

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PLANNING AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

No. 217/PRD/2019-20/DD(PF)

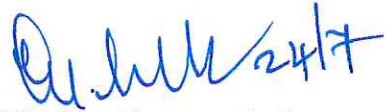
Puducherry, Dt. 24.07.2019

CIRCULAR

Sub: State Planning Board – Minutes communicated – Reg.

Minutes of the State Planning Board Meeting held on 13.07.2019 under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor is sent herewith for information and necessary action.

/By Order/


(G. Santhamurthy)
Director (Plg.)

To
The Heads of Departments concerned.

**Minutes of the State Planning Board Meeting held on 13.07.2019
at 11.30 a.m. in the Conference Hall of Chief Secretariat under the
Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor**

The meeting of the State Planning Board Meeting was held on 13.07.2019 under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor at 11.30 A.M. in the Conference Hall, Chief Secretariat, Puducherry to discuss and finalize the size of the Annual Budget 2019-20.

2. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Hon'ble Minister for Health, Hon'ble Minister for Welfare, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Chief Secretary, Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Planning), Secretary(Welfare), Secretary(LAD), Secretary(Industries), Secretary (Revenue), Secretary to Govt. (Information Technology), Secretary to Govt. (Tourism), Secretary(Law), Secretary to Lt. Governor, District Collector, Puducherry, District Collector, Karaikal, Director General of Police and Other senior officials were present in the meeting. The list of participants is enclosed as Annexure-A.

3. At the outset, Chief Secretary welcomed the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Members of the Board and Special Invitees and outlined that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss and finalise the size of the Annual Budget 2019-20. Chief Secretary requested Hon'ble Lt. Governor to deliver opening remarks.

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

Hon'ble Lt. Governor in her opening remarks focused on four areas for revenue generation and expenditure management.

- Hope that the budget to be presented is a inclusive one and will have to continue revenue generation which includes recovery of arrears in excise, sales tax and electricity and fixing of targets for each task.
- Mobbing up more resources by covering more under the tax net. i.e widen the tax net for more revenue generation.
- Speedy decisions to be taken to avoid revenue loses
- Optimum utilisation of the fund released under Centrally Sponsored schemes must be ensured. The CSS funds received to be utilized as early as possible so that more funds can be availed from Central Govt.

Then, Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Planning) made a power-point presentation on the Action Taken by the Departments on the Actions Points emerged during the previous State Planning Board meeting held on 27.04.2018. Then, made another Power Point Presentation for the Annual Budget 2019-20 highlighting the UT's own resources, Fiscal Road Map, UT's debt position, Revenue receipts, Sources of finances of UT, Details of pending liabilities, U.T. finances, the potential areas for revenue mobilization, Reasons for financial stress, committed expenditure, Receipts and expenditure incurred under Centrally Sponsored / Central Sector Schemes during 2018-19, details of repayment of Principal and Interest in 2019-20 and estimated Resources for B.E. 2019-20.

4. After the presentation, the valuable suggestions were offered by the Members, Special Invitees and Non-Official Member are as follows:

Thiru N. Gokulakrishnan, Member of Parliament(Rajya Sabha)

- Steps to be taken to improve the Ground Water level
- Effective mechanism to be set up for the implementation of Rain water Harvesting. Rain water harvesting Mission may be launched for this purpose and expertise with the available resources in the Ground water division of the Agriculture department. The department could be co-opted and redeployed for this purpose.
- Existing Municipal ward-wise Committees may be constituted to monitor the rain water harvesting mechanism.
- Focus should be given for Skill Development Programme by allocating more funds which leads to wider employment potential and to satisfy the skilled and un-skilled labour sector. To make the programme more scientific and effective particularly in the placement sector by contacting entrepreneurs earnestly.
- All the 98 village panchayats in the UT has been declared as 100% ODF. But many rural folks indicates that there are still several households lacks toilets. Government should concentrate on this as comprehensive health care is a priority area for safe living.
- Government of Puducherry dovetailed the PMAY with the existing state housing schemes. If the grants available from PMAY were given as additional incentives, it would enable the beneficiaries to have a comfortable home.
- The part of the proposed Smart City is also benefitted by the AMRUT scheme, which is funded wholly by the Central Government. If the benefits from the twin schemes are implemented with utmost sincerity, the Puducherry could be a mini Singapore to a certain extent.
- In the Industrial scenario, the Government should come with clear instructions to the industrialists so that no entrepreneur is turned back.
- Government has to initiate the process of recruitment for 7000 odd posts lying vacant in various departments thereby giving employment to the youth.

