



Forum for Good Governance

Hyderabad
29th March, 2016

To
The Editor

Forum for Good Governance conducted a press meet on the subject of pay hike to legislators. A copy of the press note is enclosed. The editor is requested to make use of it for the information of people.

Press Note

Telangana Assembly has passed the legislators pay hike bill. Forum for Good Governance feels that no proper procedure was followed to determine the increase. The quantum of jump of 200 to 250% is abnormal. In December 2016 when Delhi government wanted to increase the salaries of legislatures it constituted a three man independent committee headed by former secretary general Loksabha Mr. Acharya. The committee recommended a pay of Rs.2.1 lakhs/month., which the Delhi government accepted. Here on the report of facilities committee of MLAs the bill was prepared and introduced in the house which was passed unanimously without any discussion. The M.L.A.s now gets Rs.2.5 lakhs/month and the minister 4 lakhs per month.

The salary bill of Indian Parliament is 176 crores per annum where the salary bill of Telangana legislature, with this increase will be 43 crores per annum. The salary bill of A.P. is Rs.25 crores, Karnataka 24 crores, Kerala 7 crores, Tamilnadu 15 crores.

Apparently, the salary of MLA is 20 thousand per month for which there is no tax liability. He is exempted from tax for the balance 2.3 lakh which is shown as allowances, same is the case with ministers. The salary is 30 thousand and other allowance is 3.70 lakhs for which no tax is paid. This is not a social justice.

The MLA/Minister is a public servant by definition. An employee is eligible for pension if only he completes a qualifying service of 30-35 years whereas for MLA it is just 5 years.

Forum for Good Governance, though not against pay hikes, we feel it should have been done on the recommendation of an outside committee and a reasonable hike would have been proper. The state is passing through severe drought conditions for the second successive year, shortage of fodder and drinking water is making the lives of people measurable and crop failures are driving formers to suicides. . At this juncture the legislature increasing their salaries by 250% is not acceptable.

Yours Sincerely

M. Padmanabha Reddy
Secretary