

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PLANNING AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

No.217/PRD/2022-23/DD(PF) / 637

Puducherry, Dt. 13.02.2023

CIRCULAR

Sub: State Planning Board – Minutes communicated – Reg.

The Minutes of the State Planning Board Meeting held on 27.01.2023 under the Chairpersionship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor is sent herewith for furnishing Action Taken Report on the Action points discussed in the meeting.


(V. Aroulmojy)
Joint Director (Plg.)

To
The Head of Departments concerned

Minutes of the State Planning Board Meeting held on 27.01.2023
under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor in the
Conference Hall of Chief Secretariat, Puducherry.

State Planning Board meeting was held on 27.01.2023 under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor at 4.30 P.M. in the Conference Hall of the Chief Secretariat, Puducherry to discuss and finalize the size of the Annual Budget 2023-24. List of participants is annexed.

At the outset, Chief Secretary welcomed the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Members of Council of Ministers, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Distinguished Members of the State Planning Board, and senior Officers of the Government. Chief Secretary briefed that the meeting is to finalize the budget size for the Financial Year 2023-24. The agreed budget proposal is to get approval of the MHA and the full budget will be presented in the Assembly in March 2023. Further, Chief Secretary focussed on some of the valuable points in the meeting and the same are summarised as follows ::

- Presenting the full budget in time will ensure the Departments to have resources from the very beginning of the financial year and it will help them in better implementation of the welfare and development programmes. In the last Planning Board meeting it was discussed about the importance of implementation of CSS and tapping optimum central funds.

- As discussed in the last State Planning Board meeting, much effort was made for the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The expenditure incurred upto December 2022 is Rs. 237 crore, which is 242% of the expenditure in corresponding period during the previous year. Utilization of funds under CSS in the remaining period of current financial will further improve the percentage of overall CSS expenditure. Further, directions have already been issued to all Secretaries/Head of Departments for preparation of Action Plan/ Proposals for CSS in February/ March 2023 and to hold State Level meeting in April 2023 wherever necessary, so that the proposal can be sent to the concerned Central Ministries, in time. Earlier submission of Utilization Certificates facilitates the Govt. of India to release subsequent instalments at the earliest. This way it is targeted for better utilization of CSS scheme/fund.
- Chief Secretary also highlighted that more expenditure on Capital Head is essential so as to create Assets. The Capital expenditure without considering repayment of loan was very low (1.64%) in the R.E. 2021-22; whereas in 2022-23 it will be 3.66%. It was insisted by the Union Finance Secretary in the Chief Secretaries conference level meeting that Capital expenditure should be enhanced significantly and he highlighted that poor performing States in this regard were having Capital expenditure in range 7.8% to 11%.
- CS stated that around 60% of budget allocation was meant for committed expenditure towards the loans repayment, salaries &

pension and only 40% of expenditure goes to the developmental and welfare activities. Hence, it is need of the hour to chalk out various measures for augmentation of our own resources.

- It is well known that much efforts are taken by our Hon'ble Lt. Governor and Hon'ble Chief Minister, to get more Central Assistance from Ministry of Finance, Government of India and it has fetched positive results, but the enhanced central assistance was made available subject to significant enhancement of our own resources.
- CS also highlighted that during the meeting with Union Finance Secretary, for enhanced Central Assistance, it was insisted to improve UT's own resources by way of enhancing Property Tax and collection of user charges, etc wherever possible. It was pointed out in the Conference of Chief Secretaries that the Property Tax may be 1% of the GDP whereas the current level in the UT is below 0.1%. Union Finance Secretary insisted to bring it atleast at par with neighbouring Tamil Nadu.
- CS also highlighted that the UT may go for targeted subsidies for real needy people and that may be through income limits. CS also suggested to rationalise the administrative expenditure by way of merging some of the Corporations / Undertakings / Societies for better utilisation of manpower and funds.

- Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Planning/Finance) made the Power Point Presentation in which UT's finances, Own Resources, UT's own Receipts, Fiscal Discipline in UT, Debt position, Legacy Loans of UT from where the Resources comes and how the same is expended are highlighted in pictorial representation and also emphasised the need to generate more revenue by various measures viz., enhancement of property tax, GLR value, collection of user charges and to rationalise the Grant in Aid extended to Government Undertakings/Corporations/Societies. It was also informed that during RE Budget discussions with MHA & MoF, it was clearly indicated that UT of Puducherry shall have to increase its tax revenues, as well as reduce the Grant-in-Aid given to various Institutions, which has to sustain on its own.

- Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Planning/Finance) also re-iterated to the Head of Departments to spend the scarce Resources made available in a more efficient manner, judiciously and expeditiously to attain the economic progress.

