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(i)

**COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED
STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT (B)
DEPARTMENTS, 2022-2023**

CHAIRMAN :

Shri Ramendra Narayan Kalita,

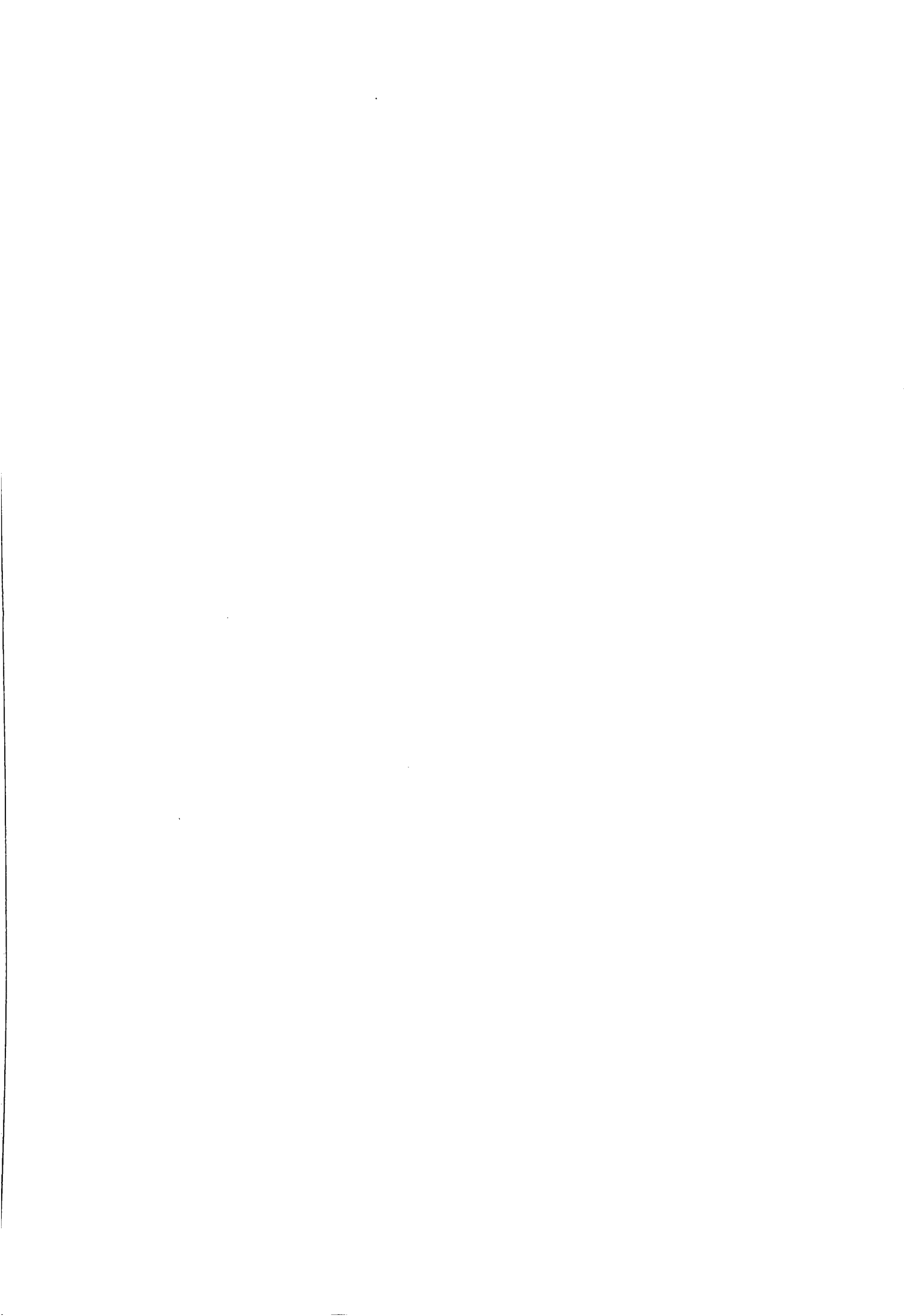
MLA & Chairman.

