

**പതിമൂന്നാം കേരള നിയമസഭ
പതിനാറാം സമ്മേളനം**

നക്ഷത്രചിഹ്നമിട്ട ചോദ്യം നം. 157

16.02.2016-ന് മറുപടി നൽകേണ്ടത്

കേന്ദ്ര സർക്കാർ സമീപനം

	<p align="center"><u>ചോദ്യം</u></p> <p>ശ്രീ. ആർ. രാജേഷ് „ കോടിയേരി ബാലകൃഷ്ണൻ „ എളമരം കരീം „ ബാബു എം. പാലിശ്ശേരി</p>		<p align="center"><u>ഉത്തരം</u></p> <p>ശ്രീ. ഉമ്മൻചാണ്ടി (മുഖ്യമന്ത്രി)</p>
(എ)	<p>ഭരണഘടന ഉറപ്പാക്കുന്ന ഫെഡറലിസത്തിന്റെ അടിസ്ഥാനസവിശേഷതകളോരോന്നും, കേന്ദ്ര സമീപനത്തിൽ കടുത്ത വെല്ലുവിളികളെ നേരിടുന്നുണ്ടോ;</p>		<p>സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ ഭരണഘടനാപരമായ എല്ലാ അധികാരാവകാശങ്ങളും നിറവേറ്റിത്തരുവാൻ കേന്ദ്ര സർക്കാരിന് ബാധ്യതയുണ്ട്. ഇത്തരം അവകാശങ്ങൾ ഹനിക്കപ്പെടുന്നതായി ബോധ്യപ്പെടുമ്പോഴൊക്കെ അതിനെതിരായി ശക്തമായ പ്രതിഷേധം സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാർ കേന്ദ്ര സർക്കാരിനെ അറിയിക്കുകയും ശ്രദ്ധയിൽപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആസൂത്രണ കമ്മീഷനുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് ഇത്തരത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടായ ഒരു സന്ദർഭം അനുബന്ധമായി ചേർത്തിരിക്കുന്നു.</p>
(ബി)	<p>സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ അധികാരാവകാശങ്ങളെ കവർന്നെടുക്കുന്ന നടപടികൾ ഒഴിയിരെയുള്ള സർക്കാരിന്റെ നിലപാട് കേന്ദ്രസർക്കാരിനെ അറിയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ; ആസൂത്രണ കമ്മീഷനെയും ദേശീയ വികസന സമിതിയെയും ഇല്ലാതാക്കിയ കേന്ദ്ര നടപടിയോടുള്ള സംസ്ഥാന നിലപാട് എന്താണെന്ന് വ്യക്തമാക്കാമോ;</p>	<p>(എ) യും (ബി) യും</p>	
(സി)	<p>സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ അധികാരാവകാശങ്ങൾ നേടിയെടുക്കുന്നതിനും ജനാധിപത്യ മതേതരസ്വഭാവത്തെ നിലനിർത്തിക്കിട്ടാനും, അസഹിഷ്ണുതകൾ പ്രകടമാക്കുന്ന കേന്ദ്ര നടപടികൾ തുറന്നുകാട്ടാനും സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാർ എന്തെല്ലാം നിലയിലുള്ള നടപടികൾ സ്വീകരിക്കാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നുവെന്ന് വ്യക്തമാക്കാമോ?</p>	(സി)	<p>സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ അധികാരാവകാശങ്ങൾ നേടിയെടുക്കുന്നതിന് ആവശ്യമായ മുഴുവൻ നടപടികളും സംസ്ഥാന സർക്കാർതലത്തിൽ സ്വീകരിച്ചുവരുന്നുണ്ട്. പ്രധാനമന്ത്രി ഉൾപ്പെടെയുള്ള കേന്ദ്ര മന്ത്രിമാർക്കും ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട വകുപ്പുമേധാവികൾക്കും സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ വിശദമാക്കിക്കൊണ്ട് മെമ്മോറാണ്ടം നൽകുകയും സംസ്ഥാന മന്ത്രിമാരുടെയും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥരുടെയും സംഘങ്ങൾ ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട കേന്ദ്രമന്ത്രിമാരെ സന്ദർശിച്ച് നിവേദനം നൽകുകയും കേന്ദ്രമന്ത്രിമാർ സംസ്ഥാനത്തെത്തുമ്പോൾ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ അവരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരികയും ഉൾപ്പെടെയുള്ള നടപടികളിലൂടെ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ അവകാശങ്ങൾ കേന്ദ്ര സർക്കാരിൽ നിന്ന് നേടിയെടുക്കുന്നതിന് സർക്കാർ സദാ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.</p>



സെക്ഷൻ ഓഫീസർ

A

Introduction

1 The Agenda notes for the meeting scheduled on 8th February 2015 was received only on 5th February morning. I have not had time to have it examined in detail and come out with specific views on each issue. I request that, in future, notice for Governing Council meetings of NITI Aayog may be sent at least three weeks in advance and agenda notes sent not less than ten days before the meeting to facilitate proper examination by Departments and by Ministers.

