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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(2022-23)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF PLANNING

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2023-24)**

FIFTY SEVENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2023 / Phalguna, 1944 (Saka)

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MINISTRY OF PLANNING

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(2023-24)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 23 March, 2023

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 23 March, 2023



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

March, 2023 / Phalguna, 1944 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (2022-23)

Shri Jayant Sinha - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
3. Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal
4. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
5. Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre
6. Smt. Sunita Duggal
7. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
8. Shri Sudheer Gupta
9. Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak
10. Shri Pinaki Misra
11. Shri Hemant Shriram Patil
12. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
13. Shri Nama Nageshwara Rao
14. Prof. Sougata Ray
15. Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy
16. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
17. Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh
18. Dr. (Prof) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki
19. Shri Manish Tewari
20. Shri Balashowry Vallabbhaneni
21. Shri Rajesh Verma

RAJYA SABHA

22. Dr. Radha Mohan Das Agarwal
23. Shri Raghav Chadha
24. Shri P. Chidambaram
25. Shri Damodar Rao Divakonda
26. Shri Ryaga Krishnaiah
27. Shri Sushil Kumar Modi
28. Dr. Amar Patnaik
29. Dr. C.M. Ramesh
30. Shri G.V.L. Narasimha Rao
31. Vacant*

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Siddharth Mahajan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan - Director
3. Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora - Additional Director
4. Ms. Madhumita - Assistant Committee Officer

*Dr. Manmohan Singh resigned from the Committee w.e.f. 9th February, 2023.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance, having been authorised by the Committee, present this Fifty-Seventh Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2023-24)' of the Ministry of Planning.

2. The Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Planning were laid on the Table of the House on 08 February, 2023 under Rule 331E of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

3. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Planning on 28 February, 2023. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Planning for appearing before the Committee and furnishing the material and information which the Committee desired in connection with the examination of the Demands for Grants (2023-24).

4. The Committee considered and adopted this Report at their Sitting held on 15 March, 2023.

5. For facility of reference, the Observations / Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold at the end of the Report.

**New Delhi;
15 March, 2023
24 Phalguna, 1944 (Saka)**

**SHRI JAYANT SINHA,
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Finance**

PART - I
CHAPTER I
Introductory

1.1 The National Institution for Transforming India, also known as NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on 1st January 2015. NITI Aayog is the premier policy think tank of the Government of India, providing directional and policy inputs. Apart from designing strategic and long-term policies and programmes for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant strategic and technical advice to the Centre, States and Union Territories (UTs). NITI Aayog acts as the quintessential platform for the Government of India to bring States to act together in national interest and thereby foster cooperative federalism.

1.2 Objectives and Features

The NITI Aayog serves as the apex public policy think tank of the Government of India, and the nodal agency tasked with catalysing economic development, and fostering cooperative federalism through the involvement of State Governments of India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach. The key objectives and features are:

- (a) To evolve a shared vision of national development priorities, sectors, and strategies with the active involvement of States.
- (b) To foster cooperative federalism through structured support initiatives and mechanisms with the States on a continuous basis, recognizing that strong States make a strong nation.
- (c) To develop mechanisms to formulate plans at the village level and aggregate these progressively at higher levels of the government.
- (d) To ensure, in areas that are specifically referred to, that the interests of national security are incorporated in economic strategy and policy.
- (e) To pay special attention to the sections of our society that may be at risk of not benefiting adequately from economic progress.
- (f) To design strategic and long-term policy and programme frameworks and initiatives and monitor their progress and their efficacy. The lessons learnt through monitoring and feedback will be used for making innovative improvements, including necessary mid-course corrections.

- (g) To provide advice and encourage partnerships between key stakeholders and national and international like-minded think tanks, as well as educational and policy research institutions.
- (h) To create a knowledge, innovation, and entrepreneurial support system through a collaborative community of national and international experts, practitioners and other partners.
- (i) To offer a platform for the resolution of inter-sectoral and inter-departmental issues in order to accelerate the implementation of the development agenda.
- (j) To maintain a state-of-the-art resource center, be a repository of research on good governance and best practices in sustainable and equitable development as well as help their dissemination to stakeholders.
- (k) To actively monitor and evaluate the implementation of programmes and initiatives, including the identification of the needed resources so as to strengthen the probability of success and scope of delivery.
- (l) To focus on technology upgradation and capacity-building for implementation of programmes and initiatives.
- (m) To undertake other activities as may be necessary in order to further the execution of the national development agenda, and the objectives mentioned above.

1.3 NITI Aayog is supported by an attached office, Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), a flagship initiative, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), and an autonomous body, National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD). NITI Aayog's activities can be divided into four main heads:

- (a) Policy and Programme Framework
- (b) Cooperative Federalism
- (c) Monitoring and Evaluation
- (d) Think Tank, and Knowledge and Innovation Hub

1.4 Ministry of Planning through NITI Aayog runs the following Central Sector Schemes:

- (a) Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU).
- (b) Ongoing Programmes and Schemes through Research and Study (R&S).
- (c) Programme for Aspirational Districts (ADP)
- (d) State Support Mission (SSM).

1.5 Governing Council of NITI Aayog

The Governing Council of NITI Aayog, comprising of Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories with legislatures and Lt Governors of other Union Territories, came into effect on 16 February 2015 via a notification by the Cabinet Secretariat. The Governing Council was reconstituted vide a notification dated 19 February 2021 by the Cabinet Secretariat. The Governing Council is the premier body tasked with evolving a shared vision of national priorities and strategies, with the active involvement of states, in shaping the national development narrative. The Governing Council, which embodies the objectives of cooperative federalism, presents a platform to discuss inter-sectoral, inter-departmental and federal issues to accelerate the implementation of the national development agenda.

1.6 The subsequent chapters in Part-I cover the following subjects:

- (a) Analysis of Demands for Grants (2023-24)
- (b) Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)
- (c) Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) & Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU)
- (d) Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)
- (e) State Support Mission (SSM)
- (f) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

CHAPTER II

Analysis of Demands for Grants (2023-24)

2.1 The Ministry of Planning presented their detailed Demands for Grants (2023-24, Demand No. 77) in the Lok Sabha on 8th February, 2023. The total allocation of Ministry of Planning for the year 2023-24 is Rs. 824.39 crores. The Demands in respect of Revenue Section and Capital Section are Rs. 805.73 crores and Rs. 18.66 crores respectively. The Budget Estimates (BE) and Revised Estimates (RE) for 2022-23 were Rs. 321.42 crores and Rs. 1031.53 crores respectively. The Actuals for the year 2021-22 was Rs. 1064.13 crores. The BE (2023-24) has been increased by Rs. 502.97 crores (156.48%) over BE (2022-23) and decreased by Rs. 207.14 crores (20.08%) over RE (2022-23). The BE (2023-24) has been decreased by Rs. 239.74 crores (22.53%) over the Actuals (2021-22). The Revenue Section for the year 2023-24 (Rs. 805.73 crores) has seen an increase of Rs. 495.06 crores (159.35%) over the Revenue Section of BE of 2022-23 (Rs. 310.67 crores) and a decrease of Rs. 206.55 crores (20.42%) over the Revenue Section of RE of 2022-23 (Rs. 1011.23 crores). As informed by NITI Aayog, the increase in the Revenue Section for the year 2023-24 as compared to BE (2022-23), was due to budget allocated to the ongoing scheme "Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" Rs. 433.00 crores, and a new scheme "State Support Mission (SSM)" Rs. 40.00 crores. In the Capital Section, an allocation of Rs. 18.66 crores has been provided in BE of 2023-24, which is an increase of Rs. 7.91 crores (73.58%) over BE of 2022-23 (Rs. 10.75 crores) and a decrease of Rs. 1.64 crores (8.08%) over RE of 2022-23 (Rs. 20.30 crores). As per NITI Aayog, the increase of 73.58% in BE (2023-24) over BE (2022-23) in Capital Section is due to the budget allocated to the revised/new Object Heads operationalization under Rule 8 Delegation of Financial Powers Rules (DFPR) 1978 in the financial year 2023-24

2.2 The outlay for Establishment Expenditure has been provided at Rs. 181.09 crores in BE (2023-24), which is an increase of Rs. 31.60 crores (21.14%) over BE (2022-23) of Rs. 149.49 crores. In the case of Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), the allocation has been kept unchanged at Rs. 17.00 crores in BE (2023-24) over BE (2022-23). Similarly, based on the pace of expenditure, the Grants-in-aid to National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD) has been kept at Rs. 11.30 crores in BE (2023-24), which is an increase of Rs. 1.44 crores (14.60%) against an earlier allocation of Rs. 9.86 crores in BE (2022-23). In

case of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, the allocation remains same at Rs. 3.00 crores since BE (2020-21), to meet the day to day requirements of the Council.

