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5th State Finance Commission
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Press Release

A review discussion meeting of State Finance Commission was convened under the Chairmanship of Dr. Jyoti Kiran, Chairperson, State Finance Commission. Shri Pradhyumn Singh, Member and Shri S.C. Derashri, Member Secretary, State Finance Commission also attended the meeting. It was an important review meeting keeping in view the estimation of financial position of the state and standardization of services in Gram Panchayats and urban local bodies, since the Commission has to provide a road map for improvisation of the level of the services in rural as well as urban local bodies and financial consolidation. Unavailability and lack of reliable data at panchayats, municipalities and other bodies are the biggest constraint in achieving this target. Although as per legal provisions, panchayats have to keep the data of income and expenditure but reliability and standard of this data is very poor.

State Finance Commission, in consultation with experts in November 2015 developed questionnaires and sent them to all such bodies. A video conference is also scheduled in the month of February in this regard. After midterm review of the information and data received in these questionnaires, the Commission has decided to collect primary information directly from the villagers in sample villages at divisional levels. There will be review of the modus operandi of Gram Sabhas to ascertain actual status of affairs in order to appropriate suggestions.

This is for the first time the Chairperson of Commission herself reviewing up to the level of gram panchayats by visiting. She has visited Sikar, Bikaner, Jodhpur and Ajmer. Now teams of commission are going to visit villages.

Recently in the presentation of Chairpersons of SFCs at New Delhi, these efforts made by Rajasthan have been appreciated.