates of Rs. 63936.16 crore, represents an increase of 16.6% in real terms over 1992-93, whereas in the case of States and UTs, the increase in actual expenditure in 1993-94 was only of the order of 4% over 1992-93.

2.18 The Annual Plan 1994-95 envisaged a total public sector outlay of Rs. 1,12,197.12 crore in the budget estimates, which on revision came down to Rs. 1,06,204.25 crore. Thus, the revised estimates were lower by 5.3% than the budget estimates for the Plan. While the Central Plan outlay, on revision was lower only marginally by 2.6%, the total outlay for States and UTs has come down by 9.9% in the revised estimates.

2.19 The total public sector outlay for the Annual Plan 1995-96 was fixed at Rs. 1,28,589.98 crore which on revision came down by 6.7% at Rs. 119954.33 crore. The shortfall in Centre was by 5.4%, and in the State/UT sector by 8.8%.

2.20 During these four years, the shortfall in expenditure at the Central Sector was mainly due to inadequate mobilisation of Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) by the Public Sector undertakings and various Ministries /Departments even after providing more budgetary support in the revised estimates. In the States sector, 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's), negative opening balances, mounting non-plan expenditure and shortfalls in the collection of small savings, etc.

2.21 The current year's Plan (1996-97) envisaged a total public sector outlay of Rs. 1,46,160.29 crore comprising of Rs. 87086.17 crore for the Centre, Rs. 56,347.11 crore for the States and Rs. 2727.01 crore for the Union Territories. This represents an increase of about 10.4% for the Centre and 18.5% each in the case of States and the Union Territories over the Budget estimates of 1995-96. The details of the Plan outlays for Centre, States and Union Territories are given in Annexure-2.4.

Targets and Achievements

2.22 The average growth rate of GDP during the Eighth Plan is likely to exceed the envisaged target of 5.6 per cent. Much of this growth performance reflects the good performance of Agricultural and Industrial sectors. Though the service sector provided necessary support in achieving this growth rate, expansion of capacities in various infrastructural sub-sectors suffered setback due to lack of investments. Also, the performance in the social sector, including rural development, was not enough to meet the targets set for poverty alleviation.

(i) Infrastructure

2.23 Sustained growth of the economy depends on adequate availability of basic infrastructural facilities, such as power, transport and communications, of adequate quality. The Eighth Plan has fallen significantly short not only of its targets but also of the Seventh Plan physical achievements, in these areas. This was primarily due to the slower pace of investment in these sectors. The investment needs in this sector were of a magnitude that were beyond the resources available to the Government. Keeping in view the importance of infrastructure sector for overall economic growth, as well as for attracting private investment to make good the deficiency in Public Sector investment caused by serious resource crunch, it is necessary to protect Plan outlays of certain crucial infrastructure sub-sectors in both Centre and State Plans.

(ii) Social Sector

2.24 The programmes of direct State intervention in poverty alleviation and development of the social sectors designed during the Seventh Plan continued in the Eighth Plan also with changes in their content and scope. However, the performance of social sectors like

education, health and family welfare, women and child development, housing, water supply and urban development, which depend exclusively on budgetary support for financing their Plan outlays, have shown shortfalls in expenditure as compared to the Eighth Plan targets. Shortfall in making adequate allocations for social sectors during the operational Annual Plans of the Eighth Plan occurred due to severe budgetary constraints. It is imperative that the outlays in these sectors need be protected and proper utilisation of funds in the implementation of various schemes be ensured.

(iii) Employment and Regional Balance

2.25 The Eighth Plan envisaged an annual average growth rate of 2.6 per cent in employment, which was expected to generate 8 to 9 million jobs in the first half of the Plan and 9 to 10 million jobs in the second half. According to the 50th round of the NSS (1993-94), the growth rate of employment between 1987-88 and 1993-94 was 2.23 per cent, falling short of the target in the first half of the Eighth Plan. As a result, while 'open' unemployment rates declined from 3.77 per cent in 1987-88 to 2.56 per cent in 1993-94, the rate of underemployment remained more or less constant at a little over 6 per cent. The States where the incidence of underemployment was over 10 per cent as per 1993-94 estimates are Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. There is also evidence of deterioration of inter-regional disparities in per capita incomes. Some of the populous and less-developed States have experienced growth rates lower than the national average. In particular, the per capita State Domestic Product declined in Bihar from Rs. 1204 in 1990-91 to Rs. 1067 in 1994-95 at 1980-81 prices, while it stagnated in Uttar Pradesh, growing at less than 0.2 per cent per annum over the period.

Resource Mobilisation

2.26 The details given above clearly bring out the fact that the

shortfalls in Plan expenditure in States sector have been bigger than in the Central sector. An important reason for shortfall in States, has been their inability to raise resources for financing their plans as per commitments made at the time of Annual Plan discussions. As a result, inspite of the increase in the share of States in total budgetary support to Public Sector Plan the share of the States in the total Public Sector Plan, Outlay has come down.

2.27 It is, therefore, necessary to step up resource mobilisation efforts so as to protect the approved Plan outlays. In this regard, earnest efforts are required to improve the operational efficiency of State -level Public Enterprises, especially of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) so as to derive efficiency gains from these enterprises and thereby provide the much-needed resources for financing the State Plan outlays.

2.28 In the Central sector also, there is need to ensure adequate flow of funds to infrastructure sub-sectors like power, ports etc. Also, it is necessary to improve the performance of the Central Public Sector Enterprises so as to minimise their dependence on budgetary support. Those sectors which have potential to raise their own investible resources should help increasing the share of capital expenditure in the total expenditure of the government and a substantial amount of budgetary resources, thus saved, could be invested in other priority areas, like poverty eradication and improving living standards of the people.

NINTH FIVE YEAR PLAN (1997-2002)

2.29 The Planning Commission prepared the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) based on the major policy direction given by the government in the form of "A Common Approach to Major Policy Matters and a Minimum Programme" and

also taking into account the views of Chief Ministers of States, Parliamentarians, experts, specific socio-economic groups etc. The Approach Paper thus prepared has been deliberated upon in the meetings of full Planning Commission before the same was considered by the National Development Council (NDC) in its meeting held on January 16, 1997. The Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan which has been approved unanimously in the above meeting of the NDC and would form the guiding document in the preparation of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

ANNUAL PLAN (1997-98)

2.30 Annual Plan 1997-98 is the first year of the Ninth Five Year Plan. The Secretary-level discussions for formulation of the Plan with various Central Ministries/Departments have been completed by the end of January, 1997. Though the Planning Commission has completed the assessment of States' Own Resources, outlays in respect of States/Union Territories are only being finalised since exercises in this regard are in progress.

Annexure - 2.1
PLAN OUTLAY BY BROAD HEADS OF DEVELOPMENT FOR EIGHTH PLAN 1982-87

(Rs. in crores)

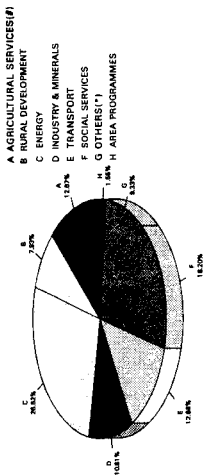
Sl. No.	Heads of Development	CENTRE		STATES/UTs		TOTAL	
		Outlay	% age to total	Outlay	% age to total	Outlay	% age to total
1.	Agriculture & Allied Services(*)	12618	5.09	42375	22.75	54993	12.67
2.	Rural Development	24170	9.75	10255	5.51	34425	7.93
3.	Energy	66796	26.95	46766	26.19	115561	26.62
4.	Industry & Minerals	37539	15.14	9383	5.04	46922	10.81
5.	Transport	40977	16.53	14949	8.03	55926	12.86
6.	Social Services	34445	13.90	44566	23.93	79012	18.20
7.	Others(§)	31321	12.64	9191	4.94	40512	9.33
8.	Area Programmes			6750	3.62	6750	1.55
	GRAND TOTAL	247965	100.00	186235	100.00	434100	100.00

* Include Agriculture and Irrigation Sectors.

§ Include Communications, Science, Technology & Environment, General Economic Services and General Services.

PLAN OUTLAY BY BROAD HEADS OF DEVELOPMENT

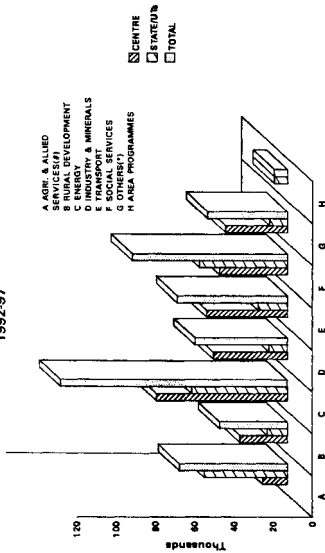
EIGHTH PLAN 1992-97
Rs. 434100 Crore



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

EIGHTH PLAN
1992-97
(In Rs. Crore)



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

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

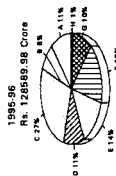
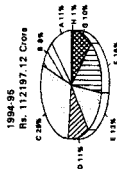
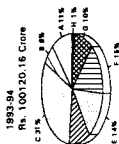
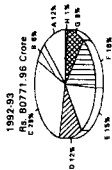
Annexure - 2.2

(Rs. in crores)

SECTOR	Eighth Plan (1982-87) Outlay at 1991-92 prices	ANNUAL PLAN AT CURRENT PRICES					Budget Estimates
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Centre	247865	43694	55216	68316	74594	87096	
States	179695	27917	31501	35825	43059	56347	
Union Territories	8250	1242	1364	2063	2301	2727	
TOTAL	434100	72853	88081	106204	119954	146180	

PLAN OUTLAY BY BROAD HEADS OF DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL PLANS



1996-97
Rs. 146160 Crore
Sector wise
Details
Not Available

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

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

ANNEXURE - 2.3

PUBLIC SECTOR PLAN EXPENDITURE FOR CENTRE, STATES & UNION TERRITORIES
(Rs. crores)

SECTOR	7th Plan 1985-90 Expend. at current prices	Annual Plans 1990-92 Expend. at current prices	8th Plan Outlay 1992-97 at 1991-92 prices	5 Years 1992-97 Anti Exp. at 1991-92 prices (*)	5 Years 1992-97 Anti Exp. at 1991-92 prices (*)	1992-97 Exp. at 1991-92 prices as %age of 8th Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CENTRE	127520 (58.3%)	73101 (59.9%)	247865 (57.1%)	328906 (61.7%)	247891 (61.7%)	100.0%
STATES	87463 (40.0%)	48856 (39.4%)	179685 (41.5%)	194649 (36.5%)	146683 (36.5%)	81.4%
UNION TERRITORIES	3718 (1.7%)	2163 (1.7%)	6250 (1.4%)	9697 (1.8%)	7257 (1.8%)	116.1%
GRAND TOTAL	216731	124120	434100	533252	401641	82.5%

Figures in brackets indicate percentage share over total.

(*) Includes Actuals for 1992-93 and 1993-94; RE for 1994-95 and 1995-96 and BE for 1996-97.

PLAN OUTLAY BY BROAD HEADS OF DEVELOPMENT FOR ANNUAL PLAN 1996-97

(Rs. in 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 (*)	4078.20	4.66				
2.	Rural Development	5394.10	6.19				
3.	Energy	24270.51	27.87				
4.	Industry & Minerals	11628.23	13.58				
5.	Transport	15672.39	18.34				
6.	Social Services	12704.77	14.59				
7.	Others (‡)	12636.97	14.74				
8.	Area Programmes						
	GRAND TOTAL	87066.17	100.00	59074.12	(69)	146190.29	

* Include Agriculture and Irrigation Sectors.

‡ Include Communications, Science, Technology & Environment, General Economic Services and General Services.

Heads of Development-wise break-up of States/UT sector outlays are not yet available.

CHAPTER - III

MAJOR ACTIVITIES - A PERSPECTIVE

3.1 The major activities undertaken by the Planning Commission during 1996-97 are enunciated briefly in the following paragraphs.

3.2 The Planning Commission had prepared an Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) which would serve as a basic guiding framework in the preparation of the Ninth Plan. The National Development Council, which met on 16 January, 1997 unanimously endorsed the Approach Paper to the Ninth Plan.

3.3 The Approach paper was drafted after obtaining inputs from 23 Steering Committees and 116 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 form one of the major inputs in the formulation of the Five Year Plan.

3.4 During the year under review, the Planning Commission organised a series of meetings as part of the exercise for the formulation of the Ninth Plan. The work of the Steering Committees and Working Groups have continued and reports of many Groups have been finalised. A number of meetings of Internal Planning Commission and two meetings of Full Planning Commission were held during the year to consider various issues in addition to the meeting of National Development Council.

3.5 The Chief Ministers' Conference on Basic Minimum Services, held on 4-5 July, 1996 identified seven areas for achieving set targets by 2000 AD. These seven areas include 100% coverage of provision of safe drinking water in rural and urban areas; 100%

coverage of primary health service facilities in rural and urban areas; universalisation of primary education; provision of public housing assistance to all shelterless poor families; extension of mid-day meal programme in primary schools in all rural blocks and urban slums and disadvantages sections; provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations; and streamlining of the public distribution system, with focus on the poor. An additional provision of Rs. 2,466 crore was made in the Union Budget for 1996-97 specifically for these basic minimum services. From this an amount of Rs. 250 crore was earmarked for providing shelter and other basic amenities to slum dwellers. The devolution of this additional Central assistance among various State and Union Territories has been finalised by Planning Commission.

ANNUAL PLAN 1997-98 DOCUMENT

3.6 The process of preparation of Annual Plan Document 1997-98 has been initiated and is in progress.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

I. Consultative Committee

3.7 The Consultative Committee for the Ministries of Planning & Programme Implementation and Science & Technology was constituted vide Ministry of Parliament Affairs Notification dated 21 August, 1996 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yogindra K. Alagh, Minister of State for Planning, Programme Implementation & Science and Technology (P&PI & S&T).

