

PRESS RELEASE

PRIs should be Transparent in Functioning

Patna- February 22, 2014 Mr. A.N.P. Sinha, IAS (Rtd.), Chairman of newly constituted State Finance Commission on Saturday suggested that all the three-tier in general and Panchayat in particular should gain confidence of its members as 'Gram Sabha' is the last mile where people's Espiration can be met.

Mr. Sinha, who was also the Union Panchayat Raj, Secretary, was speaking at a two-day national workshop organized by **Prof. G.P.Sinha Center for Disaster Management and Rural Development** at Bihar Industries Association.

The workshop is sponsored by the Department of Planning & Development under Chief Minister's Study, research and Evaluation incentivized scheme.

Mr. Sinha said only social audit and transparency through participatory approach would restore faith in the three – tier system. He asked new and young leadership to take the mantle and suggested more thrust on evaluation and monitoring of developmental plan.

While chairing the different sessions Dr. S.K. Singh, ex-Director, Center for Panchayati Raj, NIRD, Hyderabad, Mr. Rajiv Kumar Singh, ex-spl.secy. Department of Disaster Management and Mr. Rajmani Prasad Singh, Chairman of Bihar School Examination Board emphasized the need of setting up standing committee and making village integrated plan.

Nearly 100 PRI members and officials from Bihar and outside expressed hope that fund for Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) would be enhanced. The session also discussed the ways and means through which financial independence of the three - tier could be achieved. The need of e-governance through effective human resources was felt at the workshop. Sarpanch and others representing the Garm Kutcheri urged the government to strengthen it so that small litigations could be solved through conciliatory approach.

Those who also spoke on the occasion included Bihar Industries Association president Mr. Arun Kumar Agrawal, CDHI president Mr. Rajeshwar Mishra, Dr. Rajan Sinha and Mr. Sudhakar Jha of G.P. Sinha center.

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PRESS RELEASE

'More Powers to Panchayat on anvil: Minister

Patna- 23 February 2014 : The two-day national workshop on "Panchayati Raj : An Institution of local self governance" concluded here on Sunday with a call on more devolutions of funds, functions and functionaries (3Fs) to the three-tier Panchayati Raj system in Bihar.

The national workshop was organized by Prof. G.P. Sinha Centre for Disaster Management & Rural Development and sponsored by Department of Planning & Development under Chief Minister's Research, Study & Evaluation incentivized scheme. Over hundred PRIs member including officials attended the workshop. The Bihar Industries Association was the co-partner of the workshop.

The Minister for Panchayati Raj, Dr. Bhim Singh, who delivered the valedictory speech, said government is bound to empower the Panchayat in the matter of making plan and prioritizing the need but at the same time cautioned PRI members to realize their responsibilities and gain confidence of the villagers.

He chided the three-tier members for often comparing them with Lok sabha and vidhan sabha and asked them to attain knowledge which would be real empowerment. He said legislatures have given birth to the system and therefore uncomparable.

He elaborated the government's contribution in deciding to construct Panchayat Sarkar bawan in all Panchayats and providing fund under Makhyamantri Gromodoya Yojana.

The Minister, besides the Secretary General of Bihar Industries Association, Mr. Sanjay Bhartiya distributed prizes among the dignitaries and selected PR members. Those who were awarded on the basis of their performance included Mr. Chandrashekhar Pran, an eminent Panchayati Raj expert from Allahabad, Dr. S.K. Singh, ex- Director, Panchayati Raj, NIRD, Hyderabad, Mr. Ratnesh Kumar, Mukhiya, Nirpur Panchayat, Nalanda, Mrs. Pushpa Devi, Mukhiya, Dudhar Panchayat and Mrs Shagufta Nasim, Chairman, Zila Parishad. The last one was awarded for the work in the filed of women empowerment.

Those who spoke on the last day of the session on Panchayat and Gram Kutcheri included Mr. Chandra Shekhar Pran, Ex-Director, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Dr. Raghuvans Sinha , Advisor, and Mr. Omprakesh , Panchayati Raj department.

Dr. Rajan Sinha, Director, Prof. G.P.Sinha Centre, proposed a vote of thanks.

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