

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:33  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004  
APPRAISAL OF WORKING OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS  
Bansal Shri Pawan Kumar

**Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken an exercise to appraise the working of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether even the UTs have not transferred necessary functions to PRIs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps proposed to make PRIs effective institutions of Local Self-government?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ ( SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS Ca), Cb), Cc) Cd) & Ce) FOR LOK SABHA. STARRED . QUESTIO~ NO.33 DUE` FOR-REPLY ON 2.12.2004 REGARDING `APPRAISAL OF WORKING. OF PANCRAYATI RAT INSTITUTIONS`

(a) & (b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj came into existence on 27th May, 2004. For appraising the working of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the country on 29-30 June, 2004 a Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers in charge of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj on `Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj` was convened at New Delhi jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj tabled issues relating to effective implementation of Part IX and IX-A of the Constitution on Panchayati Raj as agenda for discussion during the Conference. These issues included effective devolution of functions, finances, functionaries, planning, Gram Sabhas, reservation for women and SCs, STs, Special problems of women and SCs/STs, elections, audit, parallel bodies, capacity building and training and state of the Panchayat reports and jurisprudence. Later on, two more issues namely IT enabled e-governance and Rural Business Hubs were added to the list. The Conference decided to hold seven Round Table Conferences to formulate a draft action plan towards achieving the objective of strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions in order to enable them to emerge as institutions of self-government for the planning and implementation of programmes of economic development and social justice as envisioned in the Constitution. Six Round Table Conferences have been held wherein 16 issues have already been discussed. Remaining two issues will be discussed in the seventh Round Table Conference scheduled to be held at Jaipur from 17th -19th December, 2004. In these Round Table Conferences, Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj and representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions agreed to recommend to their respective governments the conclusions reached during the Round Table Conferences.

(c), (d) & (e) Issues relating to Panchayati Raj in Union Territories were discussed in the Fourth Round Table Conference held at Chandigarh on 7-8 October, 2004, which was attended by Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj and their representatives, Members of Parliament in the Union Territories and Administrators of the Union Territories and their representatives. During the Conference it was agreed to recommend the following points for joint acceptance by the Centre and the UTs:

- i. As the Union Government has the responsibility for implementing in letter and spirit, the provisions of the Constitution relating to Panchayats and Nagarpalikas, every effort might be made towards evolving the Local Self Government institutions in the Union Territories as a model for the whole country to follow.
- ii. Recognizing that decided activity mapping is the foundation for the effective devolution of functions, functionaries and finances, the exercise jointly begun between the Union Government and joint Administration of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli may be extended to the other Union Territories.
- iii. With a view to providing a forum for consultation with representative body of public opinion on issues generally affecting the Union Territories, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs might consider the establishment of an appropriate mechanism to supplement the elected institutions of local self-government.

iv. With a view to institutionalizing consultations on matters relating to Panchayati Raj between the Union Government, the administration of the Union Territories, the elected representatives in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and the Union Government may consider establishing an institutional framework within which periodic consultations are held in New Delhi as well as in the Union Territories. The institutional mechanism could meet twice in a year, once in New Delhi and once in each Union Territory, by rotation. In establishing this proposed institutional mechanism, Union Home Ministry may consider co-opting representatives from other Ministries concerned, including in particular, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. This institutional mechanism will consider the specifics of the proposal relating to present shortcomings and future work that might emanate from elected representative on the one hand, and Administrators concerned with Panchayati Raj on the other.

v. In respect of Union Territories covered by the Island Development Authority (IDA), the Union Home Ministry may bring to the attention of the Prime Minister the need for IDA to review the implementation of Panchayati Raj in the island territories in its biennial meetings.

vi. With respect to the implementation of the Forest Conservation Act and Coastal Regulation Zone, the special development problems of the Union Territories may be brought to the attention of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests by the Union Ministries of Home Affairs and Panchayati Raj with a view to harmonizing the imperatives of environment with the needs of development to ensure sustainable development.

vii. The Union Ministries of Home Affairs and Panchayati Raj may bring to the attention of the Ministry of Finance, the special problems with respect to construction material faced by the island Union Territories with a view to seeking how the cost of construction might be reduced.