

Hyderabad  
24<sup>th</sup> September, 2015

## PRESS NOTE

About 70% of the population of Telangana state live in villages. For village administration especially to provide basic civic amenities Grama Panchayats are created. These local bodies after the amendment to constitution (73<sup>rd</sup> amendment) have acquired constitutional status like parliament and Assembly. As per Article 243 – G the state government has to transfer 29 items to Gramapanchayats, so that they become the institutions of self governance. Except few states like Kerala many states did not take action for devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats. The said Article says Grama Panchayats to i) prepare plans for economic development and social justice  
ii) To implement the schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including the 29 items mentioned in Eleventh schedule of the constitution of India.

The position of devolution of powers in the state of Telangana (obtained through R.T.I.) indicates that out of 29 items (10) items only are transferred to Grama Panchayats. In absence of the required powers and responsibilities the Grama Panchayats are not able to functions as expected.

In the month of June 2015 Government of Telangana have launched a programme called “**Mana Vuru - Mana Pranalika**” for preparing action plan for over all development of the village. For this one day affair, officials at Mandal level visited villages and prepared village development plans. Like this plans were prepared for all the villages in the state. No budget was allotted for implementation of the plan and it remained on paper.

Contd.....2

Again in the month of August Government of Telangana took up yet another programme called **Grama Jyothi**. As per this programme mandal level officials visited the villages constituted few committees on subjects like Education, Health, Drinking water, Sanitation etc. participated in cleaning of roads (Swatchha Bharat). An action plan for development of village is again prepared. Here it is pointed out that in two months period the officials at mandal level visited villages prepared village development plans twice and the plans so prepared are awaiting for funds for executing the works.

The spirit of Article 243 – G of the constitution of India is to endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self government.

For integrated rural development Telangana government should transfer all the 29 powers to Grama Panchayats and allow them to prepare their own plans and implement for development and social justice. The problem here lie with M.L.A.s who does not want the Grama Panchayats to be Institutions of self governance there by loosing hold on villages. Even for a bore well or a small internal road in a village the M.L.A. involvement is clearly visible.

Forum for Good Governance requests the Government of Telangana to support the Grama Panchayats to become institutions of self governance and not content with official sponsored programmes like Mana Vuru – Mana Pranalike or Grama Jyothi which have no involvement of people or Grama Panchayat.

Yours Sincerely

**M. Padmanabha Reddy**  
Secretary  
Forum for Good Governance