MEMBERS :

2.	Shri Terash Gowalla,	MLA & Member
3.	Shri Utpal Borah,	MLA & Member
4.	Shri Sibu Misra,	MLA & Member
5.	Shri Rupak Sarmah,	MLA & Member
6.	Shri Kaushik Rai,	MLA & Member
7.	Shri Taranga Gogoi,	MLA & Member
8.	Shri Diganta Kalita,	MLA & Member
9.	Shri Darsing Ronghang,	MLA & Member
10.	Shri Rupsing Teron,	MLA & Member
11.	Shri Dharmeswar Konwar,	MLA & Member
12.	Shri Bharat Chandra Narah,	MLA & Member
13.	Shri Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha,	MLA & Member
14.	Shri Jakir Hussain Sikdar,	MLA & Member
15.	Shri Nurul Huda,	MLA & Member
16.	Shri Rekitabuddin Ahmed,	MLA & Member
17.	Shri Pradip Sarkar,	MLA & Member
18.	Shri Abdur Rahim Ahmed,	MLA & Member
19.	Smti. Renupoma Rajkhowa,	MLA & Member
20.	Hafiz Bashir Ahmed,	MLA & Member
21.	Shri Aminul Islam (Senior),	MLA & Member
22.	Shri Phanidhar Talukdar,	MLA & Member
23.	Shri Abdul Aziz,	MLA & Member
24.	Shri Charan Boro,	MLA & Member
25.	Shri Manoranjan Talukdar,	MLA & Member

OFFICERS, ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Hemen Das, IAS, Principal Secretary,
2. Shri Dulal Pegu, Secretary,
3. Smti Prativa Teron, Joint Secretary,
4. Shri Samir Das, Under Secretary,
5. Shri Swapan Das, Protocol Officer,
6. Shri Madhab Chetri, Committee Officer,
7. Shri Mahen Chandra Doley, Superintendent,
8. Shri Fakhar Uddin Chowdhury, Committee Officer,
9. Shri Lakhi Nath Mardhi, Assistant Research Officer,
10. Dr. Rosy Saikia, Assistant Language Officer.



(ii)

INTRODUCTION

1. I, as Chairman of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (B) Departments, Assam Legislative Assembly having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this **TWENTY FOURTH REPORT** on Demands for **Grant Nos. 56 & 57** of the **Panchayat & Rural Development Department** for the financial year, **2022-23**.
2. Demands for Grant have been examined by the Committee under Rule 260 J (1) (a) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly.
3. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the **Panchayat & Rural Development Department** on **24th March, 2022**.
4. The Draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on **26th March, 2022**.
5. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Officials of the **Panchayat & Rural Development Department** for placing before them the requisite materials and their considered views in connection with the subjects under consideration.
6. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the Officials of Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat attached to the Committee.

Dispur :
Dated 26th March, 2022.

Ramendra Narayan Kalita,
Chairman,
Departmentally Related Standing
Committee on Development (B) Departments,
Assam Legislative Assembly.

CHAPTER – 1

Brief Note Grant No.56

Panchayat & Rural Development strives for decentralization and empowerment of PRIs through various interventions. All of the schemes of the Department are implemented through PRIs only NSAP and RGSA are major programmed being implemented by the Department. These aim to improve the critical infrastructure in rural areas. Old aged persons, widows and physically challenged persons will be provided monthly pension under NSAP programmes. Panchayat will be strengthened through (RGSA) for better performance. Implementation of aforesaid are accepted to being socio economics changes in rural areas.

- 1.1 In India majority of the population lives in the villages and Assam is no exception. The State along with the nation has introduced a system of Panchayati Raj with the Panchayat Organization vested with many statutory powers and functions in the spheres of local development assigned to them keeping in view the democratic ideas of decentralization of administrative powers. The Rural Development has undertaken various anti poverty programmes to empower the economic conditions of the people to provide employment to the unemployed youth and raised the quality of life in Rural Areas.
- 1.2 During the year 2021-22, the total outlay against Grant No.56 is Rs. 301276.18 (L) for P & RD Department including salary. For the year, 2022-2023, Finance Department has allocated an amount of Rs. 421754.95 (L), out of which an amount Rs. 42962.65 (L) for Central Share and Rs. 2222.00 (L) for State Share and proposed to provide in the Budget, 2022-23 under Grant No.56 for NSAP and RGSA including Finance Commission. Detailed of which is given below :

GRANT NO.56 –Panchayat & Rural Development (Panchayat)

(Rs. In lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes/Project	Central Share	State Share	Remarks
1.	IGNOAPS under NSAP	25402.95	0.00	
2.	IGNWPS under NSAP	4497.44	0.00	
3.	IGNDPS under NSAP	1306.32	0.00	
4.	NFBS under NSAP	1755.94	0.00	
	Total:- NSAP	32962.65	0.00	
5.	Rastriya Gram Swaraj Abhijan (RGSA)	10000.00	1111.00	
	Total:	42962.65	1111.00	

- 1) **NSAP (National Social Assistance Programme):** - It was started by Govt. of India in 1995-96. Formerly this programme was implemented by the Social Welfare Department and from 2003-2004, it was transferred to Panchayat & Rural Development Department. It has four components like Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pensions Schemes (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disabilities Pension Schemes (IGMBPS) and National Benefited Scheme (NFBS).

