

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It is in the report of the Public Accounts Committee. We are looking into it.

Shri Bade: What is the reply?

Mr. Speaker: Unless he sits down as soon as he puts the question, how can he hear the answer?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I believe it is mentioned in the report of the Public Accounts Committee. We are looking into it.

Shri Ranga: Are we to understand that he said he is looking into it?

Mr. Speaker: The Public Accounts Committee have taken up that case and mentioned it in their report. They are looking into it and making enquiries.

Shri Ranga: Then there is no question of looking into it. They should know all the facts. They must have presented all the facts to the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. Speaker: When it is brought to their notice in the report of the Public Accounts Committee they have to do something.

Shri Ranga: They have to express their regret for having done that.

Resources of Panchayati Raj Bodies

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*616. { Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:

Will the Minister of Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state the action taken on the basis of the Santhanam Committee Report on the the raising of resources for the Panchayati Raj bodies by the State Governments?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): The report of the Santhanam Study Team on Panchayati Raj Finances was circulated to the States in August 1963 for their considered views on the Team's recommendations. Detailed replies have so far been received from the State Governments of Andhra

Pradesh, Gujarat, Madras, Maharashtra, Mysore and Uttar Pradesh. These States have accepted most of the recommendations having a bearing on the raising of resources by Panchayati Raj bodies. Replies from the remaining States are awaited.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether some of the States have also accepted the recommendation of creating a panchayati raj fund on the same pattern as in Rajasthan and, if the answer is in the affirmative, the names of those States?

Shri B. S. Murthy: All these matters are being discussed at various levels. As a matter of fact, the recommendations are nearly 114, out of which 4 relate to the Ministry at the Centre, such as the creation of the Panchayati Raj Finance Corporation, *per capita* assistance for the panchayats bodies and giving an extra amount of Rs. 400 crores in the Fourth Plan. These are being discussed. The other recommendations envisage that the zilla parishads, panchayat samitis and panchayats should raise more resources by taxation. They are also being processed.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Out of the States to which these recommendations were sent, how many have given permission to the panchayats to raise resources by levying various taxes?

Shri B. S. Murthy: As the hon. Member knows, there is panchayat legislation in every State under which powers are given to the panchayats to levy certain taxes.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : अभी मन्त्री जी ने जवाब दिया कि कुछ स्टेट्स ने माना है। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिन स्टेट्स ने नहीं माना है उनके सम्बन्ध में हमारी सरकार क्या कार्रवाई कर रही है।

Shri B. S. Murthy: It is not a question of not accepting. As I have already said, only six States have sent their replies.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जिनके रिप्लाय नहीं आये हैं उनके लिये क्या कर रहे हैं।

Shri B. S. Murthy: No negative reply so far.

Shri Kapur Singh: Is the basic predicament of the panchayat institutions adjudged as lack of sufficient material resources or poverty of moral impulsion? If the latter, have any proposals been made or are under the consideration of Government in that respect?

Shri B. S. Murthy: The Santhanam Committee has gone only into the finances and not into the other one.

Shri Ranga: When Panchayati Raj institutions are supposed to be autonomous and there is supposed to be decentralisation, are we to understand that the Government of India is taking over all the powers of the State Governments in order to give instructions to Panchayati Raj institutions to raise more and more taxes on the peasants and other people?

Shri B. S. Murthy: I do not think the hon. Member is correct in stating that the Centre is trying to impose its will on the States or the Zila Parishads. What is being done is that a committee has gone into the resources of the Panchayati Raj bodies and made its recommendations. It is for the State Governments to accept all or to reject all or to take some and then try to increase the resources of Panchayati Raj bodies. Their autonomy is not affected.

Shri M. Malaichami: May I know whether a study has been made into the depletion of Panchayati Raj bodies' resources due to wasteful expenditure and whether any remedial measures have been suggested by the Centre?

Shri B. S. Murthy: The Santhanam Committee has also made a recommendation about this.

श्री राम सेवक यादव : पंचायतों को शासन की प्रमुख इकाई बनाने के लिए क्या कोई ऐसा सुझाव भी आया है कि खजाने का

एक चौथाई हिस्सा इन पंचायतों को दे दिया जाय, यदि हां, तो उस पर क्या विचार हो रहा है ?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Yes, Sir this also has been investigated and a recommendation has been made.

Shri Bade: Is it a fact that the Santhanam Committee has recommended that some portion of the land revenue should be given to Panchayats and that all the States are not following a uniform rule? What action has the Government taken?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Each State has got its own rules and regulations. Some States are trying to give the complete land revenue to the Panchayat bodies and some States are trying to give 25, 50, 75 and 80 per cent also; therefore, there cannot be any uniformity as far as this is concerned.

Shri Bade: But Bombay gives more and other States do not give at all.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Shri Hem Raj.

Minor Irrigation

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*617. { **Shri Hem Raj:**
Shri Koya:
Shri M. Rampure:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of outlays and allocations for minor irrigation to be made to various States during 1964-65;

(b) whether the amount allocated for 1963-64 has been fully utilised and its benefits reaped by the farmers for irrigation purposes; and

(c) the extent to which the production has gone up in 1962-63 and 1963-64 by their use?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the Sabha.