- IT park should be set up through a fast track system.
- Sanction for sale of land at pattanur is not materialised, considering the pathetic condition of the employees of the three textile mills namely AFT, Swadesh and Bharathi Mill, the Government may consider availing loan to a tune of Rs. 300 crore for settling the long pending issues of the employees of the three mills as a stop-gap arrangement.

Thiru. A. Anbalagan, MLA, Special Invitee

- A separate Corporation may be set up by Govt. like TASMACH in Tamil Nadu to increase the revenue else bars to be auctioned to fetch revenue.
- Loss making bars run by Public sector Undertakings/Corporations to be auctioned on lines of arrack and toddy shops.
- Government should take a concrete decision on the report of Vijayan Committee which was set up to make recommendations on the loss making Public Sector Undertakings / Corporations.
- The financial assistance provided under CENTAC should reach only to the poor people.
- State Govt. distributes free rice to red card holders. Govt. of India also extends financial assistance to the red card holders through DBT. This needs to be streamlined and saved money to be spent for distribution of rice to the yellow card holders.
- Government Servants should be punctual.
- More attention should be given for development Tourism infrastructure by introducing water sports games, etc.
- Excessive man power utilised in certain Department must be rationalised. Vacant posts in Health, Education Department and Electricity Department to be filled up.
- While every household has cable connection, only one third of them paying cable tax. The Government could be able to generate more funds from cable tax.
- Illegal lottery business at Puducherry needs to be stopped.
- Orderly system is still prevailing in Police Department and this need to be stopped.

- Property tax to be levied on Deemed to be Universities, Private Medical/Engineering Colleges, Private schools, etc.
- In Puducherry, Quarterly taxes needs for Private Bus owners have to increase as of Tamil nadu.
- Municipality which is issuing death certificate should send the list to the welfare departments to remove the beneficiary name from the list and new beneficiaries will be included.

Thiru. Ramachandran, MLA, Mahe, Special Invitee

- Though Mahe is contributing more revenue for the Union Territory, it is not getting due share for the development of the region.
- Necessary fund should be earmarked for the completion of the Fishing Harbour, Mahe as the fishermen are suffering at rainy season due to stagnation of drainage water. This is a long pending issue.
- The work of River side walk way project (II phase) to be started at the earliest.
- Construction of Trauma Care at General Hospital, Mahe is a long pending demand and to be considered.
- The Kitchen block, which was demolished for the construction of Trauma care unit to be renovated soon.
- Under the scheme of Pradhan Mantri krishi sinchai yojana, an amount of Rs. 23.16 lakhs was released by Govt. of India may be utilised for Rain water harvesting at Pandakkal area to solve the drinking water problem.
- Palloor Community Health Centre land was acquired and an amount of Rs. 6.00 crores was received under Negotiated Loan so the work to be undertaken.
- Fund to be allocated to the Slum Clearance Board for reconstruction of the Drainage in the fishermen area to provide hygienic environment.
- Land acquired for construction of Community Health Centre at Palloor but work yet to be started.
- The proposal of widening of Kalai-Pandakkal Road junction to ease the traffic congestion has not been sanctioned by the NABARD, the same may be taken up under State fund.

Thiru. V. Saminathan, MLA, Special Invitee

- Government of India may be approached for package of incentives including power subsidy for boosting the Industrial growth.
- Cable TV operators are submitting false information on the subscribers to evade tax. A survey may be undertaken on the number of subscribers and ensure the actual users.
- To ease the traffic congestion, Government should take steps on widening the existing roads; add lanes in the existing roads, built bridges and tunnels, multi level parking and use of smart traffic lights.
- The Government should organise awareness programme on conservation and harvesting rain water to all levels and provide required materials at subsidized rate.
- The Govt. should implement the “Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana” to provide cashless family under health insurance.
- Action to be initiated to provide houses to all by 2022 under “Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojana”.
- As done in the State of Madhya Pradesh, Government should formulate a scheme to provide employment to the un-employed youth from the economically weaker sections.
- Government should frame an action plan and commit to 100% renewable energy and should maximize solar energy generation potential.
- Government should immediately implement ‘Vijayan Committe’ suggestion to PSUs / Corporations