3.8 The above Consultative Committee was reconstituted on 23.10.1996 as the Consultative Committee for the Ministries of Planning, Programme Implementation, Science & Technology and other Scientific Departments under the Chairmanship of the Prime

Minister as given below:-

Shri H.D.Deve Gowda, Prime Minister Chairman

**Prof. Yogindra K. Alagh, Minister of State for P & PI
and Science & Technology (Independent Charge)**

Members of Lok Sabha

1. Shri Sudhir Giri
2. Prof. R.R. Pramanik
3. Shri Jaswant Singh
4. Shri Y.N. Rudresha Gowda
5. Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao
6. Shri Oscar Farnades
7. Shri M.O.H. Farook

Members of Rajya Sabha

1. Shri Bratin Sengupta
2. Dr. Ranbir Singh
3. Shri Surendra Kumar Singh
4. Dr. Shrikant R. Jichkar
5. Shri S. S. Ahluwalia
6. Shri Vinod Sharma
7. Justice A. G. Qureshi

**Shri S. R. Balasubramoniyam, Minister of State in the
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs(Ex-officio Member)**

**Dr. U. Venkateswarlu, Minister of State in the Ministry
of Parliamentary Affairs(Ex-officio Member)**

**3.9 The Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament
met on two occasions during the year under report. The details of**

the meeting held during 1996-97 are given below:

<u>Sl.No.</u>	<u>Date of Meeting</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1.	11-9-1996	Biotechnology - Salient Achievements and a perspective (Deptt. of Biotechnology)
2.	12-12-1996	Expert Group on Poverty Estimates(Planning Commission)

II. Standing Committee on Finance

3.10 The Standing Committee on Finance set up by Lok Sabha under the Chairmanship of Shri Biju Patnaik, examined the Demands for Grants for 1996-97. Senior Officers of Planning Commission appeared for oral evidence before the Committee on 17 August, 1996 and 23 October, 1996. Detailed replies of the questionnaires of the Standing Committee were submitted to Standing Committee for their consideration and advise for planning process.

3.11 Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (1996-97) of the Ministry of Planning & Programme Implementation were also furnished to Standing Committee on Finance.

PLAN FORMULATION

3.12 Finalisation of the fifth and last Annual Plan of the Eighth Plan (1996-97, Annual Plan) and excercises for the formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) and Annual Plan 1997-98 were

the major activities of all the Divisions in the Planning Commission during the Year under report. The proposals of the Central Ministries/Departments for the Annual Plan 1997-98 were discussed in detail in January, 1997 in the meetings taken by the Member-Secretary, Planning Commission with the Secretaries of the Central Ministries/ Departments. The Annual Plan 1997-98 discussion with the States/ UTs are also being held during January-February, 1997.

MID-TERM APPRAISAL (MTA) OF THE EIGHTH PLAN (1992-97)

3.13 The Planning Commission reconstituted in July, 1996 reviewed the status of Mid-Term Appraisal of the Eighth Plan. As the Eighth Plan itself was coming to an end after a few months the Commission decided that no useful purpose was likely to be served by attempting to revise the earlier draft, which contained data upto 1994-95. Instead, it was felt that a fresh appraisal of the Eighth Plan, using latest available data, should be undertaken as part of the preparatory work for the Ninth Plan, which was due to begin on 1 April, 1997. It was also decided that earlier drafts of the appraisal document, even though these could not be considered formally by the Full Planning Commission, should be made available to for information. Accordingly, the Planning Commission had published the English version of the draft Mid-Term Appraisal of the Eighth Plan (1992-97). The Approach document for the Ninth Plan, recently approved by the National Development Council, contains an updated review of the performance of the economy during the Eighth Plan.

AGRICULTURE DIVISION

3.14 An Expert Group on Agricultural Development Strategy for the Eastern Region has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof Y.K. Alagh. Third meeting of the Expert Group was held

on 23 May, 1996. In the meeting it was decided that Planning Commission may organise a meeting to discuss the issues, namely (a) Agricultural Credit; (b) Irrigation Projects under Rural Infrastructural Development Fund (RIDF), and Ganga Flood Control and Brahmaputra Master Plan; and (c) Identification of Major and Medium projects to be completed within two to three years. Accordingly, Planning Commission organised three meetings in October/November, 1996 under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary to discuss these issues in detail.

3.15 A meeting of the Committee on "25 Years Perspective Plan for Rainfed Areas" was held on 17 September, 1996 under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.R. Hashim, Member(Agriculture), Planning Commission.

3.16 During October/November 1996, a series of meetings of the Steering Committee on agriculture and allied activities were held under the Chairmanship of Member (Agriculture), to consider the reports of the Working Groups constituted for the formulation of 9th Five Year Plan.

3.17 Under the Agro-Climatic Regional Planning (ACRP) Project, the following major activities were carried out during 1995-96:-

- (i) Continuation of operationalisation of ACRP strategies in selected districts at 5 locations through an Experimental Projects.
- (ii) A Pilot Centre for Agro-climatic Planning and Information Bank (APIB) was set up initially covering two sub-regions of Karnataka State.
- (iii) ACRP Documentation and Dissemination Centre (ADDC) at Central Support Cell of ARPU, Sardar Patel Institute of

Economic and Social Research, Ahmedabad became fully functional and was shifted to its own building opened by Minister of State for Planning and Programme Implementation and Science and Technology during the year.

(iv) Some special studies of ACRP at Macro and Micro Levels were carried out.

3.18 The High Level Committee on Agro-climatic Regional Planning Project under the Chairmanship of Prof Y.K. Alagh, for Inter-Ministerial Coordination at Central and State Levels was re-constituted to give suggestions for operationalisation and refinement of ACRP or as to lay down policy and principles on integration of ACRP in State Plan. The Committee will also look into specific problems of implementation to recommend appropriate institutional arrangements on planning concept of ACRP and give guidance on any other matter related to ACRP.

BACKWARD CLASSES DIVISION

3.19 The Backward Classes Welfare (BCW) Division looks after the welfare and development of the Scheduled Castes (SCs), the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and the Minorities.

3.20 In the context of the formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan, a Steering Group on the Welfare and development of SCs, STs and OBCs & Minorities was set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. (Smt.) Chitra Naik, Member in-charge of the Subject. Also, three separate Working Groups, one each on - Welfare and Development of SCs, STs and OBCs & Minorities were set up at the Ministerial level to review the implementation of policies and programmes, identify the existing gaps and suggest need-based policies and programmes for adoption in the Ninth Plan. Besides coordinating

with the nodal Ministry of Welfare with regard to the work relating to these Working Groups, the Division serviced the Steering Group by preparing the Background/Working Papers, organising its Meetings and preparing its Final Report.

3.21 During the year under reference, the Division, in coordination with the Project Appraisal and Management Division (PAMD) of the Planning Commission, examined/cleared - revision of the scheme of 'Post Matric Scholarships'; amendments for effective implementation of the Protection of Civil Right (PCR) Act, 1955, Prevention of Atrocities (POA) Act, 1989; recognition of SC converts to Christianity as SCs, modification in the scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents, etc.

3.22 As a prerequisite for the formulation of the Ninth Plan, the Division also made an exercise of 'Rationalisation /Minimisation of the programmes of the Eighth Five Year Plan in respect of the nodal Ministry of Welfare'. It also kept up the follow up action alive on the subject with the nodal Ministry.

3.23 With a view to encourage the participation of all the concerned in the planning process of the Ninth Five Year Plan, a national level meeting with SC and ST Parliamentarians was organised by the Division on 6 December, 1996. The important suggestions and the recommendations thus received from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament were taken into account while formulating the Ninth Five Year Plan.

3.24 The Division continued its efforts in close collaboration with the nodal Ministry of welfare in promoting formulation and implementation of need-based policies and programmes for the empowerment of the weaker sections of SCs, STs, OBCs and Minorities.

CAREER MANAGEMENT & VIGILANCE DESK

3.25 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

3.26 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.

3.27 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.

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

Career Management

3.29 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), 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.

(f) Reference Folders:

The following reference files are maintained in this section:

1. Instructions regarding Foreign Deputations.
2. Instructions regarding Foreign Assignments.

COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING DIVISION

3.30 Communication, Information & Broadcasting Division is primarily concerned with the plans, programmes and policies relating to telecom, postal, Information and broadcasting sectors of the economy.

3.31 The telecom sector is witnessing major changes in the wake of economic reforms. During the year, the division examined various issues related to National Telecom Policy and its follow-up action. As part of the Ninth Plan exercises, four Working Groups were set up under the telecom sector:-

(i) Working Group on Communications to assess requirements of social sector for Ninth Five Year Plan.

(ii) Working Group on Communications to assess the cost of inputs to the telecom sector for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(iii) Working Group on Communications to assess and recommend production requirements of telecommunications sector for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(iv) Working Group to assess the requirement of new value added services with reference to technological development in the telecom sector for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

3.32 The Division actively participated in the deliberations of the Working Groups and processed their recommendations for formulating the sectoral approach to the Ninth Five Year Plan.

3.33 In the postal sector the strategy for expansion of postal services particularly in rural areas was reviewed. Alternative sources of funding the scheme "construction of postal buildings", was also explored so as to minimise the budget support for this scheme.

3.34 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

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

3.36 Five Sub-Groups set up under the Steering Committee on Civil Supplies and Public Distribution System completed their deliberations during 1996. The reports of these Sub-Groups will

form the basis of the recommendations of the Steering Committee for the formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

3.37 Development Policy Division monitored the major economic indicators during the year and reviewed the macro-economic performance of the economy during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Development Policy Division also acted as the nodal Division for the Ministry of Civil Supplies in the context of the Plan proposals relating to the Public Distribution System.

EDUCATION DIVISION

3.38 Education Division during the year continued to interact actively with the nodal Departments of Education, Art and Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs, the major task being the preparations relating to the 9th Plan formulations. Planning Commission constituted four Steering Committees and 12 Working Groups for Education sector.

3.39 The Steering Committees formulated guidelines during their meetings and discussed in detail the review of the 8th Five Year Plan and approach to 9th Plan for respective sectors. The Division has received the final version of the Report of the Steering Committee on Higher and Technical Education including Open Learning, Management Education along with the 3 Working Group Reports.

3.40 The Report of the Steering Committee on Art and Culture has been finalised based upon the Reports of the Working Groups on Art and Culture, Library and Informatics, Book Promotion and Languages. The Division also received the Working Group Report on Youth Affairs and Sports. The Report of the Steering Committee on Sports and Youth Affairs is expected to be finalised soon. The Working Group Reports on Open Learning System at School Stage as well as Adult Education has been received. The Working Group

Report on Non-formal and Primary Education including Secondary Education as well as on Vocationalisation of Secondary Education are expected to be received soon.

3.41 The Technology Development Mission Projects are being prepared at the respective institutions and are being monitored.

Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has released Rs.1444.73 lakh during 1995-96 for the Technology Development Missions (TDMs) and is expected to release Rs. 825.95 lakh during 1996-97. In some cases due to delay in firming up of the projects with the industry and release of funds, projects are expected to be extended one year more, i.e., upto March, 1998.

3.42 In order to strengthen excellence in research, Education Division organised a brain storming session with scientists, technologists, social scientists, academic and scientific administrators on 10 January, 1996. The Meeting was chaired by Member (Higher and Technical Education) Planning Commission. Some of the salient points of action that emerged from the session were (a) need for a comprehensive and integrated approach in research to improve quality. (b) need for maximising use, and sharing of resources by way of sharing library and computer resources through networking and using existing national facilities like NICNET and ERNET, (c) need for interaction between university, industry, national R&D laboratories, national academies, so as to promote close rapport with industry, (iv) need for efforts to be made to expand catchment area of potential scientists and researchers through strengthening the school education.

3.43 The Education Division also organised a meeting of the Committee on Institution - Industry Interaction. An Approach Paper on Enhancing Institution - Industry Interaction was discussed in this meeting. This Approach Paper is likely to be

discussed at higher level so as to develop a Plan of Action.

ENVIRONMENT & FOREST UNIT

3.44 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.

3.45 During the year 1996-97 the following works attended to as listed below :

1. The Steering Committee on Environment, Forest, Wildlife and Wasteland Development and the Task forces set up for the formulation of Ninth Plan have submitted their reports. The second meeting of the Steering Committee has approved the taskforce reports held under the Chairmanship of the Member (E&F). The working groups on Environment, Forest, Wildlife and Wasteland Development also submitted their reports, which were considered in the Second meeting of the Steering Committee.
2. Regular meetings of the monitoring committee for reviewing the progress in Ganga Action Plan Phase-I under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission have been held. National River Action Plan (NRAP) covering 14 grossly polluted stretches in 9 rivers and 14 less polluted in another 8 rivers of the country and 46 towns located in 10 Indian States have been approved by the CCEA.
3. Forestry Projects submitted by the State Governments viz., Meghalaya, Orissa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Bihar scrutinised and comments furnished.

4. Sixth meeting of the Standing Committee meeting of the IDA held on 20-12-96 under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman. Follow up action initiated in respect of the decisions taken in the meeting.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES DIVISION

3.46 The Division is concerned with resource assessment for the plans. Resource assessment involves an indepth study of the progress in resource mobilisation vis-a-vis approved plan outlays, additional resource mobilisation efforts and estimates of resources for the plans.

3.47 During the year under review, the Division undertook resource assessment of the Centre and the States for both the Ninth Five Year Plan(1997-2002) and the Annual Plan 1997-98. In view of the expected shortfall in some areas, especially in the State sector, it has become necessary to undertake resource estimate in a more rigorous way, so as to bridge the gap between resource requirements and resource availability in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

3.48 Keeping in view the need for a detailed and realistic assessment of resources for the Ninth Plan, the Planning Commission constituted a Steering Group on Financial Resources for the Ninth Five Year Plan under the chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission in charge of Financial Resources Division. The FR Division provided the required support for the Steering Group.

3.49 The Steering Group set up five working groups on: (1) Tax Policy, (2) Expenditure Policy, (3) Savings (Domestic and Foreign), (4) Centre's Resources (including CPSEs),and (5) States' Resources (including those of SLPEs). The Division

provided the necessary support to these working groups. These working groups, after detailed deliberations, submitted their reports to the Chairman of the Steering Group.

3.50 The Steering Group, in its meeting held on 21 November, 1996, considered the Draft Report, based on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Sub-Groups, and finalised its Report.

3.51 In order to assess the resources of individual States for the Annual Plan 1997-98, and Five Year Plan (1997-2002), and also to monitor the progress in resource mobilisation by the States in the Eighth Plan, detailed guidelines and proforma were issued to the States. The estimates provided by the States for their Annual Plans and Five Year Plans were examined by the Division and were considered in the Working Group on Financial Resources. For a realistic assessment of resources the Working Group was assisted by three Sub-Groups on State Electricity Boards, State Transport Corporations and Externally aided projects. The representatives from Department of Expenditure, Department of Economic Affairs and RBI also participated in the meetings of its Working Group. The assessment of resources by the Working Group formed the basis for discussion between the Deputy Chairman and State Chief Ministers for the finalisation of outlay for Annual Plans 1996-97, 1997-98 and Ninth Five Year Plan.

