FGG demands funds for local bodies

OUR BUREAU

Hyderabad: Forum for Good Governance (FGG) President Justice Reddappa Reddy on Tuesday demanded that the government appoint chairperson and members to the State Finance Commission (SFC). It would go a long way in ensuring allocation of funds for Gram Panchyats and urban local bodies, he said. Though the SFC was constituted 20 months ago, no proper action plan was chalked out, he pointed out.

The SFC would play a vital role in reviewing the financial position of gram panchayats and urban local bodies, apart from monitoring the share of taxes and grant-in-aid to the local bodies. It had improved the financial position of gram panchayats and urban local bodies.

The budget allocation can be equally distributed to all the departments by SCF. As there was no proper action plan for the SFC, every department was made dependent on the State government for financial aid, said Secretary of Forum for Good Governance Padmanabha Reddy.





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Appoint State Finance Commission, urge activists

• Staff Reporter

: Criticising the State government for failing to financially empower local bodies, the Forum for Good Governance (FGG) demanded that a State Finance Commission be appointed immediately.

The members of FGG pointed out that after the State bifurcation, the funds flowing from the Union treasury rested with the State government without a part of it being allocated to gram panchayats or municipalities.

"As per article 243-1 (and 243-Y) the Governor of the State shall constitute a Finance Commission for the State to review the financial position of the gram panchayats and urban local bodies and to make recommendation regarding sharing of taxes, grant in aid to gram panchayats and urban local bodies, and the measures needed to improve the financial position of these bodies," said M. Padmanabha Reddy, secretary, FGG.

The commission will obtain information regarding the needs of local bodies and the budget availability and commitments of the State, and accordingly recommend transfer of funds to the State government, Mr. Reddy said.

"The State government issued a Government Order on March 16, 2015, constituting a State Finance Commission only to show the Central government. Till date, neither the chairman northe four members have been appointed. Information obtained under RTI has revealed that the file is pending with the Panchayat Raj Minister," he said.

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