

11th September, 2001.

PREFACE

This is the Eighth Report of the Expenditure Reforms Commission. This covers:

- (1) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation;
- (2) Ministry of Rural Development; comprising
 - (i) Department of Rural Development,
 - (ii) Department of Land Resources, and
 - (iii) Department of Drinking Water Supply; and
- (3) Ministry of External Affairs.

Shri K.N. Ardhanareeswaran, former Secretary, Government of India assisted the Commission in the preparation of the report relating to the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, while Smt. Nirmala Buch, former Secretary to Government of India assisted in the preparation of the reports relating to the Ministry of Rural Development. They, the Chairman and the Member Secretary had the benefit of detailed interaction with the Secretaries/senior officials of the concerned Departments. The Commission would like to place on record their appreciation for the support extended by these officials, past and present.

Shri Ardhanareeswaran's draft report was first considered at a seminar held in January 2001, presided over by Dr. M.S.Swaminathan, Chairman, M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai. Dr.(Ms.) Amrita Patel, Chairperson, National Dairy Development Board, Dr. G.S.Kalkat, Vice

Chancellor, Punjab Agriculture University, Prof. V.S. Vyas, Chairman, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur, Dr. V.Subramaniam, Hon. Director, Bajaj Foundation, Mumbai and Shri K. Rajan, former Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India and the Secretary and senior officials of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation participated in this seminar. This seminar helped to delineate the broad contours for the review of the functions and activities of this Department. The Expenditure Reforms Commission would like to thank these distinguished experts for the valuable insight given by them.

Shri Arjun Asrani, former Secretary, Government of India assisted the Commission in the preparation of the report relating to the Ministry of External Affairs. The then Foreign Secretary had not only arranged for Shri Arjun Asrani to interact with senior officials of the Ministry but also ensured that proper office accommodation and stenographic assistance was made available, thus enabling Shri Asrani to complete his task in good time. The Commission would like to thank Ministry of External Affairs for the support extended and facilities provided for the work of the Commission. The Commission would also like to place on record their appreciation for the support extended by Shri Arjun Asrani.

(Kirit Parikh)
Member

(V.S. Jafa)
Member

(Narayan Valluri)
Member Secretary

(C.M. Vasudev)
Ex-officio Member

(K.P. Geethakrishnan)
Chairman