

Chapter 3 Planning

District Policy and Planning

The Constitution of India (74th amendment) has mandated establishment of a District Planning Committee (DPC) to make the planning process inclusive and participative for the overall development of the district and satisfy the needs and aspirations of the community. The DPC is to formulate the perspective plan for the District on the basis of data with regard to poverty reduction, district domestic product, health, employment generation, living standards, per capita income and other socio-economic development parameters collected from the block and panchayat levels and use as a tool for effective planning for distribution of resources and monitoring their utilization. Due to non-enactment of the amendment by the State Legislature, a District Development Board (DDB) functions as a DPC, headed by a senior Cabinet Minister of the State as its Chairman, DDC as its Member Secretary, and departmental heads and MPs, MLAs and MLCs as its members. The DDB finalizes the annual plan of the district.

Audit findings

- It was seen that no perspective plan, considered to be a key parameter for development of the district for long term planning, was being formulated at the district level.
- The district plan was being formulated on the directions of the Planning and Development Department on the basis of sector-wise ceiling communicated by the Government which was being approved by the DDB.

The absence of perspective plan and integrated annual plans, based on inputs from stakeholders, has prevented identification of gaps in the availability of infrastructure, with the result the needs of the general masses particularly the weaker sections including SC/ST population could not be assessed or addressed.

Recommendations

- ✚ ***A District Planning Committee needs to be set up in accordance with the GOI guidelines for the preparation of holistic perspective plan/annual plans for the district based on inputs obtained from blocks, Panchayats and beneficiaries for reliable long term planning and overall development of the District.***