

5. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS PLACED IN THE CONFERENCE OF THE CHAIR PERSONS OF THE LOCAL BODIES

HELD ON 30-11-96 & 1-12-96

GROUP I - ENTRUSTMENT OF POWERS TO PANCHAYAT UNIONS:

01. Jawahar Velai Vaippu Thittam (JVVT):

JVVT works like School Buildings, Roads, Noon Meal Centres, Maternity Centres, Minor Irrigation Works should be undertaken only through the Panchayat Union. The other works should be executed by the Panchayats through overall supervision of the Panchayat Unions. Drainage works involving higher outlay should be executed through the Panchayat Unions. It was recommended to enhance the share of Panchayat Unions from 15% to 40%.

02. Indira Awas Yojana (IAY):

The estimate for the construction of Group Houses under Indira Awas Yojana should be enhanced. The selection of beneficiaries for allocation of houses under IAY should be done by the Panchayat Union Selection Committee. The Construction of Group Houses should be entrusted to the beneficiaries concerned. If the beneficiaries are not coming forward to execute the works the Panchayat Union itself should take up the works. The Houses constructed in the previous years and in a dilapidated condition should be demolished and new houses should be constructed in the same place for the same beneficiaries.

The Selection of beneficiaries for allotment of wells should be done by the Panchayat Union. Minor Irrigation works will have to be carried out through the Panchayat Union.

04. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP):

For Selection of beneficiaries under IRDP a Selection Committee should be constituted. The Selection Committee should consist of the following members (viz.) Panchayat Union Chairman, the Panchayat Union Ward Member, The President of the concerned Panchayat, Block Development Officer and a representative from Financial Institution.

05. Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM):

The Selection Committee for selection of beneficiaries under TRYSEM should be constituted under the Chairmanship of Panchayat Union Chairman. It is recommended to promptly pay the stipend intended for the beneficiaries. After the completion of the TRYSEM Training the beneficiaries should be given loan assistance by the banking institutions to start self employment venture.

06. Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA):

Loan facilities should be extended from out of the revolving fund given to the beneficiaries. The priority given to the SC/ST beneficiaries to avail the power connection to the beneficiaries to Million Wells Scheme and Indira Awas Yojana should be extended to other categories like BC/MBC etc.

07. National Programme for Biogas Development:

At present subsidy is extended to Biogas Plants having 3 Sq.Mts. It has to be extended to Biogas Plants having more than that of 3 Sq.Mts.

General Recommendations:

- (i) The State Finance Commission should be continued as a permanent body.
- (ii) Honorarium of Rs.1500/- should be paid to Panchayat Union Chairman.
- (iii) Primary Education, Public Health, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Noon Meal Programme which were under the control of Panchayat Unions since 1962 should be entrusted to Panchayat Unions now.
- (iv) The vacant posts in Panchayat Union have to be filled up by the Panchayat Unions only.
- (v) The vacancies of Road workers have to be filled up only by the Panchayat Unions.

GROUP II - ENTRUSTMENT OF POWERS TO PANCHAYAT:**01. Rural Water Supply (RWS):**

- (i) Deep Bore Wells have to be provided in Village Panchayats to tide over the drinking water shortage.
- (ii) The required number of Overhead Tank should be provided in the villages.
- (iii) The maintenance staff to maintain the hand pumps and Power Pumps should be in the ratio of 100:1.
- (iv) The power to purchase the spare parts required for the hand pumps and power pumps should be entrusted to the Panchayat Unions.
- (v) The selection of site for provision of hand pumps and power pumps should be done in consultation with the Local body Chairpersons.

Composite Drinking Water Supply Scheme (CWS):

Composite Drinking Water Supply Scheme covering two or more village Panchayats should be implemented by Panchayat Union. The existing Junior Engineer intended for maintenance of Power Pumps is not adequate. Hence it is recommended to appoint one Junior Engineer for Panchayat Unions having more than 25 OHTs with 2 Technical Assistants to assist the Junior Engineer. Village Panchayats having a population of 1500 and more should be provided with a OHT and house connections should also be provided.

As most of the village Panchayats are financially not sound, the current consumption charges for supply of drinking water from Overhead Tank has to be borne by the Government.

03. Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP):

Under CRSP for construction of lavatories in the new Houses the beneficiary has to pay an amount of Rs. 500/- in addition to the subsidy of Rs.2000/- given by the Government. As the above scheme is intended for the benefit of below poverty line the share amount of Rs. 500/- to be borne by the beneficiary have to be waived. Toilet facilities with water supply may be provided to the Schools especially to the girls schools.

04. Local Roads Grant (LRG):

The Committee recommends to enhance the local roads grant from the existing Rs.535/- to Rs.1000/- and to enhance the percapita grant from 18 Paise to 50 Paise. The powers for appointment of road maintenance staff have to be entrusted to the Panchayat Unions. During 1996-97 it has been proposed to upgrade 5000 Kms of road to B.T. The Committee recommends this to be enhanced to 10000 Kms.

