

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PLANNING AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

No. 217/PRD/2022-23/DD(PF)/2609

Puducherry, Dt. 19.07.2022

CIRCULAR

Sub: State Planning Board – Minutes communicated – Reg.

* * *

Minutes of the State Planning Board Meeting held on 06.07.2022 under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor is sent herewith for kind perusal and to take necessary action.

/By Order/

R. Asokan
19/07/2022
(R. Asokan)
Director (i/c)

To
The Heads of Department concerned

Minutes of the State Planning Board Meeting (2022-23) held on 06.07.2022 at 11.30 AM
in the Conference Hall of Chief Secretariat under the Chairpersonship of
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

The meeting of the State Planning Board was held on 06.07.2022 under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor at 11.30 A.M. in the Conference Hall of the Chief Secretariat, Puducherry to discuss and finalize the size of the Annual Budget 2022-23. List of participants is enclosed as Annexure-A.

At the outset, Chief Secretary welcomed the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers, Distinguished Members of the Board, Secretaries to Government and Head of Departments. Chief Secretary outlined that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss and finalize the size of the Annual Budget 2022-23. Further, Chief Secretary highlighted the following points:

- Vote on account was passed for a period of 5 months only and now we require preparation of budget for whole year i.e. 2022-23. Hence, these deliberations are extremely important to guide us especially in the wake of financial constraint due to cessation of GST compensation.
- Improving the performance in Developmental indicators for basic services, standard of living of people and infrastructure.
- While progressing on the path of meeting the developmental aspiration of people, it is important to augment our resources and optimally utilize them. Hence, suggestions sought on two specific points viz., Additional Resource Mobilization and Rationalization of expenditure.
- During the Conference of Chief Secretaries headed by Hon'ble Prime Minister it was emphasised by the Union Finance Secretary that all States/UTs should maintain fiscal discipline. The financial crisis in neighbouring country

Sri Lanka is a lesson and it should be ensured that we do not go down the path of poor revenue collection, inadequate control over expenditure and irrational borrowings.

- Rationalization of schemes with outcome review, removal of inefficient subsidies, better targetting of subsidies to those needy, user charges for Government Services and progressive taxation may be considered.
- Every challenge is an opportunity to move towards the path of development of Puducherry.

The Chief Secretary requested Hon'ble Lt. Governor to deliver the opening remarks.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor:

Hon'ble Lt. Governor in her opening remarks welcomed the Members of the State Planning Board and other dignitaries and highlighted the following key points:

- Due to various administrative reasons, the full budget could not be passed and for the sake of the functioning of the Government, vote on account for the period of five months was approved. This meeting has been convened to decide the size of the budget for financial year 2022-23.
- Last two years have been a crucial time for the territory due to covid-19 pandemic and we were grappling with the situation. The UT administration handled the situation brilliantly and come back to normalcy.
- The local bodies should be self sustainable and should not depend upon the grants from Government. There is a need for rationalizing property taxes and solid waste management charges considering present financial situation of the local bodies.

- To explore our own resources and also the possibilities of implementing the projects under PPP.
- Tourism is one potential area where more revenue can be mobilised. Strengthening the tourism Infrastructure by engaging private organisation's partnership.
- Capital expenditure provides employment opportunity and hence there is a need to concentrate on enhancing the capital allocation in the budget.
- The people of Puducherry are happy about the management of Covid pandemic situation and disaster caused by floods, because of the assistance provided by the UT administration to tackle the situation.
- Planning is working on the basic long term goals and objectives that are need to be achieved with the allocation of adequate resources. It is therefore, absolutely essential that our outlay is proposed in tune with the expected resources, which must also be based on realistic assessment.
- As we all are in need of finalizing the UT budget, Hon'ble Members are requested to give their valuable suggestions to offer visionary directions to the growth and development of Puducherry in a balanced and harmonious manner taking into consideration the needs and aspirations of our people.
- Distinguished Members will agree that the deliberations are based on the fundamental principle.

Then, Development Commissioner-cum-Principal Secretary (Plg.) being the Member Secretary made a power point presentation to the august forum highlighting the following points:

- The key role of the State Planning Board was highlighted.

