

CHAPTER - 32

DISTRICT PLANNING

32.1 The 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution gave constitutional status to local self-governments and provided a new, more politically underpinned, universalized platform for decentralized planning from below.

32.2 This 73rd Amendment of the Constitution of India is a landmark in the History of Panchayati Raj Institutions in India, when "Constitutional Status" was conferred on the Panchayati Raj Institutions as the third stratum of governance, to fulfill the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in Article 40 of the Constitution by endowing requisite powers and authority to Village Panchayat, including Gram Sabha to enable them to function as units of self-government. This aspect of law is very important while dealing with Panchayat matters.

Decentralized Planning in Rajasthan

32.3 In order to eradicate poverty, to ensure Rural and Urban development properly and optimum use of local resources, the participative planning concept was thought as back as 1988-89 in Rajasthan. To achieve this, Jhalawar district prepared its district plan during the year 1988-89. The District Planning cells headed by Chief Planning Officers were set up in all the districts. Similarly a State Level District Planning cell was also set up under the Administrative Control of the Planning Department of the State.

32.4 The 73rd and 74th Amendment of constitution enacted in 1993 contained provision to set up District Planning Committees in each district. Under these amendments "The Panchayati Raj Act, 1994" was passed by the Government of Rajasthan and the municipalities Act also amended (IInd Amendment) called as Raj. Municipalities Act, 1994.

32.5 The Rajasthan Government has enacted necessary laws and rules to provide for district planning committees as mandated by the constitution. The provisions are made under Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996. In accordance with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution, the provision of District Planning Committee (DPC) has been incorporated in section 121 of the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 and Rajasthan Municipalities (Second Amendment) Act, 1994. Detailed provisions relating to constitution, election, powers & functions of these committees have been made in Rule 350, 351 & 352 of the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996.

32.6 The District Planning committees have been constituted in all the Districts.

32.7 The main function of the DPC is to consolidate the Annual Plans prepared by the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipalities in the District and to prepare a Draft Development Plan of the District as a whole for forwarding to the State Government.

32.8 Annual District Plan 2006-07 was prepared by the District Planning Committees, which was based on the plan allocation of Annual State Plan. This was the first step towards District Planning.

32.9 As per guidelines issued by the Planning Commission, Government of India, District Planning is the process of preparing an integrated plan for the Local Government in a District taking into account the resources available and covering the sectoral activities and schemes assigned to the District level below and those implemented through local Governments in the state.

32.10 The document that embodies this statement of resources and their allocation for various purposes is known as District Plan. The following three aspects are essentially required for preparation of District Plan:-

- Plan to be prepared by the Rural Local Bodies for activities assigned to them and National / State Schemes implemented by them with their own resources and those earmarked for these purposes.
- Plan to be prepared by the Urban Local Bodies for the activities assigned to them and National / State Schemes implemented by them with their own resources and those earmarked for these purposes.
- Physical integration of plans of rural and urban Local Bodies with the elements of the State Plan that are physically implemented within the geographical confines of the district.

32.11 All these three aspects are to be considered and consolidated by the District Planning Committee (DPC) into a District Plan.

32.12 Keeping in view the above guidelines the preparation of District Annual Plan 2007-08 was initiated from the grass root level for the first time in the State of Rajasthan with the following objectives -

32.13 Decentralized Planning is to be arrived at by an integrated participatory and coordinated idea of development of local areas. Each Gram Panchayat or Municipality is treated as a planning unit and district plans are prepared through consolidation and integration of these plans as well as by considering the development of district as a whole.

32.14 To ensure the use of resources available at the local level and resources made available under various schemes in a better way, that the development needs as desired of the whole district may be achieved.

32.15 Decentralized Planning ensures better delivery of services and efficient use of resources whether financial or otherwise. It leads to higher growth rate in the state. Qualitative improvement will also take

place as the felt needs of the people as reflected in the plans will get satisfied.

District Plan Procedure adopted

- 17 sectors have been selected for preparation of District Plan. These sectors are Agriculture, Animal Husbandary, Energy, Ground Water & Drinking Water, Education (Higher, Technical & Elementary), Medical & Health, Rural Development, Sanitation, Industries, Roads and Bridges, Nutrition, Urban Development, Forest, Cooperative, PDS, Water resources & Others like Banking Sector.
- The guidelines and formats were circulated to the districts for District Plan.
- The training programme organized at State, District and Block level.
- The concerning officers and personnel were trained to prepare the District Plan and fill up the prescribed formats.
- A time bound programme was prepared and circulated to all concerned.
- Wide publicity in Gram/Ward Sabhas was done so that wider participation of the villagers and urban people as well as functionaries and public representatives could be possible.
- Gram/Ward sabhas organized as per scheduled programme. Village/ULB level functionaries of the selected key sectors in the Gram/Ward Sabha held the sectoral discussions.
- During the discussions the plan objectives and prioritization were explained by the Government functionaries and got approval of community. The community has determined the village/urban needs prioritization and linkages.
- The village/ULB plans approved by Gram/Ward Sabha are integrated into panchayat/ULB plan at the Gram Panchayat/ULB Level and prepared the panchayat/ULB plans.
- The services of experts have been allowed to prepare the Plans.
- The Panchayat Samiti level infrastructure demands were got assessed and approved in the General Bodies meeting of the Panchayat Samiti. Similarly the Urban Local Body level infrastructure demands were got assessed by the Urban Local Bodies and approved by the Boards of the concerning local bodies.
- The Block level sectoral officers on the basis of their departmental norms did the prioritization and technical vetting of the Panchayat Plans.
- A separate list of the requirements which were identified at the panchayat level but not fulfilling the departmental norms but were

otherwise justified was prepared along-with requirement of funds for these demands.

- The block level draft plans prepared by integrating the panchayat and ULB plans & PS level demands were provided to Chief Planning Officers.
- By integrating the block level plans, the district level plans have been prepared by Chief Planning Officers and have been approved by DPCs.
- Both the urban and rural District Plans have been integrated at District level.

Institutional arrangement of District Planning

- State level coordination committee headed by ACS (Development)
- District level coordination committee headed by District Collector.
- Block level committee headed by SDO.