
Dear Chief Secretary,

I am writing in connection with the discussions on Annual Plan 2012-13 of States / UTs with the Planning Commission.

The Draft Approach Paper to the 12th Plan was discussed in the National Development Council on 22nd October 2011. The preparation of 12th Plan has been initiated with several Steering Committees and Working Groups deliberating on various issues and programmes. The State Government officials have also been actively participating in these discussions. We shall keep you informed of the progress in due course.

I understand that the State Governments have also initiated work on their 12th Five Year State Plan. It is an opportune time to undertake a detailed review of all existing programmes to determine whether they should be continued during the 12th Plan or not and whether they need to be suitably altered to achieve the new objectives set for them. I would urge you to undertake a comprehensive review of all ongoing programmes, particularly those which are fully backed up by States’ own resources. In assessing State resources for the Plan, it is also necessary to consider the guidelines on classification of expenditure, which are enclosed herewith.

As you are aware, plan resources have come under pressure due to several factors such as slowdown in growth in an uncertain global economic situation, need to reduce the fiscal deficit and high oil prices. Therefore, the resources for the Annual Plan 2012-13 can only show a modest increase over the Annual Plan 2011-12. Strong steps are needed to improve efficiency in the use of resources and curtail non-essential and non-productive expenditure. The level of the Centre’s Gross Budgetary Support for the Annual Plan 2012-13 is yet to be decided. You may tentatively go ahead with the preparation of Draft Annual Plan based on resources estimated at the official level resource discussions.

Adviser (Financial Resources) vide his D.O. letter dated 11th November, 2011 has requested the Finance Secretary of your State / UT to furnish the requisite data to hold resource discussions with the State / UT in November-December 2011. I request you to send the information timely so that the official level resource discussions for Annual Plan 2012-13 are completed on time.

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Joint Secretary (State Plan), Planning Commission will shortly forward to your Planning Secretary a set of formats for inviting proposals for Annual Plan 2012-13. We expect to receive the Annual Plan proposals of your State / UT soon after the meeting on assessment of resources is completed. This will be followed by Working Group discussions and then Deputy Chairman – Chief Minister level discussions. The proposed schedule for the Annual Plan exercise for 2012-13 is broadly indicated in the Annexure.

We look forward to a constructive and fruitful dialogue between the Planning Commission and your State/UT Government in completion of Annual Plan exercise for 2012-13.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Sudha Pillai)

Chief Secretaries of all States/UT's