

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4650  
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2000  
CHANGES IN PANCHAYATI RAJ  
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have decided to introduce a Constitution amendment to allow the State Governments to restructure the Panchayati Raj system according to their convenience;
- (b) whether the Ministry of Law have initiated the process of drafting the legislation on these lines;
- (c) whether the State Governments have also been consulted in changing the system;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a) : The Constitution (87th Amendment) Bill, 1999 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in December, 1999.

(b) to (e) : The State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to offer their views in this behalf and 20 States/UTs have responded so far. It is, in the absence of replies from the remaining States/UTs, difficult, at this stage, to determine a time-frame for a further view to be taken in the matter.