2.3 The outlay for the Central Sector Schemes has been provided at Rs. 632.00 crores in BE (2023-24), which is an increase of Rs. 469.93 crores (289.95%) over BE (2022-23), where an allocation of Rs. 162.07 crores was made. In respect of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), against an allocation of Rs. 155.31 crores in BE (2022-23), an amount of Rs. 155 crores has been sought in BE (2023-24). This is a decrease of Rs. 31 lakhs (0.20%) in BE (2023-24) as compared to BE (2022-23). As informed by NITI Aayog, AIM will be focusing on consolidation of its existing beneficiaries under Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) and there is no plan of establishing new ATLs as per the current mandate. Establishing new ATLs used to consume major chunk of budget estimates. An outlay of Rs. 40.00 crores has been made for a new scheme 'State Support Mission (SSM)'. Further, an outlay of Rs. 437.00 crores has been made for 'Ongoing Programmes and Schemes including liabilities from BE 2014-15 [SOPS, EPP(IC), R&S, PFAR, UNDP-HDBI, UNDP-SCDP]', which has been divided into two parts viz. 'Research and Study' (Rs. 4.00 crores) and ODA from JICA for SDGs (Rs. 433.00 crores). For ODA from JICA for SDGs in 112 Aspirational Districts, against an allocation of Rs. 0.01 crore during 2022-23 due to non-submission of PIB a token provision had been kept and Budget Division, Ministry of Finance, had allocated Rs. 500.00 crores in the first batch Supplementary Demands for Grants (2022-23). An amount of Rs. 433.00 crores has been sought in BE (2023-24).

2.4 Details with regard to analysis of Demands for Grants in various heads during the last three years of Ministry of Planning can be seen at **Annexure I**.

2.5 The allocation for Ministry of Planning for the last four years is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Budget Estimates (BE)	Revised Estimates (RE)	Actuals
2020-21	650	-	748.69
2021-22	1062.77	-	1064.13
2022-23	321.42	1031.53	224.60*
2023-24	824.39	-	-

*The expenditure is upto December 2022

2.6 Revenue and Capital Sections of the allocation of Ministry of Planning for the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	BE		RE		Actuals	
	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
2021-22	-	-	-	-	1064.13	-
2022-23	310.67	10.75	1011.23	20.30	-	-
2023-24	805.73	18.66	-	-	-	-

2.7 When asked to specify reasons for the increase of 221% in RE (2022-23) over BE (2022-23), where Rs. 321.42 crores was allocated in BE (2022-23) and Rs.1031.53 crores in RE (2022-23), the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated as under:

“Increase of RE by 221% over BE is mainly due to substantial increase in the scheme, ‘Official Development Assistance’ from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in BE 2022-23 and Atal Innovation Mission (AIM). The Ministry of Finance (MoF) has allocated Rs.500 crores in the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants 2022-23 towards ‘Official Development Assistance’ from JICA for SDGs in December, 2022 and Rs.343.21 crores at RE 2022-23 against BE 2022-23 of Rs.155.31 crores for the scheme Atal Innovation Mission (AIM). Some allocation has been increased in NITI Headquarters, National Institute of Labour Economics and Research Development (NILERD) and new Central Sector Scheme namely State Support Mission.”

2.8 When asked to provide details for the decrease of Capital funds this year compared to RE of last year, where the Capital section was Rs. 20.30 crores in RE (2022-23) and Rs. 18.66 crores in BE (2023-24) and whether the Ministry plan to seek additional funds at supplementary stages, the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated as under:

“The allocation under capital section during BE-2022-23 was Rs. 10.75 crores. Additional funds to the tune of Rs.10 crores were sought during the RE-2022-23 to meet the expenditure towards the expansion of the beneficiaries and widened implementation of the ‘Atal New India Challenges Programme’. Accordingly, Rs.18.66 Cr has been allocated in Capital Section for BE-2023-24 with an increase of Rs.7.91 Cr in comparison to BE-2022-23.”

2.9 **Activities proposed during the year 2023-24**

Various activities proposed to be undertaken in the Financial Year 2023-24 in the terms of the Expenditure projected are as under:

(a) Establishment Related Expenditure:

(i) Department of Planning

Under this the expenditure to be incurred to meet Salary and allowances and other related expenditure on Travel and Other Administrative Expenditure as well as Professional Services related expenditure in respect of the Office of the Minister of State for Planning are being projected.

(ii) NITI Aayog

Under this the expenditure to be incurred to meet Salary and allowances and other related expenditure on Travel and Other Administrative Expenditure as well as Professional Services related expenditure in respect of the Vice Chairman, Members, CEO and other Officials of the NITI Aayog and also the Expenditure to be met in respect of various activities being carried out various verticals/ divisions of NITI Aayog.

(iii) Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

Under this the expenditure to be incurred to meet Salary and allowances and other related expenditure on Travel and Other Administrative Expenditure as well as Professional Services related expenditure in respect of the Chairman and other Officials of the Council.

(iv) Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)

As the apex Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) office of the Government of India and an attached office of NITI Aayog, DMEO during 2022-23 would carry its mandated and emerging activities in Monitoring and Evaluation to strengthen evidence-based policymaking both at the Centre and States, in line with the larger objective of cooperative and competitive federalism.

(v) National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD)

NILERD is an Autonomous Institution under NITI Aayog which is being supported through Budgetary grants in the form of Grants-in-Aid Salaries, Grants-in-Aid General and Grants-in-Aid for Creation of Capital Assets. During 2023-24, NILERD would undertake research and evaluation studies;

and training activities for participants under ITEC scheme of the Ministry of External Affairs and training programmes for States/UTs and others.

(b) Scheme related Expenditure:

NITI Aayog runs three schemes which are being carried forward beyond the 14th Finance Commission period into the 15th Finance Commission period which primarily caters their scheme related expenditure, the details are as under:

(i) Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU)

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog is Government of India's flagship initiative to promote the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country and was setup in 2016. Towards this end AIM has taken a holistic approach and is ensuring creation of a problem-solving innovative mindset in schools and creating an ecosystem of entrepreneurship in universities, research institutions, corporate and MSME sector. All the initiatives of AIM are currently monitored and managed by a Mission High Level Committee (MHLC) comprising of secretaries of various departments, innovation and ecosystem experts from academia and industry under the chairmanship of Minister of Education.

(ii) Ongoing programs and Schemes

Under this, the expenditure in respect of Research & Study is being met. The Research & Study is a Central Sector Scheme and the scheme has financial outlay of Rs. 4.00 crores in BE for the year 2023-24. The objective of the scheme is to stimulate research on issues of economic/social development and need assessment which have a direct bearing on plan formation or implementation of policies, plan schemes of government in the process of development planning. The Scheme is primarily utilized to meet the expenditure involved in funding for extramural research conducted by NITI Aayog by payment of consultation fee. In addition, seminars/conferences/workshops etc. organized by the reputed organizations also supported under the Scheme. Besides, various organizations also extended non-financial support under this scheme by permitting them to use NITI Aayog Logo for the events such as seminars /

conferences / workshops / summits / symposium / exhibitions / annual functions.

(iii) The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)

The Aspirational Districts Programme aims at rapid transformation of the 112 relatively underdeveloped districts in India. Key constituents of the Programme include selection of key performance indicators across sectors which are critical for improving quality of life and economic productivity of citizens. In this regard, 49 indicators have been selected across five sectors viz., Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure. A district's performance is constantly monitored on the basis of progress made on these indicators. This progress is used to rank districts which have shown improvement on the above mentioned indicators, on a monthly basis.

