

CM rebukes staff who seek 'share' from entrepreneurs

Local Self-Government dept. Common Service in place



Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announcing the launch of the Local Self-Government department Common Service at a function in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday.

STAFF REPORTER
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Warning officials indulging in corruption and those behaving with a vengeance towards entrepreneurs and investors, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said that stringent action will be taken against such employees.

He was speaking after announcing the formation of the Local Self-Government department (LSGD) Common Service by merging five government departments - Panchayat, Rural Development, Urban Affairs, Town and Country Planning and LSGD Engineering - at a function held at the Vellar Craft Village here on Saturday.

"A small section of employees seem to have some level of greed. Some of them seem to think that they are deserving of a 'share' when a big investment comes to a place. Such people won't be able to have food from their homes for long, since the government will arrange them the same in jails. The government is forging ahead

with steps to make the state investment-friendly. Laws have been amended and approvals have been speeded up. The local bodies are also expected to match this speed in their proceedings," he said.

Stellar work

He called on local bodies to continue their stellar work in disaster management and COVID-19 control measures.

He said that merging of the various departments and mechanisms in local administration would enable each of these elements to work at maximum efficiency.

"The Left Democratic Front had promised in its election manifesto to bring all departments and agencies for local governance under one umbrella, and that has now become a reality. At times, there were hindrances for effective plan implementation. These are now being removed. Kerala's process of decentralisation was not limited to just handing over power but in ensuring enough funds and financial

powers. Currently, the local bodies are getting 35-40% of the State plan fund shares. The LSGD Common Service is the next phase of these changes. More than 30,000 employees will now become part of one department," he said.

He said the framing of State service rules and subordinate service rules as part of the merger was nearing completion. The organisation structure of the merged department was ready.

The government had approved the recommendations of the 6th Finance Commission for an increase in the development grant, maintenance grant and general purpose grant, he said. The revenue loss sustained by the local bodies, especially the loss of entertainment tax revenues, after the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) would be compensated by the government. Two additional posts of engineer and overseer had been created in each local body, said Mr. Vijayan.