3.52 The Division undertook review of the resources of the states for the Eighth Five Year Plan 1992-97, especially additional resource mobilisation efforts of the States, working of the State Electricity Boards and Road Transport Corporations in order to assess their performance vis-a-vis projected resources from these areas for the Eighth Plan.

3.53 The Sub-Group on the Internal & Extra Budgetary

Resources (IEBR) of the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) for the Ninth Five Year Plan reviewed the performance in the generation/mobilisation of IEBR during the Eighth Plan. After in-depth discussion on the prospects of IEBR during the Ninth Five Year Plan, prepared its report on IEBR of CPSEs for the Ninth Plan, which was incorporated in the Report of the Working Group on Centre's Resources for the Ninth Plan. The Sub-Group on Public Savings and after detailed discussion on different aspects of public savings prepared the Report on public savings which formed the basis for the estimation of public savings by the Working Group on Domestic and Foreign Savings for the Ninth Plan. The Inter-Departmental Committee on the Rationalisation of Pay Structure, etc. of EDP Personnel under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary, Planning Commission, submitted its Report to the Fifth Central Pay Commission during period under review.

3.54 The officers from the Division participated in the meetings held in the Department of Expenditure for the assessment of IEBR of CPSEs for Annual Plan 1997-98.

3.55 The Division participated in the meeting of a group of Chief Ministers, convened by MOS (P&PI) for deciding the criteria for allocation of Central assistance for State Plans to States earmarked for Basic Minimum Services.

3.56 The chapter on Financial Resources together with annexures giving detailed statistics on Annual Plans 1995-96 and 1996-97 was prepared for inclusion in the Annual Plan 1996-97 document.

3.57 The Division received a number of representations from Chief Ministers, other VIPs and the public. These were examined and suitable replies were sent.

3.58 Exercises were taken up on modalities of allocation of Externally Aided Projects, growing interest burden of the States, additional resource mobilisation of the States and impact of prohibition in order to assess their implication on plan finance.

3.59 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.

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DIVISION

3.60 The Planning Commission has constituted three Steering Committees and eleven Working Groups to provide inputs on health, health-manpower development and population related issues for the formulation of 9th Five Year Plan. The reports of all the eleven Working Groups constituted by Planning Commission were considered in the respective Steering Committees. The reports of the Steering Committees will be finalised shortly.

3.61 A High Power Committee 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 was set up under the chairmanship of Prof. J.S. Bajaj, Member (Health), Planning Commission. The Committee had submitted its report to the Planning Commission who had endorsed the action Plan suggested in the Report.

Comprehensive Review of Public Health System

3.62 The major problems facing the Public Health System in the country are to ensure the outreach of appropriate services at affordable cost and at the same time maintain quality of services. Under the direction of the Prime Minister an Expert Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Member (Health) to comprehensively review existing Public Health System in India and suggest measures for improving it. The Report of the Committee has been submitted to Ministry of Health. The recommendation of the Committee is expected to form the base and basis for formulation of Ninth Plan proposals for the Public Health System in the country.

3.63 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.

3.64 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

3.65 Documents relating to Annual Plan, agenda item for various meetings, reports, etc. prepared by the Planning Commission were translated into Hindi during the year under review. The progress in the use of Hindi was reviewed in the meetings of Official Language

Implementation Committee. Two meetings of this committee were held during the year.

3.66 In order to encourage various sections to do most of their work in Hindi, a 'Running shield' scheme was continued for the year 1995-96 also. The shield for the year 1995-96 was awarded to Administration V Section.

3.67 A Hindi fortnight was observed in Planning Commission from 16 to 27 September, 1996. Hon'ble Minister, Planning and Programme Implementation made an appeal to all in the Planning Commission to do most of their work in Hindi. During the Hindi fortnight, various competitions viz. Hindi Typing, Hindi Stenography, and Hindi Noting and Drafting, were organised. Hindi Quiz and Kavi Sammelan were also organized for the employees. Hon'ble Minister of State Prof Y.K. Alagh presented prizes to the winners.

3.68 A special prize, viz. 'Kautilya Puraskar' was given for original writings in Hindi every year. Ist and IInd prizes could not be given this year as no book could fulfil the criteria of selection for the same and a third prize of Rs. 5000 was awarded to the winner by the Hon'ble Minister on 27 September, 1996, on the occasion of 'Hindi Divas Samapan Samoroh'.

3.69 Two meetings of Hindi Advisory Committee were held in the year under review.

HOUSING, URBAN DEVELOPMENT & WATER SUPPLY DIVISION

3.70 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.

3.71 The Division has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Task Force on "Urban perspective and policy" under the chairmanship of Member-Secretary, Planning Commission to consider the perspective and strategy for urbanisation. With a view to assist the Task Force, three Technical Groups on (i) Urban Perspective and Policy; (ii) Urban Planning Systems; and (iii) Financing of Urban Infrastructure were also set up. The Division was closely associated in all deliberations and preparation of reports of these Technical Groups. The report of the Technical Group on Urban Planning Systems has been finalised, whereas the preparation of the reports of the other two Technical Groups is in progress. Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Task Force is likely to be convened shortly.

3.72 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 and 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 have also been set up. The Division was closely associated in deliberations of all these Working Groups and finalisation of their Reports. The Reports of all these Groups have

been finalised which will form the input for the deliberations of the Steering Committees likely to be convened shortly.

3.73 The Division participated and presented views of the Planning Commission in various meetings, relating to Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes, 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".
- Sanctioning, Screening and Review Committee (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.

3.74 Inter-se allocation among the States/UTs of Rs.250 crore, included in the Union Budget 1996-97 as additional Central assistance for slum development programme in the States/UTs for the Annual Plan 1996-97, was worked out by this Division and guidelines formulated for its utilisation.

INDIA JAPAN STUDY COMMITTEE

3.75 The India Japan Study Committee (IJC) organises joint meetings for exchange of views and undertakes studies of selected subjects with a view to fostering better understanding and cooperation between India and Japan in the economic, social, cultural and scientific fields. The India Committee and its

counterpart, the Japan Committee hold Joint Meetings alternately in India and in Japan.

3.76 The India Committee of Indo-Japan Study Committee (IJSC) was reconstituted with Shri G. Thimmaiah, Member (Industry & Minerals), Planning Commission as new Chairman. The other members include, Shri Salman Haider, Foreign Secretary, Govt. of India, Shri Ratan Tata, Chairman, Tata Industries Ltd., Shri Shekhar Datta, President, Confederation of Indian Industries, Mr. Deepak Parekh, Chairman, HDFC, Shri A.G. Asrani, Ex-Ambassador of India in Japan, Smt. Devki Jain, Member, State Planning Board, Karnataka, Prof. C.N.R. Rao, President, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore and Shri B.D.Jethra, Additional Adviser (I&M) as Member-Secretary (IJSC).

3.77. The 28th Joint Meeting of IJSC was held on 19-20 December, 1996 in Tokyo. The Prime Ministers of both countries in their messages expressed satisfaction at the emergence of close and cordial relations and inter-action between the two countries and the catalytic role being played by the IJSC in the development of bilateral relations and understanding. The Japan Committee indicated that the Japanese investors and businessmen are now keen to invest in India.

3.78 The two committees were happy with the considerable cooperation achieved in science and technology and agreed that a forum for regular inter-action in social science should also be promoted. To encourage medium and small scale Japanese companies to enter India, the India Committee offered that India Investment Centre would prepare literature containing information on India and supply the same to Japanese businessmen periodically. To enhance Indo-Japanese economic relations, it was mooted that a special cell can be created in the Ministries of External Affairs and Home Affairs with a 'fast-track' for processing visa requests of

Japanese investors, researchers, journalists and tourists.

INDUSTRY & MINERALS DIVISION

3.79 The Steering Committee for Industry was constituted under the Chairmanship of Member(Industry), Planning Commission to work out the strategy for development of industry and minerals during the Ninth Five Year Plan. 12 Working Groups and 2 Task Forces under the Chairmanship of Secretaries of the respective sectors were also constituted. Some of the Working Groups have submitted their report and others are in the pipeline.

3.80 The spirit of liberalisation in the areas of industry and minerals development continued and a number of proposals were examined for further liberalisation and restructuring of the economic programmes.

3.81 Memoranda of Understanding for 114 public sector enterprises with their respective Administrative Ministries were examined and commented upon for consideration of the High Power Committee.

3.82 A number of proposals from various Ministries on restructuring and rehabilitation of public sector enterprises were examined for consideration of Group of Ministers/Committee of Secretaries/Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs etc.

3.83 Growth Centres Scheme continues to be under implementation and a number of additional growth centres were considered and approved for various states. An amount of Rs.202.29 crore has so far been released till March, 1996 as Central Sector Grant for implementation of the Growth Centres Programme.

3.84 The Export Promotion Industrial Parks Scheme introduced in July, 1993 under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce is in progress for implementation in various states. These parks are expected to be equipped with modern infrastructural facilities with an obligation of export of at least 33% of their total production. The Central Government will bear the expenses to the extent of 75% of the capital cost subject to a ceiling of Rs.10 crore per park. The scheme is monitored by an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee headed by Secretary, Commerce.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS DIVISION

3.85 The International Economic Division is responsible for the study of issues related to India's foreign trade and balance of payments as well as issues concerning foreign investments 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 1996-97, this Division was involved in periodical monitoring and detailed analysis of India's foreign trade, foreign exchange reserves and other components of Balance of Payments. The exercises in compilation and analysis of statistical data relating to foreign trade and Balance of Payments were continued and contacts were maintained with Commodity Boards, Export Promotion Councils, Reserve Bank of India etc. as well as international organisations like International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), World Trade Organisation (WTO) etc. and India's missions abroad for supply of information and data.

3.86 The Division was intensively engaged in exercises relating to the formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan for the external

sector. The Division acted as the secretariat for the working group on Balance of Payments set up by the Planning Commission. The Division prepared a detailed paper on performance, policy issues and prospects of exports during the Ninth Plan and submitted draft report for consideration of the Working Group. The division also prepared a sectoral approach paper.

3.87 The Division participated in the deliberations of sub-group on Shipping, Finance, Ship Building and Ship Repairs, Lighthouses and Lightships and prepared detailed comments. These reports were examined and detailed comments were prepared on the recommendations made by the above sub-groups.

3.88 The project proposal on trilateral economic cooperation, between India, Sri Lanka and Thailand received from the Ministry of External Affairs which involved a detailed study to be done by Asian Development Bank was examined. Detailed comments etc. were prepared on the subject to facilitate discussion in the meeting convened by the Ministry of External Affairs.

3.89 The Division was engaged in preparation of a study on economic policy reforms and its impact on foreign trade as a part of the Annual Action Plan of Planning Commission for 1996-97. In this connection papers were prepared on Trade and Exchange Rate Reforms since 1991. Industrial Policy Reforms, Foreign Investment in India and the Petroleum Sector.

3.90 In the area of technical cooperation, the Division made necessary arrangements for the visit of a ten-member Chinese delegation led by H.E. Guo Shuyan, Vice Chairman, State Planning Committee and Vice Chairman, Three-Gorges Construction Committee of the People's Republic of China during 1-7 September, 1996. On this occasion, the division prepared a paper on Recent Trends in People's Republic of China. A high-level meeting with the

visiting delegation was taken by Minister of State for Planning and Programme Implementation. The visiting delegation, also had meetings with the officials of the Ministry of Power and Water Resources.

3.91 A Bhutanese delegation led by its Planning Minister H.E. Lyonpo C.Dorji, visited the Planning Commission in June 1996. In August 1996, the Division was associated in discussions relating to the Indian assistance to the Bhutan's Eighth Five Year Plan. The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission visited Bhutan in February 1997.

3.92 The division prepared special papers/briefs several subjects; such as;

- (i) Performance, Policy Issues and Prospects of India's exports
- (ii) Policy issues on the External Sector;
- (iii) Asia and the Pacific into the 21st Century; opportunities and challenges for ESCAP.
- (vi) Role of India, Egypt and other developing countries in the emerging international economic order;
- (v) Total cost management for competitive advantage.

IRRIGATION & COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT (I&CAD) DIVISION

3.93 In connection with the formulation of strategy for 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002) a Steering Committee and Five Working Groups relevant to the important components of irrigation and flood

control were constituted. The Working Group Reports on Major & Medium, Flood Control and Minor Irrigation have been received and the reports on Command Area Development (CAD) and Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) are expected shortly.

3.94 The process of formulation of Annual Plan 1996-97 for various States had been completed. Similar exercises were undertaken in respect of Annual Plan proposals for 1996-97 of the Ministry of Water Resources to finalise the plan outlay for Irrigation, Flood Control and CAD Programmes. A number of EFC and PIB proposals received from the Ministry of Water Resources were examined and detailed comments sent to the Ministry of Water Resources.

3.95 The Officers of I&CAD Division participated in a number of Committees, Seminars, Implementation Review meetings of Ministry of Water Resources and Central Water Commission in respect of Externally aided and CAD programmes. Several VIP references were also dealt with appropriately.

