

Decentralised Planning –Guidelines for the utilisation of funds placed at the disposal of District Planning & Development Boards.

Planning is most meaningful when it moves with a rock bottom approach. This approach is also essential to achieve optimum utilization of meager resources with the participation of people at the grass root level. The concept of Decentralized Planning had been introduced in the state a way back in the year 1984-85. Accordingly, the District Planning & Development Boards were set up in 1987 in Punjab. To attach utmost importance to meaningful Decentralized Planning, the DPDBs have been reconstituted and each board is headed by a Cabinet Minister/State Minister as Chairman/Vice Chairman. These boards have full powers to efficiently and cost-effectively implement the district level schemes and also identify the areas and groups of people at the grassroots level, which need special attention for equitable socio-economic growth. The District Planning & Development Boards are competent to select executing agencies for executing the works with decentralised funds at their own convenience and for works upto Rs.20.00 lakhs, administrative approval will be accorded by these Boards. It is clarified that upper limit is applicable to each individual work and not to the total amount approved under a particular scheme/programme. The works upto Rs.50.00 lakhs shall be sent to the Department of Planning for administrative approval. It is however, reiterated that the works beyond 50.00 lakhs will be referred to the concerned Administrative Department for further taking approval of the Department of Planning at the State level. In consonance with the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution, efforts are being made to transfer the fund, function and functionary to the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies by constituting District Planning Committees and Metropolitan Planning Committees in the State.

Untied Funds

The concept of untied funds was introduced in 1988-89 with the objective to carry out the works of emergent nature which are normally not covered under the schemes decentralised at the district level. These funds are basically meant for creating capital assets of visible service support facilities and are for the benefit of general public. These funds are mainly for filling up the missing gaps and for completing the in-complete public utility assets. No spill over liability can be met out of these funds.

1. The works undertaken with the untied funds should be developmental in nature, based on the locally-felt needs. The emphasis should be towards increasing the efficiency of capital assets already created and to add to the productivity and welfare.
2. The funds should be used for works of non-recurring nature and for the purposes such as provision of visible service support facilities and for benefit of general public. It should not include any recurring expenditure such as on staff or maintenance of such facilities.
3. The cost of one work should be upto Rs.10.00 lakhs and no spill-over expenditure will be permissible.

4. So far as technical and administrative sanctions under these funds are concerned the decisions of the District Planning & Development Boards will be final. If need be for the purpose of implementation of works with these funds, full and final powers can be delegated to the district technical and administrative functionaries.
5. Public contribution should be encouraged. The works under the untied funds category would be executed by the different district level executing agencies such as PWD, Panchayati Raj, Rural Development agency, Gram Panchayats, PTA, NGOs etc. the heads of the respective district department would be responsible for the coordination and overall supervision of the works. The executing agencies of the untied funds would not charge any administrative charges for their services of preparatory work, implementation, supervision etc. except the three percent departmental charges.

Illustrative list of works can be taken up with the untied funds:

- i) Construction of additional rooms/hostel/completion of buildings in government owned and managed educational institutions (such as Adarsh Schools). The Educational Institutions managed by the Private Bodies even if receiving 95% aid from the Govt. will not be covered under Untied Funds.
- ii) Construction of additional rooms/completion of buildings in government owned and managed Medical Health Institutions/Animal Health Institutions.
- iii) New/incomplete infrastructure projects in villages and towns owned by the Government and which can be completed within the limit of Rs.10.00 lakhs set for projects under untied funds.
- iv) Construction of culverts on roads for disposal of rain water, phirnies, small bridges, construction of missing links and link roads/kutchha roads.
- v) Providing facilities of drinking water and lavatory in Govt. Schools/hospitals/shamshan ghats etc.
- vi) Provision of shelter, drinking water and construction of boundary walls of the cremation grounds.
- vii) Desilting of ponds and construction of retaining wall of ponds. Construction of streets and drains and disposal of sullage water.
- viii) Boundary wall of Govt. Primary Schools with the condition to get the work executed through the Gram Panchayat with contribution in cash or kind.
- ix) Construction of public libraries and reading rooms and purchase of books and literature on agriculture.
- x) Urgent and immediate expenditure on repair of Govt. Educational Institutions/Medical Health Institutions/Animal Health Institutions and other buildings of heritage, which are declared un-safe upto a maximum amount of Rs.5.00 lakhs for each of the above said categories of the buildings in a financial year.
- xi) Installation of tube-wells and construction of water tanks for providing drinking water to the people.

- xii) These funds can be used for the purchase of furniture for Elementary Schools and Secondary Schools as a special case.
- xiii) These funds can be used for the installation of solar street lights in the villages, where the panchayats make atleast 25% contribution and are ready to maintain these lights.
- xiv) Construction of public toilets and bathrooms.

List of Works not permissible under the Untied Funds.

- i) Consumable articles such as purchase of furniture, installation of air-conditioners, computers for official/private use and cultural activities, purchase of stationery etc.
- ii) Construction, addition, alteration or repair of office buildings, residential buildings and other buildings relating to Government Departments/Agencies and officers of the State Government .
- iii) Repair and maintenance works of any type other than special repairs for restoration/upgradation of durable capital assets.
- iv) Works belonging to commercial organizations, private institutions/voluntary organizations/religious institutions such as clubs, trusts, registered societies and cooperative institutions.
- v) Payment of old bills.

Note: While allocating the untied funds priority should be given to those Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies and Non-Government Organizations (Regd.), which are ready to make contributions from their own resources on a matching or otherwise basis.