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No. PLG -FC (F) 3-7/2015-16(Main)
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Planning Department

From

Adviser (Planning)
H.P. Shimla-2

To

1. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Animal Husbandry)
to the Govt. of H.P. Shimla-2
2. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Agriculture)
to the Govt. of H.P. Shimla-2
3. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Horticulture)
to the Govt. of H.P. Shimla-2
4. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Tourism)
to the Govt. of H.P. Shimla-2
5. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Urban Development)
to the Govt. of H.P. Shimla-2
6. The Secretary (SCs, OBCs & Minority Affairs)
to the Govt. of H.P. Shimla-2
7. The Secretary (Rural Development)
to the Govt. of H.P. Shimla-2
8. The Managing Director,
Koshal Vikas Nigam, HP, Shimla-2

Dated Shimla-2, the 18th December, 2015

Subject:

Regarding constitution of Task Force on Poverty Elimination and comments of the State Government on the points of the NITI Aayog.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to enclose a copy of letter No. SMH-01/2015-16-RDD-286 dated 3rd July, 2015 alongwith enclosures received from Deputy Secretary (RD) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh on the subject cited above. In this regard, it is to inform you that the Task Force constituted by the State Government on "Poverty Elimination" has recommended/suggested certain initiatives which are required to be taken by different departments for poverty elimination (Item No.3 of the enclosed Task Force Report).

In view of above, you are requested to take necessary action on the points(s) pertaining to your department under intimation to the Rural Development Department as well as the Planning Department. You are also requested to propose initiatives based on Task Force recommendations in next financial year budget/ budget speech so that these recommendations are given a practical shape.

Yours faithfully,

(Akshay Sood)
Adviser (Planning)
Himachal Pradesh,
Shimla-171002.

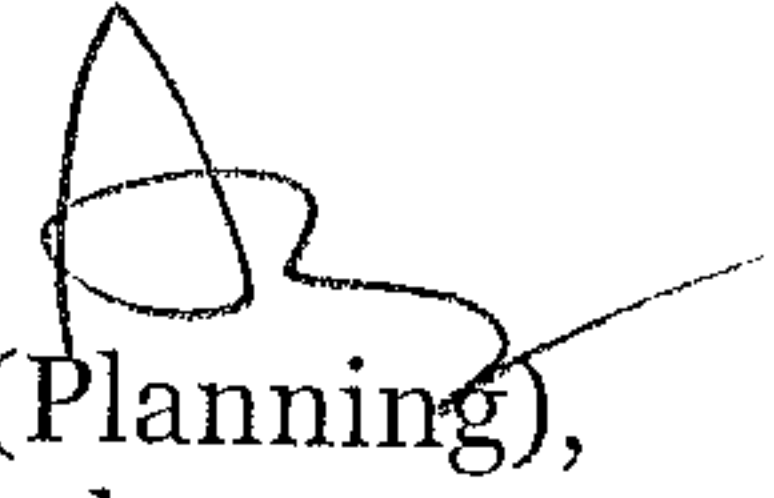
Endst. No As above Dated Shimla-2 the

18th

December, 2015

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. The Deputy Secretary (RD) w.r.t. his letter referred to above for information and further necessary action. He is also requested to upload the Task Force report on departmental website please.
2. Director, Animal Husbandry/Agriculture/Horticulture/Tourism/Urban Development/ SOMA/ RD/Adviser (Planning).


Adviser (Planning),
H.P. Shimla-2.

Regd.

No.SMH-01/2015-16--RDD- 286
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Rural Development Department

From:

The Secretary (RD) to the
Government of HP, Shimla-2

To

The Chief Executive Officer
NITI Aayog, Government of India
Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Dated Shimla-9

3rd July, 2015

Subject: -

Regarding constitution of Task Force on Poverty
Elimination and comments of the State Government
on the points of the NITI Aayog.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to your DO No.O-11013/O/2015-
NI dated 17th March,2015 addressed to Chief Secretary to the Government of HO regarding above
subject and to enclose herewith the consolidated views of the State Government on the points raised
by you for favour of your information and necessary action please.

Encl : As Above

Yours faithfully.

