

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 5th Assam State Finance Commission held on 15th June, 2013 in the Conference Hall of the Finance Department, Ground Floor of Block-F of Assam Secretariat.

List of the Members and Officers present in the Meeting is given at Annexure-I.

The meeting was chaired by Shri M.P. Bezbaruah, Chairman, 5th Assam State Finance Commission. At the outset, he extended a hearty welcome to all the members and officers present and outlined the purpose of the meeting.

Shri H.S. Das, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department gave a brief account of the status of Local Bodies. He said that recommendations of 1st and 2nd Report of the State Finance Commissions could not be implemented as the Commissions could not give proper basis for devolution of funds to the Local Bodies due to lack of data from the grassroot level. The accounting system of Local bodies, both PRIs and ULBs is very poor. Finance Department is releasing funds under the award of 3rd and 4th Finance Commissions. But the functions and functionaries have not yet been transferred to Local Bodies to utilize those funds in proper way. Till today proper decentralization of powers and functions have not taken place.

The Chairman of the Commission wondered whether the 5th Assam SFC would be able to get data from the Local Bodies properly in time due to their poor data base and submit the Report in time. If delay happens in submission of the Report due to poor base data, the award period for 2015-16 of the 4th Assam SFC is likely to be taken as an Interim Report of the 5th Assam SFC for that year. However, the Commission will make an earnest effort to submit the Report in time.

Prof. K. K. Barman suggested that the Commission should discuss the basic objectives of the Finance Commission. He referred to growing income disparities between urban and rural areas, the importance for improving delivery of public services and suggested that State financial position should be reviewed for availability of funds for Local Bodies under the award of State Finance Commission.

Shri J. B. Singh, Principal Secretary, Panchayat & Rural Development Department gave the overview of the ATR, the activity mapping and general picture about capacity to collect additional taxes.

Shri K. C. Samria, Commissioner and Secretary, Urban Development Department mentioned about staff shortages and need to build capacity.

Dr. U. N. Bora, Secretary, Urban Development Department also mentioned staff problems and added that there should not be any bias against urban development as it can be engine of growth.

Shri J. Choudhury, Director of Finance (Economic Affairs) Department emphasized the importance of institutional arrangements for accounts system.

After detailed deliberation the following decisions were taken:

- 1) The concerned departments i.e. P&RD, UDD and GDD will submit a status report indicating the physical parameters, statistics showing the present arrangement available for monitoring, utilization of resources and for ensuring financial discipline.
- 2) Action taken on the 4th and earlier Finance Commission Reports by Finance (E.A.), P&RD, GDD and UDD.
- 3) A report on the financial position of the State is to be submitted by Director, Finance (E.A).
- 4) Request to Tribal Research Institute to conduct a study on the terms of reference relating to 6th Schedule Areas and submit a comprehensive report.
- 5) Collection of CAG report on 6th Schedule areas by Finance (E.A.) Department.

- 6) Identification of executive staff for PRIs and ULBs. Action may be taken by P&RD and UDD.
- 7) The next meeting will deliberate on the basic objectives before the SFC and issues.
- 8) A Nodal officer will be identified by the concerned department and may issue necessary instructions to the Field Officers for replying the questionnaire.
- 9) Immediate arrangement for providing accommodation for the 2 (two) Consultants by finance (E.A.) Department.

The meeting ended with thanks from the Chair.

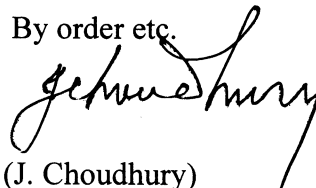
Sd/-
(Shri M.P. Bezbaruah)
Chairman
Fifth Assam State Finance Commission

Memo. No.FEA (SFC) 203/2013/10-A

Dated Dispur July 12, 2013

1. The P.S. to the Chairman of 5th ASFC for kind information of the Chairman.
2. The Additional Chief Secretary Secretary, Government of Assam, Finance Department.
3. The Principal Secretary, Government of Assam, Panchayat & Rural Development Department and Member of the 5th ASFC.
4. The Principal Secretary, Government of Assam, Guwahati Development Department and Member of the 5th ASFC.
5. The Commissioner and Secretary, Government of Assam, Urban Development Department and Member of the 5th ASFC.
6. Prof. Kandarpa Kr. Barman, Member of the 5th ASFC and Professor of Department of Economics, Guwahati University, Guwhati-781 014.
7. The Commissioner & Secretary (P. K. Borthakur), Government of Assam, Finance Department and Member Secretary of 5th ASFC
8. The Secretary to the Government of Assam, U.D. Department.
9. The Commissioner, Panchayat & Rural Development, Assam, Punjabari, Guwahati -37
10. The Commissioner, Gauhati Municipal Corporation, Panbazar, Guwahati -1
11. The Director of Municipal Administration, Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-6 .
12. The Director of Economics & Statistics, Assam, Khanapara, Jawaharnagar, Guwahti-781 022.
13. The Consultant (B. N. Das), SFC Cell, Finance (Economic Affairs) Department.
14. Smti Kabita Ray Das, Technical Director, NIC, Dispur, Guwahati-781 006.

By order etc.



(J. Choudhury)
Director,

Finance (Economic Affairs) Department.

ANNEXURE-I

List of Members and Officers present in the 1st Meeting of 5th Assam State Finance Commission held on 15th June 2013 at 11 A.M.

Sl. No.

1. Shri H. S. Das, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Departmen
2. Shri J.B. Singh, Principal Secretary, P&RDD and GDD
3. Shri Kandarpa Kr. Barman, Member, 5th ASFC
4. Shri K.C. Samria, Commissioner & Secretary, UDD
5. Dr. U.N. Bora, Secretary, UDD
6. Shri N. Bhuyan, Joint Director , Economics & Statistics
7. Smti. Kabita Ray Das, Technical Director, NIC
8. Shri B. N. Das, Consulnat, 5th ASFC.

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