

GOA PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS UNION

(GOA PRI'S Union)

C/o Curtorim Union, Reg No. 68/GOA/1999

Batora, Curtorim, Goa

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Ref No. GPRI/2017-18/8

Dated: 11.01.2018 .

To,
The Hon. Chief Minister,
Government of Goa,
Secretariat , Porvorim,
Bardez, Goa.

Sub: **Together we can facilitate an effective democratic decentralization in Local Governance**

Sir,

It has been reported in a Section of the Press that Hon. Minister for RDA Shri. Jayesh Salgaonkar, is proposing to convert the RDA into a full fledged Department so as to implement welfare schemes for which Central funds are received, instead of allocating the same to the local bodies as hitherto was being done, thus negating his own stand as Zilla Parishad member who courted arrest in fighting for devolution of powers and funds to the local bodies. It appears that when he sat on the present Chair he started looking things through different prism. This runs counter to the assurance given by your previous RDA Minister Mr. Rajendra Arlekar, that he would consider giving the issue of devolution of powers/funds to the local bodies. The proposal of the RDA Minister runs contrary to the assurance given by the Government to the High Court on the issue, which tantamounts to contempt of court. It is therefore, necessary that the local bodies know the exact stand of the Government.

The District Planning Committee has been constituted by Government notification No. 26/25/DPC/06/2012-13 dated 11th March, 2016 published in Official Gazette No. 52 Series II dated 26.03.2016. This was in keeping with the provisions of the 73rd amendment to the Constitution of India which prescribes that the planning process should be started from the grass root level. Though initially some exercise was made for proper functioning of this Committee, it is not clear whether any further progress was made or it has died a natural death . It appears that this Committee, if at all it continues to exist, is not involved in the formulation of plans/processing of proposals from the local bodies. Government was even requested that the RDA be merged with the Directorate of Panchayats as that red tapism is cut short to send proposals to and fro

and development of plans at the Panchayat level is carried out at a faster pace. The public ought to know the present position regarding this Committee as nothing appears to come out of this Committee.

The 3rd State Finance Commission was set up by the Government vide notification no. 26/DP/III S.F.C /2016/2061 dated 29.03.2016 published in the Government Gazette No. 1 Series II dated 7.04.2016 . we are still not aware as to what were the recommendations of the 2nd State Finance Commission and whether they were implemented by Government in letter and spirit. Since there was no noticeable change in the funding of the local bodies it is presumed the recommendation of the said Commission only remained on paper . And now the 3rd Commission report- The Public would like to know the recommendations of the Commission and what is the progress on implementation of these recommendations.

It would be in public interest to have an update on the points raised above for the benefit of the people at large.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(J. Santano Rodrigues)
Convenor

CC

To Hon'ble Panchayat Minister,

Govt of Goa, Porvorim Goa

for necessary information and action

To

Secretary Panchayats

Govt. of Goa, Secretariat, Porvorim, Goa

for necessary information and action

To,

Secretary Minister of Panchayat Raj,

Govt of India,

Room No. 7, Krishi Bhavan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi 110001

To,

The Directors of Panchayats,

Junta House, Panaji, Goa for necessary information and action

