

Recommendations for Dadra and Nagar Haveli

6C.1 Dadra & Nagar Haveli has one Municipality, 11 Village Panchayats and one District Panchayat. As in the case of Daman & Diu, the share of funds devolved to the local bodies has shown an increase from 1.73% of the UT budget in 2002-03 to 3.54% in 2008-09. However, the distribution of funds is very skewed. While the District Panchayat gets as much as 75.24% of the total funds and 24.12% goes to Municipality, the Village Panchayats are left with only 0.64%. For the last ten years or so the amount devolved to all the Village Panchayats together has remained stagnant at Rs. 34.50 lakhs. There is a need to alter this skewed distribution so as to make it realistic and in keeping with the actual requirements of the Village Panchayats. As stated in the main report, the Commission feels that as much as 75% of the total funds devolved should go to the Village Panchayats in all the UTs.

6C.2 Despite an increase in grants given by the administration to the District Panchayat, many of the functions are still not devolved to the Panchayats and the staffs are working in a diverted capacity. Both these situations have to be corrected. The administration should immediately devolve all the functions which have been mandated for the Panchayat immediately along with the staff and the budgetary allocation. This should be done in a time bound manner. The work which has been mandated to the local bodies should not be done by the UT administration.

6C.3 Although, the village Panchayats can raise taxes and have access to other revenue raising mechanisms their own revenue performance is dismal. They also have to make do with skeletal staff and a rather rudimentary office setup.

6C.4 With regard to the Municipalities, the Commission observed that functions which are in the 12th schedule of the 74th amendment to the Constitution have still not been handed over to the civic body. The Municipal Council has prepared a ten year perspective plan for providing facilities like roads, water supply augmentation, slum re-development, sewerage disposal system

and other allied activities. Adequate resources and related functionaries need to be devolved to the Municipality. A perspective plan for augmentation of staff has also been made. This also needs to be urgently looked into.

6C.5 Many functions are being duplicated at both the UT administration level and also at the level of local self government bodies. A clear demarcation needs to be done. The UT administration should focus on regulatory functions and also overall planning and development. The actual implementation of schemes and projects at the Municipality and Panchayat levels should be left to these bodies.

Other issues of importance relating to Dadra & Nagar Haveli

6C.6 Since the UT does not have its own power generation facility it is dependent on the central grid. There is a proposal by OI DC (an omnibus development corporation run by the UT administration) to set up power generating unit in Navsari (which is in neighbouring Gujarat). There is another proposal for a gas based power generation facility tapping the GAIL pipeline. Neither project is proceeding ahead. The UT administration should try to implement either of their proposals, preferably through competent players with a proven track record.

6C.7 The power distribution facilities also need revamping. The electricity department needs to be corporatised and totally revamped. The power sector consumes an inordinately high proportion of the UT budget. Waste and mismanagement needs to be curbed. New sub-stations need to be set up and the outmoded practices machines of the department need to be given up.

6C.8 Due to rapid but haphazard development, the township of Silvassa is growing in a unplanned manner with shortage in power, water supply, and corporation on the roads. There is need for a co-ordinated approach which the UT government should provide.

6C.9 The township of Silvassa needs to be improved immediately if it is to be prevented from turning into an urban sprawl. Proper town planning needs to be undertaken and funds given to the Municipality to implement schemes for providing adequate water supply, roads, street lights, drainage facilities and other infrastructure. A by-pass around Silvassa needs to be constructed so that heavy vehicles need not enter the town.

6C.10 The master plan should also not be altered frequently so that the sylvan nature of the UT is not lost in the unbridled race for industrialization and development. The true heritage of the tribals should not be forsaken in the pursuit of rapid growth and industrialisation.

6C.11 Dadra and Nagar Haveli has seen rapid industrialisation with a spate of tax concession and other benefits provided to industrialists who set up industrial units in the region. This has certainly changed the characteristic of this predominantly tribal Union Territory with its traditional means of livelihood. It has certainly improved the living standards of the people but industrialisation brings with its own set of problems. The UT administration needs to focus on these and provide a solution to these unfortunate side-effects.

6C.12 Silvassa, the headquarters of the Union territory has grown over the years and a Municipal Corporation been set up. It is however plagued by a rapidly increasing population which has led to a mushrooming of slums. Better civic planning is urgently required and though steps are being taken by the Municipality to provide civic facilities these needs to be boosted. Civic amenities like roads, drainage, water supply, street lights and public toilets need to be provided. Some schemes are on the anvil and there are steps in the right direction.