- a) **IGNOAPS (Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme):** The BPL people in age group of 60-79 years are given a monthly pension of Rs 200/- from Central Assistance. The BPL people in the age group of 80 years and above are given a monthly pension of Rs 500/- from Central Assistance
- b) **IGNWPS (Indira Gandhi National widow Pensions Scheme) -** The BPL widow people in the age group 40-79 years are given a monthly pension @ of Rs 300/- P. M. from Central Assistance. After attaining the age of 80 years and above, the beneficiaries are entitled to get Rs 500/- P. M.
- c) **IGNDPS (Indira Gandhi National Disabilities Pension Scheme)-** Under this scheme BPL disabled person in the age group 18-79 year are given a monthly pension @ of Rs 300/- per month from Central Assistance. The present target is 18916 nos. beneficiaries. After attaining the age of 80 years and above the beneficiaries are entitled to get @ Rs 500/- per month.
- d) **NFBS (National Family Benefitted Scheme):** - Under this scheme, Rs 20,000/- is given as one time assistance to BPL family whose principal bread earner is dead. The age group of eligible person is 18-59 years.

During the financial year 2021-22, an amount of Rs 31378.20 (L) was provided as Central share. In the year 2022-23 an amount of Rs 32962.65 (L) is proposed as Central share under the NSAP Scheme.

2. **RGSA (Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan) :** - In order to ensure improved people centric governance, responsive service delivery by Panchayats and attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, leadership capabilities of Elected Representative and functional competencies of functionaries and awareness level of rural mass need to be enhanced by many folds. With the above objectives, a proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj with an amount of Rs 131.44 Crores, as per template given by Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Government of India, Ministry of Panchayati has approved the annual action plant submitted by the State for an amount of Rs. 131.44 crores. The Government of India, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has already sanctioned an amount of Rs. 14.123 crores to the State Government.

Under the Programme, the State Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development (SIPRD) organized large numbers of training programmes for officials and other stake holders on preparation of Gaon Panchayat Development Plan and Poverty Reduction Plan.

3. **15th Finance Commission:-** During the year 2021-22 Govt has provided an amount of Rs 188750.64 (L). Out of which, an amount of Rs 93101.34 lakh has been incurred as expenditure and Rs 95649.30 lakh as balance fund due to non-receipt of sanction from the Govt of India. During the year 2022-23, an amount of Rs 156930.00 lakh is proposed for Providing Budget under 15th Finance Commission to the Govt.
4. **6th Finance Commission:-** During the year 2021-22 Govt. has provided an amount of Rs 34983.84 lakh. Out of the said amount Rs. 5712.20 lakh has been incurred expenditure and an amount of Rs. 31099.94 as balance fund.. During the year 2022-23, an amount of Rs 56889.09 is proposed for providing in the Budget to the Finance (E.A.) Department under 6th Finance Commission.

CHAPTER –II

REPORT

GRANT No. 56 –Panchayat & Rural Development (Panchayat)

2.1 After the presentation of the budget in the House for the financial year 2022-23 on 16th March, 2022, the Departmentally Related Standing Committee held its meeting on 24th March, 2022 to discuss Grant No 56 relating to Rural Development, (Panchayat).

2.2 Budget provision under Grant No. 56 relating to the Panchayat & Rural Development (Panchayat) Department for the financial year, 2022-23 are as follows:

	REVENUE	CAPITAL	TOTAL (Rs in lakhs)
VOTED	222446.97	190.00	222636.97
CHARGED	378.86	0.00	378.86

Under the following heads, an estimated budget allocation has been fixed as shown below:

• 2015	Elections	0.00
• 2515	Other Rural Development Programmes	222446.97
• 4059	Capital Outlay on Public Works	190.00
• Grand Total		222636.97

The amount so allocated is presented before the House and is proposed to be spent in the Revenue and Capital expenditure respectively.

While discussion the Budget provision for the 2022-23 the Committee found the Budget so allocated comparatively less than the previous Financial Year and there is no clear indication as to why the Budget allocation has been reduced. However, the Committee feels that the Department should communicate with the Finance Department, Assam for necessary Budget provision in order to restrict the hindrances that may arise while performing the function of the Department.

