

1. Executive Summary

Bayaluseeme Area Development Board (BSDB) was established in 1995 by the State Government, as per the Bayaluseeme Area Development Board Act of 1994. The districts, taluks and constituencies covered under the jurisdiction of the Board have been specified in the Schedule to the said Act. Presently, 14 districts, 57 taluks and 70 constituencies are covered under BSDB.

The State Government felt the necessity of an evaluation of the need and functioning of BSDB. With over two decades in existence, BSDB has received Rs 149.98 Crores till 2014-15 for execution of 5116 development works. The purpose of study was for a period of five years from 2009-10 to 2013-14. During the reference period, BSDB has spent Rs.3239 lakhs for execution of 1093 works.

To throw light on the various aspects of the functioning of BSDB, terms of reference were laid and report covers these aspects to understand its working and suggest required changes for improved working. In case the aspects mentioned in the report cannot be implemented, then as per the report of late Dr D.M Nanjundappa on regional imbalance and another institution, Government can consider closing the Board.

With the view of continuing the Board, the evaluation team has held discussions with all the stake holders and visited over 300 works executed by BSDB through different implementing agencies. The aspects related to allocation of funds, distribution of funds to constituencies, release of funds to implementing agencies and process of administrative and technical sanctions have been covered.

Several elected members have expressed their unhappiness over the insufficient funds allocated to the Board with 70 Constituencies. The impact of the development works with the BSDB funds has been only restricted to infrastructure works and is insufficient for totality of work completion. Besides, with the 73rd and 74th Amendment, the funds available with Zilla Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies is high and BSDB has not been able to work in co-ordination with 14 different ZPs and ULBs and the action plan of BSDB remains stand alone.

The funds with ZPs /ULBs for the development activities in the districts under the jurisdiction of BSDB is substantially high; BSDB has to plan for the works with the grants from the State Government alone; Though the Act under Section 17 (obtaining information) it has not been possible for BSDB to consult 14 Zilla Panchayats and ULBs in preparation of action plan. Except Bangalore (rural) and Dharwad districts of BSDB, other districts are categorized as capability poor districts and Hassan as moderately performance district.

BSDB is only a Board which has been made responsible for development works, which has been identified by the elected member, who also decides the implementing agency for execution. Convergence of funds for completion of development work depends on the implementing agency executing the work.

The Evaluation suggests that the changes need to be made in the Act, the powers of the Board and its right to exercise, the re-defining of the jurisdiction with the removal of a few taluks, steps to make BSDB vibrant, robust and strong.

The bottom line remains the allocation of funds from the State Government has remained low since inception and with inadequate funds and with no phenomenal works, the impact of BSDB has been low. Unless the changes in the Act be made and Board supported with adequate finance it would be good to close the Board.