

GOA PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS UNION

(GOA PRI'S Union)

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

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Ref No. GPRI/2017-18/9

Dated: 27.01.2018.

To,
Honourable Prime Minister of India

Government of India,

New Delhi.

Excellency,

We beg to take the liberty of placing before Your Excellency the following few lines and hope the same will find your favourable considerations.

For the last 15 years we have been struggling with the Goa Government for devolution of powers and funds to the elected bodies i.e Zilla Parishads and Village Panchayats, as mandated by the 73rd amendment to the Constitutions of India. We approached the Goa Government several times but the response has been limited to giving assurances, on every occasion. After much waiting and frustrations, we approached the High Court for the implementation of the law, however, as usual, the response has not been different 9 years have since elapsed and there appears to be no progress on the issue, perhaps this has been allowed to happen so far because we do not believe in protests, strike and violence.

We do agree that there may be clash of interests and priorities between the Members of the State Legislative Assembly and the elected bodies of the grassroot level but the law cannot be laid in cold storage perennially just because the MLA's are afraid

that they would be deprived of their sources of power and money and this is equally true of the Opposition as well as the ruling dispensation.

25 years have gone by since the 73rd amendment to the Constitution were passed by the Parliament and we have not even made a beginning to implement this law. It is high time that both the Central and State Governments take action for implementation of the law during the Silver Jubilee Year and show to the people that their aim is good government.

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Hoping for speedy action on our request.

Thanking you,

Yours respectfully,

(J. Santano Rodrigues)

Convenor

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE REFERENCE NO. : PMOPG/E/2018/0035666

date: 27.01.2018