2.3 The DRSC in its sitting held on 24th March, 2022 examined papers and documents received from the concerned department and took evidence of departmental representatives. At the same time, the Committee considered the Action Taken Report on the recommendations made in its Twenty Third Report.

ACTION TAKEN REPORT

FURNISHED ON THE OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED LAST TWENTY THIRD REPORT OF THE DRSC ON DEVELOPMENT (B) DEPARTMENTS ON GRANT NO. 56-PANCHAYAT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT(PANCHAYAT)

1. The Committee observed that the works under SOPD for building infrastructure of Development Blocks have been very slow and thus expressed resentment regarding the poor progress.

The Committee recommended that pending works for 11 Development Blocks, viz, for the year 2019-20- Pakabetbari Dev. Block , Barpeta, Tapang Dev. Block, Cachar; Dholpukhuri Dev. Block, Hojai, South Salmara Dev. Block, South Salmara (Mancachar), Dotma Dev. Block, Kokrajhar and in addition for the year 2021-22: Udarbond Dev. Block, Cachar; Chakchaka Dev. Block, Barpeta; Langsomepe Dev. Block, Karbi Anglong; Boginadi Dev. Block, Lakhimpur; Ujani Majuli Dev. Block, Majuli; Mahmora (Sonari) Dev. Block, Charaideo to be started within 3 months.

Action taken :

In the year, 2019-20, Govt. selected 5 (five) Development Block for construction of New Block Office Buildings under SOPD viz. Pakabetbari Dev. Block , Barpeta; Tapang Dev. Block, Cachar; Dholpukhuri Dev. Block, Hojai; South Salmara Dev. Block, South Salmara (Mancachar); Dotma Dev. Block, Kokrajhar.

Out of these, administrative approval was accorded by the Govt. in respect of South Salmara Development Block, South Salmara, Mancachar and communicated the same to the Chief Engineer, PWD (B) Department, Assam for necessary action. Accordingly, PWD (B), Assam has issued preliminary work order in respect of South Salmara Development Block.

In the meantime, proposal for administrative approval in respect of Pakabetbari Development Block, Tapang Dev. Block, Cachar and Dholpukhuri Dev. Block, Hojai has been received and placed before the competent finance Committee for concurrence.

In respect of Dotma Dev. Block, Kokrajhar, PWD (B), Assam has submitted plan and estimate only for "Staff Quarters". It has also been informed by the PD, DRDA, Kokrajhar that the Block Office Building of Dotma Dev. Block is presently in good condition and dose not required any construction or repairing of the Block Office Building.

Further, as Dotma Dev. Block Office Building is in good conditioned, the same has been replaced by Bhawanipur Dev. Block, Barpeta and for construction of Quarters for Block Staff, a common policy is been prepared for the entire State.

During the Financial year, 2020-21, Govt. had selected 6 (six) Development Block for construction of new office building under SOPD viz. Udarband Dev. Block, Cachar, Chakchaka Dev. Block, Barpeta, Langsomepe Dev. Block, Karbi Anglong, Baginadi Dev. Block, Lahimpur, Ujani Majuli Dev. Block, Majuli, Mahmora (Sonari) Dev. Block, Charideo.

But, during the current Financial year, there is no budget allocation in the State Budget for the construction of the 6(six) New Block Office Buildings.

2. The Committee, during the course of discussion observed that the civil works are remaining pending due to the financial constraint and necessary technical decisions.

The Committee recommended that the financial approval capacity of the SE is to be strengthened up to 2 crores and the vacant post of Joint Director (Technical), CPRD is to be filled up on priority basis.

Action taken :

The matter was taken up by the Department with Finance Department and accordingly Finance Department vide Notification No.FEB.39/2021/1(U/o) dtd.18.06.2021, delegated power of technical sector to the technical officer of P & RD Department.

3. The Committee was informed that there are no Block Development Offices at 4 Karimganj North LAC and 41 Bhabanipur LAC. As a result, people of these constituencies have been suffering as schemes and programmes that come under Block Development Office are not properly implemented. Moreover, many people are unaware about those schemes and eventually they have been deprived of the facilities created for them by the Govt. The Committee felt that the matter is public importance and the local MLA too has raised the issue in the august House several times to create a new Development Block in the above mentioned areas. But, no initiative has been taken by the Govt. till now.

Thus, after careful observation, the Committee strongly recommended the concerned department to take urgent steps in establishing Block Development Offices at 4 Karimganj North LAC and 41 Bhabanipur LAC. If no budgetary provision is found, Finance Department should provide the fund to the department through SD on priority basis. The department should also communicate with the Finance Department regarding the same.

