

CHAPTER V: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

State Level Committee for co-ordination and supervision, including representatives of GOI and State Government and district level committees were required to be formed for implementation of the GOI package. Similarly, appropriate institutional structures were to be created at local level for delivery of the package. The GOM on 19 December 2005 set up VNSSM at Amravati for co-ordinating and monitoring the package declared by GOM. In addition, special cell was created at Mantralaya in August 2006. All information regarding both packages was to be submitted to this cell and Principal Secretary, R&R. Audit observed that the monitoring and evaluation of packages was not adequate and effective as discussed below:

5.1 Weak reporting mechanism

It was observed that no specific time limit was prescribed for sending information to Principal Secretary, R&R/Director General, VNSSM. Reports on progress regarding implementation of the packages were not sent to GOI by R&R Wing, the nodal department of GOM. Government's comments on implementation and monitoring by the R&R wing were not received as of January 2008.

The Principal Secretary (R&R) stated (November 2007) that the information sent to GOI would be submitted to Audit shortly. These were not received as of January 2008.

5.2 VNSSM not effective

Government created VNSSM for monitoring of the implementation of Packages. VNSSM, however, had no dedicated staff apart from its Director General and a driver. Neither accountability was prescribed for reports of expenditure, etc. submitted to VNSSM, nor was a mechanism evolved to ensure accuracy of expenditure reported to the Mission. Consequently, it failed to even watch the expenditure incurred by the implementing departments under various components. The differences in the figures of expenditure compiled by VNSSM and reported by the Departments have not been reconciled (December 2007) as already stated in paragraph 2.4.

5.3 Evaluation of impact on agrarian distress

The aim of the packages was to reduce agrarian distress in six districts of Vidarbha. However, no mechanism was evolved to evaluate the impact of implementation of the package on the agrarian distress.

Considering the deficiencies noticed in the various components of the packages, under utilisation of the available funds, important areas of the agrarian distress not being covered under the packages and coverage of a fraction of the distressed farmers reduction in farmers' distress in Vidarbha Region does not inspire confidence. Further, the possibility that agrarian distress essentially caused by un-remunerative agriculture would start rising again in the closing years of the package and thereafter, unless corrective

actions are taken, cannot be ruled out. Such distress could increase significantly particularly after the moratorium on loan repayment expires.

The Principal Secretary, R&R stated (November 2007) that improvement in the package to enhance the income augmentation through long term measures was under consideration. Specific plans beyond the package aimed at increasing agricultural productivity by four *per cent* were also being drawn up.

Success of the measures mentioned by Principal Secretary, R&R would be critical to the reduction of agrarian distress.

5.4 Conclusion

The monitoring and reporting of the packages was not satisfactory. No reliable data relating to expenditure under different components of the packages was available particularly when the packages are of vital importance to the State. No evaluation of the implementation of the package in terms of reduction in agrarian distress was made.

5.5 Recommendations

- An effective reporting mechanism needs to be urgently established and operated.
- A suitable system should be put in place in VNSSM for getting reliable data from all line departments.

Observations in this Report were reported to the Government (July 2007); their replies (October and November 2007) have been incorporated at appropriate places.

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