

Meeting of the 5th State Finance Commission with the Deputy Commissioner and other District officials of Simdega District on 07.10.2024

1. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Simdega collectorate. It was chaired by the Chairman of the 5th State Finance Commission, Sri A.P. Singh and attended by the member of the 5th State Finance Commission, Sri Harishwar Dyal, DC Sri Ajay Singh and the other government officials of the District.

2. Discussion on GPDP:

- i. JSLPS assists the panchayats in the formulation and implementation of GPDP.
- ii. MGNREGA and grants of the 15th Finance Commission provide resources for the implementation of GPDP.
- iii. Among the **nine themes** suggested for the GPDP, **Theme 4- 'Villages with adequate water'** and **Theme 5- 'Clean and Green Village'** have been taken up in their GPDP by most of the Panchayats of this district.
- iv. The issue of tied and untied grants of the 15th CFC also came up in the discussion. Of the total grants by the 15th CFC 60 percent is the tied grants given for two purposes; (i) **sanitation and maintenance of open-defecation-free status (ODF+)** including management and treatment of household waste and human excreta and faecal sludge management and (ii) **supply of drinking water, rainwater harvesting and water recycling**. The local bodies are required to earmark one-half of the tied grant to each of these two services. However, if any of the RLBs has fully saturated the needs of one category, it can utilise the funds for the other category.
- v. **The chairman of the commission** said that the district administration **must map** the themes taken by the 94 GPs of this district and what schemes these GPs have adopted and are implementing. It must also ascertain how many villages in the district have become drinking water-saturated.
- vi. He also suggested that the **indicators of NFHS** can be taken up to assess the level of achievement in theme 2 of GPDP 'Healthy Village'.
- vii. It was also pointed out that the GPDP has not fully fructified because of a lack of alignment with the line department

3. Drinking Water and Sanitation

- i. It was informed that for the drinking water, there are **12 old schemes** operational in the district for which the **department has stopped paying funds** for their maintenance. The maintenance of these schemes is a problem as collection from user charges is insufficient for this purpose. **Three of these schemes are in 'Ram Rekha Dham'**, a place of religious tourism, where the tourist footfall is very high. Providing drinking water is a challenge in this area.
- ii. On the problem of collection of users charges it was said that the people are confused because whatever was available on price has become free nowadays and whatever was available free for them, they have to pay the price.
- iii. Despite having **sufficient fund**, the solar based drinking water facility is facing problems because of lack of local people for its O & M etc..

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- iv. The performance of **Nal Jal Yojna – Jal Jeevan Mission** in Jharkhand is good but there is the problem of paucity of water and its regular recharging in the state.
- v. Mukhiya is the Chairman of **Gram svachhhata Samiti**, but the lack of coordination among Mukhiya, Jal Sahiya and Junior Engineer creates problems in its implementation.
- vi. It was said that the **incidence of open defecation** has reduced significantly. Kersai block of Simdega is the first block to be declared ODF block.
- vii. Department of DWSD must relook all aspects and adopt a sustainable practice to ensure regular operation of MVS and SVS and keep on motivating public by several campaigns on all aspects of drinking water and sanitation.

4. Health

- i. In health the problem is delegation of power by the department.
- ii. Institutional delivery in the district is about 90 percent. In the aspirational block Bansjore institutional delivery is 100 percent.
- iii. Piramal Foundation is assisting in this field.
- iv. Drinking water & sanitation and health need closest interaction to ensure effective coordination for best result.
- v. The 15th FC has given tied grants in this sector. The output may be evaluated.

5. Education

- i. In SMC there is one member from PRI, who is nominated by the Mukhiya.
- ii. Mukhiya is the head of the Administrative Discipline Committee
- iii. Para teachers are appointed by the GP
- iv. Health/education/drinking water & sanitation need close interaction along PRI to improve quality of campus.
- v. 100% literate GP / zero drop out GP may be promoted by joint efforts.

6. Functioning of the Gram Panchayat

- i. The Standing Committees of GPs are defunct. Mukhiya is all in all. Whatever Mukhiya wants that get that executed and Mukhiya has become synonymous to GP which is against the spirit of GP and its executive and as envisaged in the Jharkhand Panchayat Raj Act, 2001.
- ii. The ward members have no role to play. They are supposed to head Standing Committees but since these committees are not functional, they fail to perform this function.
- iii. Ward members are supposed to be the chairman of **Poshahar Committee**. They have to play an important role in the selection of beneficiaries for Social Security schemes like Mukhya Mantri Kanyadaan Yojna, Maiyan Samman Yojna etc. The ward members seldom get opportunities to perform these functions. These works are mostly performed by Mukhiyas themselves.
- iv. The Chairman of the 5th SFC, Jharkhand suggested that the officials of this district must study how the standing committees of the PRI of neighbouring state Odisha are functioning and make a comparison with the functioning of the standing committees of the PRI of this district. Odisha like Jharkhand is also a 5th scheduled state.
- v. Department of Panchayat Raj need to address such issues and ensure quality training, exposure visits and monitoring mechanism.

