

**Panchayats and Panchayat Samities**

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 \*1396. { Shri Shree Narayan Das:  
 Shri Radha Raman:

Will the Minister of **Community Development and Cooperation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided by the Delhi Administration to give new financial and executive powers to the Panchayats and Panchayat Samities;

(b) if so, the nature of such powers delegated to them; and

(c) whether the Administrations of other Union Territories have done so or propose to do so?

**The Deputy Minister of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gram Panchayats are made responsible for all development programmes of Delhi Administration, including C.D. programme at the village level. The Block Development Committees, which have been recently redesignated as "Block Panchayat Samitis", have been given functions like preparation and execution of development plans for the block, approval of Panchayat budget, etc. A Committee with the Chief Commissioner as Chairman is examining the proposal to enhance the powers of these bodies by channelling through them all civic and developmental functions which are at present being performed by the Delhi Municipal Corporation in the rural areas of Delhi.

(c) The position differs from one territory to the other. There are statutory Gram Panchayats and Tehsil Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh. Both have developmental functions. There is a proposal to entrust more functions, powers and resources to Tehsil Panchayats. In Manipur, Tripura and Andaman & Nicobar Islands steps are being taken to set up Panchayats, for the first time.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** The hon. Deputy Minister has stated that some proposals are under consideration of the Chief Commissioner. May I know the approximate time that he will take to finalise the proposal?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** I cannot vouchsafe for the time that will be taken. But it will be done as expeditiously as it could be done.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** May I know how the powers enjoyed by the panchayats and panchayat samities in Delhi compares with those of their counterparts in Rajasthan and other States?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Rajasthan has got a State Legislature whereas Delhi is a Centrally administered territory where there is no Legislature. Therefore, panchayat raj in Delhi territory cannot be compared with panchayat raj in Rajasthan or any other State.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** I wanted to know how the powers that are given to the panchayats and panchayat samities in Delhi compare with the powers given to similar organisations in other States.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** In the States where panchayat raj has been in existence and where panchayat samities and tehsil samities have been elected, there is devolution of powers whereas in the panchayats in Delhi State and other Centrally-administered territories it is only delegation of power.

**Shrimati Renuka Ray:** In the delegation of powers, have adequate safeguards been made for those who are backward like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or women?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes are being taken good care of.

**Mr. Speaker:** Women are not backward classes.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** I said "and other backward classes".

**Mr. Speaker:** How could women be mentioned along with other backward classes?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** In the question there was reference to women also. Therefore, I said that women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes are being looked after very well.

**Shrimati Renuka Ray:** That is a very vague statement. What is concretely being done so that they get adequate representation?

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** "backward classes and others" in this context means women are also backward classes.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well.

**Shri Raghubir Sahai:** I would like to know whether there is any idea of introducing model legislation based on the three tier system for these Union territories including Delhi and, if so, what steps are going to be taken in that direction?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** I cannot vouchsafe for the feasibility of the three tier system in the Centrally administered areas. But the question is actively being pursued and we have already been in touch with the Home Ministry, which is in charge of these territories.

**Shri Venkatasubbalah:** On the suggestion of the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee, various legislations have been passed in different States for the decentralisation of powers. May I know whether Government will consider the question of formulating an all India pattern for the decentralisation of powers in various States, suited to their conditions?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee has never suggested any such set up or one pattern. It has given the option to the States. The National Development Council has also agreed that each State can have its own pattern of panchayat raj, provided certain fundamentals are agreed upon.

**श्री रा० स० तिवारी :** वैसे तो हिन्दुस्तान में जहां पर भी पंचायतें बनी हैं, व नाम के लिये ही बनी हैं, उनके पास कोई पावर नहीं है, लेकिन व पंचायतें कहलाती हैं। लेकिन क्या आप बता सकते हैं कि कौन से वे प्रदेश हैं जहां पर पंचायतें बनाई गई हैं और केन्द्रीय सरकार की तरफ से कौन से मुद्दाव दिये गये हैं, उसके बारे में ?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** I think it is a very large question which requires consultation with all the States.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister says that they can only give advice and the action has to be taken by the State Government. There are difficulties peculiar to each State and even where decentralisation has been effected by States, they have not started with the same plan of decentralisation of powers to panchayats. There are various grades and so on. How can it be answered on a single question during the Question Hour?

