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Q5(c)

Functions of District Planning Committee.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · PSIR GS 1 · 10 marks · Indian Nationalism

Indian Nationalism: Political Strategies of India's Freedom Struggle; Perspectives on Indian National Movement; Gandhi, Tagore, Nehru, Ambedkar, and the socialists.

Core demand of the question

- **Answer the following in about 150 words:** Functions of **District Planning Committee**. (10 marks)

Revision summary

Article 243ZD creates a **District Planning Committee** in every district.

Its function is to consolidate panchayat and municipality plans and to prepare a draft district development plan.

The draft must consider common rural-urban interests, infrastructure, environment, and resources.

Four-fifths of members are elected from local bodies in rural-urban proportion.

The chairperson forwards the plan to the State; weak practice often leaves the function on paper.

Introduction

The **District Planning Committee** is a constitutional body under **Article 243ZD**, inserted by the Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Act, 1992. Its function is to consolidate rural and urban local plans into one draft district development plan.

Body**Constitutional functions**

- **Article 243ZD** requires every State to constitute a **District Planning Committee** at the district level.
- The Committee consolidates the plans prepared by panchayats and municipalities in the district.
- It prepares a draft development plan for the district as a whole.
- In preparing that draft, it must have regard to matters of common interest between panchayats and municipalities, including spatial planning, sharing of water and other physical and natural resources, integrated development of infrastructure, and environmental conservation.
- It must also have regard to the extent and type of available resources, whether financial or otherwise.

Composition and onward path

- Four-fifths of members are elected by, from, and among the elected members of the district's panchayats and municipalities, in proportion to the rural-urban population.
- The rest are appointed as the State may provide; the chairperson is also as the State may provide.
- The chairperson forwards the development plan to the State government.
- Metropolitan areas have a separate **Metropolitan Planning Committee** under **Article 243ZE**.

Practice

- Where the Committee is late, nominated, or starved of data and funds, district planning remains a departmental list, which is why the 74th Amendment is often called an unfulfilled institutional promise.
- The function is planning integration, not a substitute for the elected council's own executive powers under the **Eleventh and Twelfth Schedules**.

Flow diagram

Panchayat plans -> Article 243ZD Article 243ZD DPC
Municipal plans -> Article 243ZD DPC
Article 243ZD DPC -> Draft district plan
Draft district plan -> State government

Conclusion

The **District Planning Committee**'s function is to join panchayat and municipal plans into one draft district plan, with regard to shared resources, infrastructure, environment, and available means, and to send that draft to the State. **Article 243ZD** states the duty; State practice decides whether it is real.

Facts & figures

Article 243ZD

Constitutional provision for **District Planning Committees** after the 74th Amendment.

Four-fifths elected

Elected members of panchayats and municipalities elect that share of the Committee, in rural-urban proportion.

Article 243ZE

Metropolitan Planning Committee for metropolitan areas, the urban-region counterpart.

Eleventh and Twelfth Schedules

Lists of panchayat and municipal functions that the DPC is meant to integrate spatially, not to replace.

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