



Government of Maharashtra

Rural Development Department

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No.: - FFC-2024 /C.R.118/Finance-4,

Date: - 13 January, 2025

To,

Shri. Vivek Bhardwaj,

Secretary

Panchayati Raj Mantralaya,

Govt. of India,

Krushi Bhavan (Ground floor)

New Delhi-110003.

Subject: - Request for Release of 15th Finance Commission

Grants to Rural Local Bodies in Maharashtra.

Respected Sir,

As per the Fifteenth Finance Commission's final report for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 (paragraph 7.62 of Chapter 7), grants were recommended only for duly constituted Rural Local Bodies (RLBs). However, local body elections for 26 Zilla Parishads and 289 Panchayat Samitis in Maharashtra have been delayed due to a stay order issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in case number 19756/2021 Concerning the reservation of Other Backward Classes (OBC) members in those bodies. As a result these rural local bodies have not received Rs. 2453 Crore grants from the Fifteenth Finance Commission since 2021-22

Details of the withheld grants

Rs. in Crore

Years	Budgeted Funds	Received Funds	Less Funds Received
2020-21	5827	5827	00
2021-22	4307	4267.16	39.84
2022-23	4461	3696.71	764.29
2023-24	4510	3629.22	880.78
2024-25	4776 (2328)	1619.41 1 st Instalment	768.59
2025-26	4659	--	--
Total	28540	19039.50	2453.50

The term of the 15th Central Finance Commission concludes on 31st March, 2026. It is essential for the Rural Local Bodies to utilize the funds allocated by the Finance Commission before 31st March 2026 to meet their basic needs. However the lack of funds present significant obstacle to development works undertaken by these bodies.

To address this critical issue, The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, wrote a letter to the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister, Government of India, on January, 4th, 2025, requesting the release of the 15th Finance Commission Grants. Similarly, The Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Government of Maharashtra, had also written letters to the Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Government of India, on 7th December 2023 and 19th July 2023, reiterating the urgent need for these funds."

Given the exceptional circumstances that have delayed the RBL election, I respectfully request your consideration in releasing Fifteen Finance Commission grants

Yours,



(Eknath Dawale)

Principal Secretary to

Government of Maharashtra

Date : 23.01.2025

Place : Mantralaya, Mumbai