

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2500  
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2000  
PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS IN STATES  
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI;YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

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

- (a) whether in some States elections could not be held in some Gram Panchayats due to the court litigation;
- (b) if so, whether State Governments have demanded the release of funds in relaxation of guidelines;
- (c) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government on the requests of State Governments;
- (d) whether the Government propose to amend the Panchayati Raj law to make it statutory for States to hold Panchayat elections as per schedule under the law; and
- (e) if so, the time by which this amendment is likely to be brought forward?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

- (a) : The State Governments of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Punjab ( Intermediate and District Panchayats) and the Union Territory Administration of Pondicherry have yet to hold Panchayat Elections, in view of court cases.
- (b) &(c) : As per the Guidelines of the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), 20% of the total allocated funds are to be withheld if the States concerned have not put elected and empowered Panchayats in place. Certain States have suggested release of funds in relaxation of the Guidelines and have been advised to rectify the deficiencies in this regard.
- (d) & (e) : According to the provisions laid down in Part IX of the Constitution, it is mandatory on the part of the States to conduct regular Panchayat Elections.