(iv) State Support Mission (SSM)

State Support Mission (SSM) has been conceived with the primary objective of reinvigorating NITI Aayog's on-going engagement with the states in a more structured and institutionalized manner to achieve the transformational objectives of shared vision in 2047. Under the State Support Mission, NITI Aayog will support interested States to set up State Institution of Transformation (SIT).

CHAPTER III

DEVELOPMENT MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICE (DMEO)

3.1 DMEO is the apex monitoring and evaluation (M&E) office of the Government of India. Its ambit of work also includes engagement with the States, under NITI Aayog's mandate of cooperative and competitive federalism. DMEO's role is to conduct monitoring and evaluation work assigned to NITI Aayog.

DMEO's major projects in 2022–23 included;

- (a) Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF)
- (b) Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI)
- (c) Monitoring of Global Indices for Reforms and Growth (GIRG)
- (d) Institutionalizing and Promoting Evaluations
- (e) Engagement with States
- (f) Capacity-Building

3.2 The Output–Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF) is an important component of the union budget and the same has been published annually since 2017–18. The goal is to institutionalize outcome monitoring, to shift the focus of line ministries of Government of India from tracking physical and financial progress, to tracking the results of work done. Since 2020, annual review meetings related to OOMF of various ministries/departments have been conducted under the chairpersonship of Vice Chairman and Members, NITI Aayog along with the Secretaries of the ministries/departments. Further, to improve the quality of OOMF a continuous capacity building exercise and review of the framework and indicators of all CS/CSS schemes is undertaken throughout the year.

3.3 DMEO has developed a Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI) to assess the data preparedness levels and use of IT-based systems for scheme monitoring across Ministries/Departments on various parameters, including data generation, data quality, data analysis, use & dissemination, use of technology, data security & HR capacity and case studies. With the objective of widely disseminating learnings from the DGQI exercise, a DGQI methodology toolkit was published on the DMEO website and shared with States/UTs to enable them to conduct similar data maturity assessments. A compendium of good practices in using administrative data for monitoring and

evaluation was also published on the DMEO website to promote peer learning among ministries/departments and States.

3.4 DMEO conducts evaluation under the overarching guidance of the Development Evaluation Advisory Committee (DEAC). Studies are taken up as per the rolling evaluation plan approved by the DEAC. Additionally, DMEO also conducts evaluation based on the request received from Ministries/Departments.

3.5 DMEO has been taking several initiatives to build individual and institutional capacities at the central and state levels over the last year. These initiatives are supported through synergistic partnerships with government stakeholders, global experts, think tanks and academic organizations.

3.6 The allocation to DMEO for the last four years are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sl. No.	Major Head	Name of the Scheme	BE (2020-21)	Actuals (2020-21)	BE (2021-22)	Actuals (2021-22)	BE (2022-23)	Actuals (2022-23) (upto Dec 2022)	BE (2023-24)
1	3475	Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)	14.00	24.44	16.00	15.73	17.00	11.61	17.00

3.7 When asked to provide reasons for the stagnant allocation to DMEO, where a sum of Rs. 17 crores has been allocated since the last year and specify whether this sum is enough to meet all the targets of monitoring and evaluation by DMEO, the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated as under:

“To fulfill the mandate of monitoring and evaluation task, DMEO undertakes evaluation of various schemes of Government of India. It also undertakes monitoring of schemes through Output-Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF), Data Governance Quality Index (DGQI). The reasons for stagnant funds allocation to DMEO are as below:

- (i) DMEO conducted evaluation of 125 Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in FY 2019-20, which were completed in FY 2020-21, and expenditure was spread across FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21.*

(ii) Due to the 2nd wave of the COVID pandemic, the timelines of many of the evaluation studies got extended. This affected the subsequent evaluation studies in the later year.

In the current Financial Year 2023-2024, DMEO is planning to launch a sizable number of evaluation studies that would cover most of the flagship schemes of the Government of India. Hence, the fund requirement is likely to be higher. Therefore, based on the actual expenditure, additional funds will be requested during the RE stage of FY 2023-24.”

CHAPTER IV

ATAL INNOVATION MISSION (AIM) & SELF-EMPLOYMENT AND TALENT UTILISATION (SETU)

4.1 Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is the Government of India's flagship initiative to create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. Since its inception in 2016, AIM has established over 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs, 69 Atal Incubation Centres, 14 Atal Community Innovation Centres and has launched 57 Atal New India Challenges across sectors.

4.2 Atal Tinkering Labs

ATL is the flagship initiative of AIM, Government of India, to nurture an innovative mindset amongst high school students across the length and breadth of India. Under the ATL scheme, grant-in-aid of up to twenty lakhs is provided to schools selected for setting up the ATL.

4.3 Atal Incubation Centre

This programme was launched in 2017 with a vision to build an ecosystem of business incubators where entrepreneurs can gain access to a variety of facilities, including physical infrastructure, training and education, and access to key stakeholders including investors, other innovators, and mentors. Grant up to Rs 10 crores is given to the AICs/EICs over a 5-year period.

4.4 Atal Community Innovation Centre

Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs) are a means to drive innovations towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through novel solutions in the underserved regions of the country. ACICs seek to promote and propagate the benefits of technology-led innovations to solve SDG problems by developing a PPP based participatory model in which the grant-in-aid by AIM has to be matched.

4.5 Atal New India Challenge

Atal New India Challenge (ANIC) is a flagship programme of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog. The programme aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance. The primary goals of the ANIC programme are to incentivize innovations in areas critical to India's development and growth – Education, Health,

Water and Sanitation, Agriculture, Food Processing, Housing, Energy, Mobility, Space Application etc. ANIC solicits innovations in the prototype stage and supports the selected start-ups through to the commercialization stage over a course of 12 – 18 months by funding up to INR 1 crore and other associated support from the AIM innovation ecosystem.

4.6 AIM Ecosystem Development Programme (AEDP)

AEDP is strengthening the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem by building networks of relevant stakeholders to provide additional value to AIM beneficiaries beyond the framework of structured programs.

4.7 Vernacular Innovation Programme

Vernacular Innovation Programme (VIP) is an initiative of AIM targeted at decoupling creative expression from language of transaction in India’s innovation ecosystem by building resources and robust ecosystem in each of India’s scheduled languages. India being a multilingual nation, it is only apt to provide an opportunity to every innovator to innovate and ideate in one’s own language of expression and VIP is a step towards the same. As an enabler, VIP aims to empower innovation in the grassroots by lowering the barrier of languages and imparting the right set of knowledge required for the quantum leap.

4.8 AIM has forged over 50 partnerships with various corporates and foundations and engaged with industry leaders and faculty that support AIM beneficiaries through infrastructure and technology, market and investor access, creation of modules, and adoption of ATLs. The Output and Outcome targets of AIM including SETU for the year 2023-24 can be seen at **Annexure II**.

4.9 The allocation to AIM including SETU for the last four years are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sl. No.	Major Head	Name of the Scheme	BE (2020-21)	Actuals (2020-21)	BE (2021-22)	Actuals (2021-22)	BE (2022-23)	Actuals (2022-23) (upto Dec 2022)	BE (2023-24)
1	3475	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) (Revenue)	300.00	332.41	342.00	341.96	145.31	70.90	144.30
	3475	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)	--	--	--	--	10.00	--	10.70

		including Self Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) (Capital)							
	3475	Total	300.00	332.41	342.00	341.96	155.31	70.90	155.00

4.10 When asked to specify reasons for the decreasing trend of allocation to AIM, where Rs. 342 crores, Rs. 155.31 crores and Rs. 155 crores have been allocated in BE (2021-22), BE (2022-23) and BE (2023-24) respectively, the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated as under:

“The major component of AIM’s spends over the years has been establishing Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) in schools. AIM has completed the mandate of establishing 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs in the year 2022-23. In 2023-24, there is no plan of establishing new ATLs as per the current mandate. AIM will be focusing on consolidation of its existing beneficiaries under ATL. AIM will also establish some new beneficiaries under the other programs – AIC / ACIC and ANIC along with continuing support for the existing beneficiaries. AIM is also in the process of a new EFC and Cabinet approval for expanded scope of work and increased budget.”

