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**Minutes of the joint High Level Committee (HLC) meeting
held on 23.9.2008 at the Conference Hall of Block-C (III rd
Floor) of Assam Secretariat**

The list of officers present in the meeting is appended herewith.

At the outset, the Commissioner & Secretary, Finance Department explained the objective of the meeting and gave a brief presentation in regard to the present status of implementation of the schemes under Twelfth Finance Commission for Local Bodies. He stated that keeping in view the spirit of the 73rd and 74th amendments of the constitution and the clear need to provide an impetus to the decentralization process, the Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended Grant-in-aid for a total amount of Rs 526.00 crore (Rs 105.20 crore every year) to PRIs and Rs 25.00 crore (Rs 11.00 crore every year) to ULBs of Assam for the period 2005-10. So far as the Grants recommended for PRIs are concerned, the Commission has suggested for utilizing the same prioritizing the schemes i.e. O&M of the existing water supply and sanitation schemes for rejuvenation, creation of database and maintenance of accounts of the PRIs through application of modern technology and management system. 50% of the grants recommended for ULBs are to be utilized for the schemes of solid waste management through public private partnership. The Commission has also recommended taking up schemes for creation of data base and maintenance of accounts for ULBs. Meanwhile, the GOI has so far released a total amount of Rs 157.80 crore (both instalments of 2005-06 and 1st instalment of 2006-07) against PRIs and Rs 16.50 crore (both instalments of 2005-06 and 1st instalment of 2006-07) against ULBs of Assam out of which an amount of Rs 105.20 crore (both instalments for 2005-06) and Rs 5.50 crore (1st instalment for 2005-06) have been released against the PRIs and ULBs respectively. The UCs have also been submitted for an amount of Rs 102.50 crore for PRIs and Rs 5.50 crore for ULBs.

Participating in the discussions the Chairman, HLC indicated that the Twelfth Finance Commission has provided the Grants for Local Bodies for some specific purposes which have clearly been mentioned in the guidelines circulated by the Ministry of Finance. He requested all concerned Departments to ensure utilization of the Grants properly in conformity with the guidelines of the Ministry of Finance and submit utilization certificates in time to Finance so as to enable Finance Department to transmit the same to the Government of India for further release of funds.

The Commissioner & Secretary, Finance Department informed that action plans/proposals have been received from the Departments of Panchayat and Rural Development for 2006-07 & 2007-08 ; Urban Development Department for 2nd instalment of 2005-06 and for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 and from Guwahati Development Department (for GMC) for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. He also stated that Education Department has submitted detailed schemes amounting Rs 375.00 Lakhs against Education sector of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council against the amount i.e Rs 700.00L already approved by the HLC for the Council for 2007-08. He submitted the proposals in the meeting and after threadbare discussion on the proposals, the HLC approved the following schemes / action plans for Local Bodies and KAAC for Education:

(A) PRIs: (For 2006-07 & 2007-08):

(a) General Area:

(1) Maintenance of accounts	Rs 381.00L
(2) Creation of data base	Rs 600.25 L
(3) Sanitation and water supply	Rs 6081.58 L
(4) O&M costs	Rs 303.08L
(5) Other income generating schemes	Rs 1106.60L
TOTAL	Rs 8472.81

(b) VI th scheduled areas:

- NC Hills

(1) Maintenance of accounts	Rs 2.50L
(2) Creation of data base	Rs 2.50 L
(3) Sanitation and water supply	Rs 213.35 L
(4) O&M costs	Rs 5.00L
(5) Other income generating schemes	Rs 15.00L
TOTAL	Rs 253.35 L

KAAC

(1) Maintenance of accounts	Rs 5.50L
(2) Creation of data base	Rs 5.50 L
(3) Sanitation and water supply	Rs 456.45 L
(4) O&M costs	Rs 11.00L
(5) Other income generating schemes	Rs 33.00L
TOTAL	Rs 511.45 L

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<u>BTC</u>		
(1) Maintenance of accounts		Rs 20.50L
(2) Creation of data base		Rs 20.50 L
(3) Sanitation and water supply		Rs 1077.39 L
(4) O&M costs		Rs 41.00L
(5) Other income generating schemes		Rs 123.00L
	TOTAL	Rs 1282.39 L
Gr.Total PRIs		Rs 105.20 Cr

(B) ULBS:

ULBs for 2nd instalment of 2005-06:

(a)	Creation of Data Base (@ Rs 20000/- X26)	Rs 17.40L
(b)	Maintenance of accounts (@ Rs 20000/- X26)	Rs 17.40 L
(c)	Solid Waste disposal	Rs 229.16L
(d)	Fogging machine	Rs 168.28 L
	TOTAL	Rs 432.24 L