Action taken :

The Department has initiated the process for re-organization/establishment of Dev. Blocks in a phased manner.

The Hon'ble Cabinet has approved for shifting of Block Head Quarter of Bhawanipur Development Block from Howly to Sarupeta (Geruwapara) by rationalization of Gaon Panchayats under Bhawanipur and Barpeta Development Blocks and a Notification No. PRD-12020/6/2021-PRD (B) /13 dated 31/12/2021 has been issued accordingly.

4. The Committee observed that the Majbat Dev. Block, Tengakhat Dev. Block and Sapekhati Dev. Block are in a very dilapidated condition. Besides, there is an urgent need of re-organization in every Development Blocks.

Thus, the Committee recommended for repairing and renovation of the Majbat Dev. Block Office Tengakhat Dev. Block Office and Sapekhati Dev. Block office at the earliest. Moreover, Block re-organization (New Dev. Block) should be taken up in a phase manner at the earliest.

Action taken :

Detailed proposals have been sought from the concerned authorities for repair and renovation of Majbat, Tengakhat and Sapekhati Development Blocks. A copy of letter No. PDDP.33/2017/231 dated 20/12/2021.

Regarding reorganization of Dev. Blocks the process has already been initiated in the Department in a phased manner.

5. The Committee observed that many Secretaries of GPs are indulging in different irregularities resulting in the deprivation of genuine beneficiaries in various schemes and accordingly recommended the GPs Secretaries completing 3 years in present place of posting are to be transferred immediately.

Action taken :

The Commissioner, Panchayat & Rural Development, Assam has transferred the G.P. Secretaries outside the district those who had completed 2(two) years continuous service after obtaining Govt. approval from the Govt. However, the G.P. Secretaries who are going retirement within 31.07.2022 and the G.P. Secretaries who are suffering from critical disease like cancer, kidney dialysis are exempted from the transfer process. The copy of transfer order.

6. The Committee observed during the meeting that many posts of GP Secretary are lying vacant and without adequate man-power, many problems arise in the functioning of a GP.

Thus, the Committee recommended the concerned department to take necessary action for filling up the vacant posts of GP Secretaries at the earliest for smooth functioning of the Gaon Panchayats.

Action taken :

The Commissioner, Panchayat & Rural Development Assam had issued Advertisement for filling up 578 Nos. of vacant posts of G.P. Secretaries under Panchayat & Rural Development Department.

However, upon constitution of the "State Level Recruitment Commission for Class-III posts" by the personnel Deptt vide Notification No.AAI.5.2022/15 dated 4/2/2022 for recruitment under Class-III and Class-IV posts, Panchayat & Rural Development Department has requested the Secretary, State Level Recruitment Commission to fill up the Class-III posts under P & RD Deptt including the posts of GP Secretary through the State Level Recruitment Commission accordingly vide letter No. PRD- 12019/15/2017-PRD (B)/ 223 dated-21/2/202.

GRANT NO. 56-PANCHAYAT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT(PANCHAYAT)

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **During the course of discussion, the Committee observed that the constructions works of the all Development Blocks of Assam has not been completed within stipulated time.**

Therefore, the Committee recommended that the constructions works of all development block of Assam should be completed within 2(two) months and construction works must be done under the supervision of each Zilla Parishad of the Districts.

2. **The Committee observed that the trace maps of the Anchalik Panchayat are found different in same cases.**

The Committee recommended that the Trace Map of the Anchalik Panchayat should not be changed in future.

3. **The Committee observed that the post of Contractual worker who are completed 15 years of their services are not regularized but some other post of new employees are made regularized depriving the experienced contractual workers.**

The committee also recommended that the P&RD Department should inquire into the matter and submit the inquiry report to the committee as early as possible.

4. **The Committee observed that the Panchayat Secretaries who are completed their services more than 3 (Three) years in a block. They are some times being transferred to another block but they are found to work in the same block.**

The committee has recommended that the matter should be inquired and informed to the Committee accordingly.

Action Taken Report on the recommendations may be submitted to the Committee within ninety days from the date of presentation of the Report to the House.

CHAPTER – III

BRIEF NOTE ON GRANT NO. 57-PANCHAYT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(RURAL DEVELOPMENT)

Rural housing job opportunity of Self-Help Group etc. are in major thrust areas under Grant No. 57. It is proposed to generate Rs 1200.00 lakh man days under MGNERGA and 7.00 lakh PMAY-G houses are proposed to be constructed in the State in 2022-23 as pillar activities. BPL families, mainly women will be organized through SHGs and they will be provided financial support & training under NRLM. Landscape of rural economy is expected to improve significantly through implementation of the aforesaid Schemes.