- Further, Member Secretary spoke about the composition of U.T. Finances which are managed by UT's Own Resources, Grants from Government of India and Borrowings from Open Market and Financial institutions.
- Subsequently, the components of U.T.'s own receipts viz., commercial tax, excise, power, stamps & registration, transport, PWD and others were brought out. The data for the last three years receipts was also brought out.
- Expenditure incurred in 2021-22 is Rs. 9793.24 crore as against Rs.10414 crore which works out to 94.04%.
- Also, informed about the committed expenditure for the last five years and the projected the committed expenditure for Budget 2022-23.
- The fiscal discipline followed in UT during the last five years was displayed and explained.
- During the Conference of Chief Secretaries held in the month of June 2022, it was informed that UTs/States should concentrate in the following areas to mobilize revenues viz., by way of leverage on land resources under PPP, outsourcing tourism infrastructure to private players, raising excise revenues periodically, rationalise property taxes including progressive tax that impacts rich proportionally, levying solid waste management charges. Revising of GLR rates with automatic inflation indexing, fees for various Government services to be raised regularly in line with inflation and growth of income and tapping new sources of revenue generation.
- Emphasised the need to rationalize the expenditure.
- After the presentation of Power Point, Member Secretary requested the august forum to debate the issues and extend guidance for Budget 2022-23.

After the presentation, the valuable suggestions were offered by the Members and Non-Official Members as follows:

Thiru. R. Siva, Leader of opposition

- Lt. Governor may take efforts to seek more Central Assistance from Government of India either by way of Special /Additional central assistance.
- Action may be taken to open the closed industries. Ensuring availability of land for opening of new industries so as to generate employment.
- Land Acquisition Act to be implemented in letter and spirit for acquiring land and distributing the same to the landless poor by means of free patta's.
- Ensure distribution of free quality rice through ration shops, thereby giving employment opportunity to the employees of ration shops and satisfying the people of Puducherry.
- Tourism is one potential area where revenue could be generated to the Government and to ensure proper function of Puducherry Port.
- Action to be taken to open/operate the sugar mill.
- Ayushman Bharat card issued by the UT of Puducherry is not being accepted in some hospitals functioning other than Puducherry.

Thiru. V. Vaithilingam, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha

- GST compensation deficit should be balanced.
- Capital expenditure is almost Nil. Normally the Union Territory is managed with 35% of capital and 65% of Revenue Expenditure. But due to merger of Plan and Non-Plan Head of Accounts, the developmental activities of Puducherry not been clearly shown in the recent Budgets after the amalgamation of Heads.

- Action should be taken to implement Centrally Sponsored / Central Sector schemes.
- It is clearly seen that expenditure under CSS is very low because most of the Departments are not interested to avail funds under CSS schemes.
- The department officials should prepare Project Report and submit it to the Central Government for CSS scheme, there should not be any negligence in submitting the report, whether it will suit to our UT or not. If not, the Central Government may be requested to change the guidelines as per our requirement.
- Ayushman Bharat Scheme is to be linked with the Insurance companies.
- Identification of schemes under CSS by all Departments so as to tap more funds from Govt of India.
- Fund to be spent judiciously and in a proper way as our UT has reached optimum level in tax realization which is very valuable and scarce.

Thiru S. Selvaganapathy, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

- The Central Government is ready to provide financial assistance for implementation of Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector schemes.
- The DPR should be prepared properly and submitted to the Central Government for release of funds under CSS.
- A separate Agency may be appointed for the preparation of DPR as like in other States.
- Government of India released Rs. 30 crore under Jal Jeevan Mission. But, there is a delay in utilising the fund.
- Secretary (LAD) replied that, Government of India communicated the allocation of Rs. 30 crore for Jal Jeevan Mission during the year 2021-22, but Rs. 7 crore

was only received during the month of February 2022. Hence, it was unable to spend that amount within the financial year and the same was brought forward to the year 2022-23. The entire amount will be spent during this year.

- Utilisation of funds released under MPLAD by the Government gets undue delay in spending by the Departments concerned. Hence, a separate committee consisting of the officials from the respective Departments may be set up for clearing the proposals in time. Likewise, a committee may be constituted to look after the progress of CSS.
- Many States are implementing the CSS schemes in a better way and getting more fund from the Central Government. But, UTP is getting funds around Rs. 300 crore only and that too not being utilised fully.
- UCs to be submitted in time so that the next instalment of fund may be released by Government of India on time.
- Ways may be found to mobilize additional resources. Effective measures to be taken to curtail the expenditure.
- Food Corporation of India is ready to purchase paddy in Puducherry and Karaikal and supply it to the Rice Mill owners in Puducherry for single and double boiled rice. In this connection a meeting may be organized by the Civil Supplies Department with the officials of FCI, farmers, Rice Mill Owners for supply of single boiled rice.

