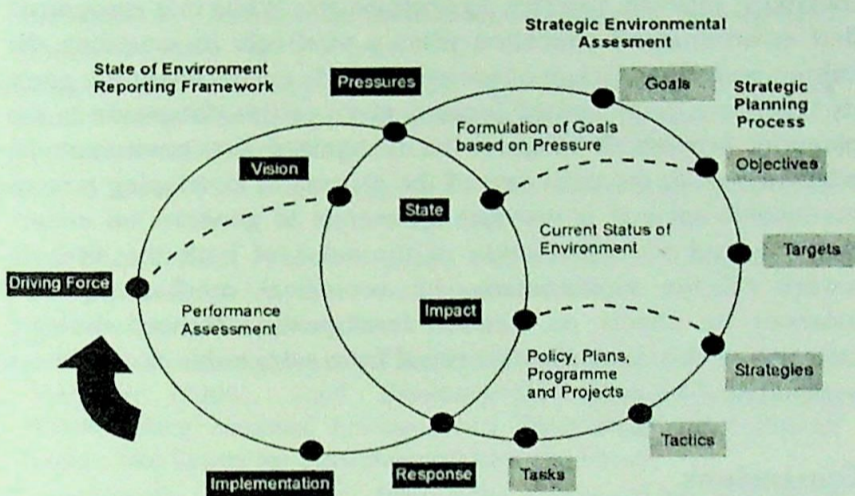## Figure 4
Interfacing SoE Reporting and Strategic Environmental Assessment

(a) focus on departmentwise environmental coordinators in critical sectors and build their capacities;

(b) attempt to set modest environmental targets (output-based or outcome-based) for select departments;

(c) ensure that a part of the funds allocated to each department on percentage basis is earmarked for environmental activities to be carried out by the respective department;

(d) evolve a mechanism using planning department in coordination with environment department for monitoring and evaluating the achievement of the targets set in an objective and independent manner; and

(e) either Chief Secretary or Chief Minister's office depending on feasibility should periodically review the progress achieved so as to ensure that strategic attention is given to the environmental dimension in the state planning and programme implementing system.

Apart from this, interest needs to be generated in officials of various departments/agencies by conducting annual

departmentwise or cross-departmental thematic environmental workshops especially in departments like energy, irrigation, urban transport, tourism, forestry, agriculture etc. While it is recognized that environmental education plays a vital role in moulding the culture and value system of society towards environment but given its long-term gains limited focus is given to this dimension in the planning process. It needs to be recognized that environmental education is an essential part of the process of developing a more sustainable society. It provides an avenue to generate an under-standing and an appreciation of the value of both the intrinsic nature of the environment—its ecological mechanisms and balances its effects on human development. Hence, strategic attention to this dimension is critical from sustainable development perspective.

Conclusions

Indian development strategy needs to be aligned with its resource endowment and using appropriate prices for renewable and non-renewable resources as a prerequisite for improving the sustainability of its development. Experience from developed world suggests that unless it is mandated through tools like SEA, it is difficult to integrate environment in the developmental sectors processes. Evidences from energy, transport and urban sectors demonstrates that neither regulations nor prices alone are sufficient conditions for bringing out required changes in the process and systems. Changing the policies, plans and programmes along with financial and institutional changes can contribute towards integrating environment and social aspects into developmental process. But prevailing well-entrenched interests, institutional culture, belief and values people manning the institutions determine effectiveness of the progress towards sustainable development. Hence, initiatives at national and state levels that are evolved through high levels of public participation can give strategic attention to sustainable developmental concerns which can serve as immediate steps.

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