During the year 2021-22, the total outlay against Grant No.57 is Rs. 1103290.07 (L) including Salary for the year, 2022-23 Finance Department has allocated an amount of Rs. 421754.95 (L) under P & R.D. Department under Central Share and State Share and Rs 27343.00 (L) for SOPD. Out of which an amount of Rs. 713396.39 (L) for Central Share and Rs. 99429.48 (L) as State Share is proposed enhance allocation required for PMAY-G scheme and for Rs. 62930.08 (L) is proposed under SOPD. Accordingly, the same has been proposed to provide in the Budget 2022-23 under Grant no 57, details of which are given below:

1) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA): - It is a Centrally Sponsored schemes for providing 100 days wages employment in a year to the unskilled job card holders who demand work. During the Financial Year 2021-22, an amount of Rs 38141.94 (L) has been released out of allocation of Rs. 90717.98 lakh against as Central Share and Rs 12606.77 (L) was released against State Share out of allocation of Rs. 26879.40 lakh. Further, an amount of Rs. 166869.23 lakh under wage Component is released by the Govt. of India directly to NeFMS account in the Commissionerate of Panchayat & R.D. For the financial year 22-23, an amount of Rs. 90717.98 (L) has been proposed as Central Share and Rs. 30239.32 (L) as State Share.

2) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna - Gramin (PMGY – G) Formerly Indira Awas Yojna: - It is an important rural housing scheme of Govt of India for rural BPL households. It is a continuous Centrally Sponsored schemes and funded by Govt of India and State Govt in the ratio of 90:10 basis. During the financial year 2021-22, an amount of Rs 182609.51 (L) has been released out of allocation of Rs. 486925.00 (L) against Centre Share and an amount of Rs. 24292.90 (L) was released against State Share out of allocation of Rs. 71800.00 (L). For the financial year 2022-23, and amount of Rs. 573926.23 (L) has been proposed as Centre Share and Rs. 63769.58 (L) as State Share.

3) DRDA Administration: -DRDA Administration scheme is meant for outstanding salary liabilities of DRDA staff. The ratio of the fund is 90:10 between Central and State Govt. During the financial year 2021-22, an amount of Rs 72.76 (L) has been release out of allocation of Rs. 243.00 (L) against Central Share and an amount of Rs. 8.08 (L) was released against State Share out of allocation of Rs. 79.92 (L). For the financial year 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 500.00 (L) has been proposed as Centre Share and Rs. 55.00 (L) as State Share.

4) National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM):- Earlier SGSY programme has now being restructured and renamed as National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). The restructured programme is being implemented in a mission mode with a time bound and outcome based approach. The NRLM is a Centrally Sponsored Flagship Programme funded by Govt of India and State Govt on 90:10 basis in the year, 2021-22, an amount of Rs. 30891.41 (L) has been release as Central Share out of Budget provision of Rs. 41869.10 (L) and Rs. 1974.98 (L) has been released as State Share out of budget provision of Rs. 4099.78 (L) . For the financial year 2022-23 total an amounting to Rs. 42787.18(L) has been proposed as Central Share and Rs 4740.58 (L) as State Share for implementation the schemes under ASRLM.

5) State Institute of Panchayat Rural Development (SIPRD): - During the financial year 2021-22 an amount of Rs 178.20 lakh was provided in the budget. An amount of Rs 46.00 (L) as Central Fund was directly released to the Bank Account of SIPRD through NeFMS by the Govt of India and an amount of Rs 31.68 (L) was provided in the budget as State Share. Out of which no fund was released against State Share. For the financial year 2022-23, an amount of Rs 200.00(L) has been proposed as Central Share and Rs 40.00(L) as State Share.

6) SPMRM(Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission):- During the financial year 2021-22, an amount of Rs 9950.85 (L) was the budget provision against Central Share for the scheme under SPMRM. Out of the budget provision no fund was released by Govt. of India. Against Central share and amount of Rs. 982.80 (L) as State share budget provision for implementation of schemes under Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission (SPMRY). Out of which, no fund was released under Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission (SPMRM) against State Share. During the year 2022-23, an amount of Rs.5265.00(L) has been proposed as Central Share and an amount of Rs.585.00(L) as State Share.

7) SOPD-G: - During the financial year 2021-22, an amount of Rs 57882.65(L) has been provided in the budget under SOPD-G scheme. Out of the said budget provision an amount of Rs 50527.00(L) has been drawn and disbursed. For the year 2022-23, an amount of Rs 62930.09 (L) has been proposed to provide Budget for implementation of the scheme under SOPD-G.

