

Chapter 3: Planning

3.1 District Planning Committee

Government of India envisages an inclusive and participative planning process for the development of districts. The 74th Amendment to the Constitution mandated the establishment of a District Planning Committee (DPC) for consolidating the plans prepared by the Panchayats and municipalities in the district into an integrated District Plan. All the three tiers of local administration viz., DRDA, Blocks and GPs were to prepare an Annual Action Plan (AAP) at the beginning of each financial year equivalent in value of about 125 *per cent* of their share of funds allocated in the preceding year and no work was to be taken up unless it formed part of the AAP.

3.2 Policy and Planning

District Planning and Monitoring Committee (DPMC), formed in August 2004, with a Cabinet ranked minister from the District as the Chairman of the Committee, is the apex body in the District. The committee is to meet as many times as felt necessary during the year and should particularly meet in the month of August for scrutiny, amendment of district level plans, preparation of Perspective Plan and Integrated Plan for overall development of the District. Review and monitoring of implementation of the schemes is also the function of the DPMC.

3.3 Perspective and Annual Plans

Audit scrutiny revealed that DPMC had not prepared any Perspective Plan or AAP or even shelf of schemes for overall development of the district. District Development Plan was not prepared prior to 2006-07 as discussed in Para-6.1.3. Thus, the envisaged planning process was not adhered to. The Committee had met four times during 2006-10 to review the progress of implementation of the development schemes.

Planning for urban development includes planning for employment generation in urban areas under the scheme “Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rojgar Yojana” (SJSRY) and also planning for infrastructure development under “Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns” (IDSMT).

The District Urban Development Authority (DUDA), which implements the SJSRY and IDSMT, did not prepare any action plan for implementation of the schemes. Besides, preparation of shelf of projects and identification of beneficiaries through survey was also not done.

In the implementation of IDSMT planning process started after receipt of funds based on the quantum of funds. Shelf of projects and AAPs were not prepared as discussed in Para-7.3.1.

Thus, preparation of AAPs was done on an ad-hoc basis and most significantly,

survey and identification of beneficiaries were not done.

NREGS, Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) were implemented by DRDA through ZP and GPs during 2005-10. Annual action plans indicating location-wise distribution of works for execution based on proposals made by Village Level Committees/Gram Sabhas, however, were not shown to Audit. Under NREGS/SGRY year-wise

targets for employment generation were not fixed. Hence, transparency in planning process as envisaged in the guidelines could not be ascertained in audit.

Thus, adequate and envisaged planning process was absent in the District. Schemes and programmes were implemented without assessing the actual requirement of the area/people and without identifying the actual beneficiaries.

In the absence of perspective plans and integrated annual action plans for the development of the District with inputs from Blocks, GPs and ULBs, gaps in various developmental schemes/ programmes remained unidentified with the result that the felt needs of the weaker sections (both rural and urban) of the society and the disparities between various regions and communities within the District could not be addressed adequately.

Recommendation

Holistic perspective and integrated annual plans should be prepared for the District, based on a structured process of obtaining inputs from Blocks and GPs and other stakeholders for a more realistic assessment of the District.

