

Outlook

10.88 Sustained economic growth guarantees social sector development in a tangible manner. Adverse macro economic imbalance and high inflation on the other hand affect the poor and vulnerable segments of the population adversely. For Social Sector development, it is, therefore, important that the high growth rate of the economy is sustained over a longer period.

10.89 The NCMP of the government has rightly emphasized social sector development especially health, education, employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes. Expenditure on these sectors has also increased substantially during the year. Higher levels of expenditure on the social sectors could be sustained through

reprioritisation of expenditure both by the States and the Centre. Similarly, rationalization of subsidies would release resources which could be better targeted to the poor through specific social sector programmes.

10.90 Availability of resources alone can not guarantee social sector development. The efficacy of a large number of government programmes on the ground would have to be vastly improved through various measures. An efficient management and improved delivery of these programmes are essential to implement most social sector programmes through the decentralized system of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) with full participation of the people. This would also ensure transparency in implementation which would effectively check leakages in these programmes.