(Jitender Sanjta)

Deputy Secretary (RD) to the
Government of HP, Shimla-9
Telephone No.0177-2623822
e-mail : rddhimachal@gmail.com

Endorsement No. As Above

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Dated Shimla-9 3rd July, 2015

Copy forwarded to : The Principal Secretary (Planning) to the Government of HP, Shimla-2 in reference
to letter No. PLG-FC(F) 3-7/2015-16 (Main) dated 2nd April, 10th April, 2015 15th May, 2015 and 22nd
May, 2015 for information please.

(Jitender Sanjta)

Deputy Secretary (RD) to the
Government of HP, Shimla-9
Telephone No.0177-2623822
e-mail : rddhimachal@gmail.com

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No.SMH-01/2014-15-RDD-
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Rural Development Department

ORDER

Subject:

Constitution of Task Force at the State level under the Chairpersonship of Principal Secretary (RD) to the Government of HP as per requirement of NITI Aayog, Government of India.

In pursuance to letter Number PLG-FC(F)3-7/2015-16(Main) dated 2nd April, 2015 and letter of even number dated 10th April, 2015 issued by the Planning Department regarding constitution of the Task Force on the elimination of Poverty in the State on the analogy of similar task force constituted by the NITI Aayog, Government of India at the National level, the State Level Task Force for Himachal Pradesh under the chairpersonship of Principal Secretary (RD) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh is constituted as below :

1. Principal Secretary (RD) to the Govt. of HP	Chairperson
2. Secretary , Agriculture or his/her representative	Member
3. Secretary, Horticulture or his/her representative	Member
4. Secretary , Animal Husbandry or his/her representative	Member
5. Secretary, Industries or his/her representative	Member
6. Secretary , SJ&E or his/her representatives	Member
7. Secretary, Urban Development or his/her representative	Member
8. Secretary , Labour & Employment or his/her representative	Member
9. Secretary, Tribal Dev. Deptt. or his/her representative	Member
10. Director, Agriculture Department	Member
11. Director, Horticulture Department	Member
12. Director, Animal Husbandry Department	Member
13. Director, Industries Department	Member
14. Director, SCs, OBCs & Minority Affairs Department	Member
15. Director, Women & Child Development Department	Member
16. Director, Urban Development Department	Member
17. Director, Labour & Employment Department	Member
18. Head of Department, Tribal Development	Member
19. Director-cum-Special Secretary (RD) to the Govt. of HP.	Convenor-Member

By Order

**Chief Secretary (RD) to the
Government of HP, Shimla-2**

The Terms of the above Task Force will be as follows:

- i) To coordinate and develop synergy with the allied departments of the State Government who are involved in the implementation of anti-poverty programmes and activities.
- ii) To develop a working definition of poverty in the State.
- iii) To prepare a roadmap for elimination of poverty in the State.
- iv) To suggest strategies and anti-poverty programmes including reform of the existing ones.
- v) To identify successful anti-poverty programmes from where strategy for elimination of Poverty in the State can be adopted.
- vi) Any other relevant measures given in the meeting.
- vii) The Task Force will submit its report to the Planning Department before 15th June, 2015.

PTO

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Ehdorsement No. SMH-01/2014-15-RDD-1671-87
Copy forwarded for information and necessary action:

Date Shimla

26 th Ma 2015

1. The Secretary, Agriculture/Horticulture/Animal Husbandry/Industries/SJ&F /Urban Development /Labour &Employment /Tribal Development for information please.
2. The Director Agriculture/Horticulture/Animal Husbandry/Industries/SJ&E /Urban Development /Labour &Employment /Tribal Development for information please.
3. Guard File.


Special Secretary (RD) to the
Government of HP, Shimla-2

The World Bank Organization describes poverty in this way:

"Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time.

Poverty has many faces, changing from place to place and across time, and has been described in many ways. Most often, poverty is a situation people want to escape. So poverty is a call to action -- for the poor and the wealthy alike -- a call to change the world so that many more may have enough to eat, adequate shelter, access to education and health, protection from violence, and a voice in what happens in their communities."

Poverty is general scarcity or dearth, or the state of one who lacks a certain amount of material possessions or money. It includes social, economic, and political elements. Poverty is most of the time closely related to inequality. As a dynamic concept, poverty is changing and adapting according to consumption patterns, social dynamics and technological change. Absolute poverty or destitution refers to the deprivation of basic human needs, which commonly includes food, water, sanitation, clothing, shelter and health care. Relative poverty is defined contextually as economic inequality in the location or society in which people live.