**श्री पद्म देव :** माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि हिमाचल की पंचायतों को सर्वाधिकार पूर्ण बनाने का प्रस्ताव है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उनको अधिकार देने के पहले अधिकारी बनाने के लिये क्या क्या योजनायें सोची जा रही हैं।

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** I have already stated that the question is being actively pursued with the Home Ministry.

**श्री नवल प्रभाकर :** क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बतलायेंगे कि क्या यह सही नहीं है कि दिल्ली की जो पंचायतें हैं उनमें म्यूनिसिपल कारपोरेशन का और ब्लॉक डेवलपमेंट का प्रलग प्रलग हिस्सा रहता है, और बराबर इन दोनों विभागों में संघर्ष चलता रहता है और उस से पंचायतें सफर करती हैं ?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** A committee has been appointed as far as this matter is concerned. The Mayor has requested for some time more to come

with proposals for giving more powers and more functions to the Panchayats without the Corporation getting into the field.

**Shri Balraj Madhok:** What steps are being taken to avoid overlapping of the powers of the Corporation and the Panchayats? The Corporation has jurisdiction over the village areas, so have the Panchayats. What steps have been taken to remove this overlapping? Is there any plan for that?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** The question of giving more powers and resources to the Panchayats in Delhi is under examination. A committee has been appointed with representatives of the Delhi Administration and the Delhi Corporation to examine this question. The committee held its first meeting and in it the Mayor asked for some time more in order to place the proposals for channelling all the developmental activities to the Panchayats and Block Panchayat Samitis before the Corporation and obtain their approval.

#### Land Slide on Imphal-Tamenglong Road

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\*1397. { Shri Raghunath Singh:  
Shri L. Achaw Singh:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 3rd March, 1961, ten workers were buried alive and three were injured when a land slide swept over their roadside camp in the night on the Imphal-Tamenglong road; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is as under:

#### STATEMENT

The land slid on the Imphal-Tamenglong Road involving the death of ten labourers and injury to three

others occurred at about 8 A.M. on the 3rd March 1961. The land slide was due to very heavy and incessant rains. At the time of the land slide, the labourers were in their huts which were located on the hill side cleared for the purpose. The labourers were employed by the local Bharat Sewak Samaj who have undertaken some works on the road.

One labourer who escaped the accident, had apprehended the land slide and advised others to remain outside the huts but they did not pay heed to his warning and continued to remain inside.

The injured persons have been admitted to the hospital where they are recuperating. The Bharat Sewak Samaj have sanctioned some interim relief to the families of the deceased labourers and they are considering the question of giving further grants to the bereaved families. An enquiry is being conducted into the accident.

**श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** दस आदमियों का उस में देहान्त हो गया और तीन आदमी घायल हो गये । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो आदमी घायल हुये या मर गये, भारत सेवक समाज ने उन के लिये कोई कम्पेन्सेशन दिया या नहीं, अगर नहीं दिया तो सरकार क्या इन्लजाम कर रही है कि उन गरीबों को कुछ प्राप्त हो जावे ?

**श्री राज बहादुर :** भारत सेवक समाज की ओर से ५०० रु० की राशि उमी समय दी गई रिलीफ के तौर पर । इस के अतिरिक्त कुछ और कम्पेन्सेशन कहिये या ग्रांट कहिये, उस की बात चल रही है । अभी वह विचारधीन है । जब निर्णय हो जायेगा तो बतलाया जायेगा ।

**Shri Amjad Ali:** In view of the fact that such occurrences were frequent previously also, may I know why adequate precautionary measures were not taken to save human lives?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** It would be appreciated by the hon. Member that