No. RDD-AA(C)17-3/2011-
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Rural Development Department

From
The Pr. Secretary (RD) to the
Govt. of Himachal Pradesh

To
1. All the Deputy Director-cum-PO/PD,
   DRDAs/DWDAs/SLNA/MLRM, H.P.
2. All the Block Development Officers,
in Himachal Pradesh.

Dated the Shimla-171009  27th May, 2017

Sub:- Proceedings of the meeting of the BDOs Association.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to enclose herewith minutes of Meeting of Block
Development Officer's Association held on 24.05.17 under the Chairmanship of
Director-cum-Ex Officio Secretary (RD&PR) to the Government of Himachal
Pradesh for further information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

(SACHIN KANWAL)
Joint Secretary (RD) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh.


Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:-
1. The Joint Director-cum-Deputy Secretary (PR) to the Government

(SACHIN KANWAL)
Joint Secretary(RD) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh.
Minutes of the BDOs Association Meeting with Director (RD & PR) held on 24th May, 2017.

The BDOs association held a meeting with worthy Director (RD & PR) and raised the following concerns of association with the Director and requested for their timely redressal at the departmental level.

The issues discussed are as under:-

1) **Pay anomaly between the Block Development Officers and the DPOs (District Panchayat Officers).** The association put forth the issue regarding the existing pay anomaly between the post of BDO and DPO and cited the relevant references and facts in this regard and requested the department to take up the matter. In response to the same, the association was assured that the department shall move this case to the Finance department within a week’s time.

2) **Writing of ACRs of Junior Engineers:** It was pointed out by the members of the association that vide a March, 2016 order issued by the Panchayti Raj Department in respect of the ACRs for JEs the DPO has been made the reviewing Officer where as the BDO is reporting officer in this regard and CEO Zila Parishad/ADM/ADC is the appointing authority in this regard. During the course of discussion it was agreed upon that Assistant Engineer and Block Development Officer may be made the reporting officer and the reviewing officer respectively for writing the ACRs of the JEs and hence necessary changes shall be made in the present order. (Corrections to be carried out by the DoPR)

3) **HP Panchayti Raj Act Amended on 6.03.2017, degradation of the post of BDO**

A) Gram Panchayat related matters:

   ➢ Section 32(a) Taxes- If Panchayat impose a tax, appeal comes to BDO(CEO PS), If Panchayat Samiti impose it, appeal goes to DPO not to CEO (ZP).

   ➢ Page 7 of 6-3-17 notification:- If Panchayat has to buy the furniture, authority is with gram sabha, DPO and Director. It should be Gram Sabha, Panchayat Samiti and ZP or CEO PS should be included. CEO PS and PS have been bypassed.

   ➢ Page 8, advertisement of GP... Authorities mentioned are same as above.
> Page 9, legal matters, contingent expenditure: Authority is with DPO only, no gram sabha, no BDO.

B) Panchayat Samiti (PS) related matters:
> If Panchayat Samiti has to buy the furniture- Authority is with Panchayat Samiti, then DPO, then Director. It clearly means CEO PS is under DPO.
> Legal charges, contingent expenditure (page-9)-Panchayat Samiti needs permission of DPO in each and every case.
> Similarly if PS has to advertise something-authority is with PS, DPO and Director.... Puts DPO above CEO PS.

DPO above BDO, Powers to DPO or CEO ZP in case of ZP but in case of Panchayat Samiti, powers to Panchayat Samiti.....Not to CEO PS

4) **Submission of UCs of the 14th Finance commission grants:** The association raised a point that the 14th finance commission grants are routed directly to the Gram Panchayats and the works are also executed at the level of the Gram Panchayats, while the BDO’s are being asked to counter sign the UCs which are provided by the Gram Panchayat.

The officers raised their objections that BDO’s are not being involved either at the planning stage they being kept in loop regarding execution of the works. It is only at the stage of monitoring that the BDO’s are to review these works and also to counter sign of the UCs of works which have been completed in the Panchayats.

It was requested that the BDOs may be involved at the planning stage so that there is clarity regarding the works which are permissible and feasible to execute before they are rolled out for execution in the Panchayats. In this regard, the Director assured that the BDO’s shall be included at the initial stage and will have a say in the planning process in the 14th finance commission grants. However, already there are sufficient provisions for involvement of BDOs in Gram Panchayat Development Programme preparation, compilation, monitoring and execution.

5) **The issue regarding the vacant post of the core facility SIRD:** The association raised their objection to filling up all the post of core facility SIRD by an officer
from the Panchayati Raj Department. They asserted that since this is cadre post of Rural Development Department, it should not have been filled by the Panchyati Raj Department and expressed their apprehension that the post will be taken over by the Panchyati Raj Department in future. On this issue the department clarified that the post of core facility SIRD could not be filled up since last three or four years because of the shortfall of the officers and posting of an officer from the Panchyati Raj Department is purely on temporary basis and as when department will have officers available it shall be filled up accordingly.

6) **Revision of ACR performa:** The members of the association apprised the worthy Director (RD &PR) that the present ACR performa for BDO’s and the other officials of the Rural Development Department are not in tune with the present schemes and programmes therefore necessary changes require to be made in the same. In this regard the worthy Director assured that the department shall look into it and revised ACR performa for respective categories shall be drafted and circulated in a month’s time.

7) **Effective control over staff in the block and the DRDAs:** The members of the association submitted that in order to have effective control and supervision over the staff in the blocks and offices of DRDAs it is imperative that the Controlling Officers that BDO’s and Deputy Director are entrusted with sufficient authority to exercise fair amount of control with regard to sanctioning leave and writings of the ACR’s of such officials both at the Block level and District level. On this issue, the Director (RD &PR) asked the association to submit a proposal in this regard to the department within a weeks’ time.

8) Regarding provision of budget for repairs of official residence and office buildings of the Deputy Director DRDAs. The association appraised the worthy Director that there is no provision of funds to undertake any kind of repairs or maintenance for the residence or offices of the Deputy Director DRDAs and most of them are in pitiable conditions for want of sufficient funds. In this regard, it was clarified that the department does not allocate such funds from its regular annual allocation under the said head for the DRDA’s since all such expenses have been incurred
from the funds available with the Districts under the DRDA Admin head in the past. However, in view of the funds shortage and pending liabilities being faced by the districts in funds under DRDA-Admin matter shall be considered by the department.

In the end, the members of the association thanked the worthy Director for giving his valuable time to the association and also assured that the officers in the districts and the blocks are always positive and committed to perform their duties and responsibilities with utmost sincerity and that the instructions issued from the department are always followed in letter and spirit and necessary efforts are always put to achieve the targets and objectives in a time bound manner. The association expressed hope that the department shall pay due attention to the genuine concerns of the Block Development Officers Association and would strengthen the existing field officers and enable its officers to perform and deliver better in public interest.

Director-cum-Ex Officio Secretary (RD & PR) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.