In Indian context the **major causes of poverty** are :-

1. Climatic factors:

The hot climate of India reduces the capacity of people especially the ruralites to work for which production severely suffers. Frequent flood, famine, earthquake and cyclone cause heavy damage to agriculture. Moreover, absence of timely rain, excessive or deficient rain affect severely country's agricultural production.

2. Demographic factors:

- (i) Rapid growth of population
- (ii) Size of family:

3. Personal causes:

- (i) Lack of motivation:
- (ii) Idleness:

4. Economic causes:

- (i) Low agricultural productivity:
- (ii) Unequal distribution of land and other assets:
- (iii) Decline of village industries:
- (iv) Immobility of labour:
- (v) Lack of employment opportunities.

5. Social causes:

- (i) Education:
- (ii) Caste system:
- (iii) Joint family system:
- (iv) Social customs:
- (v) Growing indebtedness

Poverty in Himachal Pradesh

If we look at poverty in Himachal Pradesh we would find that Absolute Poverty is very rare in Himachal Pradesh since Himachal Pradesh has been doing well in many areas such as sanitation, education, health, social welfare, horticulture, agriculture, tourism etc. However, Relative Poverty do exist because of various factors which have been mentioned ^{earlier.} above.

As far as identification of Poverty in the State is concerned it has been presently done on the basis of Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census, the status of which is given as under:

1. BPL Census prior to the 10 th Five Year Plan

➤ During 1981-82, initially, the households having an annual income of Rs. 3500/- each were Included in the BPL list (Later on the annual income level for identification of households in the BPL list was revised to Rs. 4800/-) and a total of 303673 families were identified in the BPL list.

➤ During 1991-92, 2,59,175 (28.62%) households upto an annual income of Rs. 11000/- each were selected in the BPL list.

➤ During 1994-95, after a fresh survey, 258859 (26.69%) households having annual income up to Rs. 11000/ each were identified as below poverty line.

➤ During the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-98) the BPL Census was conducted on the basis of per Capita expenditure. The households having per capita

expenditure up to Rs. 289.31 were identified in the BPL List. On the basis of per capita consumption, identification of 2, 86, 447 (27.62%) households was done in the State during 1997-98.

2. BPL Census for the 10th Five Year Plan:

➤ The BPL Census for 10th Five Year Plan was based on normative approach for identification of the rural poor. It introduces a "Score Based Ranking" on relative deprivation revealed by certain socio-economic indicators. The survey of all rural households was carried out to secure information on a range of 13 indicators on each of which every house hold is to be ranked on a 0-4 scale. In the Guidelines it was mentioned that the number of BPL persons should not exceed the number of BPL in the State estimated by the Planning Commission for the year 1999-2000. As per poverty estimates of Planning Commission, the maximum ceiling of BPL households in the State is 2, 82,370 households.

➤ State-wise figures were fixed by the Planning Commission.

➤ On the basis of District wise/Panchayat wise households identified through the BPL Census for 9th Five Year Plan i.e. 1997-98; district wise/Panchayat wise figures were fixed by the State to the ceiling of 2,82,370 households (2,56,700 adjusted share + 25,670 an additional share of 10%) fixed by the Planning Commission.

- The door to door survey of 11,82,926 rural households was completed during May 2003 and the enumerators were mainly Gram Panchayat Awaraj Vikas

Decision of the G.O.I. to conduct fresh survey to identify B.P.L. Families for 12th Plan period i.e. SECC-2011 :-

Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India issued instructions to conduct Socio-Economic Caste Census for identification of BPL families for 12th Five Year Plan. BPL Families would be selected on the basis of Socio Economic Caste Census data. The Socio Economic Caste Census is being carried out both in Rural and Urban Areas jointly with the technical and Financial Support of the Ministry of Rural Development Department, Government of India in the State. In Himachal Pradesh Socio Economic Caste Census is in the Final Phase and is likely to be completed in a couple of months.