Then the Members of the Board were invited to present their views and suggestions and the major points emerged in the deliberation are as follows :

THIRU. V. VAITHILINGAM, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha

- Capital Expenditure should be increased as it paves way for development and employment generation. During the last meeting itself it was insisted, but there is no improvement in Capital Expenditure. What is spent is very minimal. Action need to be initiated to reach the expected level of 10% of budget allocation towards the Capital Expenditure as incurring Capital Expenditure is considered as the powerful development tool.

- Rate of interest is more in Market borrowing than that of Institutional borrowings and hence should find a way to reduce the Market borrowing. Also Institutional borrowings will have a direct impact on the infrastructure development.

- Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Planning/ Finance) informed that last year repayment of Rs. 650 crores towards the Institutional borrowings was made. Now, action was initiated to get more fund as loan from NABARD. Also NABARD was requested to enhance the limitation of loan. Consultancy Agency viz., NABCONS has been set up in Puducherry to facilitate this Administration to get more loan from various financial institutions and also guide to expedite the projects.

- While discussing about the debt fund of Rs. 1 lakh crore for States by the Government of India, it was clarified that the scheme is applicable only for States and not for UTs.

Thiru. R. Siva, Leader of opposition

- New Industrial Policy to be framed in consultation with Govt. of India to attract Industries. Incentives may be announced so that the Industrialists may come forward to establish more number of Industries in the UTP especially less pollutive and environment friendly.
- Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Industries) replied that in respect of MSME single window portal system is available under Ease of Doing Business. Ease of Doing Business Act Bill is submitted to Government of India for approval/assent. The Act/Bill enables grant of permission within a stipulated time. Also, one can establish MSME without prior permission. However, it should be obtained within three years of establishment. Pharma Park will be established in Sedarapet and sizeable portion of land was allocated for establishing MSMEs.
- Government land worth Rs. 1000 crore is lying idle. Government may explore possibilities to monetise/utilise the land.
- At present, construction materials are being procured by the contractors from the neighbouring States. This causes losses to the

exchequer. Government may consider charging special fee from the contractors.

- Tourism is one potential area where more revenue could be generated. Hence, the Government should focus on this.
- To ensure proper functioning of Puducherry Port.
- Action may be taken to run the Government owned Asoka Hotel profitably.
- Provision of Quality drinking water by availing AFD loan as sea water was already intruded in many areas of the city.
- Action to be taken to open the Ration shops
- Infusion of capital to PONLAIT for smooth functioning of the organization and to ensure availability of milk to the people round the clock.
- To ensure 100 man-days working plan under MGNREGA.
- Fund available under SCSP component may be utilised for purchase of land for distribution of free house sites to Scheduled Caste people.
- Action to be taken to operationalise the sugar mill.
- Ayushman Bharat card issued by the UT of Puducherry is not accepted in some hospitals. It should be taken into consideration by empanelling more number of Hospitals in its fold and adequate fund should be made available.

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

- Action to be taken for improvement of surface water usage.

- Shortage of vaccination in the Animal Husbandry Department to be resolved.
- Budget allocation to Animal Husbandry is not sufficient to procure vaccination and distribution of cattle feed subsidy. Hence, should be enhanced.
- Agriculture activities are diminishing and hence subsidy may be given suitably, to promote the Primary sectors.
- Utilisation of Solar energy for the development of Agriculture sector to be explored.

Hon'ble Chief Minister

Hon'ble Chief Minister in his opening remarks welcomed the Members of the State Planning Board and other dignitaries and highlighted that so many plans have been implemented for the Development of UT of Puducherry. In the current year, the Budget Estimate was Rs.10,696.61crore which has been fixed as Rs. 11,500 crore in the Revised Estimate. If the works implemented under Smart City Project are included, the Capital Expenditure will shoot to nearly 5.54%.

Hon'ble Lt. Governor:

- While concluding, Hon'ble Lt. Governor expressed her happiness for the efforts being taken by this Administration to present full budget for the financial year 2023-24 and hope that the entire Budget amount

will be utilised within the time frame to achieve the expected economic growth. The views/suggestions of the Members have been taken note of and will be incorporated in the relevant sectors suitably.

- The present scenario in the UT of Puducherry reveals that the dignitaries from Government of India are frequently visiting Puducherry and show special interest to address and resolve the pending issues of UT of Puducherry. Multi-sectoral Development along with welfare measures are to travel hand in hand.
- The Board after detailed discussions recommended an outlay of Rs.11,600 crore for the Annual Budget 2023-24 for the U.T. of Puducherry based on the estimated Revenue Resources and Grants from GoI. The Board appreciated all the departments which have taken effective steps in achieving the optimum financial targets coupled with growth.
- Hon'ble Lt. Governor also emphasized on concrete measures to be undertaken for resource augmentation and suggested mobilization of revenue through sources like property tax, user charges, entry fee, stamp duty etc.