2 Unlike past years, we are entering the exercise of preparing the Plan and Budget for 2015-16 without any clear idea regarding our share of Central taxes or normal Central assistance. **We have not received any information on the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission and how it will impact State finances in 2015-16. Without such clarity, it is very difficult to prepare Budgets at the State level** which have to be presented to the Legislature in February or March. We hope that the NITI Aayog or the Ministry of Finance will re-establish the links that existed between the Central Government and the State Governments at the earliest so that such problems do not recur in future.

3. We have been discussing the future of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for a long time now. There appears to be general acceptance of the fact that States must have much more flexibility in the implementation of all such schemes and that the schemes should be tailored to meet State specific requirements. Nothing concrete has yet emerged. **We would like to emphasize that we need maximum flexibility to take care of our state specific concerns such as second generation issues in education and health, special schemes for ageing population, and so on.**

Agenda 1: NITI AAYOG AND ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Issue for discussion: NITI has been entrusted with the responsibility of setting the pace and steering the transformation process. In order to achieve the objectives as stated in the Resolution, decisions on key issues like manner in which its business should be conducted; laying down the details of the processes that it will follow; defining its interface with various stakeholders and Secretariat for the Regional Councils, are being taken; suggestions from the States would be welcome.

REPLY

My observations are as follows:

1. The NITI Aayog should continue the function performed by the Planning Commission of determining in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and State Governments the amount of resources available to the States for Plan and Budget preparation. It must also play an important role in finalizing the quantum of resources available for Plan spending.
2. There are many technical issues that cannot be discussed in detail at the level of Chief Ministers. Also, there are State specific issues which need thorough discussion. It is important therefore to constitute bodies at the national and regional levels to address such issues.
3. Service of renowned experts should be made available to the States for technical guidance and right implementation strategy.
4. Sectoral discussions with technical experts must also take place.
5. The NITI Aayog can perform a useful function by hand holding the State Governments and building capacities within States in areas such as financing of infrastructure projects, public private partnership and such other areas as would help to achieve the national objective of rapid growth in infrastructure.
6. The NITI Aayog should also collect and disseminate information on best practices, both at national and international level.

Agenda 2: FROM PLANNING COMMISSION TO NITI – TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

Issue for discussion: Views of the States on Annual Plan joint review exercise and on the road map for transition to longer term strategic planning by NITI would be welcome.

REPLY

1. The State Government is happy that the 12th Five Year Plan will continue as scheduled and that Annual Plans will be prepared as usual in the remaining years of the Five Year Plan. It will be very complicated to make fundamental structural changes at this stage.
2. Kerala also believes that the time has come to prepare long term strategic Plans both at the national and State levels. Kerala has already prepared a Perspective Plan 2030 with the technical help of the National Council for Applied Economic Research. NITI Aayog should help the State to take it forward.
3. Kerala believes that pre-Plan discussions at technical level would be more useful than Annual Plan discussions. These discussions could be held in September/October, before the preparation of Plans and could help to align national and State priorities. Over a period of time, this exercise could develop into an effective instrument for goal setting and evaluation of performance.

Agenda 3: CHARTER FOR NITI: FRAMEWORK FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Issue for discussion: A paper on evolving the framework for the national development agenda is enclosed at Annexure IV for comments and deliberations.

REPLY

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Since the agenda note was received only two or three days ago, I have not had enough time to go through all the issues mentioned in Annexure IV. Ideally, I would have liked to have each of these issues examined in detail by the Departments concerned and also get the views of my colleagues in the Cabinet. I will therefore send a formal response to Annexure IV later. Some preliminary remarks on some of the issues are given as follows:

1. Some flagship programmes such as Betai Bachao and Jan Dhan Yojana may not be relevant for Kerala as we have already reached high standards in these areas. However, we have several concerns which have not been addressed adequately in the stated national priorities. There should be much more focus on making agriculture a viable and productive occupation through a suitable flagship programme, which focuses on research oriented assistance to agriculturists. We believe that all farmers who repay loans on time should be entitled to ~~interest free loans~~ by providing interest subsidy from Government of India and State Government – at present they are getting only a 3 % interest subsidy from the Centre. In my opinion interest subsidy of Government of India to be increased from present 3% to 4% and 3% should be the State share. Government of India will make sure that loan from NABARD reaches the farmer at 7% interest rate. Further, interest subsidy is available only for short term crop loans to farmers - this should be extended not only to long term loans to farmers but also to animal husbandry, fishery and allied sectors.
2. Another major area for a flagship programme is the “Right to Affordable Health” for all with free medicines, universal health insurance, free treatment for cancer and so on.
3. It is important that adequate funding is provided for implementation of flagship programmes. The present situation is that real wages have come down in the rural sector as indicated in the mid-year financial review of the Ministry of Finance. Minimum support prices have only marginally increased. There are huge arrears of payments under MNREGA. The rural sector is therefore in a state of distress, which will ultimately affect the growth process even in the manufacturing sector owing to decline in demand.