New Schemes Launched by the Government:

- SoPD (State own Priority Development) – Construction of 125 Nos. of GP Office Buildings @ 40.00(L) per unit.
- Construction of 6 nos. of New Zilla Parishad Office Buildings @ Rs 400.00(L) per unit
- Construction of 142 Nos. of Community Toiled @ 8.00 Lakh per unit.
- Construction of 11 nos. of Block Office buildings.

CHAPTER – IV
REPORT
GRANT NO. 57

The total sum of Rs 574086.62 lakhs under P & RD is required for approval of the House during the financial year 2022-23.

The total allocation of fund under Grant No. 57 for both Revenue and Capital heads for administration of P & RD Department for the year 2022-23 is presented before the House for approval.

Budget provision under Grant No. 57 relating to the Panchayat and Rural Development Department, 2022-23 are as follows:

	REVENUE	CAPITAL	TOTAL (Rs. in lakhs)
VOTED	574086.62	0.00	574086.62
CHARGED	0.00	0.00	0.00

Under the following heads, an estimated budget allocation has been fixed as shown below:

		(Rs in Lakhs)
• 2216	Housing	388888.89
• 2501	Special Programme for Rural Development	118231.06
• 2505	Rural Employment (1)	66966.67
• 4515	Capital Outlay on other Rural Development programmes	0.00
• Grand Total		574086.62

The amount so allocated is presented before the House and is proposed to be spent in the Revenue and Capital expenditure respectively.

The DRSC in its sitting held on 24th March, 2022 examined papers and documents received from the concerned department and took evidence of departmental representatives. At the same time, the Committee considered the Action Taken Report on the recommendations made in its Twenty Third Report.

ACTION TAKEN REPORT

**FURNISHED ON THE OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED
LAST TWENTY THIRD REPORT OF THE DRSC ON DEVELOPMENT (B)
DEPARTMENTS ON GRANT NO. 57-PANCHAYAT & RURAL
DEVELOPMENT(RURAL DEVELOPMENT)**

- 1) The Committee observed that the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees in the districts and blocks under Finance Commission are in need of a reconstitution immediately.

The Committee after a thorough discussion recommended that the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees in the districts and blocks under Finance commission are to be reconstituted and guidelines are accordingly to be circulated.

Action Taken

For the purpose, CEO's of Zilla Prarishad and Block Development officer under PRIs District have been requested to take steps for reconstitute by the District/Block level Advisory cum Monitoring Committee under 15th Finance Commission Grand vide letter o. PDDP/88/2019/98, dated 13th Sept., 2021.

- 2) The Committee observed that the payments of MGNREGA wages/materials component are not regularly disbursed and the schemes are not within the Labour Budget and the IBS Schemes are not given any importance in the districts.

The Committee recommended that the payments under wages/materials component of MGNREGA is to be made immediately and the Schemes in Blocks are to be considered within the Labour Budget with IBS Schemes are to be prioritized in the Districts.

Action Taken:

Disbursement of wage and material fund is subject to availability of fund. Ministry of Rural Development directly transfers the Wage fund to the beneficiaries on timely manner. The State has a State Nodal account to Material component. The Districts can utilize the fund from the aforesaid bank account by generation FTOs. As soon as the State receives fund from the Ministry against Materials component the same is made available to the Districts. Moreover, an SOP for clearing pending materials payment under MGNREGA was approved by the Hon'ble Cabinet on 14/7/2021 which has been shared with all the districts accordingly material payments have been released to all Districts/Blocks.

The Ministry of Rural Development approves Labour Budget for every State, i.e. sets a target for Person days to be generated by the State. There is also an option for revision of Labour Budget if the State exceeds the approval Labour Budget.

In the FY 2020-21, the State had taken up 33738 schemes related to individual Beneficiary Schemes (IBS). Out of these, 3647 schemes are completed and 30091 schemes are ongoing.

In the FY 2021-22 State had taken up 37803 schemes related to IBS. Out of these, 6698 schemes are completed and 31105 schemes are ongoing.

- 3) The Committee recommended, after a threadbare discussion that Geo Tagging is to be initiated in survey of PMAY (G) houses where villages have been left out of the Awaas+ survey across all the Districts and the people residing in the quarters of the Tea Gardens are to be considered as without house/homeless and they should be included in Awaas+, including the issue of the landless beneficiaries under the scheme is to be taken up in a time bound manner.

