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Dear :

As you are aware, the Government of India have launched a major initiative, namely, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to help achieve the growth target of 4% per annum in the agriculture & allied sectors. The RKVY is an important programme in two ways: it envisages a massive outlay of Rs.25,000 crore during the 11th Five Year Plan simultaneously incentivising the States to invest more in the agriculture & allied sectors, and it offers considerable flexibility to the States in the planning, selection and approval of the projects. It is going to be, by far, the biggest programme implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and holds considerable potential for boosting the growth of agriculture & allied sectors in the States.

2. With a view to expediting implementation of the RKVY, we had organized five Zonal Conferences with the States and Union Territories in the month of November. The interest shown by the States and the progress they are making in the implementation of RKVY are encouraging indeed. There are a few issues, however, which are critical to the success of the scheme and which require to be addressed by the various wings of the State Government under your leadership. I enumerate these in the following paragraphs.

3. First, it is important for the eligible States to ensure that the outlay in the agriculture & allied sectors as a percentage of the total outlay of the State Plan is at least maintained and, preferably, increased annually in a calibrated manner. Maintenance of the sectoral outlay from 2007-08 onwards at the same percentage level as that in 2006-07 would ensure that your State continues to be eligible to access funds under the RKVY from 2008-09 onwards. Increasing the percentage outlay on the agriculture & allied sectors would enable allocation of more funds under RKVY to the State as this carries 50% weightage in



determining inter se allocation among the States. For the ineligible States, the need to hike the outlay for 2007-08 in the agriculture & allied sectors to the required level at the R.E. stage during the current financial year is even more pressing so that they not only become eligible during 2007-08, but do not lose out next year as well. Therefore, a review of the outlay in agriculture & allied sectors in the State Plan for 2007-08 to increase it suitably to the required level and the formulation of a strategy for increasing the outlays in the subsequent annual Plans in a stepped manner are required in consultation with the Agriculture & Allied Departments, Planning Department and Finance Department under your chairmanship. It would be advisable to complete these exercises before the commencement of discussions held by the Planning Commission with the States towards the finalization of the Annual Plans.

4. Second, the District Agriculture Plans (DAPs) have to be completed in a time bound manner. During 2007-08, the States are required to indicate a roadmap for preparation of DAPs. However, from 2008-09, the completion of the DAPs would be insisted upon. Financial assistance @ Rs. 10 lakh per district is being provided to the States under RKVY for preparation of the DAPs. The involvement of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) should be progressively ensured in the planning and implementation process. Proper planning would also lead to convergence of the RKVY projects with the programmes such as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), the Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF), the Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) and Bharat Nirman etc. The status of preparation of DAPs could be monitored in the meetings of the State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) chaired by you.

5. Third, it is important to underline the fact that the RKVY caters not only to the agriculture sector, but also to the allied sectors including animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries. Over the years, activities such as soil conservation, land resources, animal husbandry, fisheries etc. have come to be handled by separate Departments. With a view to ensuring that the resources under RKVY are available for the various activities indicated in the guidelines and also to ensure that planning and implementation of projects under RKVY happens in a coordinated and convergent way, it is important that the Agriculture Department, being the Nodal Department, evolves effective ways of consultation with the other Departments. It is, therefore, suggested that



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the meetings of the Agriculture & Allied Departments, the Nodal Agency and the other stakeholders may be held on a monthly basis under the Chairmanship of the Agriculture Production Commissioner or the senior-most Secretary, as the case may be, to review the planning and implementation of the RKVY. Such meetings should also precede the meetings of the SLSC to enable faster decision making.

6. Fourth, this being the first year of the implementation of RKVY and with more than 8 months of the current financial year having elapsed already, it is important that the meetings of the SLSC under your chairmanship are held as early and as often as possible for approval of the projects under the RKVY and for imparting the necessary momentum to the implementation process.

7. I hope that the suggestions made above would merit your personal attention. I would be happy to receive any observation or suggestion from you towards timely and effective implementation of the RKVY.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

(P.K. Mishra)

Chief Secretaries of all State-
Governments/UTs

(List enclosed)

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