

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3548
ANSWER ON 11.08.2025**

Appraisal and Approval of CSSs and CSs

3548, Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh:

- (a) the objectives and scope of the process for “Appraisal and Approval of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) and Central Sector Schemes (CSs)” initiated w.e.f. 29th May, 2025;
- (b) whether the exercise includes third-party evaluation of existing schemes, sunset reviews and an outcome-based assessment of existing schemes as outlined in the policy announced in the Union Budget 2016.
- (c) if so, the procedures and criteria being followed for such evaluation;
- (d) the number of schemes being run by the Government at present which are under re-appraisal along with the schemes requiring fresh cabinet approval;
- (e) whether the Government has laid down any framework for resource allocations for schemes and;
- (f) if so, the criteria and formulae adopted for the said process?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)**

(a) to (c): The objective and scope of the “Appraisal and Approval of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) and Central Sector Schemes (CSs)” exercise initiated on 29th May, 2025 is based upon the policy announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 2016, which stated that *“To improve the quality of Government expenditure, every new scheme being sanctioned by Government will have a sunset date and outcome review”*. Every scheme is subjected to an outcome review in the form of a third-party evaluation before it is presented for appraisal and approval for another cycle. The evaluation exercise brings out, *inter alia*, the relevance, sustainability, effectiveness, equity, coherence and impact of an ongoing scheme ensuring that, while appraising and approving a scheme for the next cycle, optimum use of public resources is made through improvement in the quality of government expenditure

(d) Number of schemes for re-appraisal and the proportion which will require Cabinet’s approval will depend upon the results of the evaluation exercise which will

be used by the Ministries to rationalise and re-formulate existing schemes and the fiscal resources projected to achieve the desired outputs and outcomes.

(e) to (f) As per general guidelines issued by the Department of Expenditure, the total projected outlay of a continuing scheme will be assessed from expenditure during FYs 2021-22 to FY 2023-24 (AE) and FY 2024-25 (RE) and any special requirements.
