

## Chapter 3: Planning

### 3.1 District Planning Committee

The 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment mandated the establishment of a District Planning Committee (DPC) for consolidating the plans prepared by the panchayats and municipalities in the District into the Draft District Plan. The Eleventh Five year Plan also emphasized the critical need for an inclusive planning process involving the elected local government representatives in planning, implementing and supervising the delivery of essential public services.

### 3.2 Policy and Planning

The Government of Assam constituted (August 2004) the District Planning and Monitoring Committee (DPMC) for each district with a cabinet ranked Minister from the District as the Chairman of the Committee. 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, and approval of the district level plans prepared by development departments. In addition, monitoring 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 even a shelf of schemes for overall development of the District. Annual Action Plan (AAP) under District Development Plan (DDP) was prepared by CEO, Zilla Parishad for the years 2007-12. DPMC had met once every year during 2007-12 to review the progress of implementation of the development schemes.

Planning for urban development mainly 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 through Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) *viz.*, MBs and Town Committees (TCs) did not prepare any annual action plan for implementation of the schemes. Identification of beneficiaries through survey was also not done.

In the implementation of IDSMT in two out of three ULBs, planning process started only after receipt of funds and was based on the quantum of funds and works/projects were sanctioned without preparation of AAP as discussed in para 7.3.1.

The schemes for rural development *viz.*, MGNREGS, SGRY and IAY were implemented by DRDA through Zilla Parishad (ZP), Anchalik Panchayats (APs) and Gram Panchayats (GPs) during 2007-12. AAP indicating location-wise distribution of

works for execution, based on proposals made by Village Level Committees/ Gram Sabhas, were however, not shown to audit though called for.

It was, thus, not possible to conclude in audit that transparency in planning process as envisaged in the guidelines of the schemes was ensured.

In the absence of perspective plans and integrated district plans, gaps in various developmental activities remained unidentified. AAPs were prepared without any inputs from village level committees, consequently needs of the weaker sections of the society remained unaddressed. Envisaged planning process as contemplated in the guidelines through community participation was thus absent.

During the exit conference, DC accepted the audit observations.

### **Recommendations**

- DC should ensure preparation of shelf of schemes through community participation in the planning process by working out an action plan well in time.
- Prioritisation from shelf of schemes for implementation should be done after analysis of gaps in infrastructure by integrating the same with the perspective plan.