3.96 Various projects in the Sector were considered by the Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Projects of the Ministry of Water Resources. Based on the Committee's recommendations, investment approvals were issued details of which are indicated in Table-I:

TABLE - I

List of Schemes (Irrigation and Flood Control) clearance by the Planning Commission during 1996-97

Sl. No.	Scheme	Cost (Rs. crore)	Date of Approval
1.	Narmada Canal Project (Rajasthan)	467.53	23.01.96
2.	Construction of Retirement of Brahmaputra Dyke from Bhojaikhaiti Pathar to Solmari Village - Assam	3.117	30.01.96
3.	Anti-erosion measures to protect the Brahmaputra dyke left bank from Palasbari to Gumi at Panikhaity area - Assam	1.72	30.01.96
4.	Protection of Chumoni area from the erosion of river Noa-Dehing and Dirak on the left bank at saikhowa protection bund Phase-I - Assam	3.11	12.02.96
5.	Protection of Dainigaon and its adjoining area (Hatisal & Neamati) against the erosion of river Brahmaputra - Assam	31.89	07.02.96
6.	Major and Medium Irrigation Project Baghalati Irrigation project - Orissa	45.44	21.05.96
7.	Manu Irrigation project - Tripura	33.28	02.08.96

8. Anti-erosion measures to protect the emergent conservation of Kerala Sea coast in Kollam district - Kerala	1.55	27.08.96
9. Anti-erosion measures to protect the emergent conservation of Kerala Sea coast in Thiruvananthapuram district - Kerala	1.80	29.08.96
10. Anti-erosion measures to project the emergent conservation of Kerala Sea coast in Trissur district - Kerala	2.63	28.08.96
11. Investment clearance of Increasing capacity of Zamania Pump Canal Major Irrigation project - Uttar Pradesh	39.81	02.09.96
12. Protection of Karimganj Town from erosion of River Kushiyara at Kalibari area - Assam	1.21	19.09.96
13. Protection of Karimganj town from erosion of river Kushiyara at Nathupur Bakarshal	1.25	19.09.96
14. Karjan Major Irrigation Project - Gujarat	186.37	23.09.96
15. Investment clearance of Anti-erosion work of Dikhow both banks at different reaches near Sibsagar town - Assam	3.36	28.10.96
16. Bor Dahegaon Medium Irrigation Project - Maharashtra	16.26	06.11.96

17. Raising and Strengthening to Flood Embankment along left Bank of Kallong from Bagibari to Ganesh Hill (Ch. 39000m to Ch. 46000m) - Assam	1.88	20.11.96
18. Construction of Retirement from 51st Km. to 56th Km. of B/Dyke from Bohari to Baghbar at Jadavpur Village - Assam	3.4	20.11.96
19. Extension of protection of Dharapur and Garal Area in the D/S of Dhoptola Bazar from the erosion of river Brahmaputra Phase-II - Assam.	2.57	20.11.96
20. Investment clearance of Scheme on Right side to Brahmaputra Dyke from Desangmukh to Dikhowmukh - Assam.	2.32	07.01.97

3.97 The importance of development of water has been recognised in the country keeping in view the need for agricultural development. During the year 1996-97, the Union Government had launched "Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme" under which the Centre would provide on matching basis additional Central assistance by way of loans to the States for timely completion of selected irrigation and multi-purpose projects. An allocation of Rs.900 crore for the Annual Plan 1996-97 have been provided in the budget of the Ministry of Water Resources for this programme.

3.98 Further Rural Infrastructural Development Fund RIDF-II with NABARD with the corpus of Rs. 2500 crore for the current year have been provided for covering including irrigation projects completion and providing envisaged benefit through these projects to the irrigated agriculture in the country.

LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT & MANPOWER DIVISION

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

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

3.101 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 on the Indian Labour Conference, Ministry of Labour.
- (c) Indian Labour Conference, Ministry of Labour.
- (d) 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 the Planning Commission.**
- (k) **Voluntary Action Advisory Council of the Planning Commission.**
- (l) **The General Council, the Executive Council, the Standing Committee on Research Programmes and Standing ~~Budget~~ Committee of Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR).**

3.102 The Division continued to look after matters both technical and administrative relating to the IAMR.

3.103 An Approach Paper was prepared in the Division in respect of Labour and Employment for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

3.104 A Note was also prepared in the Division on "Employment Policy and Planning" for discussion in the meeting of Steering Committee on Employment Planning and Policy constituted for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

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

3.106 The Division was also represented in "Technical Group on Population Projections" under the Chairmanship of Registrar General of India, which was constituted in connection with the formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan.

LIBRARY

3.107 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 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.

3.108 The library has computerised almost all its activities viz., circulation, documentation, acquisition and reference etc. These activities are being done on PC At 386 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.

3.109 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.

3.110 During the period under report 1048 English and 628 Hindi books/publications have been added to the collection. By the end of March 1997, it is expected that about 300 more books in English & 250 in Hindi will be added. 318 Periodicals were also received in the library. The library also provided about 12500 reference queries and attended to specific needs of about 1450 persons. About 22800 readers visited the library for consultation and

reference work.

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

Academic Activities

3.112 The library also provided practical training to some students of Bachelor of Library Science of various universities.

3.113 About 130 research scholars from different universities and from eminent institutions of the country visited this library for reference for their research project.

3.114 Reorganisation of periodical section has been taken up so that reference work can be done smoothly. The library, also prepared a list of periodicals being bound and kept in the library.

MULTI LEVEL PLANNING (MLP) DIVISION

3.115 Multi Level Planning Unit is connected with following sectors:

1. Decentralisation of Planning,
2. Backward areas and regional imbalances,
3. Special area programmes namely Border Area Development Programmes (BADP)/Hill Area Development Programme (HADP)/North Eastern Council (NEC).

3.116 Brief account of the performance with respect to the above sector is given below:

I. Decentralisation of Planning System:

(a) Planning Commission has been promoting the concept of Decentralisation of the planning process down to the district and below. In 1969, comprehensive guidelines were issued for the first time for the 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 for further efforts in this direction.

(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 the 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. An amount of Rs. 2.14 crore has been released to the state governments in 1996-97.

(c) MLP Division has served as a secretariat for NDC committee on Micro Level Planning and involvement of people at grass root level. As recommended by NDC in its 46th meeting held on 18 September 1993, follow up action on this report was taken by Planning Commission. The state governments were requested to examine recommendations and comment on their feasibility. On the basis of the replies received from the State Governments /UTs, decision has been taken not to extend the scheme for strengthening of the planning machinery to sub-district level.

II Backward Areas and Regional Imbalances:

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

III Special Area Programmes:

Border Area Development Programme (BADP):

3.118 This programme was taken up during the year 1986-87 for balanced development of border areas of four states namely Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, this programme has been revamped and its coverage extended to the states on the Eastern border with Bangladesh and now includes West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura. The main objective of the programme continues to be the balanced development of remote inaccessible areas situated near the border in order to ensure their effective administration. The outlay for the Eighth Plan for this programme is Rs.640 Crore. The outlay in 1996-97 is Rs.176 Crore. The programme is being closely monitored by obtaining quarterly progress reports in physical and financial terms from the state governments. A meeting of the Empowered Committee on BADP was held on 19th March 1996 to discuss the progress of the programmes.

Hill Area Development Programme (HADP):

3.119 HADP is being implemented for integrated development of certain designated hill areas since inception of Fifth Five Year Plan. The main objective of this programme is to ensure ecologically sustainable socio-economic development of hills, keeping in view the basic needs and interests of the people of hill areas. Special Central Assistance (SCA), being provided under this programme, is additive to the State Government's efforts towards accelerating development of hill areas.

3.120 During the Eighth Plan, focus of the programme under HADP is on fulfilling basic needs of the hill area residents through improved management and systematic use of land and water

resources, modernisation of agricultural practices and thereby increasing agricultural productivity. All development activities in the hill areas are guided by the principle of 'sustainable development' and over-riding consideration of ecological preservation and restoration.

North Eastern Council (NEC):

3.121 North Eastern Council was set up under an Act of parliament passed in December 1971. The Council comprises of seven States namely Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram. The Governors and Chief Ministers of these seven States are the members of NEC. The Council envisaged mainly as an Advisory body which discusses matters of common interest to constituent States or these States and Central Government. The NEC also undertakes funding of projects of inter-state /regional importance. The Allocation for 1996-97 is Rs. 396 Crore of which over 80% is for power, transport and communication sectors.

WESTERN GHATS SECRETARIAT

3.122 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) was given to constituent States for supplementing their own efforts for development of areas covered by the Programme.

3.123 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. This programme 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.

3.124 The important activities relating to WGDP and Hill Areas Development Programme (HADP) (Nilgiris) during 1996-97 are indicated below :-

(i) The progress of implementation of WGDP in constituent States was reviewed.

ii) The total Special Central Assistance allocated for Annual Plan 1996-97 under WGDP is 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 1996-97 is Rs.19.62 crore. The State Governments have been requested to review the proposed sectoral break up keeping in view the ceiling of Special Central Assistance indicated to them for the year 1996-97 under WGDP and HADP (Nilgiris).

(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, a joint evaluation of WGDP in Tamil Nadu was carried out by Programme Evaluation Organisation and Govt. of Tamil Nadu. The follow up action taken on the findings of the evaluation study on Tamilnadu was received in the Western Ghats Secretariat. 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 Karnataka, Kerala and Goa and these studies are in progress. The report is expected to be made available shortly in Planning Commission.

v) The Governments of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala have got their perspective plans prepared for the WGDP being implemented in their respective States. These plans are under examination in the Planning Commission. 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 the constituent States of WGDP.

NATIONAL INFORMATICS CENTRE - YOJANA BHAVAN UNIT (NIC - YBU)

3.125 All computerisation needs of Planning commission are being looked after by the NIC-YBU, stationed at Yojana Bhavan. The earlier Local Area Network(LAN) consisting of five 486 Systems has been strengthened by replacement with more powerful Pentium

Systems. Terminal capacity has also been increased from 224 to 320 so as to meet the increasing demand from the users 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 PC 486SX/386/286/PC-XT/PC, Dot matrix and line printers, Plotters, Laser Printers are also installed with various Divisions and at work stations 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). A brief account of various Computerisation activities in which the NIC-YBU assisted various Divisions of Planning Commission is given below.

3.126 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.

3.127 A Software System has been developed for the Construction of Input/Output table for the Indian Economy for 1989-90.

3.128 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 being extensively used by all Divisions of Planning Commission.

3.129 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 study on Accelerated Rural water supply programme is in progress.

3.130 A database for Non Government Organisations(NGOs) is being developed and the work is in progress.

3.131 Various other databases such as Personnel Information System, Project Status Information 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. NICNET facilities are extensively used in Planning Commission by various Divisions for transmission of data/information between Planning Commission and State capitals/Districts etc.

3.132 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.

3.133 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 1996-97 large number of Officers/staff members of Planning Commission were trained by NIC(YBU) on the use of softwares such as Perfect Office, Lyrix, Professional etc.

PERSPECTIVE PLANNING DIVISION

3.134 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.

3.135 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.

3.136 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 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.

3.137 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.

3.138 The Division represents Planning Commission in

- (i) Governing Council of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO),
- (ii) Advisory Committee on National Accounts of Central Statistical Organisation (CSO),
- (iii) Advisory Committee on Vital Statistics of Registrar General of India,
- (iv) Governing Council of the "Development Planning Centre" in the Institute of Economic Growth, and
- (v) Technical Advisory Group for the Fourth Economic Census constituted by CSO.
- (vi) Standing Committee on Improvement of Statistics on Gender Issues.
- (vii) Various Steering Committees, Working Groups, Sub-Groups and Task Forces set up for the formulation of the 9th Plan.

(viii) 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.

3.139 Incidence of poverty for 1993-94 was estimated using the results available for a sub-sample of the quinquennial survey on household consumer expenditure conducted as part of the 50th Round of NSSO.

3.140 An analysis of the Expenditure and Nature of State-wise poverty in India was carried out.

3.141 Time series of specific macro economic aggregates like National Income, Private Consumption, Savings and Capital Formation were updated and projected for use in the exercises pertaining to the preparation of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

3.142 The Macro-Economic Model, maximising the implications of various target growth rates in the economy for the Ninth Five Year Plan period and data base for the same were developed. Running the model, alternate scenarios were obtained. The possibility of extending the plan model to cover areas of fiscal and monetary policy modelling was explored.

3.143 The work on developing macro economic model for short and medium term forecastings and policy simulation was carried out in collaboration with Dutch Central Planning Board, Erasmus University and IEG.

3.144 Data base for the drafting Approach Paper for the Ninth Five Year Plan was prepared.

3.145 The work relating to Exercises on Demands of Agricultural

Commodities, Sugar, Fertilizers, Coal, Power, Petroleum products, cereals and imports was carried out for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

3.146 A paper on Poverty Eradication was prepared for the SAARC Council of Ministers Meeting held during December, 1996 at New Delhi.

3.147 A Technical Group on "Population Projections" under the chairmanship of RGI was constituted to project population upto 2016 AD.

3.148 The Division organised a meeting of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission with NGOs and other grass root organisations and some Economic groups to draw upon their vast grass root/field experience for the formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

3.149 A workshop on "Short term Macro Modelling for forecasting Policy Simulation" was organised.

3.150 The performance of foreign trade in India was periodically reviewed.

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

- (i) "Trends in Rural Poverty in 1980's".
- (ii) "Trends in Urban Poverty in 1980's".
- (iii) "Towards a Concensus in Estimating Poverty in India"
- (iv) "Capital Formation in Indian Agriculture"
- (v) "Food Security in India" prepared for World Food Summit held in Rome
- (vi) "Report on the Status of Estimation of Crop Production in India"

- (vii) FKSEC model used for short and medium term forecasting and simulation exercises by Central Planning Bureau, Netherlands.
- (viii) Seasonal and Cyclical Components of Exports and Imports in India.
- (ix) An Overview of Annual Plan 1996-97.
- (x) The Report of Sub-Group on Imports during the Ninth Five Year Plan.
- (xi) Draft Report of Sub-Group (II) of the Working Group on Urban Poverty in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

3.152 The work in progress in the Division includes:

1. Analysis of latest data on Household Consumer Expenditure by NSSO for the year 1993-94 and estimation of the parameters of consumer demand function.
2. Analysis of the latest input-output table (1989-90) and its calibration for the base year of the Ninth Five Year Plan.
3. Alternative estimate of poverty at National and regional level based on the latest data of Household Consumer Expenditure Survey.
4. Estimate of inequalities from NSS Consumer Expenditure Survey of 1993-94 at National and Regional level.
5. Development of Basic Minimum Services (BMS) India which can be used as a guide for allocation of funds on Social Sectors.

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

- (i) Junior Certificate Course in Statistics and "Senior Certificate Course in Statistics of Central Statistical Organisation.
- (ii) Master of Statistics Course of Indian Statistical Institute.
- (iii) The regular course in statistics of "International Statistical Education Centre".

3.154 The earlier team of one Deputy Adviser, three SROs and two ROs completed their four months training regarding modelling at the Netherlands. During the training, a lecture on "Applicability of input-output models in Post Reform Period" was delivered.

PLAN COORDINATION DIVISION

3.155 This Division coordinates all activities relating to the formulation of the Five Year Plans/Annual Plans, preparation of Plan Documents/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.

3.156 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.

3.157 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 1997-98 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 co-ordinated by the Plan Coordination Division.

3.158 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).

3.159 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 the all the Chief Ministers/Governors/Lt. Governors/Administrators of the States and UTs, Union Cabinet Ministers/Minister of State with the Independent Charge, RBI Governor 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.