Task Force on Elimination of Poverty

As per the recommendations of the NITI Ayog, a Task Force on Elimination of Poverty was constituted in the State of Himachal Pradesh on 26th May 2015. The Task Force held its meeting on 10th June 2015 and discussed on the following four points:-

1. What do you think will constitute elimination of poverty in the State?
2. Successful Programmes in this area that the State would like to share with other States?
3. What initiatives would the State take for elimination of Poverty as defined above?
4. In what way can NITI assist the States in its endeavours?

The recommendations/Findings of the Task Force are as follows:-

1. What do you think will constitute elimination of poverty in the State?

• Since economy of Himachal Pradesh is basically rural and most of the rural families are associated with cattle, Improving cattle breeds and linking small holder livestock keepers to better paying markets is very important.

• As stated above most of the population is Rural based and are dependent on Agriculture, promoting off season vegetables and temperate fruits and bringing about changes through adoption of poly houses, organic farming and modern methods of agriculture can definitely help eradicate poverty.

• Himachal Pradesh has huge Tourism potential, taking the benefits of tourism activities to the rural and off beat areas of the state needs to be

Adhikaris (GPVAs), GPVAs under training, Takiniki Sahayaks, Panchayat Sahayaks, Anganwari Workers, Saksharta Volunteers and JBT Teachers.

➤ At district level, the DCs were the Coordinating Officers and at block level the BDO's did the Coordination job. A total 4,013 personnel were involved and an expenditure of Rs. 72.35 lacs was incurred on survey.

➤ The 13 parameters on which every household was ranked on 0-4 score are as under:

Size group of operational holding of land. 2. Type of house. 3. Average availability of normal wear clothing. 4. Food security. 5. Sanitation. 6. Ownership of consumer durables. 7. Literacy status of the highest literate adult. 8. Status of the household labour force. 9. Means of livelihood. 10. Status of Children. 11. Type of indebtedness. 12. Reason for migration from household. 13. Preference of assistance.

➤ The BPL Census process was stayed all over India by the Hon'ble Supreme Court during 2003 and the stay was vacated in 2006.

➤ During December 2006, in the cabinet meeting held on 20th December 2006, it was approved that the allocation of BPL families in each Panchayat be made in proportion to 1997-98 BPL families subject to a minimum of 10 BPL families in each Panchayat.

➤ As per decision of the Cabinet the instructions regarding approval of BPL lists by the Gram Sabhas in their meeting on 18th February 2007 were given to all

the Deputy Commissioners. The list of surveyed households showing the position of score in ascending order was also provided to the Gram Sabha for finalization of the BPL families.

➤ It was also prescribed in the guidelines that the households of following categories would not be considered for identification in BPL List:

- The households having ownership of more than two hectare of un-irrigated land or more than one hectare irrigated land.
- The households having Pucca urban type big house.
- Income tax payer households.
- The households having four wheel vehicles like Car, Motor, Jeep, Tractor, Truck, Bus etc.
- The households earning regular monthly income more than Rs. 2500/ from salary, Pension, Honorarium, wages, profession etc.

3. Reviews of B.P.L. List:-

The BPL Lists have been revised from time to time keeping in view the changing circumstances . the BPL List has so far been revised 3 times as per details given below.

1st REVIEW OF BPL LIST on 6th April 2008.

2nd REVIEW Of BPL LIST on 3rd April 2011.

3rd Review of BPL List on 7.04.2013.

developed and the skills of its workforce /youth needs to be enhanced so as to give occupational opportunities to all sections of society. Development of infrastructure like roads, telecommunications, basic amenities, cleanliness and sanitation etc in the state is essential for making the rural areas assessable to the tourists.

- Horticulture plays an important role in the economy of Himachal Pradesh but because of small land holdings, providing self employment opportunities through adoption of ancillary horticulture activities that require little or no land such as Nursery production, Mushroom cultivation, green house cultivation of flowers can help eliminate poverty.

- Since most of the population is Rural based, focusing on employment generation activities, strong grass root level institutions like SHGs, federations, low cost housing, skill development for self employment and low interest financial support both in urban and rural areas will go a long way in elimination of poverty.

- Providing quality education at all levels is very important, therefore the schools and colleges need to be upgraded to modern standards. Availability of adequate teaching staff needs to be taken care of and opening of more institutes especially professional ones will also help a great deal in elimination of poverty.

