Finance Minister Budget Speeches on Gender Budgeting

- Gender budgeting finds a special mention in the budget speech of honourable Finance Minister, for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.
- In 2005-06 Union Budget, Finance Minister introduced Gender Budgeting statement in respect of 10 Demands for Grants introduced in budget plus assured beneficiary-incidence analysis and impact analysis.
- Finance Minister says emphasis shifted from quantity to quality – Outcome budget presented in Aug 2005 – now hope for performance budget on outcome budget.
- In 2006-07 budget, GB statement was for 24 Demand for Grants of 18 ministries (for 100% women schemes and 30% women Schemes).
- For 2007-08, 27 ministries/departments and 5 Union Territories covering 33 demands for grants have contributed to a statement placed in the budget papers.
- The outlay for 100 per cent women specific programmes is Rs.8795 crore and for schemes where at least 30 per cent is for women specific programmes is Rs.22382 crore.

Gender Commitments enshrined in India’s Policies

Gender equality is recognized as a part of the fundamental human rights enshrined in the Indian Constitution (Articles 14, 15, 16, 39, 42 and 51). The Constitution not only grants equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women.

Apart from the above ‘The National Commission for Women’ was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of women. In October 1996, the Planning Commission specifically directed Central ministries and departments, and the state governments to identify a ‘women’s component’ in the various
schemes and programmes with which they are concerned to facilitate achieving the objective of empowering women during the Ninth Plan.

The plan documents have over the years reflected the evolving trends in gender matters.

- **The Second Five Year Plan** (1956-1960) supported development of Mahila mandals for grass roots work among women.
- **The Third, Fourth and Interim Plans** (1961-74) made provision for women's education, pre-natal and child health services, supplementary feeding for children, nursing and expectant mothers.
- **The Fifth Plan** (1974-1978) marked a major shift in the approach towards women, from welfare to development.
- **The Sixth Plan** (1980-85) accepted women's development as a separate economic agenda. The sixth Five Year Plan onwards, the plan document has been including a separate chapter on women and children.
- **The Seventh Plan** (1985-1990) declared as its **OBJECTIVE TO BRING WOMEN INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**. During this period, the Department of women and child was established within the Ministry of Human Resource development of GoI. The Seventh Plan introduced the concept of monitoring of 27 beneficiary oriented schemes for women by DWCD. The exercise continues and number of schemes covered is being expanded.
- **The Eighth Plan** (1992-97) highlighted for the first time a gender perspective and the need to ensure a definite flow of funds from the general developmental sectors to women. The Plan document made an express statement that "....the benefits to development from different sectors should not by pass women and special programmes on women should be complement the general development programmes. The later, in turn, should reflect great gender sensitivity".

► DWCD, Finance and GAD are the nodal departments.
► DWCD to also form Gender Cell for Monitoring of GRB process.
► Formation of a High Powered Committee headed by Principal Secretary (Expenditure), to monitor the progress. Secretaries of the various departments included in GRB are the members of this Committee.

► Two workshops organised for developing a common understanding on GRB among Secretaries and Senior Officials of respective departments and agreeing on the way forward.
► Appointment of nodal officers in each department.
► Formation of Task force (Gender Budget Cell) in each department
► First High powered Committee meeting held in May 2007.
► Preliminary Analysis of budgets of last three years to understand current status. In depth analysis being taken up in 4 departments, RDD, health, education and DWCD by GRC.
► SIRD initiated process of capacity building for GRB by committing a Capacity Building Cell for GRB.

The State Government has set up Gender Resource Centre recently, which has the task of improving gender data systems to look into the aspect of appropriate gender data at disaggregated level.