

Minutes of the Consultative Meeting of the 5th State Finance Commission, Jharkhand, with the Representatives of Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayats of Santhal Pargan on 21.08.2024 in the Hall of HDC, Gossner Compound

The representatives of the Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayats (Mukhia, Gram Pradhan and Ward Members) from seven blocks of Santhal Pargana were present in this consultative meeting. The blocks from where they had come included 1. Borio from Sahibganj District and 2. Maheshpur 3. Amrapara and 4. Littipara from Pakur District 5, Masalia and 6, Jama from Dumka District.

The following issues were raised / discussed and possible solutions were proposed: -

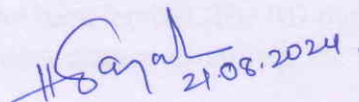
1. The middle men have started dominating the selection of beneficiaries of the schemes of the government. They do create a new *labhuk samiti* for every new work and get the work done through them. This must be controlled by the Rural Development Department. A strict guideline may be issued.
2. The middle men have started dominating in the selection of schemes of MGNREGA also. In MGNREGA, the work is done first and the payment is made later on (*pahle kaam phir daam*). It creates lots of problems. A revolving fund should be created for timely payment for the work done under MGNREGA. Digital payment has made the process more complex. Labour payment on a weekly basis will be an appropriate option. The Rural Development Department may look into this issue and resolve it under permissible rules.
3. It was suggested by the participants that officials should become as active in the selection of the beneficiaries of a programme as they are in the *Mukhya Mantri Maian Yojna*. For the selection of beneficiaries, the officials should visit the area as frequently as they are doing for the selection of the beneficiaries of *Mukhya Mantri Maian Yojna*. An interactive process may help to select schemes and beneficiaries who are the most genuine and unquestionable in public eye.
4. The ward members are not allowed to take benefits of government schemes, even if they are poor. It should be reconsidered. This is a policy decision. A survey by an independent source may help the Rural Development Department to reach on correct assessment.
5. Allotment in *Abua Awas Yojna* is done on the basis of ranking done in the past. Many of the deserving candidates have been left out. The RD department may get some survey and test done by some independent agency to correct the process for the future for similar schemes.
6. One of the participants (Sri Munshi Soreng of Borio) of this consultative meeting said that the Panchayat *Sachiv* and Junior Engineer take approximately 10% commission in each project. In some of the projects, up to 30% is taken as commission. Even fake (*furzi*) Gram Sabhas have been organized for the selection of beneficiaries. Let it be investigated by the RD department from a team of officers of the HQ. Necessary corrective steps may be taken.

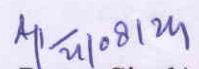
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7. Only Mukhiya and Ward Members are part of the Executive Committee (*Karykarni*). Even Gram Pradhan should be invited to its meetings. The Department of Panchayati Raj may look into it in view of JPRA 2001 and PESA. This will make its integration more effective because schemes are being selected by GS but finalisation of priority is being done by GP. There is no connection between them at the appropriate time.
8. Some of the participants said that the Gram Sabhas have become more active these days. Earlier, very few people used to participate. Now the number of participants has increased. The participants have now become more active and alert. The participation of women has increased in the Gram Sabha.
9. The panchayats do not have an equal number of villages. Therefore, while deciding the funds to be given to the panchayats, the number of villages within the panchayat should be taken into consideration. The issue of insufficiency of funds was also raised in this meeting. The need to formulate criteria for distribution of funds received by the Panchayat among its villages was also raised by the participants. The population and the area of the village should be taken into consideration.

This question is complex. Let it be discussed between 5th SFC and the department with appropriate data. Multiple funds are available. Overlapping can be avoided to ensure greater coverage.

10. Ms. Pinki Kisku of Maheshpur block of Pakur district told that they in their village maintain a *Gram Kosh* (Village Fund). Every family makes a monthly contribution of Rs. 50 to this fund. Currently they have Rs. 60,000/- in this account. This fund is used for the marriage of any girl in the village or on the death of any bread earning person in the village. Such village may be identified, and a study may be conducted by the department to understand its management. Its replication is worth promotion.
11. Irregularity in the distribution of food grains from fair price shops was also raised in this meeting. Let the appropriate vigilance committee look into it, and the Department of Food, Public Distribution and Civil Supplies may be made aware of it for appropriate action.
12. On a query about the status of the water supply scheme of Littipara, it was told that it was not operative. Rs. 200 crores had been spent on the project. Let this matter be brought to the knowledge of DWSD/ DC Pakur for appropriate action.


(Harishwar Dayal)
Member
State Finance Commission


(Amrendra Pratap Singh)
Chairman
State Finance Commission

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Memo No. - वित्त (SFC)-31/01/24-156/वि0आ0

Ranchi, Dated. 03/09/2024

Cc:- Chairman/Members, State Finance Commission, Jharkhand, Ranchi for kind information and necessary information please.

Kaushal
02-09-24

Dy. Secretary
State Finance Commission,
Jharkhand, Ranchi

Memo No. - वित्त (SFC)-31/01/24-156/वि0आ0

Ranchi, Dated. 03/09/2024

Cc:- Secretary, Finance Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi for kind information and necessary information please.

Kaushal
02-09-24

Dy. Secretary
State Finance Commission,
Jharkhand, Ranchi