

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:453
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2004
RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government stands committed to rural development by means of grassroot democracy through village Panchayats and Panchayati Raj Institutions; and

(b) if so, the details of various schemes undertaken by the Government to achieve the goal?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS a & b OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 453, DUE FOR REPLY ON 26.8.2004 REGARDING RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PANCHAYATI RA INSTITUTIONS.

(a) & (b) Government stands committed to rural development by means of grassroot democracy through Panchayats and Panchayati Raj Institutions as the role of PRIs and local organizations is all important. Article 243G of the Constitution provides for devolution of powers i.e. the empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions to function as institutions of self-government for the twin purposes of

(i) making plans for economic development and social justice for their respective areas, and

(ii) implementing programmes of economic development and social justice in their respective areas, for subjects devolved to PRIs, including those listed in the XI, Schedule, and subject to such conditions as the State may, by law, specify. Schedule XI of the Constitution provides for devolution of powers with regard to subjects that have a bearing on the development of rural areas. The provisions relating to Gram Sabha are also crucial as Gram Sabha is the foundation of good governance through Panchayati Raj. Efforts are being made to chalk out a joint programme of action to ensure that Panchayats at various levels, are devolved with funds, functions and functionaries to enable them to emerge as institutions of self-governments. Efforts are also being made to institutionalize social audit measures through Gram Sabhas so that Panchayats can play a significant role in rural development.

A number of schemes are being undertaken by the Ministry of Rural Development in which Panchayats and the Panchayati Raj Institutions have been assigned an important role. Some of the important schemes are Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (sGRY), Swamajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Watershed Development Programmes under Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) (Hariyali), Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP), and Swajaldhara.