Mr. Amitabh Ranjan, Registrar (IIPA), New Delhi

- Sincere efforts to be taken to recover the tax arrears and other receivables of the past years.
- Reducing wasteful as well as non-essential expenditure
- Widening the tax base like identifying and enhancing the ambit of the GST as well as other taxes
- Creation and strengthening the enforcement wings of revenue generating departments like excise, entertainment tax, etc

- Proper, timely and full utilisation of allocated funds as per the financial management principle.
- Audit observations should be complied timely by DAT and other concerned departments.
- Capacity Building/ training programme like Management Development Programme or area-specific programmes are necessary to sharpen the skills as well as rejuvenating, refreshing and motivating the employees at lower level Officers
- Establishment of Administrative Training Institute in Puducherry.
- DBT schemes must be followed in letter and spirit for providing benefits to the eligible persons
- New appointments should be done on contracts basis wherever feasible as it ease burden on Govt. finance.
- Welfare schemes should cover only the BPL family and should not be extended to all including the rich.
- Efforts should be made to enhance the volume of digital transactions to increase efficiency.

Dr. B. Chitra Registrar, Pondicherry University

- Providing transport services to the school students at concessional rate may be extended to the University students also.
- Municipality may also collect garbage at Pondicherry University campus. In turn, Hon'ble Lt. Governor advised that Pondicherry University can set up a sewerage treatment plant in its campus and find an agency to get it treated.
- Initiatives has been taken for Rain water harvesting in the University. Hon'ble Lt. Governor has advised to use such saved water for watering the forest in the campus.
- Chairperson, Members and Special Invitees insisted to provide 25% of seats for local people in all disciplines as per MoU entered with the Puducherry Government.

Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture

- Fund released under CSS should not be restricted by Finance Department in the name BEAMS as it is already released/deposited amount in the Govt. account.
- Maintenance works of school/ college buildings to taken up immediately and sufficient fund to be earmarked for this purpose.
- 7th CPC recommendations to be extended to the aided private colleges and society colleges
- High Mass lights and street lights have been installed by the PWD / LAD without any prior approval. But, Electricity department is blamed for non-glowing of such lights.
- Electricity Department exceeded the target fixed for collection of power tariff and arrears, more fund to be provided to the department for strengthening the infrastructure
- Necessary instructions may be issued to the Government Departments to pay dues of the electricity charges. Dues from Government Departments reflected sizeable amount in the pending arrears of the Electricity Department.
- Files to be disposed off in a time bound manner
- Action will be initiated against the Government Employees who are not punctual.

Hon'ble Minister for Revenue

- He contradicts the GDP growth which is at 11% while the poverty ratio is increasing.
- The Unemployment percentage in Puducherry is 9 as against the national average of 6
- 300 applications have been received by the Industries to start of industries in Puducherry but due to requirement of land they are pending.
- Incentive alone is not attract the industrialists as they require land and extension of lease period beyond 19 years
- To augment resources cess tax may be levied to all private Medical/Engineering colleges and private colleges.

- Lottery can be allowed to augment revenue which also stops illegal sale of lotteries
- Starting of Casino to strengthen tourism and generation of revenue
- Redundant courses in polytechnic to be abolished and skill development oriented new courses to be introduced as the unemployment prevails at lower levels

Hon'ble Minister for Welfare

- Review Meetings will be conducted every fortnight by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Ministers, Chief Secretary and Secretaries with the Head of Departments Establishment of Administrative Training Institute in Puducherry.
- Establishment of Desalination plant may be considered for conversion of Sea Water for drinking purpose
- Road over Bridge may be constructed from Gorimedu – Rajiv Gandhi square to ease traffic congestion.
- Survey will be conducted to regulate the red ration cards
- Action to be taken to fill up the 7000 vacant posts
- Awareness programme may be created among rich people to give up freebies
- Explore ways & means to generate resources

Hon'ble Minister for Health

- An amount Rs. 8425 crore is proposed for the Budget 2019-20, out of which the Central assistance is only Rs. 1540 crore which works out to 18.27%.
- Necessary fund may be allocated for tourism sector.