Dr. R.R. Dhanapal, IIPA, Puducherry Chapter (Non-Official Member)

- On formulation and implementation of development plan and schemes, the proposed budget should be referred to the CAG or local auditors for observations. Audit observations should be complied with by DAT and other

concerned departments in time. Any negligence or delay in this matter may lead to creation of serious Audit paras which would make things tough in future.

- The Puducherry UT Govt. may arrange for proper, timely and full utilization of allocated funds. As per the Financial Management principles, it is not correct to surrender or lapse the allocated funds.
- The Govt. of Puducherry requested the Govt. of India to enhance the Grant amount in view of the extraordinary situation due to Covid pandemic and financial crisis being faced. The Grant amount requested may be additional 25% of the Budget 2022-23.
- To find the avenues to augment the resources to meet out the need for development planning.
 - The scope for revenue generation has to be identified in Entertainment, Luxury goods and Education services.
 - Creation of a hub to support co-ordination of professionals and policy makers in Education, Health and Tourism.
 - Regulation of all types of tax in respect of Housing, Industry, Education, Trading, Tourism and General business.
 - The Govt. should create awareness about the Social Audit, Transparency, Accountability and Responsibility to implement, through website for better formulation of budget.

Prof. Amaresh Samantaraya, Registrar(i/c), Pondicherry University Non-Official Member

- The twin objective is to generate revenue and Expenditure Rationalization.
- Input required how to sort out and excel in economic activities which will help us for revenue generation.

- User charges can be collected from the tourists visiting to the Eden Beach at Chinna Veerampattinam which has got Blue Flag certification.
- Another area is improving commercial operations of the co-operative units and Good Governance in Co-operatives.

Thiru. AK. Sai J Saravanan Kumar, Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies

- The potential sources of income being Tourism. Entertainment Parks should be planned in Oussudu Lake, KVK and in other prominent places.
- A zoo may be set up to increase tourism revenue.
- There is a persistent demand for issue of ration cards in each constituency. About 2000 number of cards to be issued. Additional fund to be provided for issue of new ration cards.
- More funds are required for the modernization of Fire Service Department and to procure fire fighting equipments.
- Creation of additional parking halls over the big canal alongside HM Kasim Salai, Aambour Salai covering the canal.
- The unfinished bye-pass road over the Uppar drain from Kamaraj salai to Maraimalai Adigal salai (opposite to Botanical Garden) should be taken up quickly to ease the traffic congestion in Anna Salai.
- Proper planning is required in implementing projects to avoid cost overrun.

Tmt. Chandira Priyanka, Hon'ble Minister for Transport

- In general, proper Database is not available in the UTP. As such, we do not know our requirement. Hence, Economics & Statistics Dept. should play a vital role on creation of database.

- If Database is available, the people living below poverty line may be ascertained for reaching out Government benefits.
- Under CSS scheme, Rs. 6 crore has been provided for database up-dation and infrastructure. Action may be taken to update database.

Thiru. C. Djeacoumar, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture

- In the Social Welfare department more than 16,000 applications are pending for clearance to avail the benefits under welfare schemes.
- No new schemes are implemented in the Agricultural Department. Hence, farmers are facing difficult situation.
- Officials should co-operate in the implementation of schemes and in overall development of Puducherry.

Thiru. K. Lakshminarayanan, Honb'le Minister for Public Works

- Central Assistance remains static for the last 10 years.
- Most of our revenue is spent for committed debt.
- Increase of tax causes burden to the people of Puducherry. Hence, Departments should approach concerned Ministries to get more funds under CSS.
- Officials should work in tandem with the Council of Ministers.
- Tendering process, release of matching grant (state share) are major hurdles in utilising the CSS funds.
- A Secretary may be entrusted with the work of submission of proposal, release of funds, utilization of funds and submission of UCs under CSS.
- Government of India may be approached for deferment of repayment of loan.
- For grant of Special Central Assistance, no DPR is required to be submitted to the Government of India.