4.11 When asked to provide the framework of a new initiative of AIM, Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP) which is targeted at decoupling creative expression from the language of transaction in India’s innovation ecosystem and whether the program will be launched at school and community level, the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated as under:

“India being a multilingual nation, it is only apt to provide an opportunity to every innovator to innovate and ideate in one’s own language of expression and the ‘Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP)’ is a step towards the same. As an enabler, VIP aims to empower innovation by lowering the language barrier in India’s innovation ecosystem. The program has trained design thinking teachers in 22 languages and shall be launched across the country soon and shall encourage every Indian to innovate in one’s own language.”

CHAPTER V

ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME (ADP) AND ASPIRATIONAL BLOCKS PROGRAMME (ABP)

5.1 The Aspirational Districts Programme aims at rapid transformation of 112 backward districts across sectors which are critical for improving quality of life or economic productivity of citizens. The core strength of the programme is its focus on data driven governance that drives evidence-based policy interventions at the district-level. NITI Aayog monitors the 112 Aspirational districts on Key Performance Indicators (KPI) on a monthly basis. The KPIs are designed in a way that the input and process indicators are being evaluated so as to achieve desirable outputs and outcomes across major socio-economic themes such as health & nutrition, education, agriculture & water resources, financial inclusion & skill development, and basic infrastructure.

5.2 The robust monitoring strategy has enabled the district administration to engage in cross-departmental reviews and thus drive convergence. The competition through the monthly release of delta ranks keeps the districts constantly motivated to improve the KPIs. It has completed five years in January 2023. The programme aims at synergizing the efforts of all stakeholders—Central and state governments, district administration, non-governmental organizations, private partners, civil society, and the masses. The line ministries have developed short term and long-term plans to improve their respective indicators in the districts and Central Prabhari Officers have been appointed to guide and mentor the districts.

5.3 NITI Aayog has developed and uses “The Champions of Change” dashboard for real-time data collection and monitoring. NITI Aayog has captured the success stories through publications ‘Stories of Change’ and ‘Best Practices’. These interventions—based on the usage of behavioural principles, innovation, replicability, and potential for impact—demonstrate how behavioural insights and innovative initiatives can drive outcomes on the ground. NITI Aayog also regularly shares the best practices with other districts to transform service delivery at the grass-root level. Significant progress could be achieved by scaling up these best practices that emerged from the districts to other parts of the country grappling with similar challenges.

5.4 NITI Aayog has undertaken various efforts to replicate the ADP Model through new flagship initiatives – Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) and Mission Utkarsh. ABP which aim to fast track holistic and sustainable development in 500 backward Blocks. Under ABP, 500 backward blocks have been selected from 28 States and 4 UTs in India through extensive consultation with different ministries and state governments. The programme would support blocks to achieve accelerated and coordinated implementation of various schemes to improve their performance and come at par with the state average or better than other blocks in the states. Incentives for high performing blocks are being worked out and blocks that achieve noticeable progress on key indicators would be provided incentives. Under Mission Utkarsh, Ministries/Departments, which have most public interface, have shortlisted the most backward districts on the basis of their respective KPIs and are working towards bringing these backward districts at par with state averages in the next one year and the national average within the next two years. The Output and Outcome targets of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the year 2023-24 can be seen at **Annexure III**.

5.5 The allocation to Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the last four years are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sl. No.	Major Head	Name of the Scheme	BE (2020-21)	Actuals (2020-21)	BE (2021-22)	Actuals (2021-22)	BE (2022-23)	Actuals (2022-23) (upto Dec 2022)	BE (2023-24)
1	3475	Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	180.00	266.76	581.00	580.96	0.01	22.81	433.00

5.6 When asked to provide utilization data of Rs. 500 crores allocated in the first batch Supplementary Demands for Grants 2022-23 for Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the detailed breakup of Rs. 433 crores allocated under ODA for BE (2023-24), the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated as under:

“Particulars related to the utilisation of the Rs. 500 crores allocated in the first batch Supplementary Demands for Grants 2022-23 and breakup of the Rs. 433 crores that has been allocated under ODA for 2023-24 (BE) are given below:

- (i) Rs.22.8 crores has been utilized till date.
- (ii) The proposed breakup of Rs.433 crores for 2023-24:
 - Window-I (On the basis of monthly ranking)- Rs.360 crores
 - Window-II (Critical Projects affecting one or more districts)- Rs.65 crores
 - Window- III (Capacity Building measures) - Rs.8 crores.”

5.7 When asked to provide the detailed template of Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), including the financial arrangement, the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated as under:

“The Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) is based on the template of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) with the idea that even within districts there are certain pockets of underdevelopment which require more focus.

As part of the programme, 500 blocks from across the country have been selected on the basis of survey data from Mission Antyodaya, and have been finalized based on consultations with respective State Governments. The ABP facilitates State Governments in monitoring the performance of these 500 relatively underdeveloped blocks. The Programme focuses on the sectors which are critical for improving quality of life or economic productivity of citizens viz. Social Development, Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture, Basic Infrastructure, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development. Further, given that each State has its own contextual needs, all States have the freedom to choose sectors over and above the ones already identified, to monitor the progress of the selected blocks.”

5.8 When asked to specify the difference between ADP and ABP and the short and long term goals of ABP, the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated as under:

“The Aspirational Blocks Programme differs from ADP in terms of width and depth of the programme, as it also covers non aspirational districts. There are no specific targets at this initial stage of implementation. Instead, there is a list of indicators under specific focus areas on the basis of which the blocks are to be monitored. The broader goal of the ABP is to catalyze development works in the identified blocks, thereby enabling these blocks to show outcomes in the focus sectors of Social Development, Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture, Basic Infrastructure, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development, at par with an

average block at the State level (in the short term) and National level (in the long-term)."

CHAPTER VI

STATE SUPPORT MISSION (SSM)

6.1 NITI Aayog intends to partner with all States/UTs in realising the aspirations of Viksit Bharat @ 2047 by energising the spirit of cooperative and competitive federalism. To this end, the State Support Mission has been conceived as an overarching umbrella initiative of NITI Aayog to reinvigorate its ongoing engagement with States and Union Territories in a more structured and institutionalized manner. Under the Mission, NITI Aayog is supporting the States/UTs to develop inclusive growth strategies to achieve their socio-economic goals and to establish State Institution for Transformation (SIT). These SITs will steer the development strategies required in the States/UTs to achieve the stated goals. States/UTs may either choose to establish SITs or reimagine the role of their existing institutions, such as planning departments and boards, with the support of NITI Aayog. In addition, the Mission will provide holistic support to States/UTs, which, inter-alia, includes developing the State vision, setting their economic goals, establishing robust monitoring and evaluation systems, and promoting the innovation ecosystem, among others. The Mission also seeks to leverage the expertise of academic institutions, development partners, multilateral agencies, and civil societies to assist the states in implementing their vision.

6.2 NITI Aayog has reached out to all the States to advocate the merit of having SITs in their respective States. A few states have announced the establishment of SITs. NITI Aayog has also received requests from certain states seeking knowledge and technical support from NITI Aayog to prepare State Vision document and development strategies. A National Conference of Chief Secretaries is to be held on an annual basis as a key step towards further boosting the partnership between the Centre and the State Governments. The Output and Outcome targets of SSM for the year 2023-24 can be seen at **Annexure IV**.

