

Fresh directives from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India to Arunachal Pradesh for devolving power to PRIs:

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India has taken note of the IIPA Report, 2011 wherein the State of Arunachal Pradesh has been placed the 2nd lowest State in the Devolution of Power to PRIs. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has since then been directing the State of Arunachal Pradesh to take urgent steps to devolve power to the Panchayats. In one of the letters. (D.O.No.N-11019/536/2006-Pol-II dated 29th March, 2012)

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj pointed out the following deficiencies in the orders/Notifications of State Government for the devolution of power:

- There are ambiguities in responsibilities assigned to the PRIs.
- Panchayat window/ head in the budget of line departments does not exist.
- Panchayat exercise no control over any line department functionaries.
- As per DPC Act 2011, the DC has been made as Chairperson of DPC instead of Chairperson of Zilla Parishad.

Actions by the State Government : The compliance of Article, 243-G on devolution of Powers, Authority and Responsibilities to the Panchayats cannot be ignored by any States. On one hand, it is violation of the Constitution of India, on the other hand, the Government of India is setting non-compliance of devolution of power as condition for release of fund to the States. In both the cases, the State of Arunachal Pradesh stands as defaulter today. Therefore, there is no option for the State of Arunachal Pradesh but to take some concrete steps to comply with Article 243-G of the Constitution regarding devolution of Powers, Authority and Responsibilities to the Panchayats.

Now, the actions to be taken by the State of Arunachal Pradesh for devolution of powers, authority and responsibilities can be initiated on basis of letter from Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, which have been referred above I.e D.O.No. N-11019/536/2006-Pol-II dated 29th March 2012. The actions to be taken are:

- Removing the ambiguities in responsibilities assigned to the PRIs by previous State Government orders/notifications.
- A separate Panchayat window/head of line departments to be created in the state budget.

- Bringing the line department functionaries under control of Panchayat.
- Make the DPC functional for planning development from bottom to top. The Chairperson of Zilla Parishad be made Chairperson of DPC by bringing an Amendment to the DPC Act, 2011 at para-3 (3) (a).
- Building the capacity of the PR leaders for enabling them to competently handle the powers and responsibilities endowed to them.