

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Substantial funds are allocated to social and economic sectors through state sector by States and also by the Government of India through flagship programmes (Centrally sponsored schemes) with a view to ensuring efficient and effective delivery system. To achieve this goal, empowerment of the local Governments at the District, Block and Gram Panchayat levels are absolutely necessary. Due to non-implementation of the Panchayati Raj System, the involvement of these entities in implementation of various socio-economic programmes in the State is bare minimum. Most of the funds provided through CSS are provided directly by the GOI to the executing agencies instead of routing the same through the State Government to avoid/reduce loss of time in release of funds.

As more emphasis has been laid by the GOI on development through District-centric approach, the District audit of Baramulla was undertaken to assess the impact of various socio-economic developmental activities on various sectors undertaken in the District and bring out shortcomings in achievement of the laid down targets alongwith significant positives in the sectors like education, medical, Public health (PHE), Rural Development, Forest etc. during 2005-06 to 2010-11.

PLANNING

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

FUND MANAGEMENT

The total allocation of funds under all the components and spending thereagainst in respect of various sectoral offices/departments was not available with the Chief Planning Officer. In respect of major socio-economic programmes/schemes, the funds received directly by implementing agencies are shown as utilized as soon as they are released even though major portion of the released funds remained unutilized with lower level functionaries.

Recommendations

Financial management needs substantial improvement. A reliable centralized system of receipt and utilization of funds should be put in place to keep a watch over their effective utilization so that the benefits of the investments percolate down to the masses for which the schemes have been formulated. The administrative expenditure needs to be reduced to 35 per cent of the total expenditure as recommended by the 12th Finance Commission.

SOCIAL SERVICES

EDUCATION

The number of schools in the district, although, had increased over a period of time, it had not been commensurate with the enrolment. Neither had the targeted infrastructure been provided nor basic amenities provided in the schools. The pass percentage of students though satisfactory needs to be improved.

The lifting and consumption of food grains for Mid-day Meal programme (MDM) was not up to the mark. A large number of schools were without kitchen-sheds and drinking water facilities.

Recommendations

Adequate infrastructure/amenities like toilets, safe drinking water facilities, playground, separate toilets for girls, electricity, kitchen shed, etc. should be provided at schools. Schools building lying incomplete should be completed on priority, Deployment of teachers needs to be made in a balanced way as per norms for imparting of quality education. All interventions aimed at promoting girl's education need to be implemented fully including establishment of KGVBs. Sincere efforts should be made to provide mid-day meals to all enrolled students.

HEALTH

Despite National Rural health Programme being under implementation for long the shortage of infrastructure existed. Community participation was virtually non-existent. Achievements under interventions like control of blindness, institutional deliveries and immunization was not upto the desired levels. Inadequate manpower and non-involvement of ASHAs in the sector made the provision of healthcare precarious. Family planning had not been given its due share in the district.

Recommendation

The District level authorities particularly District Health Society ought to take steps to survey and identify gaps in health care infrastructure and facilities so that the District and lower level plans are formulated on more realistic basis. Steps need to be taken to provide requisite infrastructure and basic amenities like electricity, standby power, drinking water facility, proper accommodation facility for patients and for staff for ensuring improvement in quality of health services to all health centre up to SC level. Services of ASHAs need to be revived to ensure their effective participation through assured earnings. Maternal health programmes need to be implemented comprehensively with focus on components like registration, antenatal checkups, post-natal checkups, immunization and administering of vaccines, IFA tablets, etc. The District needs to increase male participation in use of family planning methods which is almost negligible at present. In the absence of Panchayati Raj institutions, the District needs to establish village health and sanitation committees for effective community participation.

DRINKING WATER

Out of the schemes aggregating 209, only 25 schemes had been completed during 2006-11 leaving 184 schemes in progress at the close of March 2011 which showed that the works in progress had shown a phenomenal increase of about 156 per cent over the period which implied that proper phasing had not been done by prioritizing WSSs. Unplanned execution and taking-up of schemes for execution without identification of sites/acquisition of land resulted in unfruitful expenditure and unnecessary cost over-runs.