- Providing quality and affordable healthcare facilities is also important for Poverty elimination.

2. Successful Programmes in this area that the State would like to share with other States?

Animal Husbandry Department

(i) The Cross Breeding programme which envisages improvement of local hilly cattle which is being implemented by the Himachal Pradesh Livestock and Poultry Development Board has resulted in increase in population of crossbred cattle in the State from 6.41 lakh in the year 2003 to 9.84 lakh in the year 2012, an increase of 50.5%. Population of indigenous cattle has decreased from 15.46 lakh in the year 2003 to 11.65 lakh in the year 2012, a decline of 24.6%. Similarly, milk production in the State has increased from 372.591 thousand tons in 2002-2003 to 1172.16 thousand tons in 2014-2015, an increase of 214.6%.

(ii) Sheep Development Programmes have resulted in increase in wool production from 1594 tons in the year 2003 to 1662 tons in the year 2012 despite the fact that sheep population has decreased from 9.06 lakh in the year 2003 to 8.05 lakh in the year 2012. Department has maintained four sheep breeding farms from where rams of exotic breeds Rambouillet and Russian Merino are being provided to sheep breeders for breed improvement. Apart from this, from Ram Centre Nagwain District Mandi, breeding rams are provided free of cost during breeding season only, so that the sheep breeder is saved from bearing cost of rearing these rams all through the year.

(iii) Department is implementing Backyard Poultry Development Scheme in the State and a good response to this scheme has been obtained which is evident from the fact that poultry population has increased from 8.09 lakh in the year 2007 to 11.04 lakh in the year 2012. Backyard Poultry is a potent tool for up-

liftment of the poorest of the poor, requiring hardly any infrastructure with bare minimum night shelter facility, the birds feeding on kitchen waste, thus enriching small farmer and landless labour families in terms of improvement of income and nutritional status.

Agriculture Department

(i) Kisaan Bagwan Samridhi Yojana –Part1 “Production of Cash Crops through adoption of Precision Farming (Polyhouses). Under this scheme under 160 Hac. Area has been brought under polyhouses and about 14300 farmers have been benefited.

(ii) Kisaan Bagwan Samridhi Yojana –PartII “ Diversification of Agriculture through Micro irrigation and other related infrastructure. Under this scheme 21000 hac. area has been brought under sprinkler/drip irrigation.

(iii) Organic Farming- organic farming is being promoted in the State and 18000 hac. area has been brought under organic farming and 30000 farmers have been registered as organic producers.

(iv) Soil Health Cards.

Tourism Department

Tourism Department in Himachal Pradesh has started various schemes like HP Home Stay Scheme ,2008 and has started various training programmes for unemployed youth like that for Tourist guides ,Taxi Cab drivers ,Dhabas/restaurant owners ,workers ,adventures ,sports etc.

Horticulture Department

(i) Since MGNREGA is under implementation in whole of the state, efforts are being made for Convergence of MNREGA with Horticulture activities to provide 100 days guaranteed employment to the unemployed youths and BPL families at their door step.

(ii) Enhanced/ special incentives and subsidies for Small/ Marginal farmers to adopt popular horticulture activities like protected cultivation and micro-irrigation.

Rural Development Department

Most of the Rural Development schemes are Government of India schemes which are already being implemented throughout the country. However under the sanitation programme the State has started some reward schemes of its own which caters to the different sections of the society. These schemes are as under

(i) Maharishi Valmiki Sampoorana Swachatta Puruskaar(MVSSP) :- This scheme has been started on the pattern of Nirmal Gram Puruskaar and the Panchayats under this scheme compete at various levels i.e. Block Level, District Level, and State Level.

(ii) Mahila Mandal Protsahan Yojna:- Under this scheme Mahila Mandals or Women Groups who have done good work in field of sanitation compete and the winners are rewarded.

(iii) School Sanitation Reward Scheme:- This Scheme is for the school students so as to inculcate in them the habit of cleanliness. Under this scheme the schools compete at various levels and the good performing schools in the field of sanitation are rewarded.

The Government of India may also launch such competitive schemes so as to bring about a boost in the Sanitation Programme.

