

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

The Rural Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu requested the State Planning Commission for constituting a small Working Group of Members of the Commission which should consider and make recommendations on the responsibilities to be entrusted to the Panchayats at different levels and the roles, duties and functions to be discharged by them. A copy of the D.O.letter No.20099/CI/96-D, dated 20.9.96, RD Dept. is enclosed (Enclosure-01) The request was considered in the First Informal Meeting of the Members of the State Planning Commission held on 27.9.'96 and it was decided to constitute a Group for suggesting entrustment of powers and responsibilities to rural local bodies.

COMPOSITION OF THE SPC - GROUP

1.2. In pursuance of this decision, a Group of Members of SPC was constituted. A copy of the proceedings No.4781/SPC/DP/96, dated 07.10.'96 is enclosed. (Enclosure-02)

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| 1. Thiru.L.C.Jain, Member, State Planning Commission | .. Chairman |
| 2. Thiru.T.V.Antony, I.A.S., (Retd.) Member, State Planning Commission | .. Co-Chairman |
| 3. Thiru.K.V.Palanidurai, Full Time Member State Planning Commission | .. Member |
| 4. Dr.Ramesh Chandra Panda, I.A.S., Member-Secretary State Planning Commission | .. Convenor |
| 5. The Secretary to Government, Rural Development Department | .. Special.Invitee |

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.3. The Terms of Reference and scope of the Working Group are as follows:

- The responsibilities to be entrusted to the Panchayats at different levels: and
- The roles, duties and functions of the Panchayats in respect of these responsibilities being entrusted to them.

MEETINGS

1.4. The State Planning Commission Group has consulted various institutions and experts and held internal discussions. The recommendations of the Group was considered by the informal meeting of the Members of State Planning Commission on 27-9-96. The first report of the Group was presented before the reconstituted State Planning Commission meeting held on 10-02-97 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister. This first report was transmitted to the Government on 06-01-97. Second report of the Group was submitted to Government on 17-3-97. Final report was approved by the Members of the SPC on 4-4-97.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Nature of meeting</i>
27.09.96	State Planning Commission Informal Meeting of Members.
22.10.96	SPC Group Meeting
23.10.96	SPC Group Meeting
16.11.96	SPC Group Meeting
18.11.96	SPC Group Meeting
19.11.96	SPC Group Meeting
20.11.96	Held discussion with Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration
20.11.96	SPC Informal Meeting of Members
25.11.96	SPC Group Meeting

<i>Date</i>	<i>Nature of meeting</i>
26.11.96	SPC Group Meeting
30.11.96	Participated in the conference of the Chair-Persons of
01.12.96	the Local Bodies Chaired by Hon`ble Chief Minister.
16.12.96	SPC Group Meeting
17.12.96	SPC Group Meeting
18.12.96	SPC Informal Meeting
19.12.96	SPC Informal Meeting
03.01.97	SPC Group Meeting
04.01.97	SPC Group Meeting
06.01.97	First Report of the SPC Group was submitted to Chief Secretary.
08.01.97	SPC Group Meeting
10.02.97	SPC Group Meeting
10.02.97	First Report of the SPC Group was taken on record in the 2nd meeting of the SPC.
11.02.97	SPC Group Meeting
26.02.97	SPC Informal Meeting of Members
11.03.97	SPC Group Meeting
12.03.97	SPC Informal Meeting of Members
17.03.97	Second Report of the Group was submitted to Chief Secretary.
26.03.97	SPC Group Meeting
04.04.97	SPC Informal Meeting of Members

ORGANISATION OF THE REPORT

1.5. The final report has been prepared in 7 chapters as indicated below:

Chapter - I:	Introduction	: This chapter relates to composition of the Group. Terms of Reference and deliberations held.
Chapter - II:	Historical perspective	: This chapter outlines and recapitulates growth of Panchayat Raj system in the State for over a Century.
Chapter - III:	The Approach	: This chapter deals with the approach adopted by the SPC Group in finalising their recommendations. Factors considered in the approach relates to the National, State and Regional perspectives on the basis of which discussions ensued in the Group.
Chapter - IV:	Recommendations for entrustment of powers	: This chapter analyses the status of 29 activities and outlines the specific recommendations on the entrustment of powers to 3 tiers of rural local bodies, including administrative, financial and legal implications.
Chapter - V:	Key to the Recommendations : schemes and institutions	: This chapter deals with schemes to be implemented, supervised and monitored by the Rural Local Bodies in the State. Besides the chapter deals with the institutions to be taken over/supervised/managed by these local bodies.
Chapter - VI:	Operationalisation of recommendations	: This chapter deals with the types of follow-up action needed for implementing the recommendations and entrustment of powers and responsibilities to the rural local bodies.
Chapter - VII:	Concluding Remarks.	