6.3 When asked about the manner in which NITI Aayog plans to collaborate with SITs to promote cooperative and competitive federalism, the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated as under:

“NITI Aayog has the mandate to foster competitive and cooperative federalism. SSM is a step to further strengthen the ongoing engagement of NITI Aayog with

the States in an institutionalised manner and to bring States/UTs together for achieving the aspirations of shared vision Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

The Mission will also provide holistic support to States/UTs, which, inter-alia, includes:

- (i) Technical support: NITI Aayog will be extending sector specific technical expertise of NITI Aayog and external agencies to support the States/UTs in achieving their development goals.*
- (ii) Capacity building: Capacity building and training opportunities to enhance their capacities to develop and implement their strategies.*
- (iii) Monitoring and evaluation: Support in strengthening their monitoring and evaluation unit for a better outcome-based approach for programmes/schemes.*
- (iv) Data Analytics: support for strengthening their data analytics unit to aid evidence-based decision making.*
- (v) Knowledge Resource Centre: Knowledge repository comprising of standardised toolkits, modules, best practices etc. for easy access and ready reference of states/UTs will be positioned.*
- (vi) Coordination and Collaboration: Facilitate states/UTs to build a dynamic and strong partnership with all stakeholders including other states, development agencies, civil societies, research & knowledge institutes.*
- (vii) Human resource: A dedicated team of sector experts; as per the state priorities will be embedded in states/UTs for the period of the mission.*

The overall aim of the SSM is to provide support to States/UTs to effectively structure their development strategies and to enhance their capacity to implement the same.”

6.4 Further, when asked to provide details as to whether the amount of Rs. 40 crores is enough to meet all the targets of 2023-24, the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated as under:

“As the mission is demand-driven, interested states and UTs will be benefitted from the total budget outlay of Rs.40 crores which have been initially earmarked for 2023-24, for providing technical support to the States in the form of 8-9 sectoral experts, supporting in preparing developmental strategies, conducting studies, organizing workshops and seminars, setting up M&E units etc.

Depending on the response from States/UTs, revised provisions in the budget will be demanded at the RE stage.”

CHAPTER VII

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

7.1 NITI Aayog has the twin mandate to oversee the adoption and monitoring of the SDGs in the country and promote competitive and cooperative federalism among States and UTs. The task at hand for NITI Aayog is not just to periodically collect data on SDGs but to proactively realise the goals and targets. In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the document titled 'Transforming our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', consisting of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets. The SDGs were adopted as a universal call-to-action for people, worldwide, to address the five critical areas of importance by 2030: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. The 17 SDGs and 169 targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development i.e. economic, social and the environmental. The determined goals and targets were expected to stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet.

7.2 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Transforming our world pledge to focus on leaving no one behind. Countries are primarily responsible for monitoring and reviewing the progress made in implementing the goals and targets at the national level, till 2030. There is a convergence of India's national development goals and agenda of, 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' or 'Collective Efforts, Inclusive Growth,' with the SDGs.

7.3 The SDG Vertical at NITI Aayog has conducted consultations and workshops with Government/ Administration of 28 States and UTs, regarding monitoring of progress, evaluation of actions and implementation of reforms to accelerate progress in the SDGs. The state consultations saw great participation from the leadership, signaling ownership of the SDG agenda at the highest levels. In these workshops, NITI Aayog's flagship SDG India Index serves as the principal monitoring and evaluation tool for driving the discussion forward.

7.4 The Government of India–United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (GoI–UNSDF) 2018–2022 India outlines the development cooperation strategy between the GoI and the United Nations Country Team in India, in support of the achievement of India's key national development priorities and the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs). Having entered its final year of implementation, the Gol and the UN Country Team in India are committed to renew the Gol-UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the next five-year period 2023-27. The key outcomes and outputs that will guide the new Cooperation Framework have been drafted through a highly consultative process with consultations with the Government, CSOs, Think Tanks and Economic Enterprises. The State Finances and Coordination (SFC) Vertical acts as the nodal vertical for coordinating the work related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023–27.

7.5 SDG Localization

Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals is crucial to any strategy aimed at achieving the 2030 Agenda. Essentially, localizing SDGs involves understanding, adapting, planning, implementing, and monitoring the SDGs from the national to the local level, via relevant institutions. It includes setting up an institutional mechanism, preparing the vision document, SDG mapping with schemes and departments, developing the state/district and the block indicator framework, developing the SDG dashboard, budget linking with SDGs, capacity building/training of officials , involving CSOs/ CSR in awareness generation and capacity building.

7.6 The report on “Indian Model of Localisation” was released by Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog in July 2022 at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The report documents subnational experiences in localising the SDGs and distils the lessons learnt, including its successes and challenges.

7.7 The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India Index has been comprehensively documenting and ranking the progress made by the States and UTs towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. The SDG India Index dashboard allows users to visualize and explore the data in the SDG India Index reports. The dashboard is updated annually—every time a new edition of the index is launched—and has cross-sectoral relevance for policy makers, civil society, business and academia. Additionally, two interactive dashboards have also been developed - the North-Eastern Region (NER) District SDG Index and the SDG Urban Index. The NER District SDG Index focuses on the North-Eastern Region, which is of critical significance to the country’s development trajectory. The index ranks the districts of

the eight States of the NER—Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura—based on their relative performance on Sustainable Development Goals and their corresponding targets. An interactive dashboard was also prepared to allow users to explore and visualise the data in the NER District SDG Index Report. The dashboard allows for region-level and district-level insights and can be a helpful tool for extracting critical insights from the NER District SDG Index data. The SDG Urban Index, a result of the NITI Aayog–GIZ and BMZ collaboration, is focused on driving SDG localization in Indian cities, under the umbrella of Indo-German Development Cooperation. The index ranks 56 urban areas on 77 SDG indicators across 46 targets of the SDG framework. The index and dashboard are meant to strengthen SDG localization and institute robust SDG monitoring at the city level. It highlights the strengths and gaps of ULB-level data, monitoring, and reporting systems.

7.8 To a pointed query with regard to SDG localization and utilizing its learnings to strengthen other schemes like Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment), the Ministry of Planning in a written reply stated as under:

“Leveraging Learnings of SDG localisation including assimilation of components of local culture in LiFE campaign will be very useful. MoEF&CC may plan to utilize these to strengthen LiFE campaign.”

PART - II
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Analysis of budget

1. The Committee note that the Budget Estimates (BE) of the Ministry of Planning under Demand No. 77 for the year 2023-24 is Rs. 824.39 crores. Similarly for the year 2022-23, the BE and RE stood at Rs. 321.42 crores and Rs. 1031.53 crores respectively, while the Actuals for the year 2021-22 was Rs. 1064.13 crores. The scrutiny of the Budget of the Ministry of Planning reveal that the BE (2023-24) has increased by 156.48% and decreased by 20.08% with respect to BE and RE of 2022-23 respectively. Further, the BE (2023-24) has decreased by 22.53% over the Actuals of 2021-22. The Committee also note that the RE (2022-23) rose by 221% over BE (2022-23). The Committee would like to highlight the varied allocations over the years as well as within the same fiscal between BE and RE. The Committee would also like to highlight the utilization of funds by the Ministry as only 21.77% (Rs. 244.60 crores) out of the allocated fund of Rs. 1064.13 crores in RE (2022-23) were utilized till December 2022. Therefore, the Committee again recommend that the Ministry should take steps to plan the budgetary proposal so that adequate funds are allocated to this premier think tank of the country at BE stage itself.

2. The Committee note that the budgetary allocation under Revenue Head and Capital head of BE (2023-24) are Rs. 805.73 crores and Rs. 18.66 crores respectively. In BE (2022-23), these allocations were Rs. 310.67 crores and Rs. 10.75 crores respectively, which were then revised to Rs. 1012.28 crores and Rs. 20.30 crores respectively. The Committee would also like to highlight the limited share of Capital section in overall budget with only 2.26% of Capital share in BE (2023-24) whereas it was 3.34% and 1.97% in BE and RE of 2022-23 respectively.

The Committee, therefore, recommend for adequate budgetary allocation under the head Capital Section so that flagship programme like 'Atal New India Challenge Programme' do not suffer.

Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO)

3. The Committee note that the allocation towards DMEO in BE (2023-24) has remained at Rs. 17 crores since last year. The Ministry of Planning in a written submission have informed the Committee that in current Financial Year 2023-2024, DMEO is planning to launch a sizeable number of evaluation studies that would cover most of the flagship schemes of the Government of India and hence, the fund requirement is likely to be higher. The Ministry further informed that based on the actual expenditure, additional funds will be requested during the RE stage of FY 2023-24. Last year also, the Ministry had informed the Committee that they had sought an allocation of Rs. 36.44 crores but only Rs. 17.00 crores was allocated. The Committee believe that some shortfall can be balanced at supplementary stages. Therefore, the Committee are of the opinion that the Ministry should be more proactive at budget preparation stage itself by planning in advance about the probable research studies to be undertaken in a year and the fund requirements for the same.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

4. The Committee note that an allocation of Rs. 155 crores has been sought in BE (2023-24) towards the flagship scheme of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) against the earlier allocations of Rs. 155.31 crores and Rs. 342 crores in BE (2022-23) and BE (2021-22) respectively. The Committee further note that there has been a marginal decrease of 0.20% and a significant decrease of 54.68% in BE (2023-24) over BE (2022-23) and BE (2021-22) respectively. The Ministry of Planning in a written submission have informed the Committee that against BE

(2022-23) of Rs. 155.31 crores for AIM, Rs. 343.21 crores was allocated at RE (2022-23) stage. The Ministry had also informed the Committee last year that major component of AIM's expenditure over the years had been for establishing Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) in schools and since AIM was accomplishing their mandate of establishing 10,000 ATLs in the year 2021-22, they had sought a reduced allocation in BE (2022-23). The Committee note the discrepancy in the statement made by NITI Aayog and the allocation sought at RE (2022-23). The Committee would like to understand as to why additional fund to the tune of 221% of BE (2022-23) sought at supplementary stage if the mandate of establishing Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) had been accomplished in 2021-22. The Committee note that the Ministry have made a similar submission of having no plan of establishing new ATLs this year, to justify lower allocation to BE (2023-24). However, the Committee feel that the objective of AIM to create an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country requires more efforts. In such a scenario, the Committee believe that instead of lowering the budget allocation for AIM, NITI Aayog should use remaining funds to effectively monitor the upkeep of ATLs and implement AIM's other initiatives. The Ministry have further informed the Committee that AIM is in the process of a new Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and Cabinet approval for expanded scope of work and increased budget.

Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)

5. The Committee note that budgetary allocation for Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in BE (2023-24) is Rs. 433 crores against an allocation of Rs. 0.01 crore and Rs. 500 crores in BE and RE of 2022-23 respectively. The Committee appreciate the timely allocation made this year

vis-à-vis last year when only a token of Rs. 0.01 crore was made at BE (2022-23) due to non-submission of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC). However, the Committee also feel that ADP should move beyond its twin function of tracking the progress of districts and awarding the best performing districts, to serious alignment with line ministries' key schemes having an increased focus on development of these backward districts. The Committee would also like the Ministry to deliberate upon the possibility of enhanced fund allocations to aspirational districts vis-à-vis other districts to effectively implement the flagship schemes of the Government. Further, apart from real-time data, the Committee would also like the Ministry to constantly evolve new methodologies and undertake third-party evaluations to ensure high quality of the data being submitted by district authorities. The Committee would further like to highlight the need for sincere capacity building of the staff tasked with data collection, collation, and analysis with regard to ADP.

Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)

6. The Committee note the new initiative of NITI Aayog viz. Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) which is aimed at improving the performance of blocks that are lagging on various development parameters by taking the aspirational district model to the block level. The Committee further note that under this programme, 500 backward blocks have been selected from 28 States and 4 UTs in India through extensive consultation with different ministries and State Governments. The Ministry of Planning informed the Committee that a sum of Rs. 100 crores has been kept for incentivizing the blocks which are doing good work. The Committee appreciate the inclusive nature of ABP where it acknowledges that each State has its own contextual needs and hence all States have the freedom to choose sectors over and above the ones already

identified viz. Social Development, Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture, Basic Infrastructure, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development, to monitor progress of the selected blocks. The Committee would also like the Ministry to come out with regular reports on the working of ABP.

State Support Mission (SSM)

7. The Committee note the new scheme launched by NITI Aayog viz. State Support Mission (SSM), under which NITI Aayog in coordination with Lead Knowledge Institutions like IITs/IIMs, development partners, multilateral agencies and civil societies is supporting States to set up State Institution of Transformation (SIT). The Committee further note that this scheme has been allocated a sum of Rs. 40 crores in BE (2023-24) against an earlier allocation of Rs. 50 lakhs in RE (2022-23) and the mission is to be implemented from 2022-23 to 2024-25 with a total outlay of Rs. 237.50 crores. The Committee, while appreciating the provision that States/UTs may either choose to establish SITs or reimagine the role of their existing institutions such as planning departments and boards, would also like to understand the exact role of SIT as currently the different Planning structures in different States serve different purposes and there is no uniformity among them. The Committee would further like to be made aware of the nature of collaboration between SITs and NITI Aayog. The Committee are of the opinion that economic and social planning being a subject of the concurrent list should have a harmonious participation of both States and Centre, with States doing the ground work and institutions like NITI Aayog assisting them with their technical expertise. The Committee are also of the view that schemes like SSM should be carefully planned and executed so that States do not feel that their power to plan is being infringed upon. The Committee, therefore, recommend NITI Aayog to undertake capacity building

and sensitization of the staff involved so that technical expertise is appropriately balanced with unique local features of each State.

Research and Study

8. The Committee note that 'Research and Study' is a central sector scheme of Ministry of Planning, which provides for the expenditure in respect of erstwhile Planning Commission's ongoing programmes and schemes. The Committee also note the reduced budget allocation to this important scheme from Rs. 6 crores in BE (2022-23) to only Rs. 4 crores in BE (2023-24) and the low expenditure of only 28.16% (Rs. 1.69 crores) till December 2022. The Ministry of Planning in a written submission have stated that they had anticipated to aid higher number of studies at around 20 during FY 2022-23 compared to 17 studies sanctioned in FY 2021-22 but only 10 studies were determined fit for sanction during April – December of FY2022-23, hence the amount disbursed during April – December of FY2022-23 stood at Rs 1.69 crores only. The Committee are of the opinion that research is an integral part of any think tank and NITI Aayog being the premier policy think tank of the Government having been tasked with the important function of designing long term policies/programmes and providing relevant strategic and technical advice to the Centre, States, and Union Territories, should focus immensely on research studies.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

9. The Committee note that the twin mandate of NITI Aayog is to oversee the adoption and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country and promote competitive and cooperative federalism among States and UTs. The task at hand for NITI Aayog is not just to periodically collect data on SDGs but to proactively help realise the goals and targets. The Committee are of

the opinion that since only a few years are left for completing the targets of SDGs, the Ministry should come out with a detailed report on their status of implementation. The Committee appreciate the use of technologies by the Ministry to monitor and collect updated data on SDGs viz. SDG India Index and Dashboard, Sustainable Development Goals North-Eastern Region District Index and Sustainable Development Goals Urban Index. The Committee note that localisation of the SDGs is crucial to any strategy aimed at achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Committee are also of the opinion that such SDG localization plans should also be made a part of other Government schemes as the overall objective of any good scheme involves sustainable development of that sector. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to put in place a comprehensive plan of localizing methods and processes, wherever possible, while implementing key Government schemes/policies to achieve local and sustainable outputs.