The Rural Development Department in the State has recently launched a scheme for Repair of Houses for General Category BPL families under which an assistance of upto Rs 25,000 would be provided for repair of houses. The Government of India may also launch such scheme under IAY for the repair of houses of BPL families.

Labour & Employment Department

(i) Skill Development Allowance Scheme, 2013-Implemented by Department of Labour & Employment.

The Skill Development Allowance (SDA) Scheme 2013, known as Kaushal Vikas Bhatta Yojana has been notified by the Government of Himachal Pradesh vide Notification No: Shram(D)1-2/2013 dated 21.5.2013. The objective of the Scheme is to upgrade skill level of the unemployed youth and increase employability. Under this Scheme, an allowance of Rs. 1000 (Rs. 1500 to 50% or more permanent physically handicapped) is being given per month to the unemployed Himachali eligible youth for the duration of Skill Development Training subject to maximum 24 months.

One of the eligibility criteria of the Scheme is that family income of applicant should be than less Rs. 2 lacs per annum. Therefore, this Scheme is playing vital role in providing opportunities to the economically deprived unemployed youths, in their skill up gradation and enhancing employment/self employment opportunities, who fulfill other eligibility criteria, under the Scheme. From the date of launching of the Scheme till 30/04/2015 total number of 74720 candidates have been benefitted under the Scheme and an amount of

Rs.44.61 crores Skill Development Allowance have been disbursed to these beneficiaries.

Women and Child Development Department

(i) Self Employment to Women:-

To eradicate the poverty amongst women the Department is providing grant of Rs. 2500/- for self employment to women whose income is less than Rs. 35000/- per annum. Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced to increase the grant from 2500/- to 5000/-. This grant may be increased to Rs. 10000/-, so that such women are able to sustain themselves after taking up economically viable activities. After assessing the needs of these self employed women additional funds are required for their training/capacity building/accounts keeping /exposure.

These self employed women are provided skill up gradation, self assessment and marketing of their products at the local level. Separate funds for skill up gradation, capacity building, exposure and monitoring need to be provided.

(ii) Vishesh Mahila Uthan Yojana:- Department is providing training in different trades viz garment making, beauty culture, basic computer fundamentals, cutting and tailoring, apart from this the new trades such as fabrication, basic electronics and production of pickles, bakery products and namkeen etc. have also been approved by the Government to start in the ITIs to those women who are in more danger under the scheme through different ITIs functioning in the State.

These women need capacity building, exposure so as to enable to start their own small business and further counselling. Funds for their capacity building monitoring and other guidance services are required from time to time

Apart from this Department is providing 10,000/- back end subsidy to these women, it should be enhanced upto Rs. 20,000/-.

Education Department

- (i) Free and Compulsory Education to all elementary classes (1st to 8th) students as per RTE mandate
- (ii) As per RTE entitlements, free text books , free writing materials and free uniform from classes 1st to 10th are being provided .
- (iii) Mid -Day Meal is being served to all the elementary school students MDM scheme.
- (iv) Free transportation facility in HRTC busses to all school going children.
- (v) IRDP scholarship @ Rs.150/- per annum per student of IRDP category under State Scheme.
- (vi) Pre-Matric Minority Scholarship under 100% centrally sponsored scheme to the students of classes 1st to 10th @ Rs.1000/- (minimum) and Rs.5700 (maximum) per student per annum.
- (vii) Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation of classes 1st to 10th @ Rs.1850/- per student per annum

Scheduled Caste, Other Backward Classes & Minority Affairs Department

Various Schemes such as Housing subsidy, Follow up programme, Training & Proficiency in Computer Applications and Allied activities, Integrated Scheme for Older Persons, Integrated Scheme for Persons with Disability, Social Security Pension to Old Age, Disabled, Widow and Lappers, Incentive for Intercaste

Marriage, Pre Matric and Post Matric Scholarship to the students are being implemented by the Department for the welfare of weaker section of the society. Scheduled Caste Sub Plan with a budget provision of 25.19 % of the total plan size of the State is being implemented for the Socio-economic development of the Scheduled caste in the State. These schemes are yielding good results in terms of providing facility services to the target group especially people below poverty line enabling these people to cross the poverty line.