ULBs (For 2006-07, 2007-08 & 2008-09):

(a)	Creation of data base (@ Rs 20000/- X26)	Rs 17.40L
(b)	Maintenance of accounts (@ Rs 20000/- X26)	Rs 17.40 L
(c)	Construction of Land Fill sites for Disposal of solid wastes	Rs 830.20 L
	TOTAL	Rs 865.00L

Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC):

2006-07:

(a)	Maintenance of accounts	Rs 10.00L
(b)	Creation of Data Base	Rs 10.00L
(c)	Solid waste M anagement	Rs 204.00 L
(d)	Income generating schemes	Rs 11.00 L
	TOTAL	Rs 235.00 L

2007-08:

(a)	Maintenance of accounts	Rs 10.00L
(b)	Creation of Data Base	Rs 50.00L
(c)	Solid waste M anagement	Rs 164.00 L
(d)	Income generating schemes	Rs 11.00 L

TOTAL Rs 235.00 L

2008-09:

(a)	Maintenance of accounts	Rs 10.00L
(b)	Creation of Data Base	Rs 50.00L
(c)	Solid waste Management	Rs 175.00 L

TOTAL Rs 235.00 L

**Grand Total for ULBs Rs 1100.00 L
(for every year)**

Schemes approved for KAAC:

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Education department has submitted detailed proposal for an amount of Rs 375.00L.akh against Education sector of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council against the approved amount of Rs 700.00 L. for the council under TFC award for 2007-08. Out of the approved amount, already schemes amounting Rs 325.00 L were approved by the HLC in its meeting held on 18/08/08.

The HLC after threadbare discussions on the proposal of Education Department approved the following schemes for KAAC under TFC award for 2007-08:

Secondary Education:	
(a) Improvement of examination Halls of High/Higher Sec. Schools (@ Rs 10.00L for 6 Nos)	Rs 60.00L
(b) Construction additional class rooms (@ Rs 2.50L for 20 Nos)	Rs 50.00L
(c) Purchase of furniture	Rs 100.00L
(d) Drinking water/toilet facilities	Rs 20.00L
Adult Education	
(Details to be submitted to finance department)	Rs 15.00L
Higher Education:	
(a) Upgradation of auditorium at Diphu Govt. College	Rs 25.00L
(b) Extension of science block at Diphu Govt. College	Rs 10.00L
(c) Repairing of professor's quarters	Rs 20.00L
(d) Boundary wall of Diphu Govt. college	Rs 5.00L
(e) Development of playground of Diphu Govt college	Rs 10.00L
(f) Repairing of buildings of 4 nos non-Govt. colleges	Rs 40.00L
(g) Purchase of furniture, desk/bench for non-Govt. colleges	Rs 20.00L
TOTAL	Rs 130.00L
Gr. Total KAAC Education	Rs 375.00L

The HLC observed that so far as the fund provided by the Twelfth Finance Commission for Maintenance of Accounts and Creation of Data Base for Local Bodies is concerned, the concerned Administrative Departments with due consultation with Finance, NIC and AG should prepare detailed guidelines so as to put in place a proper accounting system at the grass root level and to create a Data Base for the Local Bodies through application of modern technology and management system. The Committee also suggested P&RD Department, UDD and GDD to finalise modalities for developing software in this connection and entrust the same either to NIC or any other reputed software company to start the work immediately. The personnel engaged in accounting works and data management of the local bodies need be imparted proper training in a phased manner to operationalise the new accounting procedure developed with the application of modern technology and management system.

As regards the transfer of water supply and sanitation schemes to the PRIs by the PHE Department, it was decided that PHE Department will prepare a detailed list of all such schemes GP-wise for each of the districts giving full details of the schemes like - date of installation, exact location, year of installation and whether functional or not and furnish the lists to CEO, Zila Parishads concerned. A Committee under the Chairpersonship of the CEO, Zila Parishad will be constituted in every district with PD, DRDA, Executive Engineer, PHE and all the BDOs as members to consider the list of schemes and approve the formal handing over of the schemes. It will be responsibility of the CEO, Zila Parishad to acknowledge the handing over of the schemes from PHE and then take immediate steps to hand over them to GPs for operation and maintenance.

P&RD Department was asked to issue a notification in this regard.