- Lot of barriers in availing negotiated loan which needs to be sorted and simplified.
- Finance Department may consider availing loan from the Institutions which are ready to sanction loan immediately rather than focusing on rate of interest. As delay in awarding work leads to cost escalation.
- Ensure proper utilization of fund availed under loan component.
- Land / Offices may be leased out on revenue sharing basis.
- While allocating funds, be generous with the Departments which are creating capital expenditure in nature.

Thiru. A. Namassivayam, Hon'ble Minister for Home

- Action to be taken to run the Sugar mill along with allied activities. The farmers are now ready to co-operate to operate the Sugar mill with ethanol plants. This will provide employment opportunities and farmers also get benefitted.
- Additional fund is required for renovating the existing DGP Office as that of heritage building, construction of Police Stations, renovating e all the existing police stations, and also for uniform allowance, replacement of vehicles etc.
- Separate Department has to be created for Sports in order to develop sports activities in the UT of Puducherry and thereby safeguarding the wrong Government of Indiang youths.
- A separate team may be formed for availing funds, implementation and timely submission of UCs under CSS. An expert may be included in the team.
- Many Head of Departments are unaware of Centrally Sponsored schemes being implemented by their respective Ministries in the Government of India.
- A review meeting may be conducted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister exclusively for Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

- Administrative reforms needed to be revamped.
- Action has to be taken to acquire land at Sedarapet for setting up of Industrial units.
- Action has been taken for the disposal of Pattanur land.
- Action has been taken to create Sub-Inspector posts in the Police Department.
- Delegation of financial powers to the Cabinet / CM/LG.
- The policy of DBT system for all welfare schemes should be re-considered. It should be applied only for certain things and particularly not for issue of clothes, rice, scholarships to students etc.
- For mobilization of resources of revenue, tax need not be levied on poor people. Instead, tax may be levied on Private Educational institutions.
- Un-utilized Govt. lands to be developed for revenue source for Best Puducherry and Fast Puducherry.

Hon'ble Chief Minister

- Secretaries and Head of Departments should focus on Best Puducherry and Fast Puducherry.
- All welfare schemes should be implemented fully.
- Government may consider generation of additional revenue without any burden to the citizens.
- Many Developmental plans should be implemented.
- Request has been made to the Government of India for provision of special central assistance.
- Revised Outlay for 2021-22 is Rs. 10414 crore. Hence, it was proposed that Rs.11000 crore may be fixed as Budget size for 2022-23. Requested the august forum to approve the same.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor

Hon'ble Lt. Governor in her concluding remarks lauded the State Planning Meeting which is a comprehensive one and highlighted the views and suggestions for the BEST and FAST Puducherry.

- After the assumption of Chief Secretary, meetings are conducted frequently to ensure smooth functioning of the UT administration.
- Initiation of e-office system is necessary for proper functioning, transparency and to avoid delay in processing files.
- Presently, there is delay in the preparation of DPR for various projects due to the assigned work only to the selected institutions. Ways and Means may be ascertained to find out new Institutions to prepare DPR, for which necessary fund may be allotted to meet out the consultancy charges.
- Implementation of people oriented schemes should not be delayed because of procedure.
- As regards the acquisition of land, Officials from MHA are prepared to visit Puducherry to sort out the issues.
- All the states are having an opportunity to get Rs. 1 lakh crore debt but that is not allotted to UT of Puducherry. This issue may be raised and discussed during the visit of Officials from MHA.
- Focus should be given for implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

In fine, the Board has unanimously agreed the budget size of Rs.11000 crore for 2022-23.

With this, the meeting come to an end with vote of thanks to the Chair, Members of the Board and all other participants.

