

# After Planning Commission, Programme Evaluation Organisation under NITI Aayog expected to undergo revamp

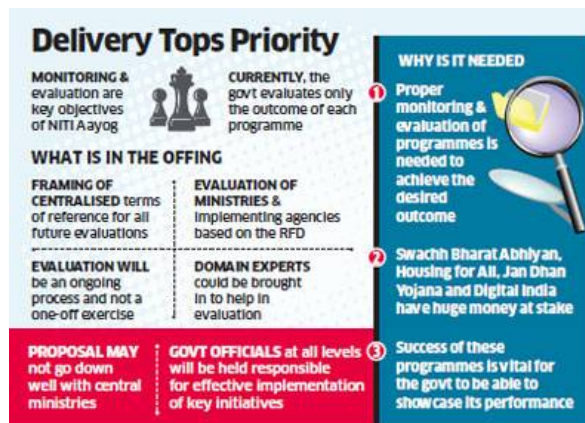
By [Yogima Sharma](#), ET Bureau | 23 Feb, 2015, 10.47AM IST[Post a Comment](#)

NEW DELHI: After [Planning Commission](#), it is the decades old [Programme Evaluation Organisation](#) (PEO), an important division under the erstwhile Commission, that is expected to undergo a major revamp under the [NITI Aayog](#) as the Narendra Modi government prepares to actively monitor and evaluate government-run programmes to improve their effectiveness.

Monitoring and evaluation are the key mandates of the recently created National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), and official sources in the Aayog told ET that the government will soon move a Cabinet note proposing sweeping changes in the structure and function of the [PEO](#) to suit the current requirements of evaluation, much in line with international standards. The main changes could include the way evaluations are done besides getting domain experts to evaluate these programmes.



Govt to move a Cabinet note proposing major changes in PEO's structure and function to suit the current needs of evaluation in line with global norms



"Currently, the government evaluates only the outcome of each programme, which most appropriate way of evaluating. Hence, we are now thinking of even evaluating the process and people involved in implementation of the schemes, including the central ministries or implementing agencies based on their result framework document to make the entire process of evaluation more comprehensive as is done globally," a senior government official told ET on the condition of anonymity.

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According to the official, the idea is to come up with a centralised terms of reference for all evaluations to be done in future besides roping in domain experts to oversee the evaluation process. "Central terms of reference will set up a benchmark for evaluating officials to grade ministries and outcomes on set parameters. Evaluation will be an ongoing process and not a one-off exercise done on one programme at a given time. Over a period of time, this will ensure that the Centre even starts monitoring the effectiveness with which ministries and agencies implement the programme," the official added. The Cabinet resolution of January 1 that led to the setting up of NITI Aayog has clearly outlined monitoring and evaluation as key objectives of the Aayog.

"The NITI Aayog will work towards actively monitoring and evaluating the implementation of programmes and initiatives, including the identification of the needed resources so as to strengthen the probability of success and scope of delivery," it had said.

The proposal may not go down well with the central ministries as government officials at all levels would be held responsible for effective implementation of its flagship programmes that not only involve huge money but have set robust targets, the extent of achievements of which will determine the fate of the current government in the next general elections due in 2019.

The government has launched Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to make India open defecation free by 2019. This requires an investment of over Rs 2 lakh crore to build 12 crore toilets in the country. Besides, it aims to provide housing for all by 2022, an ambitious target, given the

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