New Delhi
15 March, 2023
24 Phalguna, 1944 (Saka)

SHRI JAYANT SINHA,
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Finance

**Minutes of the Eleventh sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2022-23).
The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 28th February, 2023 from 1300 hrs to 1430
hrs in Committee Room 'D', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.**

PRESENT

Shri Jayant Sinha – Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
3. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
4. Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre
5. Smt. Sunita duggal
6. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
7. Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak
8. Shri Hemant Shriram Patil
9. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
10. Shri Nama Nageswara Rao
11. Prof. Sougata Ray
12. Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy
13. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
14. Shri Manish Tewari
15. Shri Balashowry Vallabbhaneni

RAJYA SABHA

16. Dr. Radha Mohan Das Agarwal
17. Shri Raghav Chadha
18. Shri Damodar Rao Divakonda
19. Shri Sushil Kumar Modi
20. Dr. Amar Patnaik
21. Dr. C.M. Ramesh
22. Shri G.V.L Narasimha Rao

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Siddharth Mahajan - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan - Director
3. Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora - Additional Director

WITNESSES

Ministry of Planning (NITI Aayog)

1. Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO
2. Shri Jayant Sinha, AS&FA
3. Dr. Yogesh Suri, Sr. Adviser (G&R)
4. Dr. (Ms.) Neelam Patel, Sr. Adviser
5. Ms. Anna Roy, Sr. Adviser (DMA)
6. Shri Rajib Kumar Sen, Sr. Adviser
7. Shri Ishtiyaque Ahmed, Sr. Adviser
8. Ms. V.Radha, Additional Secretary
9. Shri Sanjay Kumar, DG (DMEO)
10. Dr. Chintan Vaishnav, MD (AIM)
11. Shri Y.K.Joshi, MD (Mission Life)
12. Shri Sanjeet Singh, Sr. Lead (E&F/HR)
13. Shri Partha Sarthi Reddy Chevuru, Adviser
14. Shri Rajnath Ram, Adviser
15. Shri Sudhendu Joyti Sinha, Adviser
16. Shri Avinash Mishra, Adviser
17. Shri K.S. Rejimon, Joint Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members and the witnesses to the sitting of the Committee. After the customary introduction of the witnesses and their introductory remarks, the Senior Adviser (NITI Aayog) made a PowerPoint Presentation before the Committee. The Committee then deliberated upon the Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Planning (NITI Aayog) and the overall mission and scope of NITI Aayog. The major issues discussed during the sitting related to the performance and audit of Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and its extension to the block level as Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), capacity building of ground level staff in States, technical support to States through State Support Mission (SSM), creation of a digital knowledge repository through National Data & Analytics Platform (NDAP), Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and its impact on the Startup ecosystem, monitoring and evaluation of schemes/ policies through Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), research programmes of NITI Aayog, Chief Secretaries' Conference and its role in promoting cooperative

federalism. The Committee also discussed issues related to Asset Monetization, Disinvestment, Transformative Mobility through electric vehicles (EVs), Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), climate finance, Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), frontier technologies and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme.

3. The witnesses responded to the queries raised by the Members and the Chairperson then directed the representatives of the Ministry of Planning (NITI Aayog) to furnish written replies to the points raised by the Members which could not be readily replied by them during the discussion within three days to the Secretariat.

The witnesses then withdrew.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

**Minutes of the Fifteenth sitting of the Standing Committee on Finance (2022-23)
The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 15th March, 2023 from 1500hrs. to 1720
hrs. in Committee Room 'C', Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.**

PRESENT

Shri Jayant Sinha – Chairperson

LOK SABHA

2. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia
3. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
4. Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre
5. Smt. Sunita duggal
6. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
7. Shri Sudheer Gupta
8. Shri Manoj Kishorbhai Kotak
9. Shri Pinaki Misra
10. Shri Hemant Shriram Patil
11. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
12. Prof. Sougata Ray
13. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
14. Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki
15. Shri Manish Tewari
16. Shri Balashowry Vallabbhaneni
17. Shri Rajesh Verma

RAJYA SABHA

18. Shri Sushil Kumar Modi
19. Dr. Amar Patnaik
20. Shri G.V.L Narasimha Rao
21. Shri Pramod Tiwari

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Siddharth Mahajan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Ramkumar Suryanarayanan | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Kulmohan Singh Arora | - | Additional Director |

PART I

2. XX XX XX XX XX XX
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(The witnesses then withdrew)

3. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up the following draft reports for consideration and adoption:

- (i) Fifty-Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Financial Services, Investment & Public Asset Management and Public Enterprises).
- (ii) Fifty-Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).
- (iii) Fifty-Sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- (iv) Fifty-Seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Planning.
- (v) Fifty-Eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

After some deliberations, the Committee adopted draft Reports on DFG (2023-24) and authorised the Chairperson to finalise them and present the Reports to the Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

Demand No.77 - Ministry of Planning

ANALYSIS OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS i.e. PERCENTAGE INCREASE/DECREASE IN VARIOUS HEADS DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS

(Rs. In thousands)

Sl. No.	Major Head	Name of the Schemes	BE 2020-21	Actuals 2020-21	BE 2021-22	Actuals 2021-22	%Increase/Decrease of BE 2021-22 over BE 2020-21	BE 2022-23	Actuals 2022-23 (@)	%Increase/Decrease of BE 2022-23 over BE 2021-22	BE 2023-24	% Increase/Decrease of BE 2023-24 over BE 2022-23
1. Establishment Expenditure												
1	3451	Department of Planning	15000	10940	15000	13115	--	15500	12031	(+)3.33%	16000	(+)3.23%
2	3451	NITI Aayog (Headquarters)	740200	665111	670000	1029661	(-)9.48%	1172900	981243	(+)75.06%	1588400	(+)35.43%
3	3451	Renovation and Alteration(#)	--	11698	70000	42804	--	75000	41895	--	--	(-)100.00%
4	3451	Information Technology (Revenue)(#)	--	10487	30000	24110	--	25000	18605	--	--	(-)100.00%
5	3451	Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister	30000	29283	30000	19387	--	30000	22476	--	30000	--
6	3451	Departmental Canteen	7000	5360	6000	5655	(-)14.29%	6500	2881	(+)8.33%	6500	--
7	3475	Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office	140000	244449	160000	157288	(+)14.29%	170000	116142	(+)6.25%	170000	--
		Total- Establishment Expenditure	932200	977328	981000	1292020	(+)5.23%	1494900	1195273	(+)52.39%	1810900	(+)21.14%
2. Other Central Expenditure												
1	3475	Grants-in-aid to National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development	90000	95000	96700	92600	(+)7.44%	98600	96700	(+)1.96%	113000	(+)14.60%
		Total- Other Central Expenditure	90000	95000	96700	92600	(+)7.44%	98600	96700	(+)1.96%	113000	(+)14.60%
3. Central Sector Schemes												
1	3475	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) (Revenue)	3000000	3324092	3420000	3419649	(+)14.00%	1453100	708997	(-)57.51%	1443000	(-)0.70%

	3475	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) (Capital) (*)	--	--	--	--	--	100000	--	--	107000	--
	3475	State Support Mission (SSM) (%)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	400000	#DIV/0!
2	3475	Plan Formulation, Appraisal and Review(^)	500000	334666	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
3	3475	Renovation & Alteration (#)	90000	26920	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
4	3475	Research and Study (&)	50000	49551	312200	34247	(+)524.40%	60000	16858	(-)80.78%	40000	(-)33.33%
5	3475	Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)((&))	180000 0	266756 3	581000 0	580960 0	(+)222.78%	100	228146	(-)100.00%	433000 0	(+)4329900.00%
6	3475	Information Technology (Revenue)(#)	30000	15008	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

@ The expenditure is upto December 2022

(#) Two detailed heads namely 1. Renovation & Alteration 2. Information Technology (Revenue) has been shifted from Scheme to Establishment at RE stage during the FY 2020-21

(&) An amount of Rs.25.22 crores is being parked under Research and Study scheme which has been re-appropriated to NITI Aayog- Headquarters during on 29.04.2021.

(^) The scheme - Plan Formulation, Appraisal and Review has been discontinued from the financial year 2021-22.

(&) Rs.22.82 crores has been booked under ODA from JICA from the Contingency Fund of India out of the provisions of Rs.400 crores provided by Budget Division, MoF.

(%)A new scheme namely "State Support Mission" (SSM) proposed by SJE Vertical has been approved and RE 2022-23 of Rs.0.50 crores and BE 2023-24 of Rs.40 crores has been allocated.

