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Ministries and Ministers Performance during two years of Modi Government

Performance of a Union Government depends on how well individual Ministries and Ministers fare with their portfolio and in sync with the overall thrust of the Government itself. This is particularly so with certain Ministries and Ministers who cater services to large section of people with some frequency. On the eve of completion of two years of Modi Government, 20 Ministries / Ministers, most critical for the success of the Government, were assessed for their public standing.

Carefully selected 4000 stakeholders of 20 Ministries from 70 clusters spread over 15 states were personally interviewed in March – April 2016 for this analysis on performance of Union Ministries. This enquiry is part of larger and more comprehensive study on completion of Two years of Modi Government. CMS is a premier national think-tank of longstanding on public policies.

Performance of Ministries:

Ministries of Railways, External Affairs, Home Affairs, Finance, Defense, Road Transport, Drinking Water and Sanitation and Petroleum are the top eight Ministries, in that order, viewed as “better performing” by a significant percent of stakeholder respondents. Interestingly, a higher percent think so in non BJP represented clusters covered in this study.

The Ministries viewed as poor performing by a significant percent of respondents include Agriculture, Labour & Employment, Consumer Affairs, Law, Rural Development and HRD. A much high percent of respondents think so of these Ministries in BJP represented clusters covered in this study.

A further probe into the extent of satisfaction with Ministries indicates that relatively a higher percent of respondents are disappointed with Urban Development, Environment, Women and Rural Development. Whereas relatively a higher percent are satisfied with Railways, transport, Petroleum, Drinking Water and Power apart from External Affairs and Home and Finance. A much higher percent are “very much satisfied” with the performance of these Ministries than the percent of respondents who are “not at all” satisfied.

The fact that response pattern on assessing performance was similar for Ministries and Ministers, both in the case of poor and better performing ones, validates and findings hence the rankings in public perceptions.

| Ministries viewed as better performing by 25% or more | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Percent</i> | | |
| | Clusters represented by | |
| | BJP | Others |
| Railways | 42 | 36 |
| External Affairs | 33 | 37 |
| Home Affairs | 26 | 30 |
| Finance | 24 | 29 |
| Defence | 26 | 25 |
| Road Transport | 26 | 8 |

| Ministries viewed as poor performing by 20% or more | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Percent</i> | | |
| | Clusters represented by | |
| | BJP | Others |
| Agriculture | 28 | 22 |
| Labor & Employment | 26 | 20 |
| Consumer Affairs | 22 | 7 |
| Law | 21 | 10 |
| HRD | 11 | 25 |
| Rural Development | 10 | 11 |

| Extent of satisfaction with Ministries performance | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Stakeholder – satisfaction levels | | |
| <i>Percent</i> | | |
| | Very satisfied | Not at all |
| Agriculture | 10 | 8 |
| Communication | 13 | 6 |
| Consumer Affairs | 14 | 7 |
| Drinking Water & Sanitation | 23 | 7 |
| External Affairs | 31 | 8 |
| Environment | 12 | 15 |
| Finance | 23 | 9 |
| Home | 24 | 8 |
| HRD | 14 | 9 |
| Health & Family Welfare | 12 | 9 |
| Law | 10 | 11 |
| Labor & Employment | 10 | 11 |
| Petroleum | 18 | 10 |
| Power | 20 | 9 |
| Railway | 31 | 9 |
| Rural Development | 15 | 13 |
| Road Transport | 24 | 10 |
| Urban Development | 11 | 17 |
| Women | 13 | 13 |

Performance of Ministers:

A Ministry wise enquiry has brought out that some Ministries (as in the case of Energy and Petroleum) or their Ministers fare relatively low because their schemes were talked more and more often by the Prime Minister and hence people did not link it with respective Minister. For example, 20 percent of respondents across acknowledge that power supply has increased and that they are “very satisfied” with the Ministry. So also in the case of Ministry and Minister for Petroleum whose schemes (direct transfer and cooking gas supply) which are appreciated. The percent of respondents who were “not at all satisfied” of these Ministries is not more than ten.

That Sushma Swaraj has brought back Indian from conflict situations and promptly attended such complaints across the country have put her ahead. Her non controversial serious view of her Ministry seems has helped her. Foreign relations is one area viewed as “Modi Govt’s achievement”.

Internal Security and Disaster Response & Management in the country is viewed better now. That is how Rajnath Singh stands out as a better performing Minister. His “no nonsense” and not interfering into anything and everything seems has also added to his positive performance appraisal.

Suresh Prabhu is viewed as more effective, concerned and serious “professional” Minister and not a politician Minister. He is viewed as more responsive to concerns of stakeholders. His social media and beyond Railways proactive postures have put him and his Ministry on the top of this ranking of Ministers.

Satisfaction with Piyush Goyal is for bettering reliability of electricity supply across the States to the extent of making people forget shortages of yester years.

Performance of infrastructure Ministries in the last two years seems to have caught the attention of people. Suresh Prabhu, Nitin Gadkari and Piyush Goyal, in particular, have been acknowledged for satisfactory performance. “If these Ministers keep up with their efficiencies next couple of years, they could be saviors of NDA Govt. at the next polls” observed, Dr. N. Bhaskara Rao, performance analyst and an eminent social scientist.

| Union Ministers considered as “better performing” by 20% or more | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Percent</i> | | |
| | Clusters Represented by | |
| | BJP | Others |
| Sushma Swaraj | 32 | 42 |
| Rajnath Singh | 29 | 33 |
| Suresh Prabhu | 28 | 27 |
| Arun Jaitely | 22 | 34 |
| Manohar Parikar | 22 | 16 |
| Nitin Gadkari | 24 | 8 |

| Union Ministers considered as “poor performing” by 10% or more | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Percent</i> | | |
| | Clusters represented by | |
| | BJP | Others |
| Ram Vilas Paswan | 33 | 11 |
| Radha Mohan Singh | 21 | 19 |
| Smriti Zubin Irani | 11 | 26 |
| Bandaru Dattatreya | 15 | 13 |

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