05. Street Lights:

The maintenance of street lights may be entrusted to TNEB. The spare parts required for the street lights may be purchased through a Committee of Panchayat Union and TNEB. Current Consumption Charges may be met by Government. The cost for purchase of spare parts may be met by Government. The Panchayats which are not in a position to pay the deposit amount for erection of electric posts may be given grant from Government.

06. Community T.V.:

At present, the maintenance staff for Community T.V. sets is available at the Division level only. The Group recommends for appointment of maintenance staff at the Panchayat Union level. Social education grant may be enhanced.

07. Animal Husbandry Sub Centre:

The grant for construction of third and fourth Animal Husbandry Sub Centre is not sufficient. The Group recommends for higher grant. The Animal Husbandry Sub Centres should come under the control of Panchayat Union.

08. Minor Irrigation and Local Irrigation Grant:

The Ex-Zamin Tanks are desilted by the PWD and subsequently entrusted to the Panchayat Unions for maintenance. Sufficient funds may be allocated for maintenance of these tanks, in a cycle of every three years instead of five years as at present.

09. Grant for Health Sub Centres:

Enhancement of rural Grant for the maintenance of Rural Health Sub Centres may be increased to Rs.1.00 lakh.

10. Local Roads Grant

The Group recommends to enhance the outlay under Road Sector from 20% to 40%. The existing Rural Urban Composition from 60:40 may be modified as 75:25.

11. MPs Local Area Development Scheme:

The Group recommends to lift the ceiling limit of Rs.10.00 lakhs per work.

12. Noon Meal Centres:

The Committee recommends to bring the Anganwadi and the Noon Meal Centres under the control of Panchayat Unions. Eggs may be supplied once in a week instead of 15 days. The Group recommends supply of Dhal instead of Soya Beans Flour. The existing limit of 1 gram of oil may be enhanced to 1.5 gm.per individual. The amount of supply of vegetables may be enhanced from 18 Paise to 25 Paise.

13. House Tax Grants:

House Tax Grant may be enhanced to 200% from the existing 100%. A Full Time Employee may be appointed for collection of House Tax and Professional Tax etc.

14. A Junior Engineer may also be appointed for each Panchayat.**15. A Honorarium of Rs.1000/- may be paid to the Panchayat Union Chairman.****16. The diesel limit for Panchayat Union Jeeps may be enhanced to 300 litres.**

GROUP III : FINANCIAL POSITION OF PANCHAYAT UNIONS AND ITS SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

01. Government should pay the current consumption charges for street lights and Power Pump.
02. The Auction for quarries should be entrusted to Panchayats. The revenue earned may be shared equally between Panchayats and Panchayat Union. Direct payment of permit for quarries should made to the Panchayats concerned.
03. The income from markets situated nearer to the Town Panchayats should also be given to the Panchayats.
04. Though Office Assistants, Record Clerks and Maternity Ayahs have been declared as Govt.servants w.e.f. 1.4.1974. Salary is met from Panchayat Union General Fund. These expenditure may be met by Government.
05. 25% of the royalty given by the ONGC in Nagai-Quid-e-Milleth District may be allotted to the Panchayat Union.
06. The Local roads grant should be paid based on the length of the road and the maintenance charges.
07. The 50% of the Auction sale of Cashew in Andimadam, Jayamkondam Chenthurai Panchayat Unions in Parambular Tiruvallurvar District may be entrusted to the Panchayat Union.
08. 25% of the auction amount on liquor shops may be given to the Panchayat Unions.
09. The power to Auction the trees available in Tanks and Social Forestry programme should be entrusted to the Panchayat Unions. Powers may be entrusted to maintain the trees available in the Government poramboke lands.
10. Fish auction should be entrusted to the Panchayat Unions.
11. The Neyveli Lignite Corporation may be asked to provide basic amenities in Kammapuram Panchayat Union in South Arcot Vallalar District.
12. The income of the Panchayat Unions may be enhanced by letting out the Panchayat Buildings to Government. 25% of the stamp duty may be paid to the Panchayat Unions.
13. Tax may be levied on the advertisement hoardings to be put up in the Panchayat areas.
14. The grant of 10.00 lakhs intended for the Panchayat Unions may be given every year.
15. Tax may be levied at the rate of Rs.2500 to 3000/- per wind mill and the income may be given to the Panchayat Unions.

GROUP-IV : DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PANCHAYAT UNIONS.

- 01.The Panchayat Union members should participate in the meetings convened by the Village Panchayats. Similarly District Panchayat members should participate in the meetings convened by the Panchayat Unions. Such participation would facilitate understanding of the problems and grievances of the local people and help to redress them.
- 02.Arrangements should be made to provide a Telephone to every Panchayat Union Member at Government cost.
- 03.Orders already exist for installation of a Telephone at the residence of Chairman of the Panchayat Union. These orders should be given effect to and Telephone installed at the residence of Panchayat Union Chairman.
- 04.A separate Telephone at the office of the Chairman of the Panchayat Union should be installed.
- 05.Monthly salary should be paid to the Panchayat Members, Presidents of Village Panchayats, Members of the Panchayat Union and Chairman of the Panchayat Union Council as in the case of MLAs.

