# History of Administrative Reforms in Independent India

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## **Evolutionary Phase (1947-1969)**

- This period saw the evolution of the civil service not only the AIS but also into various central services like Indian Audit and Accounts Service, Indian Audit Service.
- Paul H Appleby carried out in-depth analysis of public administration
- Appleby report led to creation of Organization and Methods Division in Cabinet Secretary's Office and publication of the first Manual of Office Procedure

- The 1960s saw inadequacy of bureaucracy in facing challenges of developmental activities.
- So need felt for a fresh look into all aspects of administration- setting up of first Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) in 1966.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> ARC was mandated for making public administration a fit instrument for carrying out the social and economic goals of development and also making administration responsive to people.

- The First Administrative Reforms Commission was initially Chaired by Morarji R Desai, MP, and later on K.Hunmanthaiya, M.P became its chairman when Morarji R Desai, MP, became the Deputy Prime Minister of India.
- In the period between 1966 and 1970, 1<sup>st</sup> ARC gave 20 Reports containing 580 recommendations
- The evolutionary phase ends with submission of Reports of 1<sup>st</sup> ARC in 1970.

## Experimental Phase (1970-84)

- The implementation of large number and sometimes sweeping changes recommended by 1<sup>st</sup> ARC took almost a decade.
- Department of Administrative Reforms and Department of Personnel created
- Desk Officer system introduced in secretariat functioning
- Performance budgeting technique introduced in Central Ministries.

- The principle in delegation of financial rules introduced
- Introduction of single financial adviser in Ministries/ Departmentalization of accounts
- Setting up of D/O Personnel and Administrative Reforms at State Government level
- Emphasis on training of Civil servants.

### Transitional Phase (1984-91)

- Introduction of the concept of Annual Action Plan (AAP) for all Ministries and Public Enterprises.
- The system of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Public Enterprise which was actually its AAP
- Time limit fixed for inter Ministerial consultation for notes for Cabinet

- Structured Training Programme for Civil servants at various levels-
- 6 to 9 years of service Programme Implementation;
- 10-16 years of service- Management Concepts and Decision Making Techniques;
- and 17 to 20 years of service- Policy Planning and Analysis

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) set up
- Efforts Made to make computers an integral part of Government Offices
- Sarkaria Commission on Centre State Relations strongly supported AIS and stated that any move to disband AIS or permit any State Government to opt out of the schemeharmful and retrograde in the interest of the nation.

# **Reformist Phase (1991-1995)**

- Economic reforms started to meet the financial stresses-
- industrial policy reforms introduced in 1991.

 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments of the Constitution for empowering local self governments in both rural and urban areas.

## Mainstreaming Phase (1996-Present)

- Good Governance-empowerment of citizens by way of electing into local administration agencies for more effective delivery of public services
- Citizens 'charter and Right to Information Act
- Grievance Redressal machinery set up in may organizations
- E-Governance —an integral part of Good Governance

# 2<sup>nd</sup> ARC Administrative Reforms Commission (2<sup>nd</sup> ARC)

• 2<sup>nd</sup> ARC constituted in 2005 to suggest measures for a various gamut of Governance issues and it finished its term in 2009. The 2nd ARC was initially set up under the Chairmanship of Mr. Veerappa Moily, who resigned with effect from 1st April 2009. He is succeeded by V. Ramachandran.

The 15 Reports submitted by ARC are:

- 1. Right to Information: Master key to Good Governance
- 2. Unlocking human capital: Entitlements and Governance-a Case Study
- 3. Crisis Management: From Despair to Hope
- 4. Ethics in Governance
- 5. Public order: Justice for each .... Peace for all
- 6. Local Governance
- 7. Capacity Building for Conflict Resolution Friction to Fusion
- 8. Combating Terrorism
- 9. Social Capital-A Shared Destiny
- 10. Refurbishing of Personnel Administration-Scaling New Heights
- 11. Promoting e-Governance-The Smart Way Forward
- 12. Citizen Centric Administration- The Heart of Governance
- 13. Organizational Structure of Government of India
- 14. Strengthening Financial Management Systems
- 15. State & District Administration

GoM (group of ministers) has so far considered the following reports:

- 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> &15<sup>th</sup>.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Report –Combating Terrorism is being processed / implemented by Ministry of Home Affairs.
- In total,13 Reports of the ARC have been already considered.
- Rest Two Reports (5<sup>th</sup> & 10th) are being considered by GoM.
- GoM decisions on 12 Reports are available at www.darpg.nic.in.

- Recommendations of 2<sup>nd</sup> ARC fall in two groups
- > 1<sup>st</sup> set- changes for administrative structures/processes/techniques

Solution 2<sup>nd</sup> set- a number of issues to be examined by Government- for implementation of suggested changes need strong political will and sustained political guidance at the highest level.

### Institutional Mechanism

In order to expedite the implementation of accepted recommendations of 2<sup>nd</sup> ARC, CoS in its meeting held on 06.11.2012 approved the proposal of DARPG to set up a Committee by respective Central **Ministries** /Departments/States/UTs under the chairmanship of concerned Secretary/ Chief Secretary/ Administrator to monitor their implementation.

Many Central Ministries / Departments/
States /UTs have set up such Committees

# Thank You