3. What initiatives would the State take for elimination of Poverty as defined above?

Animal Husbandry Department

Mixed farming is an idea which is worth trying in limited pockets. It may be *treated as a special case of diversified farming. This particular combination of enterprises supports each other and add to the farmer's profitability. A typical case of mixed farming is the combination of crop enterprise with dairy farming or in more general terms-crop cultivation with livestock farming.*

Chicken often provide the small money for the household. Sheep and goat are sold to cover medium expenditure while larger cattle are sold to meet major expenditures.

Keeping more than one species of livestock is also a risk minimizing strategy. An outbreak of a disease may affect only one of the species e.g. the Cow and other species may be left safe and thus help carry a family over such difficult periods.

Advantage can also be taken of the different reproductive rates of different species to rebuild livestock holdings after such a difficult period e.g. the greater fecundity of sheep and goats permits their numbers to multiply quicker

than other larger animals say cows, buffaloes, etc. The small ruminants can then be sold to obtain large ruminants.

If a person is landless or has very small land in possession which is not of much use for raising crops, he can at least make a small kitchen garden (well fenced to protect from the animals reared) and utilize the excreta of the animals/ poultry reared in that garden. The vegetable grown in that kitchen garden on organic manure can fetch him additional money for day to day use.

Agriculture Department

• The major off-season crops grown in the state are Tomato, Brinjal, Cauliflower, Capsicum, Peas, French beans, Cabbage, Radish, Turnip, Potato and Exotic vegetables. Production of off-season vegetables is being promoted in the state and at present 70000 ha. area has been brought under vegetable production with the production of 14.50 lac M.T. by which revenue of about 2500 crores is being generated. Efforts will be made to bring more area under vegetables cultivation.

• Garlic & Ginger are main spice crops grown in the state. There is substantial increase in area and production of Garlic during past few years and farmers are getting high return from these crops. The cultivation of spices will further be promoted in the state by establishing a spice park in Distt. Hamirpur which will help to boost the economy of farmers.

• During the lean period there is acute shortage of Green Fodder in the state due to which there is low production of milk. The Department has launched a scheme for quality fodder production and an area of 25000 hac. will be brought under fodder cultivation with the production of 11 lac M.T which will ultimately increase the milk production and economy of farmer.

• High yielding variety seed has a catalytic role in crop production in other way multiplication of high yielding variety seed by the registered seed growers

ensures them high return. At present there are 10000 seed growers taking the venture of seed production mainly of wheat, Pulses, Oilseed & Potato by which farmers are getting premium price and higher income. More farmers will be brought under Seed Production Programme.

• There is no marketable surplus of Cereals, Pulses and Oilseeds in the state except Maize which is being sold by the farmer to the local traders, however in case of vegetables there is 90-95% surplus which is sold by the farmers in nearby market yards. At present there are 53 operational market yards in the state. Post harvest losses in vegetables are between 25% to 35% which are required to be reduced by way of adopting post harvest management practices, cool chain, cold storage, CA storage & Zero energy storage chambers etc. and value addition.

Tourism Department

Home stay scheme ,2008 is an endeavour to encourage tourist towards rural and off beat areas of the state thereby de-congesting the established and saturated tourism spots and also increasing tourism activities in the offbeat areas and providing benefits of tourism activities to these areas through multiplier effect

Horticulture Department

Department of Horticulture can provide to farmers belonging to small/ marginal /scheduled caste/scheduled tribe/BPL families:

1. Direct employment for horticulture plantation related works under MGNREGA at their own farms and Government orchards and nurseries.
2. Skill development in horticulture and ancillary horticulture activities free of cost for providing self employment opportunities.

3. Special incentives such as additional 30 to 35% financial assistance from state exchequer for most favoured and remunerative horticulture activities like Protected cultivation and Micro-irrigation.

Urban Development Department

For providing free skill development training to urban poor in various sectors the department has signed a MOU with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) who will provide skill development training to approx. 6000 urban poor through their training partners and these trainings are underway at District level Urban Local bodies.

