

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2462
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2001
PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS IN STATES
ALE NARENDRA;ANANDRAO ADSUL

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to withhold the Central assistance to those States that are not holding Panchayat elections;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have taken any decision to send the amount for rural development directly to district panchayats instead of sending it to the State Governments; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the number of gram panchayats so far been provided funds directly, scheme-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M VENKAIAH NAIDU)

- (a): As per the Guidelines of the Employment Assurance Scheme(EAS), 20% of Funds under the Scheme are to be released as an incentive only if the State concerned has put elected and empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions in place.
- (b): In case of States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Punjab, Orissa, Haryana, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttranchal and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, the incentive funds under EAS have not been released during the current year as these States/UTs have either not held Panchayat Elections or have not devolved powers upon Panchayats satisfactorily.
- (c): Yes, Sir. Funds under major Schemes for rural development such as Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana(JGSY), Swarnjayanty Gram Swarogjar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY),etc. are released directly to the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/ District Panchayats(DPs).
- (d): The JGSY Scheme is being implemented by the Gram Panchayats throughout the country. The entire funds under this Scheme are allocated among all Gram Panchayats through DRDAs/DPs.