With this, the meeting came to end with vote of thanks to the Chair.

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Annexure

**List of Participants who attended the State Planning Board Meeting
held on 27.01.2023**

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. Chandra Priyanga	Hon'ble Minister for Transport, Member
7.	V. Vaithilingam	Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Member
8.	R. Siva	Leader of Opposition, Member
9.	Rajeev Verma, I.A.S.	Chief Secretary, Member
10.	Padma Jaiswal, I.A.S.	Secretary (Stationery & Printing), Member
11.	M. Raju, I.A.S.	Commissioner-cum- Secretary (Plg. & Finance), Member Secretary
12.	P. Jawahar, I.A.S.	Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Industries), Member
13.	A. Muthamma, I.A.S	Secretary (Transport), Member
14.	D. Manikandan, I.A.S.	Secretary (Nodal Officer – Vision @2047)
15.	C. Udaya Kumar, I.A.S.	Secretary (Health), Member
16.	E. Vallavan, I.A.S.	Secretary (Revenue), Member
17.	Abhijit Vijay Chaudhari I.A.S	Secretary to LG, Member
18.	L. Kumar, I.A.S	Secretary (Agriculture), Member
19.	A. Nedunchezhiyan, I.A.S.	Secretary (Fisheries & RD), Member
20.	R. Kesavan, I.A.S	Secretary (TCP & Welfare), Member
21.	Dr. T. Arun, I.A.S	Secretary (Power, Public Works), Member
22.	G. Sendilkumar	Secretary (Law), Member
23.	Dr. R.R. Dhanapal	IIPA,Puducherry Chapter, Non-Official Member
Other Dignitaries / Heads of Departments		
24.	Anand Mohan, I.P.S.	ADGP, Puducherry
25.	Rishita Gupta, I.A.S.	Project Director (DRDA)
26.	Romil Singh Donk, I.A.S.	Assistant Collector, DRDM
27.	Pratiksha Godara, I.P.S.	SSP (HQ)
28.	P. Priyatarshny	Director, Tourism
29.	A.S. Sivakumar	Commissioner, Transport
30.	YLN Reddy	Director, Industries and Commerce
31.	P.T. Rudra Goud	Director, School / Higher Education
32.	Dr. Sriramulu	Director, Health and Family Welfare Services
33.	T. Chanemougam	Superintending Engineer I, Electricity
34.	S. Prabavady	Director, Accounts & Treasuries
35.	V. Sathyamurthi	Chief Engineer, PWD
36.	S. Mahalingam	Chief Town Planner, Town & Country Planning

Sl. No.	Name Thiru /Tmt.	Designation
37.	A. Sivasankaran	Commissioner, HRI
38.	Dr. G. Lathamangeshkkar	Director, Animal Husbandry
39.	M. Raja Saker	Commissioner, Commercial Taxes
40.	Ravideep Singh Chahar	Director, (LAD & Ports) & IG Prisons
41.	Mohan Kumar	Director, Information Technology
42.	T. Sudhakar	Deputy Commissioner, Excise
43.	Dr. R. Ramakrishnan	Director, Economics & Statistics
44.	S. Asokan	Director, Adi-Dravidar Welfare & Scheduled Tribes Welfare
45.	S. Yesvanthaiyah	Registrar, Co-operative Societies
46.	D. Balaji	Director, Fisheries & Fishermen Welfare
47.	S. Shakthy Vel	Director, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs
48.	N. Tamilselvan	Director, Information & Publicity / Sty & Ptg.
49.	B. Ramakichenin @ Balagandhi	Director, Agriculture
50.	Dr. R. Sridharan	Director, ISM &H
51.	V. Aroulmojy	Joint Director, Planning and Research
52.	J. Devidasan	Dy. Director, Planning and Research
53.	M. Thirunavukarasu	Dy. Director, Planning and Research
54.	Dr. E. Ananda Kirouchenone	Controlling Authority, Drugs Control
55.	V. Amirthalingam	CFO, Puducherry Smart City Development Ltd.
56.	N. Murugavel	Under Secretary (Law)
57.	S. Amutha	Dy. Director, Women & Child Development
58.	P. Kanagaraj	Dy. Director, Social Welfare
59.	V. Jayaraman	Dy. Director, Health & Family Welfare
60.	P. Savithiri	SAO/OSD, Health & Family Welfare
61.	Arjun Ramakrishnan	Under Secretary Finance I
62.	K. Govindarajan	Under Secretary Finance II
63.	U. Ilango	Budget Officer, Finance Department
64.	Pakkirisamy	Dy. Director, Ways & Means