An investigation was taken up under Section 9 of the Karnataka Lokayukta Act, on the basis of complaint filed by Shri. Santhosh T. Doddamani, Grama Panchayath member and President, Dalitha Sangharsha Samithi, Panchasheela Nagar, Nandarga, Afzalpur Taluk, Kalaburgi District (hereinafter referred to as ‘complainant’ for short) against Shri Mahantesh Salimat, Panchayat Development Officer, Grama Panchayath Nandarga, Afzalpur Taluk, Kalaburgi District (Hereinafter referred to as Respondent for short).

2. The complaint allegations are as follows:

- An amount of Rs.7.40 Lakhs released under 14th finance for the year 2015-16 is being misappropriated by the respondent.
- Villages by name Jewargi (K), Jewargi(B), Teloni, Dikshanga (K) have been included under newly formed Nandarga Grama Panchayath. Before that, Nandarga Village was under Balurgi Grama Pachayath and Diahanga (K) Village was under Gowra (B) Grama Panchayath.
- Gowra (B) Grama Panchayath as paid bills with respect to installation of motor to Drinking water Bore well at Dikshanga (K) Village. But the respondent has shown expenditure at Nandarga Grama Panchayath under 14th finance.
- The respondent without making payment to the works executed as per action plan under 14th Finance, has created bogus bills stating that the entire 7.40 Lakhs is spent towards maintenance.
- Multiple bills have been raised for single incident of motor pump repairs.
Bills with respect to laying of pipe lines, installation of street lights, road works have not been paid and funds under 14th finance have been misappropriated. Hence has prayed to take action against the respondent.

3. The respondent has submitted his comments dated 26.09.2016 by denying the complaint allegations. Further states that the complaint has demanded money for celebration of Ambedkar Jayanthi. Since he has refused to pay money, The complainant has lodged this complaint due to vengeance. The respondent has produced copy of index pertaining to file numbers 1 to 9 along with copies of the receipts showing expenditure at Nandarga Grama Panchayath under various heads.

4. The complainant has filed rejoinder dated 19.10.2016 reiterating complaint allegations.

5. On perusal of the entire materials on record file no.1, 2 and 3 relates to motor Repair and Rewinding work. All the bills are of “Shri Revanna Siddeshwara motor Rewinding works” There is no serial number to the receipts and also no TIN Number is mentioned on the bills. In some of the bills, dates have been over written. The total amount of bill does no tally with the cheque amount mentioned in the index sheet of the file. Also the index sheet does not disclose the details of expenditure of each voucher/ Bill to which payment is made. Purchases have been made from the single supplier without calling for quotations.

6. File No. 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16 relates to purchase of motors. Installation and repair of motor pumps with respect to water supply. Most of the bills/vouchers are dated 02.04.2016 & relates to the materials purchased during the period mentioned i some of the bills. Bills have not been issued on the date of purchase. The purchases have been made from single supplier “Basava Machinery stores” Afzalpur without calling for quotations.

7. File No. 6, 13 & 18 relates to pipe line repairs, File No. 11 & 17 relates to maintenance of street lights. File No.14 & 19 relates to purchase of stationeries the Grama Panchayath Office.

8. As per Rule 43 of Karnataka Panchayath Raj (Grama Panchayath’s Budgetting and Accounting) Rules , 2006 bill or voucher shall bear an order to pay the specified amount which shall be signed by the President and the Secretary as per the approval accorded by the Grama Panchayath. An endorsement of payment shall be made on every bill nothing the number and date of the cheque in which the claim has been paid
and the same shall be attested by the Secretary (copy of the said provision is placed in the file). In none of the bills annexed to file no. 1 to 19, the said procedure is followed by the respondent. All purchases have been made without calling quotations.

9. I view of the above findings, the comments of the respondent cannot be accepted at this stage. There are prima-facie materials to indict respondent for the above said misconduct. Hence, the respondent has failed to maintain absolute integrity, devotion to duty and has acted in a manner which is unbecoming of a Government Servant for which he has made himself liable for department action.

10. Accordingly, now, acting under Section 12(3) of the Karnataka Lokayukta Act, recommendation is made to the Competent Authority to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the respondent/ Shri. Mahantesh Salimat, Panchayath Development Officer, Grama Panchayath Nandarga, Afzalpura Taluk, Kalaburgi District (Date of Retirement 30.06.2046) and entrust the inquiry to this Authority under Rule 14-A of the Karnataka Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1957.

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1.  ಇಲ್ಲಿನಿಂದ, ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ನೋಡಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿ.
2.  ಇಲ್ಲಿನಿಂದ, ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ನೋಡಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿ.
3.  ಇಲ್ಲಿನಿಂದ, ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ನೋಡಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿ. (ಇಲ್ಲಿನಿಂದ, ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಹಿಂದಿನ ನೋಡಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿ).
4.  ಇಲ್ಲಿನಿಂದ, ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ನೋಡಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿ.
5.  ಇಲ್ಲಿನಿಂದ, ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ನೋಡಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿ.
6.  ಇಲ್ಲಿನಿಂದ, ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ನೋಡಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿ.

7.  ಅಲ್ಲಿನಿಂದ, ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ನೋಡಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿ.

8.  ಅಲ್ಲಿನಿಂದ, ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ನೋಡಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿ.