



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT - COMPLAINTS AGAINST LOCAL BODIES -
SETTING UP OF A SYSTEM AT THE DISTRICT AND STATE LEVELS - ORDERS ISSUED.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION (P) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(P) No. 54/98/LAD.

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 17th March 1998.

Read: 1. G.O.(P) No. 189/95/LAD. dated 18-9-95.
2. G.O.(P) No. 676/97/Fin. dated 6-8-97.
3. G.O.(P) No. 220/97/LAD. dated 2-10-97.
4. G.O.(P) No. 221/97/LAD. dated 3-10-97.
5. G.O.(P) No. 1459/97/Fin. dated 29-12-97.

ORDER

Government have devolved very important functions to the Local Bodies both Urban and Rural. Substantial Plan Funds have been allotted to them for discharging their functions. In order to foster autonomous functioning, several powers have been delegated to the Local Bodies and a lot of relaxation has been made in existing procedures. Much flexibility has been given to the Local Bodies, particularly in execution of Public Works.

2. With a view to ensuring that the Local Bodies discharge their functions properly, new procedures in the selection of beneficiaries and execution of works prescribe absolute transparency and call for maximum participation by the beneficiaries. Unless these things are followed scrupulously, there is likelihood of public complaints.

3. The setting up of an independent grievance redressal system exclusively for the Local Bodies is being examined by Government and it will take some time before the system is set up. Therefore it is necessary to workout certain interim arrangements to enquire into complaints regarding non-adherence to rules and procedures in the implementation of various development schemes by the Local Bodies.

4. Government have considered the issue and are pleased to order the following:

- (1) Setting up of Grievance Enquiry Committees at the District and State Levels.

A Grievance Enquiry Committee would be set up at the District level consisting of the District Collector, seniormost non-official member of the District Level Expert Committee and the District Planning Officer. This Committee would be authorised to receive complaints concerning Grama Panchayats, Block Panchayats and Municipalities. A Committee would be set up at the State level consisting of Secretary, Local Administration, Secretary, Planning and Member, Decentralised Planning, State Planning Board. This Committee will receive complaints concerning District Panchayats and Municipal Corporations.

Both the Committees can enquire into complaints using any method deemed appropriate by the Committee and shall as far as practicable, sort out issues through consultation and discussions. Wherever statutory action is required these Committees should intimate the Government.

(2) Setting up of a Technical Audit Panel.

A Technical Audit Panel would be created consisting of not more than 15 senior engineering professionals both governmental or non-governmental. The professionals would be identified jointly by Planning and Local Administration Departments. The members of this panel may be sent individually or in teams to test check implementation of public works or to verify complaints. During inspections these experts would look into the observance of the provisions of public works Rules and Governmental instructions issued thereunder with particular reference to the quality of work, ensuring of transparency and avoidance of benami Contractors. The actual expenses of inspection including travel, boarding and lodging would be met by the State Planning Board from funds set apart for the Decentralised Planning Campaign.

By Order of the Governor,

S.M. VIJAYANAND,

Secretary to Government.

To

The Director of Panchayats, Thiruvananthapuram.
The Director of Municipal Administration, Thiruvananthapuram.
The Commissioner for Rural Development, Thiruvananthapuram.
All Heads of Departments.
All Districts Collectors.
The Director of Local Funds Accounts.
All Secretaries to Government.
All District Planning Officers.
All Departments of the Secretariat (all sections)
The Director, 'KILA', Thrissur.
The Private Secretary to Chief Minister and other Ministers.

The President/Secretary of all District Panchayats.
The President/Secretary of all Block Panchayats. Through Deputy Director of Panchayats concerned
The President/Secretary of all Grama Panchayats. Through Deputy Director of Panchayats concerned.
All Deputy Directors of Panchayats.
All Joint Regional Directors of Municipal Administrations.
The Chairman/Secretary of all Municipalities.
The Mayor/Secretary of all Municipal Corporations.
The Director of Public Instruction (for immediate Press release)
The Secretary, Local Administration Department.
The Secretary, Finance (Resources) Department.
The Secretary, Planning Department.
Member (Decentralised Planning), State Planning Board, Thiruvananthapuram.
Member (Resource) State Planning Board, Thiruvananthapuram.

Forwarded By Order,

Section Officer.