All departments concerned were requested to take prompt necessary action for issuance of AA/Sanction in regard to the awards of TFC for Urban Local Bodies i.e. 2nd instalment of TFC award for 2005-06 & the amounts for 2006-07 (for UDD & GDD). Panchayat and Rural Development Department was also asked to initiate action for issuance of sanction for the entire allocated amount under TFC award for PRIs for 2006-07. The departments were also asked to move ceiling proposals against the amounts due under TFC awards after issuance of necessary sanction in this regard. The Commissioner & Secretary informed that Finance Department vide notification FEB 37/2008-4 dt 11/8/2008 had declared CEOs of Zila Parishads as DDO of Zila Parishads, APs and GPs; SA (accounts) Department as DDO for Guwahati Municipal Corporation and concerned DCs and SDOs as DDOs for Municipal Boards until Executive Officers are posted for drawal of the amounts and disburse the same.

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amongst the Local Bodies for utilization. After issuance of ceiling by Finance Department, concerned administrative departments will give allotment to the concerned DDOs for drawal and disbursal of the same amongst the Local Bodies for utilization.

The Chairman, HLC underlined the need for third party evaluation in regard to implementation of the schemes under Twelfth Finance Commission by the Local bodies against the amounts already released to them..

In his concluding speech, the Chairman, HLC expressed strong concern for slow pace of implementation of the TFC award for Local Bodies. He stated that although already 3 1/2 years of the tenure for TFC award had already elapsed, the concerned Departments failed to submit proposals against the allocated amounts for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 in conformity with the guidelines of the TFC. Consequently, the entire process of utilization of the TFC award for Local Bodies had been inordinately delayed. He requested all concerned Departments to initiate proactive actions for utilizing the TFC fund and avail the streamlined procedure introduced by Finance Department for drawal and disbursal of TFC award for Local Bodies. He asked all concerned Departments to submit utilization certificates as per the prescribed format to Finance (EA) Department promptly so as to enable Finance Department to communicate the same to the MOF for further release of funds. He also pointed out that unless the concerned Departments fail to utilize the entire recommended amount for Local Bodies by the TFC, there is no chance of obtaining substantial funds under the Thirteenth Finance Commission for the Local Bodies. In view of above, the Chairman, HLC requested all concerned Departments to ensure proper utilization of the entire recommended amounts for Local Bodies within the stipulated tenure and accordingly take strong measures for the same.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from the Chair.

Sd/-
Chairman,

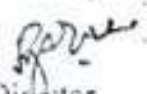
High Level Committee

Dated Dispur the October 31.. 2008

Memo No FEA 85/05/Pt-1/164-A

Copy forwarded to:

1. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Assam Health and Family Welfare Department.
2. The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam Education (Higher) Department
3. The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam Education (Secondary & Elementary) Department
4. The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam Cultural Affairs Department.
5. The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam WPT&BC Department.
6. The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam Hill Areas Department.
7. The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam Urban Development Department
8. The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam Forest Department
9. The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam Panchayat and Rural Development Department
10. The Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam PW department
11. The Secretary to the Government of Assam Guwahati Development Department..
12. The Staff Officer to the Chief Secretary, Assam for favour of information of the CS
13. The PS to the Principal Secy, Finance for favour of information of the Principal Secy.
14. The PS to the Commissioner & Secretary, Finance for favour of information of the Commissioner.
15. The Secretary to the Government of Assam P.H. Department.


Director
Finance (EA) Department &
Member-Convenor, HLC

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List of officers present in the HLC meeting held on 23.9.2008

<u>Sl No</u>	<u>Name & Designation</u>
1.	Sri P.C.Sarma, IAS Chief Secretary, Government of Assam
2.	Dr Prem Saran, IAS Commissioner & Secretary, Hill Areas department
3.	Sri Pramod Tiwari, IAS Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Assam Finance Department.
3.	Sri Biren Dutta, IAS Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam Education (Elementary & Secondary) Department
4.	Sri Ashish Kumar Bhutani, IAS Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, GDD
5.	Sri N.Kakati, Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, PHED
6.	Sri Sabbir Hussain, Secretary to the Government of Assam P&RD Department
7.	Sri R.R Hazarika, Director, Finance (EA) Department
8.	Sri Bhaba Gogoi, Director, P&RD deptt
9.	Sri D.R Rajbonshi, Dy Secy, GDD
10.	Sri S.K Dutta, Ex Director Finance (EA) Department & Consultant
11.	Sri R. Phukan, Dy Secy, P&RD Deptt.
12.	Sri J Chowdhury, Jt Director, finance (EA) department
13.	Sri H.K.Dewri SRO, Finance (EA) department.
14.	Sri BK Saikia, Dy secy, Education (Higher)
15.	Sri Dilwar Hussai, DHE i/c
16.	Sri MP Sarma, Jt Commissioner, GMC
17.	Mrs K.R.Das, Technical Director, NIC.
18.	Sri ML Sarkar, RO
19.	Sri S Phukan, RO