

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the 5th ASFC held on 10th March, 2016

- (1) The meeting was presided over by the Chairman, 5th ASFC, Assam in the office chamber of the Chairman 5th ASFC.
- (2) The list of officers/persons present in the meeting is enclosed.
- (3) At the outset the Chairman welcomed the members present and briefed them of the progress made so far in respect of preparation of the final report of 5th ASFC and highlighted the following points-
 - (a) Collecting of required information from the Autonomous Councils under Sixth Scheduled areas had not made progress due to lack of proper response from the Councils. Follow up action as well as visit to the Sixth Scheduled Areas by the Commission could not be attempted due to Announcement of Assembly Election on 4th instant by the Election Commission of Govt. of India. Visit to the council will be made after the Election is over.
 - (b) He also stated that due to non-availability of accommodation for the Consultants engaged for preparation of the Report of 5th ASFC work has been hampered.
 - (c) Visits to other states by the Commission as discussed in the earlier meeting of the Commission could not materialize due to enforcement of Model Code of Conduct by the Election Commission. However, interaction with CEOs, ZPs/APs/ Chairman of TCs/ MBs etc. were held at Jorhat and Tezpur on 30-11-2015 and 03-01-2016, covering the districts of Sivasagar, Jorhat, Golaghat and North Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Sonitpur and Mangaldoi respectively.
- (4) The Commissioner & Secretary P&RD Department raised the issue of payment of arrears as well as current remuneration of PRIs elected members. He particularly mentioned about the problem of casual employees engaged by Local Bodies.
- (5) The Commissioner & Secretary Urban Development Department/GDD offered some important points on devolution to Local Bodies and Councils of Sixth Schedule Areas by the ASFC.
- (6) The Additional C.S. P & RD, Finance Department spoke on the matter of Activity Mapping and devolution of Functions, Fund and Functionary to the PRIs. He opined that complete devolution of 3Fs was yet to be achieved due to various practical problems.
- (7) Prof. K.K. Barman Member of the 5th ASFC said that due to cuts on many Central Schemes the present financial position of the state was not encouraging. While going for designing any plan for devolution to Local Bodies, this aspect needs to be looked into. He emphasized for promoting employment generation and income generating schemes in the rural areas. He also suggested for capacity building of the functionaries and elected representation of Local Bodies.
- (8) B.N. Das, consultant 5th ASFC said that activity mapping i.e. devolution of 3 FS to Local Bodies in Assam was not only partial but remained on paper. He also spoke about the functioning of Gaon Sabhas. The matter has been discussed in the Draft Report of the 5th ASFC.

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- (9) The Commissioner & Secretary P & RD Department as well as the Commissioner & Secretary UDD/GDD suggested about bringing out some Financial Management Rule as like the AFRBM Act 2005.
- (10) The Joint Director, Finance (Economic Affairs) Department requested P/& RD Department and UDD to furnish updation of already drafted chapters on PRI's Finance and ULB's Finance relating to Draft report of 5th ASFC.
- (11) After detail discussion it was decided that:
- Copy of the chapter on Finances of PRI's as well as ULB's will be provided to P & RD Department and Urban Development Department/GDD respectively.
 - Regarding payment of remuneration of casual employees of PRI's and the payment of arrear salary of regular employees of PRI's, the Chairman requested the Commissioner & Secretary P & RD Department to submit a note.
 - The team of 5th ASFC will visit Sixth Schedule area for collection of required information after the State Election is over. Further the team of 5th ASFC will visit other States for acquiring firsthand knowledge on functioning of Local Self Govt. as envisaged in the 1st meeting of the 5th ASFC at appropriate time.
 - Regarding devolution to Councils of Sixth Schedule Area, in addition to population and area, other criteria like poor development be considered.
 - On capacity building of functioning of PRI's, discussion will be held with SIRD.
 - Copy of chapter on Review of the Status of Decentralized Governance will be provided to P & RD Department. This Chapter of draft report of the 5th ASFC has covered, interalia, functioning of Gaon Panchayat and implement of LSGRF Act 2011 of Government of Assam.
- (12) The Addl. C.S. P & RD and Finance Department is requested to look into the problem of accommodation of the consultants of 5th ASFC.
- (13) The members present opined that in the prevailing circumstances it would not be possible to complete the work by targeted date of 30th April 2016. At least another four months time will be required for finalisation of the report. The Chairman 5th ASFC was requested to move GOA accordingly.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Sd/
Chairman
5th Assam State Finance Commission

Memo No. FEA(SFC) 226/2015/57-A

Dated Dispur, 18th March, 2016

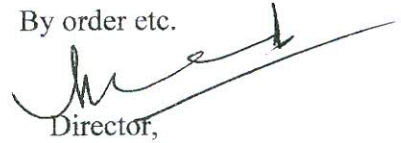
Copy to:

- P.S. to the Chairman, 5th ASFC, Assam for favour of information to the Chairman, 5th ASFC, Assam.
- Prof. Kandarpa Kr. Barman (Retd.) Department of Economics, Jonali, Zoo Road, Ghy-05. Member of 5th ASFC, Assam.
- The Addl. Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, P&RD Department, Member of 5th ASFC, Assam.

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- (4) The Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Urban Development Department, Member of 5th ASFC, Assam
- (5) The Commissioner Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Gauhati Development Department, Special Invitee of 5th ASFC, Assam..
- (6) P.S. to the Commissioner & Secretary, Finance Department, Member Secretary, 5th ASFC, Assam for favour of information of the Commissioner & Secretary, Finance Department, Member Secretary, 5th ASFC, Assam.
- (7) The Principal Secretary BTC/ KAAC/DHAC.....
.....Assam.

By order etc.



Director,

Finance (Economic Affairs) Department

Officers and staff present in the 3rd meeting of 5th Assam State Finance Commission on 10.03.2016 at 11.00 AM in the Office Chamber of Chairman, 5th ASFC (CM Block, Ground Floor)

| Sl.No. | Name | Designation |
|--------|---------------------|--|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | V.B. Pyarelal | Addl. C.S., P&RD, Finance |
| 3 | Ravi Kota | Commissioner & Secretary, Urban Dev. Department/GDD |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | I.Haque | Commissioner & Secretary, Finance Department. |
| 6 | Ahmed Hussain | Commissioner & Secretary, P&RD |
| 7 | K.K. Barman | Professor, Retd., Economics, Guwahati University |
| 8 | Hemanta Kumar Dewri | Director, Finance (E.A.) Department |
| 9 | M.Medhi | Director P&RD |
| 10 | B.N. Das | Consultant |
| 11 | Matilal Sarkar | Joint Director (E.A.) |