

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1003
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2001
PANCHAYAT POLLS IN BIHAR
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the election of Panchayat are being held in Bihar after 28 years as reported in `The Times of India` dated February 6, 2001;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the Government propose to bring in a mechanism to bring to an end of such gross demand of human rights?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M VENKAIAH NAIDU)

- (a) to (c): The Bihar authorities have recently notified that panchayat elections are to be held in the State in April 2001. The last panchayat elections were held in the year 1978.
2. Following a judicial clarificatory order that there is no stay for holding elections in the State and that Panchayat elections can be held in accordance with the existing law, (subject to final disposal of pending SLPs), the State Government have issued a Notification for holding Panchayat Elections in April, 2001.
3. According to the provisions laid down in Part IX of the Constitution, it is mandatory for the States to conduct Panchayat Elections regularly every five years. The Central Government have taken several steps towards this end, including dialogue with the concerned State Governments and withholding EAS funds/Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commission Grants for local bodies where elected Panchayats are not in place.