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7. Rural Development

- i. The mukhiyas play an important role in the selection of beneficiaries of a scheme.
- ii. The issue of **delayed payment in MGNREGA** was also discussed in this meeting. This happens because of a **delay in fund release** by both the centre and the state. The delay is not from the district. In the wage component of the scheme, Rs. 27 per person per day is paid by the state government.
- iii. On late payment, a fine of Rs. 1000 has to be imposed on a muster roll of one scheme (generally consisting of 10 people).
- iv. The chairman suggested the district officials to enquire whether **GST and Royalty** are being paid on the payment for materials.
- v. **JSLPS makes a presentation** before Mukhiya in which all the officials are required to be present. Priority has to be decided in these meetings.
- vi. There are **two plans** (i) Livelihood promotion (ii) Entitlement
- vii. The Chairman enquired whether the beneficiaries are receiving benefits and whether all those who are eligible for social security schemes (like pension etc.) have been enrolled? What is the genuine deficit in enrolment of those who are eligible? Is there any misuse and leakages in the scheme? When can saturation be achieved?
- viii. How the convergence of the schemes of agriculture, livelihood and MGNREGA is achieved?
- ix. **JSLPS is operational since 2013**. It must be assessed/studied how much of the fund has flown in this scheme in the last 11 years. The quality of life of how many people has improved because of it. Is the reduction in poverty in the district commensurate with the government expenditure done for it? The Kottayam district of Kerala has been declared a **zero-poverty** district. When can this district become a zero-poverty district. Why dependency on the government has not reduced? These need to be studied. Is any social audit or independent studies conducted by the department to assess the success of the objective of the scheme?
- x. Department of Rural Management may get studies done to understand the issues and correct them if any need come.

8. FRA

- i. Gram Sabha constitutes Vanadhikar Samitee (Forest Rights Committee). This committee presents the claim for individual and community patta. These claims are verified by the block-level committee constituted by members of PRI. The claims verified by the block-level committee is sent to the district-level committee which is constituted by the members of Zila Parishad. The allotment is made on the basis of their recommendations.
- ii. About 9000 people in this district have received van patta. The land has been given for both residential and agricultural purposes. There are 131 community forest rights have been given in the district.
- iii. Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, District administration and Department of SC, ST, OBC and Minority Welfare may coordinate closely and try to achieve objectives of the FCR and subsequent

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development of MoTA. State of Chhatisgarh/Odisha etc. may be studied for the best practice to be adopted in Jharkhand.

9. Revenue

- i. Thirteen of the villages of this district are Mundari Khuntidari where Munda is the head of the village, in the rest of the village Gram Pradhan is the head of the village. The power is the same for both of them. Both of them have the power of revenue collection and land settlement. In CNT Pradhan is legally not hereditary but the practice is more on ancestral line.
- ii. In 35 villages of the district have Pradhan. There is a conflict between Pradhan and Mukhiya on the issue of who has to head the Gram Sabha?
- iii. The responsibility for Sairat like Ponds and fisheries has been given to Gram Panchayats, that of 'Bazar and Haat' to Zila Parishads. Urban ponds have been shifted to ULBS. Revenue generation capacity and actual realisation may be assessed.

10. Urban Local Body

- i. The establishment expenditure of the Simdega Nagar Parishad is Rs. 88 lakhs per annum. The salary of JE and City manager is paid internally.
 - ii. There are 20 wards in Simdega Nagar Parishad. The total population is 50,000. Number of holdings is 10,000 and number of commercial holdings is 1,100.
 - iii. The Chairman enquired how much is collected through water charges. How much of revenue is generated through approval of map for house construction? And what is the revenue growth model of the Simdega Nagar Parishad?
11. This is a district which need adequate handholding by the state department in terms of human resource availability and skill development, public awareness etc. Mukhiyas are active, need more training to adopt newer things for better governance.

Harishwar Dayal 07.10.2024

(Harishwar Dayal)
Member

State Finance Commission

Amrendra Pratap Singh 07/10/24

(Amrendra Pratap Singh)
Chairman

State Finance Commission

Memo No. - वित्त (SFC) - 31/01/24 - 245 / वि०अ०

Ranchi, Dated... 11-12-2024

CC: Principal Secretary, Department of Panchayati Raj, Jharkhand for kind information and necessary action please.

Cc: Secretary, Department of Finance, Jharkhand/Department of Rural Development, Jharkhand/Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Jharkhand/Department of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare, Jharkhand for kind information and necessary action please.

Kaushal
11-12-24
Dy. Secretary
State Finance Commission,
Jharkhand, Ranchi

Memo No. - वित्त (SFC) - 31/01/24 -245...../विआओ

Ranchi, Dated...11-12-2024.....

CC: Deputy Commissioner, Simdega for kind information and necessary action please.

Kaushal
11-12-24

Dy. Secretary
State Finance Commission,
Jharkhand, Ranchi