3.160 Five Internal Meetings of the Planning Commission were held during the year 1996 to consider various agenda items. Two

meetings of the Full Planning Commission were also held, the details of which were as follows:-

1. 19.08.1996
 1. Programme of Work for the Ninth Plan.
 2. Greater Autonomy and Flexibility for the States in drawing up development Plans and Programmes.
 3. Follow up action on the recommendations of the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 4th and 5th July, 1996.
 4. Report of NDC Committee on Power; and
 5. Agenda and date for the next NDC Meeting.

2. 29.11.1996
 1. Approach Paper for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

3.161 The exercise for determining the outlays for Central Ministries for 1997-98 Plan was undertaken and the consolidated statement for the Plan Budget was sent to Finance Ministry for inclusion in the Budget.

3.162 The Division co-ordinated the work of preparing the Annual Report 1996-97 with the Divisions in the Planning Commission. An exercise was undertaken to compile all the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in operation along with their financial provisions as part of the Report on the Recommendation made at the Chief Ministers' Conference 4-5th July 1996 at New Delhi.

Public Grievance Redressal

3.163 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.

3.164 Shri K. Srinivasan, Principal Adviser (Admn. & PC) is the Adviser-in-charge of the Grievance Redressal Machinery who is assisted by three Staff Grievance Officers of the level of Director/Deputy Secretary.

3.165 During the period under report, in all, four applications were received which were examined and finally disposed off.

PLANNING COMMISSION CLUB

3.166 The Planning Commission Club conducts sports and cultural activities in the Planning Commission. Dr. R. Mandal, Joint Adviser, Planning Commission is its Hony. President. The Member-Secretary, Planning Commission is the Patron of the Club.

3.167 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, Power Lifting and Weight Lifting etc. This year a Cricket Team of the Planning Commission was formed and participated in Inter-Ministry Tournament.

3.168 The Club through its cultural activities encourages the development of talent amongst the staff members and their children. During the year 1996-97, the Planning Commission Club organised two excursion trips successfully, one to Tilyar Lake on 27.10.1996 and other to Shimla on 24.12.1996.

3.169 Annual Athletic meet and Internal Tournaments of the Planning Commission for the year 1996-97 are being planned.

POWER & ENERGY DIVISION

Power Unit

3.170 The Power Unit is involved in finalising the Report on the working of State Electricity Boards/Electricity Departments. Power Unit also participated in the Working Group and various sub-group meetings on Power Sector for formulation of 9th Five Year Plan.

3.171 The unit examined and prepared the detailed comments on NDC Committee on power for consideration of Internal and full Planning Commission meeting.

3.172 The Unit also prepared material for presentation to be given to Hon'ble Prime Minister on Energy perspective.

3.173 Power Unit prepared a number of papers related to Hydro Power development, demand supply position and various exercises relating to estimation of fund requirement for 9th Plan.

Petroleum Unit

3.174 The Petroleum Unit assisted in the preparation of the report of the Working Group and various Sub-Group for Ninth Five Year Plan pertaining to Petroleum Sector.

3.175 The Petroleum Unit assisted the Technical Group constituted by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to examine the impact on various sectors of the economy at different levels of duty structure in case of dismantling of APM.

Coal Unit

3.176 The Coal Unit assisted in organising the meetings and finalisation of the Report of the Committee on the "Integrated Coal Policy" set up by the Planning Commission to address the issues related to Coal Sector for Ninth & Tenth Plan periods under the chairmanship of Shri K.S.R. Chari, Former Secretary (Coal). This report was submitted to the Planning Commission in May 1996. The Government has recently taken a number of decisions based on the Committees Report.

3.177 A detailed presentation on Coal & Lignite Sector for Hon'ble Prime Minister was prepared by the unit.

3.178 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 (IMG), Public Investment Board (PIB), Central Geological Programming Board etc. and represented Planning Commission in different Seminars on the topics related to Energy. The Unit also examined various proposals and issues relating to Coal & Lignite projects for IMG, PIB & CCEA's consideration.

3.179 The Unit has organised various meetings for the formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) and Annual Plan 1997-98.

PROJECT APPRAISAL & MANAGEMENT DIVISION

3.180 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 and 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

3.181 As a part of techno-economic appraisal, PAM D appraises Central Sector schemes/projects costing more than Rs. 5 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 (PIB) depending upon the nature and size of the proposal. The Division has started appraisal of proposals from Ministry of

Railways costing Rs.50 crore and above from 1995-96.

3.182 During the year 1995-96, 221 projects involving a total project cost of Rs. 89063 crore were appraised in the Division. In 1996-97 (1.4.96 to 30.11.96) 108 projects involving a total project cost of Rs. 26238 crore were appraised. 1996-97 being the terminal year of the 8th Plan, flow of new proposals has come down. The projects appraised included both new as well as proposals on revised cost estimates.

3.183 The sectoral distribution of projects appraised during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 is given in Table A. More than 60% of the projects appraised during 1995-96 related to Surface Transport, Agriculture, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Health & Family Welfare, Energy, Human Resource Development, Women development and Culture sectors whereas Agriculture, Surface Transport, Energy, Industry, Education & Culture, Railways, Environment & Forests and Health & Family Welfare sectors accounted for more than 70% of the projects appraised so far during 1996-97.

Management Consultancy Development

3.184 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 SEBs and 3 SRTCs 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. As on date the number of consultants in the IMCG is 53. The total number of consultancy projects either completed or in progress is 166. Of the total 166 projects conducted by the 12 SEBs/SRTC's, 82 have been implemented and another 39 are awaiting approval of the management of the respective SEBs/SRTC's.

3.185 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, which are scheduled to be completed during the current financial year.

(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).

Analysis of Resource Based Network

3.186 The resource based network for projects costing Rs.50 crore and above in the Central Ministries/Depts. dealing with industries and minerals, petroleum and natural gas, power, coal etc. are being analysed in detail for linking the physical progress with the funds requirement for the Annual Plan 1997-98.

Data Bank of Appraised Projects

3.187 As an effort to develop Data Bank on project statistics, data pertaining to projects was taken out from the files and appraisal notes of the projects appraised in the PAMD in the past and computerised. The data of 3071 projects has been computerised upto March, 1996.

Data Bank of Planning Commission

3.188 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 over 11500 Central and Centrally Sponsored Plan Schemes in the Data Bank.

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

TABLE : II
(Cost in Rs. crore)

S.No.	Sector	1995-96		1996-97 (1.4.96 to 30.11.96)	
		No. of projects	Total capital cost	No. of projects	Total capital cost
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Agriculture, water resources	31	7821.63	17	1753.70
2.	Energy including coal	13	6827.30	5	4927.14
3.	Surface Transport	32	3480.89	16	581.17
4.	Petroleum & Natural Gas	26	31339.41	4	5377.37
5.	Petrochemicals & Fertilisers.	9	3641.50	4	2030.74
6.	Electronics	1	521.99	1	2030.74
7.	Bio-technology	2	33.10	1	89.20
8.	Information & Broadcasting and Communications	8	129.50	1	55.68
9.	Steel & Mines	5	5871.00	1	9.46
10.	Industry & SSI	5	689.93	5	217.25
11.	Civil Aviation	4	183.68	1	13.45
12.	Urban Development	3	145.27	2	796.00
13.	Rural Areas & Employment	1	15682.85	1	1970.00
14.	Textiles	1	10.00	1	53.21
15.	Commerce	6	142.29	2	13.34
16.	Planning Commission	1	10.54	1	19.33
17.	Environment & Forests	9	363.74	7	1678.56
18.	18. Home Affairs & DOP	-	-	4	370.17
19.	Health & Family Welfare	19	1493.90	7	1045.51
20.	HRD (Women & Child Dev. Education & Culture	12	760.54	10	1735.12
21.	Welfare	6	4682.69	1	56.29
22.	Science & Technology	4	115.79	-	-
23.	Labour	4	155.41	4	1407.08

24. Post	4	196.26	-	-
25. Railways	14	4750.88	10	1966.82
26. Youth Affairs & Sports	1	13.00	-	-
27. Ocean Development	-	-	2	45.01
<hr/>				
Total :	221	89063.09	108	26238.22
<hr/>				

RURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

3.190 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 the policies and strategies for these programmes as part of the preparatory exercise for the Ninth Plan.

3.191 The Division conducted an analytical scrutiny and prepared comments on the EFC Memoranda relating to the Extension in coverage of the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). It also examined in detail the Cabinet proposals on (a) Extending the coverage of the Employment Assurance Scheme; (b) Restructuring of the Million Wells Scheme; and (c) Unified Procedures and Practices of Educated Unemployed Youth.

3.192 The Division critically analysed and offered its comments on various research proposals in the field of rural development submitted by Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and academic institutions which had applied for financial assistance from the Planning Commission. The Division was also entrusted with the work of the VAC Cell.

3.193 In the conference of Chief Ministers on Basic Minimum Services (BMS) held in early July, 1996 seven areas were identified for complete coverage in a time bound manner. The Rural Development Division functioned as the nodal agency for processing

the recommendations of the CMs' Conference. As a part of this exercise the Rural Development Division conducted a detailed study towards identifying the gaps in the levels of infrastructure in relation to these seven basic services in all the States/UTs, besides assisting in working out the additional allocations for the distribution of this Additional Central Assistance between States/UTs.

3.194 The Rural Development Division prepared the sections on (a) Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development and (b) Panchayati Raj and Decentralised Planning in the framework of Cooperative Federalism for the Ninth Plan Draft Approach Document.

3.195 The Division was represented on several Committees which include among others (i) the Screening Committee on Innovative and Special Projects under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (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 (v) Steering Group on Women and Child (vi) Steering Committee on Employment Planning and Policy (vii) Steering Group on Rural Water Supply and Rural Housing (viii) Steering Group on Agro-Climatic Planning (ix) Steering Committee to sort out issues on building up of sound data base on seven Basic Minimum Services and the (x) Expert Committee on Small Area Statistics. Adviser (RD) participated in the Conference on the Development of Micro Enterprise, conducted by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) at Kathmandu.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

3.196 Officers of S&T Division actively participated in the deliberations of the Working Group and the Steering Committee meetings on Science & Technology constituted for the formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan. Working Groups have submitted their

reports. Inputs were provided for the Draft Approach Paper on Science and Technology for the Ninth Five Year Plan. The Annual Plans (1996-97) of the Central Scientific Departments/Agencies were finalised and S&T chapter for the Annual Plan (1996-97) Document was prepared.

SOCIAL WELFARE & NUTRITION DIVISION

3.197 The Social Welfare and Nutrition Division deals with the welfare, development and rehabilitation of women and children, the disabled, the aged and the social deviants.

3.198 The Division, in close coordination with the nodal Department of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Welfare, continued the work of the formulation/implementation of need based policies and programmes in the area of women and child development, welfare of the disabled, social defence and nutrition with a view to achieve the objectives and targets set in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

3.199 Besides, the Division also coordinated with the Project Appraisal and Monitoring Division (PAMD) of the Planning Commission in examining/giving clearance to various Plan projects/programmes/Reports/EFC Memos in the field of Social Welfare and Nutrition. Some of the important projects and programmes got cleared during the year under reference include - National Policy for Empowerment of Women; Extension of World Bank Project I; New Scheme of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Project for Empowerment of Rural Women; Expansion of Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY); Expansion of the scheme of Aids and Applicances; Scheme for the Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995; etc.

3.200 In the context of the preparations for the Ninth Five Year

Plan, three Steering Committees namely Women and Child Development under the Chairmanship of Dr. (Ms) Mira Seth, the then Member In-charge of Women and Child Development; Social Welfare under the Chairmanship of Dr. (Smt.) Chitra Naik and Nutrition under the Chairmanship of Prof J.S. Bajaj, Member In-charge of Nutrition; and four Working Groups on the -Development of Children; Development of Women; Welfare and Development of the Disabled; and Special Social Problems - were set up to review the implementation of the existing policies and programmes, identify gaps and suggest necessary approach, strategies, and the need-based policies and programmes for the Ninth Five Year Plan. The Division extended its full fledged services in the preparation of Working/Background Papers, organised meetings and prepared the Reports of all the three Steering Groups. It also coordinated with the nodal Ministry /Department in connection with the work related to the Ninth Plan Working Groups.

3.201 The Division also prepared the necessary Approach Papers for the Ninth Five Year Plan in respect of the three sectors, viz., 'Towards Empowering Women and Children'; 'Towards achieving Food and Nutrition Security'; and 'Towards Social Welfare'.

3.202 As a pre-requisite for the formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Division also made an exercise of 'Rationalisation/Minimisation of the Programmes of the Eighth Five Year Plan in respect of Women and Child Development, Social Welfare and Nutrition and kept the follow up action alive in this regard with the nodal Department of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Welfare.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH UNIT

3.203 Socio-Economic Research Unit deals with the research

promotion activities of the Planning Commission under the guidance of Research Advisory Committee (RAC) which identifies the priority areas for research. During the year under review the RAC was reconstituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Y.K. Alagh.

3.204 Grant-in-aid is released to various research institutions/universities for the support of on-going research studies/Seminars and new research studies/seminars sponsored by the Committee.

3.205 The Planning Commission also provides block grant to two Centres for Research on Planning and Development (CRPD), (i) Department of Economics, University of Bombay (ii) Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune for undertaking research in thrust areas. The programmes of the CRPD Units are reviewed by RAC and necessary directions are given.

3.206 Assistance is also given for development of institutions to strengthen their research activities in planning and development.

STATE PLANS DIVISION

3.207 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 of 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.

3.208 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 and 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.

3.209 The Division also handled the work relating to the meetings of Inter Ministerial Group and National Fund for Calamities Relief (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 Problem like providing drinking water in Primary Schools, Fire Services and Education etc.

Annual Plan 1996-97

3.210 The Annual Plan discussions to finalise the plan size of different States and UTs for Annual Plan 1996-97 were held during August/September 1996. An outlay of Rs.57765.11 crores has been approved for all the States/UTs for the Annual Plan 1996-97 compared to an outlay of Rs.48534.46 crore approved for the year 1995-96. The outlay for 1996-97 includes an amount of Rs.2244.48 crore and Rs.250 crore towards Additional Central Assistance for Basic Minimum Services and Slum Development respectively. The States/UTs were given the option to allocate the amount provided for seven Basic Minimum Services in accordance with their priorities. A separate provision of Rs.396 crores was made for the plan of North Eastern Council during the year 1996-97.

3.211 With a view to ensure investment in priority sectors as per plan objectives, the practice of earmarking of outlays was continued. Outlays under various schemes in sectors like Agriculture and Allied Activities, Rural Development, Special Area Programmes and Basic Minimum Services and some Irrigation and Power Projects were earmarked.

