

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4676
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2000
PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS IN STATES
PRABHUNATH SINGH;RAJEN GOHAIN;UTTAMRAO NATHUJI DHIKALE

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Central Aid/Assistance has been withheld to some States for not holding the Panchayat elections;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the manner in which the State Government propose to make up this loss; and
- (d) the time by which the elections of panchayats are likely to be held in these States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT [SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA]

(a) to (d) : The States of Assam and Bihar, the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Pondicherry have not yet conducted Panchayat elections, after commencement of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992. Elections have not been held in Schedule-V areas of Andhra Pradesh.

2. As per the Guidelines for release of the Tenth Finance Commission(TFC) grants, the local body grant from the financial year 1997-98 to 1999-2000 could, inter-alia, be released only where elected local bodies were in position. A Statement, indicating the TFC grants withheld on this account is enclosed at the Annexure.

As per the revised Guidelines of the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), made applicable from 1.4.1999, 20% of funds under the Scheme are to be released as an incentive only if the State concerned has put in place elected and empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions.

3. The Tenth Finance Commission grants lapsed on 31st March, 2000 on expiry of the period 1996-2000. The Union Government have been urging the concerned State Governments to take steps to conduct Panchayat elections at the earliest.