The department has succeeded in motivation and encouraging urban poor women to form 54 SHGs so as to have financial liquidity for emergent need and it will be having bank linkages which will further entitle them to avail subsidized low interest loan for establishing self employment ventures

Initiatives like up gradation of the skills of the local youths in various techniques is the need of the hour in the State. After imparting technical expertise, the local youths need to be settled in their respective ventures by assisting them with providing loans from local banks and other financial institutes. The empowerment of women and self-employment opportunities to the youths are also needed by the State

Rural Development Department

Rural Development Department would like to reach out to the maximum number of rural people through already existing schemes such as MGNREGA, NRLM, IWMP, SBM(G), IAY/RAY etc.

The department would also focus on skill up gradation of rural youths and formation of women Self Help Groups especially in the Intensive Blocks so as to make the rural population self sustainable.

Major focus would also be on sanitation and the Department aims at making the State Open Defecation Free (ODF) very soon. Since very few IHHL are left to be constructed in the State, the focus of the Department would now be on Solid and Liquid Waste Management in the Rural Panchayats.

Scheduled Caste, Other Backward Classes & Minority Affairs Department

The elimination of poverty can be achieved by creating Job opportunities in Govt., Semi Govt. and Private Sector and also by creating self employment opportunities in Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Handloom Handicraft, Industry, Tourism, Trade & Business, Transportation and other service sectors and other professions/fields enhancing the income of the people. Individual beneficiary oriented Schemes for upliftment of the socio-economically weaker sections of the society SC,ST, OBC, Minorities and General Category should be increased. Policies may be framed for social and financial inclusion of the poor people. Department would like to continue with Old Schemes as indicated above to achieve inclusive growth of the State with the focus on Schemes, which will result in employability, Self employment generation, sustainable asset generation and implementing Schemes viable and preferred by the stake holders. To reach out to all the person of different backward communities like SC, OBC, Minority disabled, Older person, Transgender, community/NGO participation in welfare and right based Schemes run by the department, Strategy is a must and the main thrust of the department will be to encourage and ensure their participation in big way

4. In what way can NITI assist the States in its endeavours?

- The most important assistance required from NITI would be that keeping in view the tough geographical and climatical condition of the State, a special category status may be given to the Himachal Pradesh and the funding pattern under all Centrally Sponsored Schemes may be approved on the analogy of Northern Eastern States.
- Giving us a research feedback on the proposed initiative of mixed farming, if it has been tried in other states, for Himachal to replicate can go a long way in helping the state to go for it confidently.
- NITI can assist by enhancing the funding for various schemes implemented for welfare and upliftment of the poor under privilege and weaker section of the society. NITI will certainly play a big role in guiding us in preparation of plan, Schemes, its monitoring, evaluation with integration of state schemes with centre schemes. Suggest new Schemes successfully in other States which can be replicated in State.
- Area/NULM scope should be further increased from existing 10 district level ULBs to all the ULBs of the State
- NITI can assist in integration of various sectors like Horticulture, Power generation, Forestry, Rural Development etc with tourism so as to make Himachal Pradesh as a prime destination and a wholesome tourist circuit. It

can help state in developing infrastructure particularly in the rural areas of the state and thus make it more assessable to the tourists.

- Organization of special training to the experts for adoption of latest agriculture technique in place of traditional farming and arrangement of tour programmes outside state for their training in the best technical institutes.

- Deployment of experts for survey of possible industrial units and making arrangements for that amount.

- To provide some exemption or speed up clearance under Forest Conservation Act so that various infrastructural development project are completed soon.

- To make suitable amendments in the provisions of MGNREGA especially the wage rate which is substantially lower in Himachal Pradesh than other adjoining States in spite of the fact that working conditions in our State are much more tougher.

- Assistance of NITI Ayog is required in enhancement of nutrition rate of the moderately malnourished children rates from Rs 6.00 per child per day to Rs 8.00 per child per day under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme(ICDS)

- Providing liberal incentives and assistance for adopting self employment generating horticulture activities like Mushroom cultivation, Floriculture, Nursery production, Protected cultivation of flowers and vegetables, Apiculture etc. and providing liberal credit for horticulture activities. Similarly liberal premium support for crop insurance should be provided along with assistance in Marketing and Post harvest management.

- Mapping of Job Opportunities: Mapping of job opportunities within in country and abroad may be got done and made available to the States so that we may plan to execute the task of imparting Skill Development Trainings in these fields accordingly.