

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6506
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2003
GRASS ROOT PLANNING
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent to which the Planning Commission has implemented its objective of `grass root` planning;
- (b) the number of States which has submitted the necessary consolidated data in this regard to the Planning commission; and
- (c) the extent to which this will help in formulation of a better plan?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SH MOOKHERJEE)

(a): The successive Five Year Plans have emphasized the need for grass root Planning. This process was given a major impetus with the enactment of 74th Constitutional Amendment Act which provides for setting up of District Planning Committees (DPCs) to consolidate the Plans `prepared by the Panchayats and Municipalities in the districts and to prepare a draft Development Plan for the district as a whole`. In the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-02) as also in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), the Planning Commission has clearly articulated the need to promote grass root planning.

Pursuant to the decision taken in the meeting of the National Development Council (NDC), held on 21st December, 2002, Planning Commission has constituted an Empowered Sub-Committee of the NDC on Financial and Administrative Empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions under the Chairmanship of Minister of Rural Development. The Committee is expected to provide direction to evolve a framework for preparation and projectisation of local plans that reflect the felt-needs and aspirations of the people so that development process becomes a people`s movement.

(b): At present 14 States and 4 Union Territories have constituted DPCs. Some of the States are reluctant to constitute DPCs as the District Planning Bodies / Boards were in existence in these States before the Constitutional Amendment came into force. States have been requested to expedite the process of constitution of DPCs as mandated by the Constitution.

(c): For successful district level planning, people`s preparedness to undertake planning exercise is necessary. People have to have a clear perception of the needs and resources that would be available to them in a given time frame. The training programmes that equip rural communities with rudimentary skills of planning process, therefore, become important. The training programmes in the Tenth Five Year Plan would be strengthened to impart basic skills of planning to the rural population. It is expected that these efforts would result in better plan formulation.