

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4466
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2005
CONSTITUTION OF TASK FORCE
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Union Government is contemplating to constitute a task force for extending powers to Panchayats for production and supply of power from other energy sources in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a)&(b): No, Sir. However, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have jointly constituted a Core Group on Power under the initiative of setting up Rural Business Hubs through Panchayats for the economic development of rural areas. The Terms of Reference of the Core Group on Power are as under:-

1. To bring out a publication which would enable Panchayats to-

(a) Familiarize themselves with various options available for local power generation and decentralized distribution management.

(b) Familiarize themselves with various options of business models, including Public – Private – Panchayat Partnership in power generation from locally available materials such as bio-mass and isolated gas fields and distribution.

(c) Gain greater familiarity with available Government schemes including programmes of REC etc.

(d) Familiarize themselves with financial models for decentralized power generation and distribution.

(e) Understand new legislation with particular reference to the Electricity Act, 2003 as also Rules and Regulations concerning decentralized power generation and distribution.

(f) Prepare a directory of resource persons within Government, industry and the NGO sector, who could assist Panchayats in preparation of their project proposals.

(g) Introduce Panchayats to the independent regulatory framework for power generation and distribution and suggest means of capacity building for Panchayats to articulate their concerns before Regulators.

2. Identify Key Panchayats where a focused approach could be developed for Public–Private–Panchayat Partnership in Power Generation and distribution.

3. Suggest to the Central and State Governments Policy and Procedural Changes, so as to facilitate Power Generation and distribution through Panchayats.