Action Taken:

A. (1) At present, houses of the beneficiaries are being constructed from the Permanent Wait List (PWL), which is approximately 7.70 lakhs.

(2) Further, it is expected that the Govt. of Assam will get a new target of approximately 7 lakhs due to the revised definition of Kutcha House.

(3) Awaas+ survey was conducted and it has approximately 20 lakhs prospective beneficiaries as on date. This list is now being refined by deleting ineligible beneficiaries. The Aadhaar seeding and Job Card seeding has also started to ascertain the genuineness of the beneficiaries.

(4) Once the process is completed, the State will be in a position to conduct further surveys for the households who have been left out of all lists, i.e. (i) Permanent Wait List (ii) Additional List due to kutcha House and (iii) Awaas+, as per the recommendations of the Hon'ble Departmentally Related Standing Committee.

(B) Providing land to the landless PMAY-G beneficiaries is of outmost priority. The Government is taking various steps regarding the same. Detailed instructions were issued by the Revenue & Disaster Management Department regarding the landless PMAY-G beneficiaries. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam also discussed and instructed about the landless PMAY-G beneficiaries in the recently held DCs' in Diphu Cluster houses are being preferred.

- 4) The Committee after a thorough discussion recommended that the contractual employees serving more than 3 years in the same place are to be transferred (AE, GPC, GRS, Computer Assistants etc) within the district. Transfer and posting of all contractual employees is to be carried out within 3 months. The Committee further clearly recommended that the contractual employees are not to be posted in their home GP.

Action Taken:

The Commissioner Panchayat & Rural Development already initiated necessary steps for transfer of those Contractual employees (AE, GPC, GRS, Computer Assistant, Accounts Assistant etc.) who had complete 2 (two) years continuous service in his/her present place of posting in his/her home G.P. A guideline in this regards have been issued to all CEO of Zilla Parishad vide letter No.CPRD/95/2021/17 dated 14th September,2021 for transfer of Contractual employees through a random selection (Lottery) to be held in the District from 20th to 24th September,2021.

- 5) The Committee also observed during the course of discussion that wide publicity and marketability of the SHG products are yet to be enhanced.

The Committee, thus, recommended that ASRLM should take initiative to expedite market linkage of SHG products with ARTFED, AGMC and provision of market shed in the places of tourist attraction should also be taken up with wide publicity for the schemes undertaken.

Action Taken:

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with Brindaban Supermart for sale of Self-Help Groups (SHG) products.

Another (MoU) with TRIFED is in the process for marketing of the SHG products in their show rooms across the country. An emporium of the SHG products have been opened at Nisan Gram, at Goalpara District for the tourist and more such emporiums are in the process.

SHG products has been registered on Government E-Market portal.

Women weekly markets have been established in 32 locations.

Registration of SHG products on Filpkart and other digital marketing platform.

District Marts in four district have been setup and process is going on to open more such marts.

**GRANT NO. 57- PANCHAYAT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT(RURAL DEVELOPMENT)
OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. While discussing with the departmental representatives the Committee observed that the BDO's of the Blocks and CEO's of Zilla Parishad of the districts are not attending the meeting of the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee.

Therefore, the Committee recommended that the P & RD Department should instruct all the BDOs and CEOs to attend the meeting regularly.

2. The Committee observed that the Commissioner of P&RD, Assam and Vigilance and Monitoring Committee reports does not match with each other specially prepared for Sorukhetri LAC.

The Committee recommended that the P&RD Department should take initiative to make an inquiry into the matter and submit an inquiry report to the Committee at the earliest.

3. The Committee observed that the PMAY schemes were generally awarded to beneficiaries but the BDOs of the Blocks does not consult with the respective MLAs.

Therefore, the Committee recommended that the department concerned should have to instruct all the BDOs of each Blocks to implement the PMAY schemes awarded to beneficiaries in consultation with the Local MLAs.

4. The Committee observed that in Barpeta LAC has only one Development Block, namely the Bhabanipur Development Block situated at Howly has been shifted to Surukhetri LAC as per Govt. Notification in the year 2016.

Therefore, the Committee recommended that the Howly Development Block should be established in Howly under the Barpeta LAC for the greater interest of local people without any fail and inform to the Committee accordingly.

5. The Committee observed that SIPRD has Constructed 47 Nos. of GP Bhawan in the State.

The Committee recommended that the department should submit the details list of aforementioned Notified 47 Nos. of GP Bhawan which are yet to be constructed.

Action Taken Report on the recommendations may be submitted to the Committee within ninety days from the date of presentation of the Report to the House.