06.A separate Vehicle should be provided to the Chairman of the Panchayat Union Council at Government cost.

07.The old and unserviceable vehicle available at the Panchayat Unions should be replaced and supplied with the new one.

08.Details of development works executed at the Village Panchayat and Panchayat Union level should be intimated to the concerned Panchayat and Panchayat Union Council. This arrangement will help the elected representatives to know whether the work is quite essential for the area and whether the work is being executed in accordance with the norms and monitor the proper implementation.

09.The Panchayat Union buildings were constructed long time back and almost all the buildings are in a dilapidated condition. Arrangements should be made for renovate or repair. New buildings may also be constructed wherever necessary. The Panchayat Union buildings hitherto maintained by the Highways Department should be transferred to the Panchayat Unions for their future maintenance.

10.The tubelights, Chokes, Starter and Bulbs for use of the Panchayats are required to be purchased from a particular company. This arrangement has to be modified and powers should be delegated to Village Panchayat Presidents to purchase the above articles locally after obtaining the required tenders and observing other formalities. The ceiling for the purchase of spare parts should be removed or atleast the replacement of the spare parts may be permitted when the bulbs are affected during natural calamities and rains.

11.Arrangements should be made for issue of free bus pass facility as in the case of MLAs to Panchayat Union Chairman.

12.Government should initiate action to restore the departments like Primary Education, Public Health, Animal Husbandry, Agriculture which were once under the control of Panchayat Unions. This will facilitate better supervision and improvement of quality of education, health care and increase in agricultural production etc. As envisaged in Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, all the 29 items of development should be entrusted to Panchayats. Administrative and Financial powers should also be devolved in three levels of Panchayats.

13.Government should meet the expenditure towards electricity consumption charges for street lights, instead of collecting it from Panchayats.

14.Revenue accrued from the mines should be credited to the accounts of the concerned Panchayats.

15.Efforts should be made to implement Food Adulteration Act in Rural areas also.

16.The Extension Officer, Social Forestry, Adi Dravidar Welfare should be brought back under the control of Panchayat Unions. It is understood that the office of Divisional Development Officer (DDO) and the post of Additional Block Development Officer are likely to be abolished. However, taking into account of administrative exigencies, there should be no reduction of staff. An additional Typist post should be created to all Panchayat Unions to cope up with the increased work load.

17.The schedule of rates fixed by Highways Department towards formation of road should be allowed to be followed in the case of Panchayat Unions also.

18.The Panchayat Union roads get damaged by heavy vehicles used by ONGC in Exploration areas, as their main area of operation lie within Panchayat areas. Government of India should pay royalty to the concerned Panchayat Unions for using such Panchayat Union roads.

19.The existing Local Roads Grant should be increased.

20.One third of Panchayat Union Members are women. Hence, separate toilet facilities should be provided for the use of women members in every Panchayat Union.

21.The Birth Certificate, Income Certificate to the people residing in the Panchayat Union areas should be issued by the Commissioner, Panchayat Union, under the supervision of the Chairman of the Panchayat Union.

22. Salary should be paid to Panchayat Union Chairman, enabling him to function efficiently.

23. Government orders should be issued for appointment of Junior Assistant and Office Assistant to Chairman of the Panchayat Union, which posts were already in existence.

24. Orders are requested to enhance the existing power available to Collector and Director of Rural Development to utilise from the surplus General Fund from the existing level of Rs.2 and Rs.5 lakhs to Rs.5 and Rs.10 Lakhs respectively.

25. At present T.V. sets are functioning at every Panchayat Union. A separate Technician may be appointed to repair the T.V. Sets then and there.

26. Only one Union Engineer is available at Panchayat Union level and he is unable to cope up the increased work load. An Additional Union Engineer based on population or financial allocation may be appointed.

27. All Social Welfare Schemes implemented at Panchayat Union level should come under the purview of Panchayat Union, particularly Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiar Marriage assistance scheme and Dr. Muthulakshmi Maternity Assistance Scheme should be brought under the control of Panchayat Union, for easy identification of beneficiaries and early assistance.

28. Salary for certain provincialised Panchayat Union staff is still being paid from Panchayat funds. This amount should be paid from Government as grant.

29. House Tax has to be revised once in every five years, based on enumeration. But this has not been done for a long time. Arrangements should be made to revise the House Tax, by appointing the required personnel.

30. Building Inspectors should be appointed in Panchayat Unions as in the case of Municipalities.

31. Extension of street lights in Panchayat areas is allowed after payment of an amount of Rs.3460/- to Tamilnadu Electricity Board. Either this amount has to be reduced or should be allowed as grant to Panchayats.

32. Separate Committee consisting of Panchayat Union Members and Chairman should be constituted to propagate the evils of drink and to implement prohibition laws effectively in Panchayat Union areas.

33. Panchayat and Panchayat Union properties which are under encroachment should be retrieved by effectively convening meeting of Revenue and Panchayat officials.

34. Experienced people from Rural Development department should be appointed at District level to oversee the proper implementation of all Development Programmes. Appointment of directly recruited I.A.S. Officers in DRDA should be avoided.