Hon'ble Minister for Public Works

- Action to be taken to arrest the revenue leakages and identify the areas to tap resources.
- Administrative reforms need to be done in all government departments.

- Undue administrative delay in floating of e-tenders, execution of works should be avoided and timely execution of works will avoid cost escalation
- 48A clearance was sanctioned by Govt. of India only in the third quarter. Hence, UTP is not in a position to spend the amount within the financial year
- Finance Department through BEAMS restricts the amount released under CSS though it is a Central Government fund. This needs to be avoided.
- Only 40% of the amount is released under BEAMS citing GFR rules for major works. This leads to delay in execution of roads and bridges.
- The purpose of posting link secretary is not yielding any fruitful result as whenever a file is sent to the link secretary, no action has been taken by them and the file is sent back to regular secretary for approval.
- Though fund is available for payment of compensation to the land acquired for the Arumparthapuram Bridge, sanction has not been issued.
- Salary/wages to the staff of PSUs/Corporations should be paid as a onetime measure.
- Monthly review meetings may be conducted by the Hon'ble Ministers with the Departments that comes under their portfolios.
- Government has to take steps to collect property tax from all private Educational Institutions to augment the resources

Hon'ble Chief Minister

- Hon'ble Chief Minister clarified that the meeting is convened to get suggestions of the Members of Board and Special Invitees for increase of revenue resources
- The grant released by GoI has been considerably reduced.
- U.T. of Puducherry is considered neither a State nor a U.T while inclusion under the ambit of 15th Central Finance Commission and devolutions of funds. But it is considered as State under GST and while release of fund under CSS. Due to this U.T. is pleading for statehood.

- Due share from Government of India is yet to be received on the implementation of 7th CPC which accounted for Rs. 1650 crore as on date.
- Government of India extends assistance to Delhi Government for payment pension to the retired Govt. employees but refuses to give this privilege to UTP
- Within the available resources, the Government is keen on improving the Education, Health, infrastructure and tourism sectors

Hon'ble Lt. Governor

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

- Due respect to be given on the views/ suggestions of the Members and Special Invitees.
- A Mid-year review will be taken on the Action Points emerged in this meeting. A copy of the minutes of the meeting will be sent to all the participants for the review of the Action Taken Report.
- Urged the Government to take Administrative reforms
- Secretaries alone is not going for micro management of the Department, the onus is fully on the Head of Departments.
- Head of Departments should ensure optimum utilisation of CSS fund and get more funds under CSS from the respective Ministries by contacting regularly.
- Due attention may be given for collecting the tax on cable networking for augmentation of the additional revenue to Government.

In fine, the Board has unanimously agreed the budget size of Rs. 8450/- for 2019-20

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

Annexure-A**List of Participants with their names in the meeting of State Planning Board Held on 13.07.2019**

