

Sindh hopes to get Rs 199.6 billion provincial receipts

The Sindh government is expecting Rs 199.627 billion total provincial receipts this year including SRB (GST on Services), Tax excluding GST as compared to the collected amount of Rs 166.033 billion during 2016-17. The first budget preparatory meeting, presided over by the Chief Minister held at CM House on Thursday which was attended by Chairman P&D Mohammad Waseem, Principal Secretary Sohail Rajput and experts and secretary and experts of finance department.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over a meeting regarding preparation of next budget for financial year 2018-19 has given guidelines to his team to control non-development expenditures, increase allocations in social sector such as education and health and water schemes be given special focus so that they could be completed well in time.

The Chief Minister was told that during 2017-18 the estimated amount of receipts is Rs 199.627 and receipts of first seven months is around Rs 100 billion. The meeting was informed that during the current financial year 2974 schemes including 2158 on-going and 816 new are in progress against an amount of Rs 244 billion including Rs 39.884 million revenue. The provincial government with the personal interest and intervention has released 60 percent of the allocated amount which comes to Rs 146.388 billion which is itself a record while the 50 percent of the released amount or Rs 72.485 billion has been utilized.

The Chief Minister said that the pace of most of the development works is better than the last year but it must be monitored so that quality could also be maintained.

The Chief Minister said that the health department was showing some progress, particularly in the hospitals which have been out-sourced, therefore this policy must be strengthened and more health units may be out-sourced in the next financial year. The Chief Minister said that his leadership has urged him to work out special programmes for women, youth and for poverty alleviation. Therefore, giving guidelines to his team he said that he plans may be designed accordingly for the next budget.

Giving his priorities list, the Chief Minister said that education would be on top of his priority list, the second on the top would be health and then water and sanitation and agriculture. Since it was a preliminary meeting, therefore the sketch for the next budget was discussed and more similar meetings would be held at least thrice a month, he said.

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