Recommendations

Perspective plans should be formulated so that water supply schemes are taken up for execution in a phased manner. The schemes should be prioritized keeping in consideration the availability of funds so as to avoid delays in completion thereby avoiding time overrun, cost overrun and the risk of obsolescence. Before taking up the works for execution it should be ensured that the sources of the schemes are perennial, developed and free from encumbrances so that the envisaged benefits are derived.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

The Council had not reviewed the process of registration or conducted survey to enlist the new traders/professionals so far and the number of such traders/professionals had remained stagnant over the years. Possibility of coming up of new buildings without proper permission of the Council had not been ensured. Check of sale of adulterated food and management of solid waste was not up to the mark. Establishment various civic amenities such as town hall, abattoir, parking, public conveniences, etc. had not been prioritized.

Recommendations

Municipal Council should proactively establish various civic amenities such as town hall, abattoir, parking, public conveniences, etc. in the District through better planning and better manpower and revenue management. Available manpower should be deployed effectively for optimizing realizations from rents, rates and taxes.

ECONOMIC SECTOR

ROAD CONNECTIVITY

Completion of road works both under State sector and other centrally sponsored schemes was dismal as prioritization was missing. A number of road works had been taken on land not acquired for the purpose, resultant unfruitful expenditure of ₹ 3.16 crore.

Recommendations:

Better planning in terms of prioritization of works and resources and land settlements and clearances are required to prevent wastages and expedite extension of intended

benefits of all-weather road connectivity of all villages. This should include appropriate policy interventions with a view to streamlining various processes. Stringent efforts need to be made by Project implementation unit and PMGSY Authorities to settle all pending issues for speedy completion of works within the stipulated time.

POWER SCENARIO

Power scenario in the district was dismal. Various schemes undertaken in the district had failed to reduce power losses. Metering of consumers to check power thefts had not been achieved to the desired levels. Arrears of revenue had accumulated to exorbitant heights over the years.

Recommendation

Feeder metering, consumer metering and establishment of computerized billing centres should be completed on priority basis so as to ensure proper accounting of energy and minimizing the transmission and distribution losses. Stringent action should be taken for recovery of outstanding dues in full.

FOREST DEPARTMENT

There was tardy implementation of afforestation schemes for rehabilitation of degraded forests as the targets fixed and achievements made thereagainst were insignificant as compared to the availability of degraded forests. No action to evict the encroached upon forest areas had been taken by the department. Compensatory afforestation programmes for the land transferred for non-forestry purposes was not upto the mark. Watershed development committees had not been set up.

Recommendations

Steps need to be taken to tackle degradation of forests on a large scale and recover forest land from encroachers in right earnest. Besides, projects for compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest lands diverted for non-forest purposes need to be formulated and executed on priority. For maintenance and sustaining the assets created in the saturated watersheds, watershed development committees need to be involved and provided with corpus fund so that the benefits of the investment may accrue to the common man for a longer period of time.

INDUSTRIES

New credit linked subsidy programme “Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)” launched in the District level replacing “Prime Ministers Rozgar Yojna (PMRY)” had not been implemented in letter and spirit as loan in most of the cases had not been disbursed. Though training had been imparted to the prospective entrepreneurs, yet in none of the cases had the units been established. Most of the industrial units established were non-functional.

Recommendations

For ensuring nearly 100 per cent disbursement of sponsored loan cases, periodical meetings need to be conducted with financial institutions to reconcile the problems in time. Industrial units established need to be revived and allottees approached for taking up their bonafide trades. Upcoming and interested entrepreneurs need to be provided training courses under different trades and encouraged to take up their bona-fide trade under running schemes.

GENERAL SERVICES

LAW AND ORDER

Inadequate housing facilities and other infrastructure was noticed in the district. Deficiency in weaponry, mobility and training to the police personnel contributed to non-reduction in the response time. Cases pending investigation were seen to be on the rise.

Recommendations

Adequate housing facility need to be provided to police personnel, particularly at the police stations. Deficiency of weaponry, mobility, trainings etc needs to be made good to enable the force to meet future challenges. Attention needs to be paid to provide better infrastructure and mobility at police stations for smooth and fast actions to reduce response time. Stringent efforts need to be made to finalize the pending investigation cases.