Sl. No.	Name Thiru / Tmt.	Designation
Chairperson and Members of the Board		
1.	Dr. Kiran Bedi	Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Chairperson
2.	V. Narayanasamy	Hon'ble Chief Minister, Vice Chairman
3.	A. Namassivayam	Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, Member
4.	Malladi Krishna Rao	Hon'ble Minister for Health, Member
5.	M. Kandasamy	Hon'ble Minister for Welfare, Member
6.	M.O.H.F. Shahjahan	Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Member
7.	R. Kamalakannan	Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Member
8.	N. Gokulakrishnan	Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Member
9.	Ashwani Kumar, I.A.S.	Chief Secretary, Member
10.	Tarsem Kumar, I.A.S.	Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt. (Fin. & Plg.), Member Secretary
11.	Padma Jaiswal, I.A.S.	Secretary (Information Technology), Member
12.	R. Alice Vaz, I.A.S	Secretary (Welfare), Member
13.	Ashok Kumar, I.A.S.	Secretary (Revenue), Member
14.	P. Jawahar, I.A.S.	Secretary (Labour), Member
15.	H.P.S. Sran, I.A.S.	Secretary (Industries, Transport), Member
16.	P. Parthiban, I.A.S.	Secretary (Fisheries, Tourism), Member
17.	T. Arun, I.A.S.	District Collector, Puducherry, Member
18.	Juliet Pushpa	Secretary (Law), Member
19.	Amitabh Ranjan	Registrar, IIPA, Non Official Member
20.	Dr. B. Chitra	Registrar, Pondicherry University, Non Official Member
Special Invitees		
1.	A. Anbalagan	M.L.A., (AIADMK)
2.	Dr. V. Ramachandran	M.L.A. (Mahe Constituency)
3.	V. Saminathan	M.L.A. (B.J.P.)
Other Dignitaries / Heads of Departments		
1.	A. Vikranth Raja, I.A.S.	District Collector, Karaikal
2.	S.D. Sundaresan	Additional Secretary, Secretary to Hon'ble Lt. Governor
3.	Y.L.N. Reddy	Director, Hr. & Tech. Education
4.	E. Vallavan	Director, Civil Supplies & Commissioner, Labour
5.	P. Priyatarshny	Director, Industries & Commerce
6.	R. Smitha	Registrar of Co-operative Societies
7.	L. Mansoor	Director, Tourism
8.	Rudra Goud P.T.	Director, School Education
9.	A.S. Sivakumar	Commissioner, Transport Department
10.	G. Malarkannan	Director, LAD
11.	G. Kumar	Conservator, Forestry and Wildlife Department
12.	S. Mahalingam	Chief Engineer, Public Works
13.	V. Sathyamurthi	Chief Town Planner, Town & Country Planning

Sl. No.	Name Thiru / Tmt.	Designation
14.	Dr. K.V. Raman	Director, Health and Family Welfare Services
15.	G. Santhamurthy	Director, Planning and Research Department
16.	Dr. R.R. Dhanapal	Chairman, IIPA, Puducherry
17.	Ishwar Singh	Dy. Inspector General of Police
18.	Dr. R. Ramakrishnan	Director, Economics & Statistics
19.	K. Sarangapani	Director, Social Welfare
20.	Dr. A.V. Subba Rao	Director, Animal Husbandry
21.	R. Mounissamy	Director, Fisheries
22.	B. Ramakichenin @ Balagandhi	Director, Agriculture
23.	D. Raghunathan	Director, Adi-draavidar Welfare
24.	R. Murali	Superintendent Engineer, Electricity
25.	S. Yesvanthaiyah	Director, Women and Child & Development
26.	S. Ganessin	Director, Art and Culture
27.	K. Ilango	Divisional Fire Officer, Fire Service
28.	S. Manickadeepan	Jt. CEO, PSCDL & Jt. Commissioner, CST
29.	N. Gandhirajan	Project Executive Officer, Rural Development
30.	P. Ramani	Director, Accounts and Treasuries
31.	J. Dayalane	Director (i/c.), Survey and Land Records
32.	P. Lakshmanan	State Anchor Person, DRDA
33.	G. Satchidanandam	Commissioner, HRI
34.	R. Rangababu	Dy. Registrar (Plg.), Co-operative Dept.
35.	K. Sridhar	Deputy Commissioner, Commercial Taxes
36.	V. Sarojini	Deputy Director, Social Welfare
37.	R. Gunasekaran	Senior Accounts Officer, Public Works
38.	Kondavenkateswara Rao	Superintendent of Police (HQ),
39.	A. Selvaradjou	S.A.O., Police Department
40.	V. Jeeva	Under Secretary (Finance)
41.	K.V. Ramakrishnan	Junior Accounts Officer, Rural Development
42.	V. Ravisankar	Budget Officer, Finance Department
43.	C.L. Anandakumar Selvaraj	Joint Director, Planning and Research Department
44.	V. Aroulmojoy	Deputy Director, (Plan Formulation)
45.	J. Devidasan	Deputy Director (Plan), Health Dept.
46.	M. Thirunavukarasu	Deputy Director, SCSP
47.	N. Nagalingame Periane	Deputy Director (Plg.), Adi-draavidar Welfare
48.	Mohan Kumar	Superintendent
49.	V. Jaisankar	Under Secretary (DP&AR)
50.	V. Radja Radjane	Superintendent, A.R. Wing, Chief Secretariat
51.	K. Thangaraja	Superintendent, Revenue Department