

MANUAL ON EVALUATION ADVISORY COMMITTEES/ BOARDS

PROGRAMME EVALUATION ORGANISATION

This manual brought out by the Programme Evaluation Organisation provides detailed information regarding Evaluation Advisory Committees/Boards in various States and Status of various Evaluation Advisory Committees/ Boards. At the end of the Manual some important observations have been made on the Constitution/Composition and functions of the State Evaluation Boards. The notable observations are as follows:

- i) It is found that in most of the States, the Evaluation Committees/Boards were set- up after 1960. In some of the states these have been reconstituted from time to time but in most of the states, these committees have not been reconstituted since long. Some of the states where these committees have not been reconstituted for more than 10 years are Assam, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. In West Bengal, the state level Evaluation Committee has been kept in abeyance since 1979 by an order of the then Minister-in-Charge.
- ii) Evaluation is not an administrative exercise. If programme implementators are programme evaluators, nothing fruitful can come out of the evaluation studies. There is, therefore, a need to involve local academic institutions/Non-Government Organisations in evaluation progress.
- iii) Evaluation committees should ideally draw members from all types of stakeholders namely policy makers, planners, progress managers and beneficiaries. As direct representation of the beneficiaries in such committees may not be feasible, representatives of some NGOs or social workers could serve the purpose to a large extent.
- iv) No fixed time schedule for holding meetings have been specified and the meetings are convened as and when required.
- v) A study of the constitution and activities of the committees tend to suggest that there is a need to restructure these committees and a general pattern could be suggested to the states.

- vi) It has also been noted that most of the State Evaluation Organisations have not been entrusted with evaluation studies for years. Perhaps, there is a need for closer interaction between these organisations and PEO and sensitise them about the utility of evaluation studies.

During the Ninth Five Year Plan more emphasis has been placed on improving implementation and delivery system. Whereas involvement of grass root level institutions and organisations would be necessary to ensure effectiveness of the delivery system and transparency in implementation, strong monitoring and evaluation system would be required at central and state level to enable the implementing agencies to take timely corrective measures for better performance of the programme.