

Co-ordination of civil works in LSGs

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Local Self Governments have an important role in bringing about development in our state. Forty percent of State funds are allotted to LSGs of which 70% is earmarked for construction works now looked after by the Engineering wing. The Engineering wing of LSGs plan and execute all sorts of civil works such as roads, bridges, buildings, drains, check-dams, graveyards, playgrounds, retaining walls and whatnot! In addition to the works implemented by engineering wing, some other construction works are also going on in panchayaths like MNERGS, BPL housing schemes, PWD road works, Minor Irrigation works etc. When so many players come into ground some clashes are bound to happen. We need to co-ordinate and integrate the works undertaken by various agencies for which some measures are suggested below.

Watershed Approach

Presently the works in panchayaths are determined based on administrative boundaries. But nature does not know this and has its own ways. Rivers flow from upstream to down stream irrespective of which panchayath lies in the upstream or downstream. The catchments of water bodies have their own characteristics whichever geographical areas they share. So in order not to infuriate nature, as far as possible the construction works should be planned and organised on watershed basis. This may need settling issues between adjacent panchayaths and integrate things in a harmonious way.

Data Pool

Although many works are going on in panchayaths we do not have adequate and reliable data as to the orientation of roads, water bodies, valleys, rivers, catchments, manmade structures etc. We should resort to the modern technology like GIS (Geographic Information System) to collect and document such data. GIS is a computer based system designed to accept large volume of spatial data derived from a variety of sources and to store, retrieve, analyse, manipulate and display these data according to use specifications. Geographical objects include natural things like roads, canals, railways, rivers, soil type etc. Geographical data describe objects from the real world in terms of their position with respect to known coordinate system, their attributes that are unrelated to position and their spatial interrelations with each other,

Communication

As pointed out earlier, when so many parallel as well as hierarchical players share the ground proper communication is essential for effective coordination of works to avoid duplication, wastage of public money, delay in execution etc. All LSGs and State should be digitally connected so that information can be shared and quick decisions can be taken.

Nowadays Local governance is the buzz word and for strengthening this and to ensure decentralisation and transparency the above-said measures are essential. Enhancing physical infrastructure will boost the morale of LSG staff who works day and night to usher in development in hitherto underdeveloped areas.

