

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT**

Constitution 73rd Amendment Act -Devolution of powers and functions to Panchayat Raj Institutions in respect of subject relating to Rural Development – Order Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RD.III) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.571

Date:26.12.2007

ORDER :

Constitution 73rd Amendment provides for strengthening and revitalizing the Panchayat Raj Institutions so that they can sub-serve the needs of the teeming millions that live in the rural areas. To achieve these objectives, 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act has provided for the devolution of powers and responsibilities to Panchayat Raj Institutions to enable them to function as Institutions of Self-Government with respect to;

- a. the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice;
- b. the implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule.

2) Towards this end, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has enacted AP Panchayat Raj Act 1994 (Act 13 of 1994), reflecting the spirit of the Constitutional mandate. The Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Government of India held Seven Round Table conferences to arrive at a "Blue Print" for effective devolution of powers to Panchayat Raj Institutions. To start with, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has identified 10 core subjects to be devolved to the Panchayat Raj Institutions by demarcating operational responsibility basing on the subsidiarity principle.

3) The Government has constituted a **Task Force Committee** headed by the Special Chief Secretary to Government, PR & RD Department, to review the functioning of existing systems of the line departments and prepare proposals with regard to the powers and functions to be devolved to the Panchayat Raj Institutions based on activity mapping. The Government has also constituted a **Group of Ministers** which considered the recommendations of the Task Force Committee.

Functions to be devolved

4) The Government after careful consideration of recommendations of the Task Force hereby devolves the following functions to Panchayat Raj Institutions in respect of Rural Development Department:

- a. implementation of Watershed programmes
- b. implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
- c. distribution of Pensions.

5) The Panchayat Raj Institutions prepare and approve the annual action plan for all plan schemes of the above activities devolved to the Panchayat Raj Institutions. The demarcation among Panchayat Raj Institutions is mentioned in the Annexure to this order (along with funds).

Release of Funds

6) Budget Release Orders will be issued from Finance Department in the name of concerned Head of Department. The funds for activities devolved to PR Institutions, shall be either adjusted to the PD Accounts of concerned PR Institutions ie., Zilla Parishad / Mandal Parishad / Grama Panchayat, with regard to the State Share while the Central Share shall be adjusted to the Saving Bank Accounts of the concerned Panchayat Raj Institutions body at district level. These funds shall be utilized under supervision of the Commissioner, Rural Development at State level and the Project Director, District Water Management Agency at district, Mandal & Panchayat levels. The details of the programmes devolved to the Panchayat Raj Institutions, budget heads and break up of SCP & TSP are given at **Annexure-I**.

Accounting and Auditing

7) The Panchayat Raj Institutions shall be responsible for proper utilization, accountability, auditing and reconciliation of the funds transferred to them. Panchayat Raj Institutions shall issue utilization certificate to the Project Director District Water Management Agency concerned.. For this purpose, Government accounting system as detailed in G.O. Ms. NO. 172 PR & RD (Accts.I)Deptt, dated 16.5.2005 will be followed by the PR Institutions in respect of funds released for the devolved activities.

Capacity Building

8) AP Academy of Rural Development will undertake capacity building for Panchayat Raj Institutions for accounting, auditing, reconciliation and other related aspects.

9) The Commissioner, Rural Development shall arrange to prepare the relevant training materials regarding the schemes devolved to the Panchayat Raj Institutions and will undertake capacity building for PR Institutions in these areas in coordination with AP Academy of Rural Development.

10) Functionaries implementing the above mentioned programmes shall report to the respective Panchayat Raj Institutions in respect of the above devolved functions as shown in **Annexure-II**.

General Instructions

11) The Panchayat Raj Institutions shall strive for system improvements and foster better relations between the stakeholders and service departments and take steps to achieve convergence of schemes/activities for filling the gaps in delivery of services efficiently.

12) All existing instructions / rules/ orders of the department shall be translated into Telugu and circulate to all elected representatives.

13) Commissioner, Rural Development is requested to take necessary action accordingly.

14) A copy of this order is available on the internet and can be accessed at the address [http:// www.rd.ap.gov.in](http://www.rd.ap.gov.in).

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

K. RAJU
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVT (RD)

To

All the Heads of Departments under the control of PR & RD Department

All the Heads of Departments in the state

All the District Collectors in the state

All the PDs, DWMAAs / DRDAs through the Commissioner, RD, Hyderabad

All the CEOs, ZPs / DPOs

The Accountant General, AP., Hyderabad

The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, AP, Hyderabad

The Commissioner, Printing, Stationary & Stores Purchase, Chanchalguda, Hyd (with a request to publish the GO in AP Gazette & supply 500 copies to this Department)

Copy to

All the Departments of Secretariat

The General Administration (Cabinet) Department

The Finance (Expr. PR&RD) Dept

PS to Prl. Secretary to Chief Minister

PS to all Ministers

PS to Chief Secretary to Govt,

PS to Spl. Chief Secretary to Govt, PR&RD Department

PS to Prl. Secretary to Govt,(RD), PR&RD Department

PS to Secretary to Govt (RWS), PR&RD Department

PR&RD (Mandal -I/General/OP-I)Department

SF/SCS

//Forwarded by Order//

Section Officer