



PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS (D)  
DEPARTMENT

**G.O.(Ms.) No. 27/96/P and ARD, dated, Thiruvananthapuram,  
23rd August, 1996**

Abstract- Secretariat-Settlement of disputes between Government Departments and public Sector Undertakings/Corporations/Boards etc.-Constitution of high power committees-Orders issued.

Read- Judgement dated 27th June 1996 of the High Court in O.P. No. 4740/90 filed by Kerala State Electricity Board against the Forest Department for settling an issue pending form 1978 onwards, the Hon'ble High Court has observed as follows:-

“It is unfortunate that Government Department and State owned undertakings are fighting each other in Courts, Tribunals and other statutory forums for the redressal of their grievances rather than resolving the disputes using their own good offices. Disputes which can easily be resolved between themselves are money on court fees, procedural expenses and wasting public time. Many of the disputes remain unresolved for years and years, thereby holding up various Projects and schemes of considerable importance”.

The High Court has therefore, ordered to constitute High Power Committees and when required, consisting of senior officials of Government to settle amicably the disputes between State Government to settle amicably the disputes between State Government Departments and Government owned undertaking themselves.

2. After examining the matter, Government are pleased to order the Constitution of High Power Committees with immediate effect of each Department for dealing with the disputes between Government Departments and State owned Companies/Public Sector Undertakings/Boards/Corporations/Autonomous Bodies etc. as the case may be and the Government owned undertakings themselves. The composition of the Committee will be as follows:-

- |    |   |    |          |
|----|---|----|----------|
| 1. | Additional Chief Secretary to Government                      | .. | Chairman |
| 2. | Law Secretary   | .. | Member   |
| 3. | Principle Secretary/Secretary<br>of the Department concerned  | .. | “        |
| 4. | Principal Secretary/Secretary<br>of the Departments concerned | .. | “        |

5. The Head of the Department  
Managing Director in the case  
of Public Sector Undertakings/  
Heads of Boards and Autonomous  
Bodies

6. Finance Secretary in the case of .. “  
issues involving financial  
Commitment

3. Any disputes pending that may arise between Government departments and Government Departments and State owned Companies/Public Sector Undertakings/Boards/Corporations and such other bodies and Government owned undertakings themselves will be placed before the High Power Committee for examination and settlement. All disputes pending before any courts, tribunals and such other forums would also be referred to the High Power Committee and the committee will look into the said matters in all aspects and reach an amicable solution.

4. In cases where the Committees do not come to an applicable settlement it is open to the Committees to give clearance to the parties to proceed with litigation. While the Committees find that they are unable to resolve the disputes they should record their reasons in detail therefor.

5. The disputes referred to the High Power Committees should be disposed of with a period of *three months* from the date of receipt of the case by the Committee.

6. All authorities concerned are directed to adhere to the above instructions strictly.

(By Order of the Governor)

C.P. Nair,  
*Chief Secretary.*