4. The focus on infrastructure is important. We need technical and financial assistance for building infrastructure.
5. A great deal more attention has to be paid to solid and liquid waste management, particularly in a fast urbanizing State like Kerala.
6. The irrigation patterns best suitable for each State will have to be determined by geographical and topographical factors.
7. We do not have enough information at the State level on "Make in India" or "Smart Cities" programmes. Greater conceptual clarity has to be provided on how these programmes will be implemented and what role will be played by Central and State institutions.
8. On labour reforms, we need to proceed cautiously, keeping in mind the interests of our workers.
9. **Kerala State has already made considerable progress in skill development, particularly in the higher education sector.** We have also received substantial loan assistance from the Asian Development Bank for skill development in schools and colleges. We look forward to increased and co-ordinated support from the Government of India to carry this initiative forward.
10. The State would fully support and implement a programme of housing for all with 24/7 electricity, drinking water and sanitation by 2022. We look forward to concrete programmes being put in place to help the State achieve this objective. The same applies to renewable energy.
11. We would also support a concrete programme for development of minor ports and coastal shipping. In this connection, I would like to state that a major impediment to the development of coastal shipping is the cabotage law presently in place as a consequence of which major shipping lines prefer to use ports in neighbouring countries rather than Indian ports. The cabotage law should be suspended for a period of at least ten years by which time, hopefully, the Indian shipping industry would have sufficiently developed.
10. We have already achieved 100% financial inclusiveness in our State. We hope to extend our computer network to all parts of our State and all Panchayats in the next few months.

At present the level of consultation with State level representatives for various national level priorities and projects is inadequate. The views of State Govt. have to be taken into account in preparing projects and policies related to land acquisition, changes proposed in MNREGS, labour reform, Make in India, etc. NITI Aayog may organise such consultations with Ministries and State level functionaries. It is desirable to circulate a Concept Paper first to State Governments before announcing the policies or schemes. Detailed guidelines are also to be developed for action at the State level, in the initial phase itself.

Agenda 4 : Cooperative Federalism

Issue for discussion: *Suggestions on the structured mechanism for interaction based on specific focus issues and relative strengths of each State are welcome.*

REPLY

1. NITI Aayog may undertake studies on success models and organise discussion of State specific success models for adoption / study by other States. Kerala is in a position to showcase several good replicable models such as, for example, Ashraya for destitutes, Kudumbasree Model for grass root level development, Propagation of Ayurveda, Free Cochlear implants, focused schemes for the disabled and so on in the Health sector. NITI Aayog may organise exposure visits to other States / countries to study successful models.
2. Incentives may be provided to States which have implemented good replicable models.
3. A forum may be evolved in the NITI Aayog to discuss the potential of States for investment promotion.
4. As one of the objectives of NITI Aayog is to promote village level planning, a great deal of attention has to be given to building Panchayati Raj institutions. In Kerala, we distribute 25% of our Plan outlay and various other grants to

local self government institutions at all levels. We are building a strong Local Self Government structure at the grass root level and have effectively transferred both funds and functions to Local Self Governments. We will be happy to share our experience with other States and with NITI Aayog.

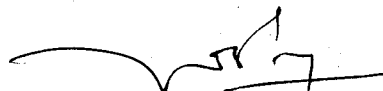
Agenda 5 : Thrust to infrastructure projects

Issue for discussion: It is suggested that the Chief Secretaries in the respective States may head standing Project Monitoring Groups, which may include Project Authorities and concerned Ministries to have oversight on the timelines and resolve issues. State Governments may like to respond.

REPLY

1. **Infrastructure is a key pre-requisite for development. We need more assistance from the Centre in this area. State Governments do not have enough knowhow on financial institutions, financial instruments, market borrowing, PPP and external funding. We want assistance in the above areas from Government of India.** In the Budget Speech 2014, the Union Finance Minister announced that an institution called 3P with a corpus of Rs.500 crore would be set up to promote PPP in infrastructure. We are not aware of the progress made in setting up this institution. **Whenever there is a major infrastructure project being jointly implemented, there should be a 50:50 contribution of equity by the Union and the State Governments, as is being promoted by the Ministry of Railways. VGF for PPP projects must be enhanced to 33 % from the Central Government.** A mechanism may be developed in NITI Aayog or Ministry of Finance for discussion of these issues on a regular basis with State Government representatives.

2. The suggestion on project monitoring group is acceptable. However, the Chief Secretary level project monitoring group alone may not be able to complete the task. Technical support groups as well as support of external competent national level agencies may be provided to States through NITI Aayog for ensuring achievement of deliverables.


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