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Date: 15th January 2011

Record of Meeting with Secretaries, Government of India on Sectoral Innovation Councils

Chaired by Sri Sam Pitroda, Adviser to PM on PIII

Venue: Room 122, Planning Commission

A meeting was held with Secretaries, Government of India on 15th January 2011 at 10am in the Planning Commission to discuss setting up of Sectoral Innovation Councils to realise the President's declaration of this decade as the 'Decade of Innovations'. The list of participants is enclosed (Annexure 1).

I. Objective

The aim of the meeting was to:

- Give a brief overview of the work of the National Innovation Council (NInC) to the Secretaries, Government of India
- Introduce the idea of Sectoral Innovation Councils
- Outline action points for implementing the proposed Sectoral Innovation Councils in the Ministries

II. Discussion

The meeting commenced with Mr Sam Pitroda, Adviser to the PM on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovations making a detailed presentation on the vision of NInC, and the concept and proposed framework for the Sectoral Innovation Councils. Apart from this, Mr Pitroda also gave a brief introduction to the plan for fibre optic-based Broadband connectivity to the Panchayats in the country. During the discussion the key issues that emerged were as follows:

1. There was consensus that the Sectoral Innovation Councils would be autonomous and decentralised bodies focused on preparing a Roadmap for a Decade of Innovations in the respective sectors.
2. Each Ministry would have to take the lead in defining the critical sectors in its core area where innovation thinking is required. Hence, there could be the possibility of setting up multiple Sectoral Councils in each Ministry.
3. The Sectoral Innovation Councils would focus on co-opting domain experts for effective strategising on the needs and challenges in specific sectors.
4. The private sector would have adequate representation on these proposed Councils to understand market needs and demands in the sectors as well as to ensure an industry focus

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5. There would be a need to address the cross cutting nature of certain subjects and hence the role of some Sectoral Councils would include involving and consulting stakeholders in other Ministries.
6. A suggestion was made that to drive innovations in cross-cutting areas such as Public Service Delivery, scholarships, and subjects in the concurrent list such as health and nutrition, a horizontal platform for implementation needs to be proposed. This could be based in the Planning Commission.
7. A focus on process innovation within Government would be critical.
8. It was proposed that a Group of Secretaries would come together to work on a platform focused on implementation.

III. Action Points

It was decided that:

1. The Secretaries at the respective Ministries would take the lead in setting up Sectoral Innovation Councils (could be multiple Councils in one Ministry). The Office of Adviser to PM would coordinate and follow up to ensure that a timeframe is maintained for the same and provide support wherever required. An outline detailing the key steps for operationalising the Councils is attached (Annexure 2).
2. The Councils would submit their outputs in the form of a Roadmap for Innovations for the decade in that sector. A sample template on which the Roadmap could be modelled is attached (Annexure 3). These documents would be integrated into the Roadmap for Innovations at the national level to be formulated by NInC.
3. Secretaries/ additional secretaries from 6 Ministries (**Shri. Shashi Kant Sharma, Secretary IT; Shri. Prajapati Trivedi, Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat; Shri. BC Gupta, Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution; Shri. PK Misra, Secretary, Ministry of Steel; Shri Vivek Mehrotra, Secretary, Minority Affairs; Shri Sanjay Kothari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Tourism**) volunteered to set up a group to deliberate on creating a Platform for a 'Roadmap for Implementation'. This group would suggest policy measures and interventions to overcome challenges for speedy and more efficient implementation of Government schemes and initiatives. The Office of Adviser to the PM will coordinate the setting up of this group.