Ninth Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 1997-98

3.212 The work with regard to the formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 1997-98 was initiated during this period. Detailed guidelines as well as formats for formulation of Annual Plan 1997-98 and Ninth Five Year Plan were circulated to all States/UTs. These guidelines 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 education, housing to the shelterless, mid-day meals in 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. Keeping in view the objective of advancing the principle of economic federalism, States will have greater autonomy in formulation of plans during the Ninth Plan.

TRANSPORT DIVISION

3.213 The function of the Transport Division is planning for the development of the Transport Sector to meet the growing demand for transport services at minimum cost through an appropriate inter-modal mix viz. rail, road, airways, shipping and inland

waterways. This involves:

(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.

3.214 The Division is also responsible for the formulation of Annual Plan for Tourism Sector. The development of tourism infrastructure assumed importance in view of its contribution to employment generation, foreign exchange earnings and the overall economic development of the country. Detailed guidelines for the preparation of Perspective Master Plan on Tourism were circulated to the State Governments. These plans are in the process of finalisation.

3.215 The Division undertook appraisal of investment proposals formulated for various sub-sectors by the Ministry of Surface Transport, the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism. There has been regular monitoring as well as re-appraisal of various projects and schemes.

3.216 A detailed study of the performance of State Road Transport Undertakings (SRTUs) focussing on the strength and weaknesses was undertaken with a view to recommending measures to improve their physical and financial performance. The study report was sent to the State Governments, and Management Heads of SRTUs. A detailed paper on the physical and financial performance of the State Road Transport Undertakings during the 8th Five Year Plan and estimates for Ninth Five Year Plan (June, 1996) was presented to the Working Group on State Resources for the 9th Plan. Guidelines were issued to State Governments/SRTUs in connection with the assessment of financial resources for the Annual Plan 1997-98 and the Ninth Five Year Plan.

3.217 Transport Division approved the proposal of Ministry of Surface Transport (Road Wing) to set up a National Committee on Transport Coordination under the Chairmanship of Member-Secretary, Planning Commission. The Committee will suggest guidelines for the formulation of coordinated and integrated investment plans for the transport sector to suggest measures to augment funds for the development of the sub-sectors to identify the policy issues and to suggest measures for improving productivity of transport sector etc. The Committee is to submit its final report after two years of its notification.

3.218 The following Working Groups for the preparation of Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) have submitted their Reports:

(1) Tourism, (2) Civil Aviation, (3) Shipping, (4) Ports, (5) Inland Water Transport, (6) Roads including National Highway and MNP Roads, (7) Road Transport, (8) Dredging Facilities and (9) Railways.

3.219 The Rajya Sabha Committee on Railway Wagons suggested Planning Commission to ascertain the actual loss to the Indian

Economy due to shortage of wagons during 8th Plan period. Accordingly, an Inter Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Principal Adviser(Transport), Planning Commission was constituted and submitted a report to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

3.220 The Steering Committee on Inter Modal Linkages & Programmes has been set up for the Ninth Plan for development of various modes of transportation to determine an appropriate inter-modal mix considering efficiency of each mode in its social cost, requirements of resources for infrastructural development for various modes etc., keeping in view the recent trends of development in the economy. Presentation by respective Ministries on the Reports of Working Groups set up for 9th Plan were made in the meeting of Steering Committee on Inter Modal Linkages and Programmes held on 5 November, 1996.

VILLAGE & SMALL INDUSTRIES DIVISION

3.221 The Village and Small Scale Industries Division (VSI) in the Planning Commission examines Plan proposals emanating from the Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries, the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The VSI Sector includes the small scale industries, handlooms, handicrafts, wool, coir, powerlooms, sericulture, food processing industries etc.

3.222 Apart from scrutinising the regular plan proposals of the Departments concerned, the VSI Division has been instrumental in offering inputs to the Committee on Handlooms set up under the Chairmanship of former Member, Planning Commission, Dr. Mira Seth. The report of this committee is expected shortly. Similarly, there is yet another report of an Expert Committee on Food Processing Industries, also chaired by Dr. Mira Seth, which is expected to be finalised soon.

3.223 Besides examining the Annual Plan proposals of the Department concerned, some of the major issues regarding the VSI Division which have been studied during 1996-97, include the various Integrated Coir Development Projects in the Southern States of India, Modification in the Scheme of Integrated Infrastructural Development for Small Scale Industries in Rural and Backward Areas, Recommendations of the Review Committee on Deep Sea Fishing Policy, allotment of wheat at subsidised Rates to private Bread Manufacturers, Enhancement of the Investment Limit for Small Industry etc.

3.224 This year being the terminal year of the Eighth Plan, three separate Working Groups had been set up for giving recommendations on investment needs etc. for the Ninth Plan for the Khadi and Village Industries sector, the small scale sector and the food processing sector. The recommendations of these Working Groups have been received and an Action Plan, based on the recommendations, is under formulation. The Approach Paper for the Ninth Plan has also been drafted for the VSI Sector and separately, all the plan schemes currently in operation in the Ministries/Departments concerned are being evaluated to determine their continuance in the Ninth Plan.

CHAPTER - IV

PROGRAMME EVALUATION ORGANISATION

4.1 The Programme Evaluation Organisation undertakes evaluation of selected programmes/schemes under implementation, suggested by various Divisions of the Planning Commission and various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. The evaluation studies 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 set up 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. The first meeting of the newly constituted committee was held on 9 October, 1996.

4.2 The status of various evaluation studies undertaken by PEO during 1996-97 is as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Study	Status
1.	Mahila Samridhi Yojana	Completed
2.	Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme	Completed
3.	(a) Integrated Tribal Development Project;)
	(b) Special Central Assistance to) Likely to be completed

Tribals under Tribal Sub-Plan;) during 1996-97
and)
(c) Grants under Article 275(1))
of the Constitution of India for)
the development of Tribals/)
Tribal Areas)

4. (a) Community Health Centres) - Do -
(b) Social Safety Net Programme)

5. Impact of Non Formal Education on) Field Survey to be
Universalisation of Elementary) launched in
Education) February, 1997

6. Border Area Development Programme) Design, Instruments
) to
) be finalised during
) 1996-97

4.3 During the Eighth Plan, 19 out of the total 24 Evaluation Studies have been completed upto January, 1997 and the remaining 5 are likely to be completed by March, 1997.

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 decisionsupport and information exchange. A high speed NICNET National Info-highway, an incremental overlay over the existing Network, has been set up with SCPC VSATs. NICNET has been recentlyexpanded with FTDMA, IP-Advantage and DirecPC VSAT technology to take advantage of INTERNET technology in India. NICNET Info-highway nodes are getting established in 70 major industrial/export potential cities/towns in India to facilitate the Indian exporters to take advantage of the globalisation of Indian Economy.

5.2 Value Added Network services, Projects in the area of Trade and Export, 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; and (ii)National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI) as a joint-venture with the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO). ICNET provides wide range of Network services such as Internet Service, X.400 Mail Service, EDI and Tele-conferencing and Multi-Media. Decentralisation Network has been implemented with the installation of LAN with NICNET Gateway in various Central and State Government office complexes.

5.3 Informatics Scientists of NIC are involved in design and development of informatics for decision support in Government 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 Distributed NICNET E-mail Services were implemented at 14 NICNET centres. INTERNET gateways at Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Calcutta were made operational at 256 Kpbs speed, in addition to the existing 64 Kpbs Line to SPRINTNET and GPSS of VSNL. NICNET is being augmented with two T1 circuits to INTERNET soon. NICNET National Info-highway nodes at 20 centres were made operational. This network has been shifted to INSAT-2C from INTELSAT, during July, 1996 and has been configured as IP backbone network. 64 kbps high speed data circuit commissioned between NIC(HQ) and Custom House (IGI Airport).

5.5 NICNET has been further expanded with FTDMA Baseband and VSAT equipment, which can handle 200 FTDMA VSATs having speed 76.8 kbps in transmit mode and 256 kbps in receive mode, allowing the VSATs to share the channel in time and frequency domain and making the network more efficient.

5.6 Expansion of NICNET with an another hub to handle 200 IP-Advantage VSAT and 1000 DirecPC VSAT technology was at advanced stage. IP-Advantage consists of two components of which one operates in TDM/TDMA mode with 64 kbps transmit and 512 kbps receive speed, and the second component is Only-Receive giving speed upto 12 Mbps. DirecPC is a

Receive-Only VSAT (RO-VSAT) with the speed up to 12 Mbps, which can use dial-up facility for transmission.

5.7 Further, NIC has integrated DirecPC with C-200 VSAT and FTDMA VSAT for data transmission. FTDMA, IP-Advantage and DirecPC VSATs are capable of supporting X.28, X.25 and TCP/IP facilitating INTERNET/INTRANET connectivity.

NETWORK SOFTWARE PRODUCT:

5.8 NIC has been providing NICMAIL400 services to various users from Government and public sector organisations in the country. There are more than 15,000 user terminals of NICNET among which NICMAIL message and query transmission of over 2.5 lakh messages takes place every day. The demand of NICMAIL has been increasing exponentially. PINE software, which is a user-friendly e-mail software available in public domain, was made available on NICNET. NIC also released Z=link (Version 1.0) software, which is a file transfer package based on the Z-modem file transfer protocol.

5.9 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.

STANDARDISATION IN SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

5.10 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. Client-Server Technology tools such as ORACLE Developer 2000, are used for database applications and in many turn-key projects. Advanced state-of-the-art tools like "Visual Age" are likely to be inducted to increase productivity as well as to develop reusable application software.

DATABASE PRODUCTS

5.11 Oracle RDBMS has been put to use in various projects & Divisions of NIC for development of various database applications. Oracle RDBMS provides more advanced software development environment compared to the earlier Foxplus product, due to fourth generation menu driven tools and support for transactions & concurrency.

5.12 Distributed capabilities of Oracle RDBMS has been used to implement applications requiring very high level of user connectivity. In such large applications, clusters of Intel based low cost servers have been used to support the large number of user terminals. The data required to be shared was synchronised using the replication and distributed capabilities of Oracle RDBMS. MS-Access database product was planned to be introduced to

facilitate application development in windows environment.

5.13 Internet versions of applications are being developed using CGI/HTML scripting so that database can be accessed using an easy to use Internet universal browser. Client tools supporting automatic generation of Web version of the applications are being planned to be introduced in the organisation, so that "thin clients" could be deployed instead of "fat clients" required in current client server technology. Other products available include (i) ORACLE CASE tools for higher level data modelling and application generation, and (ii) ORACLE WEB server for creating WEB pages linked to on-line databases. BASISplus and TECHLIBplus software for Library automation and text base management

5.14 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 has become the value-added seller of the BASISplus in India.

GIS SOFTWARE PRODUCT

5.15 GISNIC is designed to provide the user with a set of tools for retrieval, transformation and analysis of both spatial and non-spatial data, so that the user is able to manipulate and manage coordinate (Locational) and attribute (thematic) data and produce maps as

well as tabular reports. GISNIC Version 1.2 is available on XENIX and SCO-UNIX Platforms. The version of MS-WINDOWS and UNIXWARE are in Beta testing stage. Development of Mapping Software under "Technology Transfer" agreement with a Norwegian Company, under the Utility Mapping Project, was started.

ANALYTIC AND MODELLING SOFTWARE PRODUCTS

5.16 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 model bases.

OS PRODUCTS

5.17 NIC has a large number of UNIX based applications running on UNIX variants such as XENIX, NIC UNIX SVR4.0, NIC UNIX SVR4.2, UNIXWARE 1.1, UNIXWARE 2.01, and LINUX. Interoperability of applications between these operating system versions and MS-WINDOWS have been worked out. NIC has planned to introduce the state-of-the-art Windows-NT and UNIPLEX product.

INTERNET SERVICES

5.18 Under the "India Image Programme", NIC has created HOME Pages for various Central Government Departments 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) State of Goa, and (xv) 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.

5.19 BASIS WEBserver has been installed at NIC KU-Band Centres (Lucknow, Patna, Rajasthan, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Panipat, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad), and would be installed at NIC KU-Band centres (Tirupur, Chennai, Kochi and Ranchi). Various based applications using BASISplus has been developed on Parliamentary debates, India Courts, Multimedia Databases, Press Information Bureau, GIST databases, Patent Information System, Indian Airlines time schedule database, and Department of Biotechnology etc.

TELE-CONFERENCING FACILITY USING NICNET INFO-HIGHWAY:

5.20 NIC's Video Conferencing Services has (i) 5 Group Conferencing Studios at New Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Ahmedabad and Pune; (ii) Desk Top Video Conferencing facilities at Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Patna, Jaipur and Delhi. Video Conferencing facilities were also set up at the Prime Minister's Office (New Delhi), Office of Chief Minister (Hyderabad), and Office of Chief Minister (Mumbai). During 1996-97, Departmental Promotional Reviews of S&T Officers/staff were conducted over Video-conferencing from 12 cities all over India.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NETWORK OF NIC (RENNIC)

5.21 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.

5.22 Institutes and laboratories of CSIR, ICSSR, ICFR&E, SAUs, VCI, ICMR, ICAR, DBT, DRDO are provided with RENNIC E-mail services on dial-up basis. It is envisaged to provide services, on pro-rata basis, using the infrastructural facilities available in the NIC commercial centres.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATICS TRAINING PROGRAMME

5.23 During 1996-97, NIC has conducted (i) awareness programme in IT for Central/State Government officials, (ii) DOP&T sponsored trainers training programme in Information Tools, Application of NICNET based Information System in Decentralized Planning, and NICNET based Computer Aided Project Management System, (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. NIC has also conducted International Training Programmes sponsored by UNESCO, UNDP, FAO, ITEC (MEA).

5.24 About 22,000 government employees were given IT training, through its centres at NIC Headquarters, Regional Centres, State and District Centres. Fifteen Seminars/Workshops, Twelve Update and Seven Commercial Training Programmes on BASISPlus and TECHLIBPlus were also conducted.

MODELLING, GRAPHICS AND DESIGN PROGRAMME

5.25 In the area of Finite Element Analysis, the Spillway Radial Gate Analysis Project from Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd., was taken up. MacNeil & Harder Benchmark test for SESAM was being carried out for DNV Software.

5.26 In the area of Integrated Manufacturing, NIC has set up three ICEM Support Centres at Regional Computer Centre (Calcutta) Regional computer Centre (Chandigarh) and Amrita Institute of Advanced Computing (Coimbatore). These are not only the Support and Training Centres but also Marketing Centres in their respective geographical regions. Marketing agreement has also been signed with M/S Chintels Softworld Pvt Ltd. (Delhi) for marketing of the ICEM software in the Northern zone. ICEM(Integrated Computer Engineering & Manufacture) Application courses were planned to be conducted at Chandigarh and Coimbatore.

