

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. GPRIU/2017-18/16

Dated: 15.03.2018.

To,
The Hon. Minister for Panchayats,
Secretariat, Panaji, Goa

Sir,

I take the liberty to place before Your Honour the following few lines and hope the same will merit your favorable consideration.

Ever since Your Honour took over the Panchayat Ministry there have been quite a few statements to the press, which give an impression that everything is well with your Panchayat Department and every Panchayat Body is a Villain. The facts are otherwise and the converse is true.

Government constituted the 3rd State Finance Commission vide notification No. 26/DP/III dated 29.03.2016 published in the Govt. Gazette No. 1 Series II dated 7.04.2016 to deliberate on the quantum of funds to be given to the elected

bodies. It is a pity that this Commission neither prepared their report nor did it meet even once.

Similarly, Govt constituted the District Planning Committee vide notification No. 26/DPC/06/2012-13 dated 11.03.2016 published in the Govt. Gazette No. 52 Series II dated 26.03.2016. It is with deep regret that I have to say that this Committee did not meet with a better fate.

A copy of letter No. 26/87/DP/RIA/2018/1416 dated 28.02.2018 from Directorate of Panchayats obtained under the RTI Act stating that the information is 'nil' is annexed hereto for your perusal. It can be safely concluded therefrom that the State Govt. formed the above Commission and the Committee to throw dust in our eyes and perhaps to fulfil the Constitutional obligations.

The fact is that the State Govt. does not know even the quantum of funds to be given to the Panchayat Bodies leaving aside that the State Cooffers, in the present situation, are almost empty. However, the sad fact is that even the Central funds that are received by these Bodies are not allowed to be utilized. You have a long red tape with several of your officers acting as clogs in the smooth running of the wheels of the Panchayats Raj system. Even the proposals for minor works are sanctioned only at the fag end of the financial year and yet Your Honour and your Director go on tape recording that the Panchayat Bodies are not serious enough to utilize the funds.

In fact, your Director of Panchayats has played the same record again (NT dated 13.03.2018) while Your Honour went a step further to reveal that you intend to route the schemes through GPMSA. The State Govt. has withdrawn most of the powers of the Panchayat Bodies and transferred the same to the Officers including the Village Panchayat Secretaries . Ultimately, the idea of Govt, it appears, is to serve the vested interests in controlling the Panchayat Bodies through the back door.

I am prepared for discussion with Your Honour any day any time convenient to you if you the Govt . is serious in working for the welfare of the common man.

Thanking you,

Yours respectfully,

(J. Santano Rodrigues)

Convenor

cc

To,

1. The Hon. Union Minister of Panchayat Raj

and Rural Development,

Govt of India, New Delhi, for information and necessary action.

2. Secretary of Panchayat, Ministry of MORD

Govt of India New Delhi, for information and necessary action.

3. Secretary Panchayat,

Govt. of Goa, Secretariat , Porvorim, Goa further to letter No. PMOPG/E/2018/0035666 dated 02.02.2018 from PMO's Office.

4. Director of Panchayats,

Govt, of Goa Panaji,

5. Collector of South Goa ,

Margao, Goa for information and necessary action.

6 Chairman/Member Secretary

District Planning Committee South Goa for information and necessary action.

7. President of Curtorim Union,

Curtorim, Goa

