

## States

### Outcome budget set to roll out in Maharashtra from 2007-08

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**Mumbai** The Maharashtra government is likely to introduce an outcome budget from 2007-08 to monitor its achievements vis-a-vis the objectives of various schemes.

The government has started linking outlays with outcomes, at least for certain flagship schemes belonging to 12 departments on a pilot basis. These are education, agriculture, home, social justice, water supply and sanitation, employment and self-employment, animal husbandry, dairy development and fisheries, housing, women and child welfare and public health.

In its interaction with officials from these 12 departments, the government found out that a large number of them were not aware of output and outcome.

These departments had not fully developed a data base and admitted that there were roadblocks pertaining to policy and implementation.

Kavita Gupta, secretary (accounts and treasury), who is the nodal officer to pursue outcome budgeting, told FE: "The government has already roped in Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Tiss) to provide necessary training to government officials on outcome budgeting....So far three task forces have been formed for coordination at state secretariat, implementation and development of data base. These comprise about 25 officials each."

Gupta said training was imparted on risk analysis, changes in plan implementation/interventions required, defining implementation structure, deciding the scope of implementation of scheme sample size and scope of coverage for outcome budget, firming up of the activity chart and detailing the dates for training workshop."

It turned out to be quite an interactive exercise. The department will begin an exercise to prepare activity chart and logical framework. We wish to update the state legislature in this regard in the ensuing winter session in December. This will be followed by the draft memorandum of understanding to be inked between the finance department and the 12 departments," she said.