

Chapter 3: Planning

District Policy and Planning

Government of India envisages an inclusive and participative planning process for the development of a district. The 74th Amendment to the constitution mandated the establishment of District Planning Committee (DPC) for consolidating the plans prepared by panchayat and municipalities in the district into an integrated District Plan. As the State of Jammu and Kashmir has not introduced Panchayati Raj system, there was no Panchayati Raj Institutions in the district. Hence, the people at grass root level were not involved in the district planning process. In Rajouri, the District Development Board (DDB) functioned as the apex planning body. It was headed by a senior Cabinet Minister of the State and had District Development Commissioner (DDC), Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chief Planning Officer, MLAs of all constituencies of the district and sectoral/departmental heads as its members. It finalised the annual action plans for the district and approved schemes.

Audit findings

- There was no long term plan for the development of the District. However, Annual Action Plans formulated by the Rural Development Department only were approved by the DDB. In respect of other departments (viz., Public Health Engineering, Roads & Bridges, Industries, etc.), each department had their own annual plans. These were not put up for approval to the DDB. Hence, there was no coordinated planning in the District.
- There was, however, no District Planning Committee in existence to prepare a Perspective Plan based on relevant parameters and inputs from various stakeholders.
- District administration had played no role in the planning or monitoring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and State Plan Schemes which were planned and finalised by the concerned administrative departments and executed by the sectoral heads.

In the absence of perspective plan and integrated annual plan for the development of district with inputs from various stakeholders, gaps in developmental schemes/programmes remained unidentified with the result that the needs of the weaker section of the society within the district could not be addressed.

Recommendations

- *For a more realistic assessment of the needs of the district a holistic perspective plan should be prepared for the district involving representatives of the district administration, implementing departments of the Government and beneficiaries of the programmes.*
- *District administration should be made responsible for monitoring the program of the schemes and initiating mid-course corrections.*