



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 the State Government of Maharashtra

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. Three meetings have been held between 31 August and 7 September 2021 in which 21 States have participated.

Date and time : (fourth meeting) - 7 September 2021 at 1 PM.

Participating State: Maharashtra.

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 Additional Chief Secretary, Industries and Principal Secretary, Finance of Government of Maharashtra and also the Accountants General of the State besides other Officers involved in this prestigious endeavour of GASAB on implementing NRA in Maharashtra. 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:

The Addl Chief Secretary, Industries while appreciating the presentation stated that it was a noble initiative of GASAB and the CAG. The total area of the state vis-à-vis mineral bearing districts and also the details of major minerals in the State were discussed. It was also assured that Maharashtra would definitely be a part of the endeavour and the Department would co-ordinate with the Accountants General Offices through the Director of Mining for more understanding, clarifications and detailed guidelines for the study. The Addl CS requested GASAB for sharing a copy of the presentation which was agreed to by Addl Dy CAG.

The Principal Secretary, Finance also assured full co-operation and requested for conducting State specific workshops to sensitise the diverse stakeholders which was agreed to by Addl Dy CAG.

Principal Accountant General (A&E) – I, Mumbai stated that NRA was a much-needed initiative and given the flexibility, the Asset Accounts could be possible to be completed

within the targeted timeline of March 2022. Pr. AG also stressed upon state specific workshops as a good starting point.

Accountant General – II, Nagpur congratulated GASAB for this initiative and mentioned that the Office has close interactions with the State Government and assured that the Office would deploy dedicated teams to work with the State Government to bring up the Asset Accounts on Mineral & Energy Resources in the State.

Before concluding, the Addl Dy CAG once again thanked the dignitaries from the State Government for their enthusiasm and attending the meeting to make it a success and expressed confidence that the State would continue to support GASAB in implementing NRA. He also assured the State Government that GASAB would be more than happy to assist in training and capacity building of the State towards implementing NRA.

At last, it was informed that successful implementation of Asset Accounts on Mineral & Energy Resources in the States would mean that India not only meets the first of the four-stage implementation strategy prescribed by the SEEA - CF but will also get into the elite list of countries where Asset Accounts on natural resources (importantly non-renewable resources) are being generated.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure – A

Officers attending the Virtual Presentation on NRA - Maharashtra (Date 7.9.2021)

Orgn/States	Chief Secretary/ Representative	A&E/Audit Offices
GASAB/CAG of India	1. Shri Ram Mohan Johri, Addl Deputy CAG, GASAB 2. Shri Sudipta N Biswas, Sr. Admin Officer, GASAB/NRA	
Maharashtra	1. Shri Baldev Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries 2. Shri Rajgopal Devara, Principal Secretary, Finance	A&E 1. Jaya Bhagat, Pr. AG and team Audit 1. Praveer Kumar, AG Audit – II 2. Nilesh Patil, Sr. DAG, AMG-III and team