

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7076  
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2000  
POWER TO PANCHAYATS  
DAHYA BHAI V. PATEL

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

(a) whether the powers given to the Panchayats are very scant vis-à-vis the Constitutional Provisions particularly with references to the Union Territory of Daman and Diu; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to give more rights and powers to the Panchayats?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA)

(a) & (b): According to Article 243 G of the Constitution of India, State Legislatures had been vested with powers to make laws for endowing the Panchayats with such powers and authority to enable them to function as institutions of self-government. The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have devolved powers and functions upon the Panchayats in varying degrees.

2. The issue of devolution of powers upon Panchayats is a continuing one. While some States have devolved considerable powers and functions upon Panchayats, others States/UTs have yet to follow. The Central Government has been requesting the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to devolve more powers to Panchayats through high-level review meetings and through correspondence with the Chief Ministers/Administrators, State Ministers and State Secretaries in charge of Panchayati Raj. The Ministry of Home Affairs are, as intimated by them, considering the recommendations of the Finance Commission of Union Territories and would lay the Report of the Commission, along with Explanatory Memorandum, before both Houses of Parliament.