TELE-INFORMATICS DEVELOPMENT & PROMOTION PROGRAMME

5.27 NIC has established NICNET based Election Results Wide Area Networking to collect, transmit, tabulate and analyse round-by-round elections results from remote district centres during the actual counting. This networking was implemented for Doordarshan for the 1996 Lok Sabha Special Election Broadcasts, as well as 1996 Uttar Pradesh, 1996 Jammu & Kashmir and 1997 Punjab Vidhan Sabha elections. Up-to-the minute Videographic charts for national broadcast were also generated for the state elections.

COURT INFORMATION SYSTEM PROGRAMME (COURT-IS)

5.28 NIC has successfully implemented computerisation of proceedings information system in the offices of Hon'ble Judges of the Supreme Court of India. This has enabled the officials attached to the Judges in bringing out the proceedings of a case almost immediately to the Judges for their signature. NIC has undertaken computerisation of all the 430 District Courts in the country and the implementation of "District Court Information System (DCIS)" software was on-going. During the year, Judgement Information System (JUDIS) was also made available on CD-ROM in UNIX and WINDOWS environment. INDIA Code Information system was made available on Web for access. High Court Benches at Lucknow, Indore, Nagpur, Goa, Jaipur were fully computerised. Establishment of International Legal databases Library was proposed.

5.29 Proposals were also submitted for installation of Local Area Network (LAN) at Punjab & Haryana High Court and Gujarat High Court.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATICS SERVICES PROGRAMME

5.30 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 based Medical Information Network connecting all the Medical Colleges and Hospitals in the State of Tamil Nadu was established. In association with the Indian Bio-medical Research Institution, NIC has undertaken development of database

on Tuberculosis and Oncology. NIC continued to disseminate to all the concerned the information related to diseases such as Buffalo parks, Dengue, Malaria, Meningitis and Kala-Azar, which are feared to be assuming epidemic proportion, by compiling information from all possible sources.

5.31 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".

5.32 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 57 countries.

GENERAL INFORMATION SERVICES TERMINAL (GISTNIC)

5.33 GISTNIC Services were continued to be available over NICNET for common public and government departments and organisations. Establishment of GISTNIC WEB Database was undertaken.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM(GIS) SUPPORT

5.34 GIS Infrastructural Facilities were set up at Headquarters for remote sensing data analysis and GIS applications for developmental planning and resource management. This GIS Infrastructure facilitates for the development of GIS directory on micro-watershed basis to support agricultural, forestry, wasteland

and rural development in the country and accessible through NICNET.

5.35 Using the software package called GISNIC developed by NIC, various applications have been developed, such as Crime analysis and mapping system, air-quality mapping and watershed management. GISNIC software has been installed in about 200 district centres for GIS thematic mapping. Extensive training has been imparted on the use of GISNIC.

UTILITY MAPPING Project

5.36 The Utility Mapping Project has established maps for water, sewage and fire utility networks in the first pilot area in Okhla. The project has refined the control grid for entire Delhi. For the Second phase covering about 180 sq.km area, base mapping work has started. It was expected that some of the map sheets from this area would be available for the utility network overlays, during 1996-97 itself. NIC has entered into an agreement with Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking, for this project activity.

NATURAL RESOURCE INFORMATICS PROJECT

5.37 NIC has developed GIS based Natural Resource Information System for sustainable development, in Bulandshahr district and this is now proposed to be implemented through the support of district plan budget. Similar project is being developed and implemented for Aligarh and Mathura districts. "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.

ANALYTICS & MODELLING

5.38 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 a state, Export Performance Analysis System.

LIBRARY NETWORKING

5.39 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 released in July, 1996. Conversion of applications and databases of DELNET into web based applications using the BASIS WEBserver were undertaken.

5.40 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.

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

5.41 Multimedia based interactive Corporate Presentation was developed for Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL). Multimedia based educational software 'Hill Area Development with specific reference to the Utrakhand Region' for Deen Dayal

Upadhyay State Institute of Rural Development was under development. Development of Multimedia Information System for Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and National Centre for Integrated Pest Management (NCIPM) was on-going.

INTEGRATED BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEM

5.42 Techno-commercial study for Ku-Band centres for EDI facilities were conducted at Tirupur, Panipat, Ludhiana, Jaipur and Mumbai, and also for setting up a Software Technology Park (STP) at Pondicherry. Proposals have been made to subscribe the Financial Times profile database on business information and CARE credit ratings to make it available over NICNET. It was also planned to create "Export Paper" and NRC database on Web, to develop Mirror site of UNTDPC Trade Point, and make the TRAINS database over NICNET.

NATIONAL HAZARDS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

5.43 Implementation of NICNET based National Hazards Management Information System was taken up in the states of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. GIS based decision support system for flood prone area in district was under development.

NICNET SERVICES TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS

5.44 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.

ESTABLISHMENT OF LAN WITH NICNET GATEWAY FOR INTERNET ACCESS AND RESOURCES SHARING:-

5.45 Local Area Network (LAN) were 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, WPC, LBSSNA, Ministry of Rural Development, DST, Ministry of External Affairs (South Block), and DGFT.

5.46 Establishment of LAN in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Animal husbandry and dairying, and Department of Fertilisers; 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 were underway. About 600 terminals connectivity were provided to various Central Government Ministries. Feasibility studies were carried out for Campus wide network for the University of Delhi and 10 State Agricultural University/ICAR Institutes.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

5.47 NIC has provided computerisation support for the Annual Budget (1997-98) preparation. LAN with NICNET gateway for INTERNET access was established. NIC has executed the project "Development of network based monitoring information system for Externally Aided Projects", which was funded by Asian Development Bank.

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 undertaken a major project initiative to provide NICNET connectivity to all the Accountant General Offices, Principal Director of Audit offices, Regional Training Institutes for information exchange between CAG office and its field offices.

CUSTOMS COMPUTERISATION:

5.49 EDI connectivity to Importers and Exporters and Custom House Agents for the Indian Customs EDI System (ICES) was extended to Exporters at Delhi Custom House. Implementation of ICES has transformed the Delhi Custom House into a nearly paperless office with the electronic submission of Bills of Entry and Shipping Bills by the Importers/Exporters from their own premises over NICNET. The drawback payments to Exporters are credited directly to the Accounts of exporters in the Punjab National Bank. Connectivity with a number of airlines has also been achieved as part of this project.

5.50 Feasibility study to extend NICNET EDI Services to DGFT, PNB, AEPC, Airlines and RBI and also for integrating with ICES was completed. NICNET based EDI services was commissioned in Punjab National Bank (PNB) between Delhi and Bombay for transmitting draft advisory and other documents electronically, in association with Indian Bank Association (IBA).

CENTRAL EXCISE COMPUTERISATION:

5.51 The System for Excise Revenue and Monitoring (SERMON) was extensively modified to incorporate the budget

changes introduced in the middle of 1996-97. SERMON 3.2 was released to all the Central Excise Commissionerates and their divisions. Computerisation through SERMON was extended to the newly created 6 Commissionerates and their divisions throughout the country. NICNET connectivity for transmission of notifications as well as for MODVAT checking has also been extended to the new Commissionerates.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS COMPUTERISATION

5.52 NICNET based Government Accounts Computerisation Network (GAONET) was proposed to facilitate financing 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.

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 despatch have been computerised. This has eliminated manual registers and implemented the concept of less-paper office. Pension Payment System is under process re-engineering.

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.

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.

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 CIS for rainfed farming, etc.

5.57 NIC has participated in various sub-committees, constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture, for the preparation of the draft Ninth Plan proposal and NICNET based informatics development was recommended in many agriculture and allied sectors.

5.58 NICNET connectivity was established in ICAR Institutions and State Agricultural Universities. To strengthen their Agricultural Research Information System (ARIS), ICAR and many State Agricultural Universities have approved for installation of NICNET FDDMA VSATs for full INTERNET access in various ICAR institutes.

5.59 It was also proposed to link about 2500 agricultural related institutions and organisations in India, to strengthen the NICNET based agricultural informatics and communication as well as to support National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) during Ninth Plan period.

TOURISM INFORMATICS

5.60 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.

SURFACE TRANSPORT INFORMATICS

5.61 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.

ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST INFORMATICS

5.62 NIC has set up Mail server to provide Internet E-mail service in the Ministry. Zoning Atlas for siting industries for six districts and networking of all the towns of Haryana under National River Action Plan (NRAP) were completed.

5.63 Comprehensive database on (i) forestry statistics, (ii) ambient air quality information, (iii) rivers water quality information, (iv) environmental NGO directory, (v) ecomark scheme of India, (vi) Wastelands of India database, and (vii) summary of Zoos information database, was developed on the database server installed in the Ministry and made available for access over NICNET.

5.64 NICNET based Protected Areas Network connecting all the Wildlife Reserves, National parks, and Sanctuaries through Dial-up modem was likely to be established. In addition to this, it was proposed to undertake (i) ambient air quality maps for each pollutant, (ii) GIS for assessment and development studies of River Basins, and (iii) spatial analysis of database on hazardous substances in industrial pockets to address rapid safety audit and analysis. Pollution Control Boards Network (PCBN) and multimedia Information systems on Wildlife and Indian Plants were planned.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

5.65 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. Internet Home Page on educational policy and educational statistics was created. NIC has assisted the Ministry of Welfare in undertaking evaluation study of the institutions and the organisations funded by the Ministry on providing computer training to SC/ST unemployed persons.

5.66 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.

5.67 Data bases on (i) Budgetary resources (ii) Total literacy Campaign (iii) National Programme of Nutritional support for Primary Education (Mid-day Meals programme) (iv) Parliamentary questions were developed and made available over NICNET.

TEXTILE INFORMATICS

5.68 NIC has implemented (i) On-line Systems for Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export promotion Council (Bombay) as a turn-key project, (ii) System for Monitoring daily prices of Cotton/Jute items, and created database on Export/Import Policy. Feasibility studies were conducted for systems development for (a) EDI services in Apparel Export Promotion Council, (b) Wool and Woollen Export Promotion Council (Delhi), (c) Association of Corporations & Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH), (d) Powerloom Development & Export promotion Council, Bombay and (e) National Handloom and Handicraft Museum. It was also proposed to undertake computerisation in (i) association of Corporation & Apex Societies of Handlooms

and (ii) Art Silk & Man Made Textile Section.

LABOUR

5.69 NIC has undertaken development of MIS for Vocational Training Scheme, assisted by the World Bank, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Employment Training. Database design on Employees Pension Scheme(EPS) was developed and given to EPF field offices for implementation. Software on Bank Reconciliation of EPF Pension was under field trial.

RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT

5.70 NICNET connectivity to National Institute of Rural Development, 16 State Institute of Rural Development and CAPART and its regional centres were established. Multi-media Training Package on "Convergence of Services" was developed for National Institute of Rural Development, as a turn-key Project, by the Multi-media Presentation Unit of NIC GIS for Kodamala Watershed for better and implementation of Watershed Development Programme. NIC has provided MIS support for monitoring of Poverty Alleviation Programmes, concurrent evaluation of IRDP and Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Mission.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE INFORMATICS

5.71 NIC has provided NICNET support to the Ministry of Ith 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.

INDUSTRY INFORMATICS

5.72 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.

5.73 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.

5.74 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.

5.75 Database on Indian Patents was likely to be released.

COMMERCE INFORMATICS

5.76 NIC has taken up database developmental activities on (i) Export promotion Capital Goods System, (ii) Export obligation monitoring system (Duty Exemption Scheme). NICNET connectivity was established at the offices Joint DGFT (Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Kochi, Ludhiana, Kanpur and Varanasi) and all EPZs. It was planned to establish LAN in the Ministry. NICNET based Information System (a) Auction Price Monitoring of CTC and total dust tea, (b) Monthly trend analysis for India's export, (c) Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER) and Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER), (d) Performance Monitoring and Export Promotion Organizations (EPOES) and (e) Global Trade Monitoring System.

COMMUNICATIONS

5.77 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.

CIVIL AVIATION

5.78 LAN with NICNET gateway has been established in the Ministry and DGCA for NICNET/INTERNET access. Dial-up connection have been provided to BCAS HQ and all regional Offices. NIC has implemented several computerised MIS and Office automation packages to streamline the functioning of

the Ministry, DGCA and BCAS. The computerised system of Office Procedure, the comprehensive system of parliament replies and assurances and payroll are running successfully in the Ministry.

5.79 Databases of Scheduled Operators, National Aircraft Register, Aircraft Maintenance Engineers and Pilot information, Bird Strike, Accident/Incident, etc. is being maintained by DGCA. The Examination system of DGCA for Pilots and Engineers have been fully computerised using latest RDBMS Technology.

ENERGY INFORMATICS

5.80 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. SLIP/PPP connectivity was given to OIC, PFC, CIDC and the Ministry of Power.

5.81 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.

5.82 Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Karnataka Corporation Limited for installation of 10 FTDMA VSATs. NICNET connectivity was extended to BBMB, HSEB, KSEB, BSEB, BHEL, NEECPO and RSEP. Proposal for installation of KU band VSATs for State Electricity Boards (SEBs), under POWERNET programme, was submitted to the Power Finance Corporation (PFC).

CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS INFORMATICS

5.83 Databases on petro-chemical production, chemical production, drug prices monitoring, MRP order processing were developed. Data on prices and information upto 180th meeting held at the Ministry was released on NICNET to the Drug Controllers located at state headquarters and districts. LAN was established.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

5.84 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.

5.85 Indian Council for Cultural Relation at Azad Bhavan, New Delhi has been completely computerised by developing several application software to carryout their day-to-day activities more effectively and efficiently.

WATER RESOURCES INFORMATICS

5.86 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

5.87 Meteorological Information System Terminal of NIC(MIST-NIC) has been developed. 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 is under development.

5.88 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.

5.89 Proposals for the design and development of (i) NICNET based Drought Watch System and (ii) NICNET Disaster Management Database and Information System, were submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture. It was proposed to conduct workshop-cum-training on "NICNET based AGROMET database" during 1997-98.

COOPERATIVE INFORMATICS

5.90 NIC submitted systems study report for development of NICNET based information system and database on cooperative statistics on credit sector, to the Ministry of Agriculture, which was accepted. Study report on non-credit sector was in progress. NICNET connectivity, through dial-up modem, was given to NABARD Hqrs (and its 35 offices), NCUI, Institutions of Cooperative Managements in all the states, and state/district cooperatives banks of the State of Kerala. IFFCO has placed order for 10 FTDMA VSATs for

installation at their Hqrs, plants and zonal offices.

INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

5.91 NIC undertook computerisation and networking of headquarters and various regional offices of Registrar of Newspapers of India (RNI), as a turn-key project and completed. About 20,000 applications for reserving the titles are received every year by RNI and the Title Clearance is done using the Software developed and implemented by NIC. The Software verifies for phonetics similarity of the requested Titles in the database containing information of about 2.0 lakhs titles already cleared. NICNET support was continued to be given to PIB.

5.92 NIC has implemented mission-critical News Room Automation at Doordarshan and more than 1000 continuous News Bulletins were completed.

NICNET support to State Government Informatics Development Programme

5.93 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 development on a regular basis, and also for database development for administration and development planning.

5.94 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 provided with NICNET/INTERNET E-mail Addresses for information exchange.

5.95 During 1996-97, 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.

5.96 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.

5.97 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, and (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.

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

DISTRICT LEVEL INFORMATICS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

DISNIC Programme

5.99 In order to support micro-level planning at grass-root level, NIC has implemented its DISNIC-PLAN database project in many states. Development of Village level data on (i) socio-economic, (ii) agro-economic, (iii) infrastructural, (iv) demographic, and (v) natural resources, was taken up under this project. In collaboration with the Department of Personnel and Training (DOP&T), NIC has conducted five training-cum-workshop programme on "Applications of NICNET based Information Systems in Decentralised Planning" for the state government personnels involved in the planning process.

5.100 Activities were taken to initiate development of spatial database which is to be linked with the DISNIC-PLAN database (Attribute) under Geographic Information System environment. On these lines, Digital Cartographic Database has been developed for the Resource Atlas of Dindigul-Anna district, Tamilnadu, by Gandhigram Rural Institute, through the Grant-in-aid project.

5.101 Efforts are on to replicate this GIS thematic mapping exercise to other adjoining districts in Tamilnadu state and elsewhere in the country. Further in order to gauge the spatial variations in development at district level, relevant development indicators are being constructed. In addition, linking of Institutions/ Research organisations/ NGOs involved in micro-level planning for wider dissemination and utility of DISNIC-PLAN database was proposed. Proposal for strengthening the micro-level planning machinery through NICNET was under preparation.

Computerised Rural Information System Project (CRISP)

5.102 NIC continued to give technical assistance for DRDA Computerisation Programme and released CRISP software Version 3.0 under ORACLE Version 6.0. NIC conducted technical evaluation survey on DRDA Computerisation for coordination and planning.

Land Records Computerisation

5.103 NIC has provided the infrastructure to all those NIC district centres where this project has been sanctioned by the Central Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, upto 1995-96. Implementation of this project in the newly sanctioned districts, during 1996-97, would be taken up. This project has been made operational in the state of Sikkim. Sub-district Computer centres were also established in some states for this project. Standardised UNIX/ORACLE based software as implemented in states like Sikkim, Rajasthan and Karnataka is being standardised for other states. This software includes all system related documentation as per IEEE standards.

Grass Root Input to Districts (GRID) Programme

5.104 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 fast implementation of various development projects. This programme has been made operational in Mysore and Faridabad district and same has been initiated in many other districts throughout the country.

5.105 RF links have been established in Faridabad district and four blocks of the district are connected to NIC district centre. VSAT extension to four Mandals in the Kuppam constituency in the State of Andhra Pradesh, using MARR technology, was provided for data transfer to districts and state hqrs.

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.

TURN-KEY PROJECTS

5.107 During 1996-97, NIC has approved 44 TURN-KEY projects, for implementation on payment basis, from both Central and State Government Departments and Public Sector Units.

CONFERENCES & SYMPOSIUM

5.108 An International Conference (EDI COM-96), was organised by NIC under the aegis of Asia EDIFACT Board with the theme "from EDI to Electronic Commerce" which was attended by more than 500 participants from India and other Asian Countries. NIC has also organised 13th UN/Asia EDIFACT Board Meeting and 4th UN/ESCAP Network on Trade Facilitation. NIC has participated in AGROTECH-96 held at Patna and INTERNET services were demonstrated by NIC Bihar State Unit.

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 SER Unit received a large number of proposals for support for Research Studies/Seminars/Workshops and Development of Institutions during 1996-97. These proposals were examined - in consultation with the concerned subject divisions and have been placed before Research Advisory Committee which further referred to Expert Group for scrutiny and recommendation to RAC for approval.

6.3 The Research Advisory Committee was reconstituted in 1996-97 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Y.K. Alagh. The composition as specified in the order of 18th October, 1996 and Terms of Reference are given at annexure - 6.1.

6.4 Grant-in-Aid amounting to Rs. 23,27,452/- have been released during 1996-97 (as on 31st December, 1996) under the following programme :

1. Institution Development	Rs. 8,00,000/-
2. Research Studies	Rs. 14,50,952/-
3. Seminar/Workshops	Rs. 70,500/-
4. Publication Grant	Rs. 6,000/-

The Institution-wise details of grant provided is given at annexure - 6.2.

6.5 Fifteen Research Studies have been completed during 1996-97 and the draft and final reports have been received. The subject-wise details are given at Annexure-6.3

6.6 Proceedings and recommendations of the Seminar/Conferences supported under the SER Programme of Planning Commission received during 1996-97 from nine Institutions are listed at Annexure - 6.4.

(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 18th Oct., 96

RESOLUTION

Reference Planning Commission's Resolution No. 0.15011/
2/96-SER dt. 14th August, 1995.

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. Y.K. Alagh
7, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi-110001 | - | Chairman |
| 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. Dr. S.P. Pal,
Adviser (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. Y.K. Alagh - 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. Parathasathy, JS, FA (PC) - Member
6. Dr. S.P. Pal, Adviser (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 or 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.

Sd/
(A.S. Lamba)
Director(Admn.)

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.

Sd/
(A.S. Lamba)
Director(Admn)

To

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

No. 0.15011/1/90-SER New Delhi, dt. 18th Oct.,96

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 Ministries and Deptt. of Govt. of India

Copy also to:

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

Sd/
(A.S. Lamba)
Director(Admn)

Annexure - 6.2

LIST OF RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS/UNIVERSITIES TO WHOM GRANT-IN-AID WAS GIVEN DURING 1996-97 (*).

Sl.No	SUBJECT	NAME OF THE UNIVERSITY/	Amount*
	RESEARCH INSTITUTION	Released (in Rs)	

I Institution Development

1. Centre for Research in Planning and Development (CRPD) University of Mumbai, Mumbai 8,00,000/-

II. Research studies.

- | | | |
|--|--|------------|
| 1. Agricultural growth in India during 1980-83 to 1990-93. A district level study. | Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. | 1,87,800/- |
| 2. Role of Panchayati Raj in Planning and Development in West Bengal. | Joshi Adhikari Institute of Social Studies, Calcutta, West Bengal. | 1,55,700/- |
| 3. An Evaluation of Prepectual study on Human Development in India. | Foundation for Organizational Research and Education, New Delhi. | 3,69,921/- |
| 4. Pre-Census Population Project of India. | Socio-Economic Research Institute, Calcutta. | 50,705/- |

5. Behaviour pattern of different operators in the Indian capital market.	International Institute for Development Studies, Calcutta.	10,000/-
6. Financing of Higher Education: A Study of Policy Option.	University of Madras, Chennai.	1,00,000/-
7. Strategic for social marketing of family Planning: An audit of effectiveness of incentive	Society of strategic Institution for Development, Madras.	26,660/-
8. Strengthening Voluntary Organisation in Bihar. and Training, Patna.	Association for social Engineering Research	86,200/-
9. Inter District Disparities in Orissa Development Investment and Performance.	Nabakrushna Chaudhary Centre for Development Studies, Bhubaneswar.	1,35,700/-
10. Literacy Survey in North-Eastern Region of India.	North Eastern Hill University, Shillong.	30,000/-
11. Record of Rights in Land in Bihar.	Bihar Institute of Economic Studies, Patna.	30,000/-
12. Marketability of Agro Equipment Modernisation Technology Developed by Agricultural Universities.	Centre for Research Planning and Action, New Delhi.	33,046/-
13. Regional Development Disparities and Sustainable Development & Mountainous States - A case study of H.P.	Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla.	63,720/-

14.	Tribal Area Development of Purlia and Birbhum District of West Bengal.	Bengia Arthaniti Parishad, Calcutta.	77,400/-
15.	Evaluation of Environmental Schemewith Particular reference to low cost sanitation Programme in slums and resettlement colonies in Delhi.	Council for Social Development, New Delhi.	94,100/-
III Seminar/Workshop			
1.	SecondNational conference of Indian Distance Education Association.	Indian Distance Education Association, Hyderabad.	2,500/-
2.	International Seminar on Poverty Elimination in the SAARC Region.	International Institute of Development Studies, Calcutta.	7,500/-
3.	Diamond Jubilee Symposium in management of land and water resources for sustainable Agriculture and Environment.	Indian Society of Social Science , New Delhi.	5,000/-
4.	7th International Congress on Human Settlement in Developing Countries.	Centre for Human Settlement International, Calcutta,	2,500/-
5.	International Conference on Rehabilitation, Renovation and Repairs of structure-94	Andhra University, Visakapatanam.	3,000/-
6.	XX Indian Academy of Social Science Congress. Allahabad	Indian Academy of Social Sciences, Allahabad.	50,000/-

IV Publication Grant

1. Printing of IASSI's Quaterly Journals	Indian Associations of Social Science, New Delhi.	6,000/-
--	---	---------

Grand Total	23,27,452/-
-------------	-------------

(* As on 1st January, 1997)

ANNEXURE - 6.3

FINAL OR DRAFT REPORTS RECEIVED DURING 1996-97* ON THE RESEARCH STUDIES UNDERTAKEN UNDER THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC-RESEARCH PROGRAMME OF PLANNING COMMISSION

Sl.No	TITLE OF THE REPORT	NAME OF THE INSTITUTION/ UNIVERSITIES
1.	Inter District Disparities in Orissa in Development, Investment and Performance.	Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies, Bhubaneswar.
2.	Financing of Secondary School Education in India.	Zakir Hussain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences, New Delhi.
3.	Tribal Area Development of the Districts of West Bengal.	Bangiya Arthaniti Parishad , West Bengal.
4.	Record of Right in Land in Bihar.	Bihar Institute of Economic Studies Patna.
5.	Strategic Planning for the Future Development of the Tribes.	Centre for Future Studies, Pondicherry.
6.	Potential of Property Tax in Major Indian Cities	National Institute of Public Finance and Policy New Delhi.
7.	Strategies for Social of Family Planning.	Society of Strategic Intervention for Development, Chennai.
8.	The Role of Non-Governmental Organisations in Development.	Kerala Agricultural University Trissur, Kerala.
9.	A Profile for the Visible Poor	Techno Economic Research Institute New Delhi.

10. **Marketability of Agro-Equipment
Modernisation Technologies
Developed Agricultural Univer-
sities Research Studies.** Centre for Reseach Planning
and Action, New Delhi
11. **Study on Management and
Organisational Aspects of Nehru
Rozgar Yojana.** Operations Research Group,
New Delhi.
12. **Agrarian change and New Direction
for Policies in North Bihar.** Gandhian Institute of Studies,
Varanasi.
13. **Human Development in India** Foundation for organisational
Research and Education, New Delhi.
14. **Literacy Survey in the
North Eastern Region of India.** North-Eastern Hill University,
Shillong.
15. **Formulating the Guidelines for
the State Finance Commission in
Respect of the State Finance of
Municipalities.** National Institute of Public
Finance and Policies, New Delhi.

* :- As on 1st January, 1997

ANNEXURE - 6.4

Proceedings/ recommendations of Seminars/ Workshops/ Symposia/ Conferences received during 1996-97^a under/ Socio Economic Research Programme of Planning Commission.

Sl. No.	SUBJECT	NAME OF THE INSTITUTION/ ORGANISATION
1.	2.	3.
1.	7th Annual Conference of Indian Economic Association	Shri Krishnadevaraya University, Ananthapur, Andhra Pradesh.
2.	3-Day Scientific Meet Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the NIN.	National Institute of Nutrition, Indian council of Medical Research, Hyderabad.
3.	14th Annual Conference of Bangiya Arthaniti Parishad	Bangiya Arthanithi Parishad, Bengal Economic Association.
4.	International Conference on Rehabilitation Renovations & repairs of structures, 1994.	Department of Civil Engineering, Andhra University, Visakapatnam.
5.	Seminar on Chkriya Vikar Paranali.	Society of Hill Resources Management School, Bihar.
6.	Promoting Constructive Seminar on Improving the Voluntary Sector in India.	Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi.

7. Two days National Seminar on Blue Revolution - Progress, Problems and Prospects. Institute of Development and Planning Studies, Visakapatnam.
8. 18th Indian Social Science Congress Indian Academy of Social Science, Hyderabad.
9. International Workwhop on UN-2000 Goat Information Center for Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries, New Delhi.

* As on 1st January, 1997

APPENDIX

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:

4. The composition of the Planning Commission as on 1.1.1997 was as follows:

- 1. Shri H.D. Deve Gowda,
Prime Minister, Chairman
- 2. Prof. Madhu Dandavate, Deputy Chairman

3. Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of Finance	Member
4. Shri Chaturanan Mishra, Minister of Agriculture	Member
5. Prof. Y.K. Alagh Minister of State for Planning, Programme Implementation and S & T	Member
6. Dr. S.R. Hashim	Member
7. Dr. J.S. Bajaj	Member
8. Dr.M.R. Srinivasan	Member
9. Dr. Arjun K. Sengupta	Member
10. Dr.(Mrs.) Chitra Naik	Member
11. Dr. G. Thirumaiah	Member
12. Shri S.P. Shukla	Member
13. Dr. Bimal Jalan,	Member-Secretary

5. Dr. Bimal Jalan took charge as Member-Secretary on 9th August, 1996. The organisational chart of the Planning Commission as on 21.02.1997 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 maximising the output by using our limited resources optimally. Instead of looking for mere increase in the plan outlays, the effort will be to look for increases in the efficiency of utilisation of the allocations being made. The priorities, programmes and strategies of the Plan, therefore, have to take into account all these factors.

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. Planning Commission was set up through a Cabinet Secretariat resolution No.I-P(C)/50 dated the 15th March, 1950. 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.

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 & 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 through 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 plant and 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 development planning. The library functions under the 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.