(Rs. In thousands)

Sl. No.	Major Head	Name of the Schemes	BE 2020-21	Actuals 2020-21	BE 2021-22	Actuals 2021-22	%Increase/Decrease of BE 2021-22 over BE 2020-21	BE 2022-23	Actuals 2022-23 (@)	%Increase/Decrease of BE 2022-23 over BE 2021-22	BE 2023-24	% Increase/Decrease of BE 2023-24 over BE 2022-23
7	5475	Information Technology (Capital)	7800	2819	7800	--	--	7500	--	(-)3.85%	--	(-)100.00%
		Total- Central Sector Schemes	5477800	6420619	9550000	9263496	(+)74.34%	1620700	954001	(-)83.03%	6320000	(+)289.95%
		GRAND TOTAL	6500000	7492947	10627700	10648116	(+)63.50%	3214200	2245974	(-)69.76%	8243900	(+)156.48%
	3451	Deduct Recoveries		--		(-) 1587						
	3475	Deduct Recoveries		(-) 6051		(-)5179						
				7486896		10641350						

Ministry of Planning

Demand No. 77

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) including Self Employment and Talent Utilization (SETU) (CS)

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2023-24			OUTCOME 2023-24					
	2023-24	Output	Indicators	Targets 2023-24	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2023-24		
155.00	a. Atal Incubation Centre								
	1.	To Build the platform for innovation and entrepreneurship	1.1	Number of AICs established	15*	1.Promote a culture of entrepreneurship& innovation in India	1.1.	Number of start-ups incubated (physical and virtual)	600
			1.2	Number of Incubator / Startup excellence sessions facilitated by AIM Incubators	400		1.2.	No. of jobs created by AIM startups (direct/indirect)	3000
			1.3	Number of values adding partnerships established by AICs	100		1.3.	Leveraged external funding for startups through AIM incubators (x is amount of seed funding through AIM grant)	8x

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2023-24			OUTCOME 2023-24				
	2023-24	Output	Indicators	Targets 2023-24	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2023-24	
		1.4	Number of mentors in AICs	120		1.4. Number of Intellectual Properties (IP) filed by AIC incubates	60	
	b. Atal Tinkering Lab							
	1. To Build the platform for innovation and entrepreneurship	1.1	Number of ATLs to be established.	1000*	1.Promote a culture of and ecosystem for entrepreneurship & innovation in India	1.1.	Number of students engaged in ATL innovation projects	40000
		1.2	Number of school staff/teachers engaged in ATLs (in total schools)	3000		1.2.	Number of ATL student prototype innovations created	4000
		1.3	Number of ATL Innovation Challenges Initiated	5		1.3.	Number of Students recognized through SIP/SEP/Partnership Recognition programs	400
	c. Atal New India Challenge							
	1. Atal New India Challenge	1.1.No of ANIC challenges launched with ministries	20	1. Products based on cutting edge technology relevant to the Indian context	1.1	No of innovations entries through challenges	400	

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2023-24			OUTCOME 2023-24			
	2023-24	Output	Indicators	Targets 2023-24	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2023-24
		1.2.No of Innovation challenges launched with Partners (pvt/intl/others)	4				
		1.3.No of ANIC winners connected to potential buyers at Central, State, and local levels	12			1.2 No of new ANIC innovations created	50
						1.3 No of ANIC winners connected to government and private sector investors	6
d. Atal Community Innovation Centers							
	1. Atal Community Innovation Centers	1.1 No. of Atal Community Innovation Centers supported	15	1. Create a culture of inclusive innovations through Atal Community Innovation Centers		1.1 Number of ACIC start-ups incubated (physical and virtual)	400
		1.2 Number of Innovation knowledge sharing sessions conducted by ACIC	20			1.2 Number of local community jobs created by ACICs	1000
						1.3 Number of Intellectual Properties (IP) filed by ACIC incubates	50

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2023-24			OUTCOME 2023-24				
	2023-24	Output	Indicators	Targets 2023-24	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2023-24	
	e. Atal Innovation Mission							
	1. To create an umbrella structure to oversee Innovation ecosystem of the country	1.1	Number of volunteers/mentors of change enrolled with AIM	500	1. Creating Beneficiaries from Innovation Ecosystem created by AIM	1.1	Number of sessions conducted by mentors	500
		1.2	Collaborations and advisory with ministries and departments	7		1.2	Number of capacity building sessions conducted by AIM to pilot innovations in ministries	7
		1.3	Number of Vernacular Innovation Task Force Created	88		1.3	Number of beneficiaries of knowledge sharing sessions conducted by Vernacular Task Force	500
	2. Strategic programs and partnerships to identify and fill the gaps in the innovation and	1.1	No. of programs ongoing/introduced for linking the different stakeholders in the ecosystem	5	1. Connect different stakeholders of national ecosystem such as startups, investors, corporate, innovators, academia, enablers through various forums 2. Facilitate showcasing of Innovative solutions by solution	1.1	No. of connections made between different stakeholders	150
						1.2	Number of Innovation solutions showcased at national / international forums	80

FINANCIAL OUTLAY (Rs in Cr)	OUTPUTS 2023-24			OUTCOME 2023-24			
	2023-24	Output	Indicators	Targets 2023-24	Outcome	Indicators	Targets 2023-24
	entrepreneurship ecosystem of the country (i.e. programs open to AIM beneficiaries and beyond)	(e.g. AIM iLEAP, AIM PRIME, AIM ICDK Challenges etc.)		providers (students/startups/entrepreneurs) to solution seekers (investors/corporate/MSME/not-for-profits etc)			
		1.2 Ongoing and new partnerships forged	50	3. Facilitating transactions between solutions seekers (potential buyers) with innovative solutions (products/technologies) that are showcased (e.g. POCs, Commercial Orders, Pilot Implementations etc.)	1.3 No. of transactions facilitated between solution providers (students/startups) and solution seekers (Government/investors/corporate/MSME/not-for-profits etc)	20	
				4. Provide strategic value to AIM and its beneficiaries through partners	1.4 Number of beneficiaries benefitted through capacity development, knowledge modules developed, access to specialized infrastructure through the partners	80	

**The estimated figures are purely tentative subject to change on the finalization of budget outlay.*

2. Official Development Assistance(ODA) from Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA) for Sustainable Development Goals (EAP-SDGs)

Financial Outlay (In crores)	Outputs (2023-24)			Outcomes (2023-24)		
	2023-24	Output	Indicator (s)	Target 2023-24	Outcome	Indicator (s)
433(Amount proposed)	Rs. 360crores to be distributed in a year (Window I)	No. of proposals submitted by the ranked districts/ blocks to utilize the funds	To get proposals from awarded districts and blocks	Projects are expected to be implemented in districts/ blocks securing ranks	No. of proposals approved by the Empowered Committee	To approve proposals of districts and blocks
	To get proposals of Rs. 65 crores (Window - II)	Critical projects affecting one or more districts/ blocks	To get proposals of Rs. 65 crores (Window - II)	Projects are expected to be implemented	Critical projects submitted by district/ block to be approved by the Empowered Committee	To approve project (s) worth Rs. 65 crores (Window - II)
	Proposals worth Rs. 8 crores for strengthening of Institutional arrangement at NITI Aayog for monitoring SDGs in India and capacity building (Window - III)	Capacity building measures	To undertake capacity building measures/ trainings worth Rs. 8 crores and strengthening of Institutional arrangement at NITI Aayog for	Proposals for strengthening of Institutional arrangement at NITI Aayog for monitoring SDGs in India and	Capacity building measures	To undertake capacity building measures/ trainings worth Rs. 8 crores and strengthening of Institutional arrangement at NITI Aayog for

			monitoring SDGs.	capacity building (Window - III)		monitoring SDGs (Window - III)
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3. State Support Mission(SSM) :

Financial Outlay (In crores)	Outputs (2023-24)			Outcomes (2023-24)			
	2023-24	Output	Indicator (s)	Target 2023-24	Outcome	Indicator (s)	Target 2023-24
40	Engagement with states	Total amount of funds released to States for M&E systems, Studies, workshops and other admin exp		Rs.40 crores	Number of States supported under SSM to develop their strategies and State Vision @2047 in alignment with India Vision @2047 and other national development priorities.	Number of SITs formed	7
		No. of workshops/ trainings/ conferences conducted		8			
		Deployment of Human resources in States - SITs		Target amenable*			

* Since they are state specific and Demand Driven