&&&&

Annexure - A**List of Participants**

Sl. No.	Name Thiru /Tmt.	Designation
Chairperson and Members of the Board		
1.	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan	Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Chairperson
2.	N. Rangasamy	Hon'ble Chief Minister, Vice Chairman
3.	A. Namassivayam	Hon'ble Minister for Home, Member
4.	K. Lakshminarayanan	Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Member
5.	C. Djeacoumar	Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Member
6.	S. Chandira Priyanga	Hon'ble Minister for Transport, Member
7.	A.K. Sai J. Saravana Kumar	Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Member
8.	S. Selvaganapathy	Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Member
9.	V. Vaithilingam	Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Member
10.	R. Siva	Leader of Opposition, Member
11.	Rajeev Verma, I.A.S.	Chief Secretary, Member
12.	Prashant Goyal, I.A.S.	Development Commissioner-cum-Principal Secretary (Fin. & Plg.), Member Secretary
13.	Padma Jaiswal, I.A.S.	Secretary (Stationery & Printing), Member
14.	P. Jawahar, I.A.S.	Secretary (Industries), Member
15.	C. Udaya Kumar, I.A.S.	Secretary (Health), Member
16.	S.D. Sundaresan, I.A.S.	Secretary (Labour), Member
17.	A.S.P.S. Ravi Prakash, I.A.S.	Secretary (Agriculture), Member
18.	R. Smitha, I.A.S.	Secretary (Science, Tech. & Env.), Member
19.	E. Vallavan, I.A.S.	Secretary (Revenue), Member
20.	Abhijit Vijay Chaudhar, I.A.S.	Secretary to LG, Member
21.	L. Kumar, I.A.S.	Secretary (Commercial Tax), Member
22.	A. Nedunchezhiyan, I.A.S.	Secretary (Rural Development), Member
23.	R. Kesavan, I.A.S.	Secretary (TCP, Personnel), Member
24.	T. Arun, I.A.S.	Secretary (Public Works, Tourism), Member
25.	S. Karthikeyan, I.A.S.	Secretary (Law), Member
26.	Dr. R.R. Dhanapal	IIPA, Puducherry, Member
27.	Prof. Amaresh Samantaraya	Registrar (i/c), Pondicherry University, Member
Other Dignitaries / Heads of Departments		
28.	R.S. Krishnia, I.P.S.	Director General of Police, Puducherry
29.	Anand Mohan, I.P.S.	ADGP, Puducherry
30.	Pratiksha Godara, I.P.S.	SSP (HQ)
31.	Dr. G. Lathamangeshkhar	Director, Animal Husbandry
32.	G. Santhamurthy	Director, Planning and Research

Sl. No.	Name Thiru /Tmt.	Designation
33.	P. Priyatarshny	Director, Tourism
34.	R. Mounissamy	Assembly Secretary, Legislative Assembly
35.	T. Chanemougam	Superintending Engineer I, Electricity
36.	A. Sivasankaran	Commissioner, HRI
37.	K. Ilango	Divisional Fire Officer, Fire Service
38.	S. Mahalingam	Chief Town Planner, Town & Country Planning
39.	Dr. Sriramulu	Director, Health and Family Welfare Services
40.	V. Sathyamurthy	Chief Engineer, PWD
41.	T. Chanemougam	Superintending Engineer, Electricity
42.	Ravideep Singh Chauhan	Director, LAD
43.	YLN Reddy	Director, Industries and Commerce
44.	P.T. Rudra Goud	Director of School Education
45.	A.S. Sivakumar	Commissioner, Transport
46.	D. Candane @ Sivaradjane	Director, Art & Culture
47.	S. Yesvanthaiyan	Adi Welfare & Scheduled Tribes Welfare
48.	Dr. R. Ramakrishnan	Director, Economics & Statistics
49.	N. Tamilselvan	Director, Information & Publicity / Sty & Ptg.
50.	V. Amirthalingam	CFO, Puducherry Smart City Development Ltd.
51.	P. Muthu Meena	Director, Women & Child Development
52.	J. Lakshmy	Director, (Fin. & Accts.), NRHM
53.	Mohan Kumar	Director, Information Technology
54.	S. Prabavady	Director, Accounts and Treasuries
55.	D. Padmavady	Social Welfare Department
56.	G. Johnson	PEO, DRD
57.	K. Ilango	Divisional Fire Officer, Fire Service Department
58.	B. Ramakichenin @ Balagandhi	Director, Agriculture
59.	M.S. Ramesh	Director, Survey & Land Records
60.	D. Balaji	Director, Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare
61.	M. Ilango	Budget Officer, Finance Department
62.	Arjun Ramakrishnan	Under Secretary Finance I
63.	K. Govindarajan	Under Secretary Finance II
64.	A. Punithamary	Under Secretary (Health)

