

Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 10 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110 - 124.

(Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board)

## Minutes of meeting on virtual presentation Natural Resource Accounting for States

**Background:** As part of the implementation process envisaged in the Concept Paper on NRA released by the GASAB Secretariat in July 2020, GASAB Section has developed tentative templates for the Asset Accounts on Minerals and Energy Resources for implementation in the States. The templates, besides being successfully piloted in three States (Goa, Meghalaya and Rajasthan) have been vetted by a Consultative Committee set up by GASAB consisting of important stakeholders and eminent environmentalists. The templates are in final stage and are planned to be rolled out in the States by September 2021 after necessary approvals for **preparation of Asset Accounts for the year 2020-21, targeted to be completed by March 2022**.

In order to discuss the matter with the highest echelons in the State Government to ensure smooth co-ordination between GASAB headquarters, the field Offices of the CAG and the State Governments in steering the implementation process, virtual presentation on NRA was planned for the Chief Secretaries and other State Government Officers besides the Accountants General in the States. Five meetings have been held between 31 August and 10 September 2021 in which 27 States have participated.

Date and time : (sixth meeting) - 20 September 2021 at 3.30 PM.

Participating State: UT of Jammu and Kashmir

Mode: Virtually through MS Teams

Officers attending the meeting: A list of Officers attending the meeting is at Annexure A.

At the outset, Additional Deputy CAG, GASAB, welcomed the dignitaries of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and also the Accountants General of the State besides other Officers involved in this prestigious endeavour of GASAB on implementing NRA in Jammu & Kashmir. The contribution of accounting of natural resources towards long term economic performances and India's obligations on implementing resource accounting as part of the sustainable development goals were highlighted. He brought out the action plans envisaged in the Concept paper which, inter-alia, envisaged short, medium and long term goals starting from 2020 and converging with the target date of SDGs, i.e. 2030 in consonance with the four stage implementation strategy suggested by the SEEA - CF; of which, the first such goal is preparation of Asset Accounts on Mineral & Energy Resources, more importantly the non-renewable resources because of its finiteness in nature, to commence from the States and gradually moving towards the national level. The crucial role played by the natural resources in economic development of a country and their inbuilt value of inter-generational equity and sustenance was also highlighted.

The Addl Dy CAG also underscored GASAB's initiatives in hand holding the country and the States to implement NRA across the country through the release of the Concept Paper on NRA, drawing up of tentative templates for capturing data related to selected natural resources, testing the templates in the States on pilot basis, getting them vetted by the Consultative Committee from important stakeholders and readying the templates for implementation, to commence from the States.

After the opening address, a power-point presentation on NRA was made by Sr Admin Officer, GASAB highlighting the concept and importance of NRA; international developments vis-à-vis those in India, implementation strategy suggested by SEEA framework and those adopted/works done by GASAB and successes thereagainst; key takeaways on implementation of Asset Accounts on Mineral & Energy Resources in the States; way forward and expectation from the States.

Copy of the presentation is enclosed as Annexure – B.

After the presentation, the following were discussed:

Initiating the discussions, Director of Geology and Mining requested that the framework in which data/information has to be collected may be shared so that the same could be circulated to all concerned for feeding in data.

The Director General, Accounts and Treasuries of the State while appreciating the efforts of GASAB in implementing NRA across the States highlighted the need for State-specific workshops for the State of Jammu and Kashmir in effectively disseminating the concept of NRA and works to be done to all Officers and staff of concerned Departments in the State.

Principal Accountant General (Audit) while lauding the presentation as comprehensive assured of all support and co-operation to the State Government from the Accountants General Offices. The Officer also agreed that State specific workshops and regular follow up on the works done would enable effective monitoring and constant hand holding of the State administration in implementing this prestigious project.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

## Annexure – A

## Officers attending the Virtual Presentation on NRA – Jammu & Kashmir (Date 20.9.2021)

Orgn/States	Chief Secretary/ Representative	A&E/Audit Offices
GASAB/CAG	1. Shri Ram Mohan Johri, Addl I	Deputy CAG, GASAB
of India	2. Shri Sudipta N Biswas, Sr. Ad	min Officer, GASAB/NRA
UT of J&K	1. Sh. Rajneesh Gupta,	A&E
	Additional Secretary Finance	1. Sh. Abhishek Gupta, Pr. AG
	2. Sh. Mahesh Dass, Director	2. Sh. Ranjeet Singh, DAG
	General (Accounts &	3. Sh Romesh Khundra, Sr. AO
	Treasuries)	4. Sh Vikas Bhagat, AAO
	<ol> <li>Sh. O.P Bhagat, Director Geology &amp; Mining</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>Audit</li> <li>1. Sh. Pramod Kumar, Pr. AG</li> <li>2. Sh. P.C.S Negi, Sr. DAG</li> <li>3. Ms Inabat Khaliq, DAG</li> <li>4. Sh Rajesh Tickoo, Sr. AO</li> <li>5. Ms Rozy Vali, Sr. AO</li> <li>6. Ms Sunita Koul, Sr. AO</li> <li>7. Sh Ravinder Bhat, Sr. AO</li> <li>8. Sh Mushtaq Ahmed Mir, Sr. AO</li> </ul>