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Government Subsidies in India

Subsidies, both explicit and implicit in the unrecovered costs of public provision of a wide array of services, constitute a significant part of the government expenditures in India. The primary objective of this study is to provide a comprehensive estimate of budget-based government subsidies in India. These estimates are separately given for the Central government as well as the individual States, with a substantive degree of functional disaggregation. The methodology used defines both costs of and receipts from various public services in a comprehensive manner as opposed to the usually cited explicit subsidies only. It also reviews, *inter-alia*, the rationale for and the economic effects of subsidies. In the overall context of fiscal reforms, the need for as well as the significance and mechanics of subsidy reforms are also discussed.

This monograph is a revised version of the Report on Government Subsidies in India, on which a recent Discussion Paper on government subsidies issued by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, was based. It is hoped that this monograph will provide the necessary details to supplement the Discussion Paper which drew widespread attention among policymakers, administrators, the media and researchers.

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