

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:854
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2005
POWER TO ELECTION COMMISSION
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to empower the Election Commission to hold Panchayat elections;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any discussion has been held with all the State Governments in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b) Article 243K of the Constitution provides that the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral roll for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Panchayats shall be vested in a State Election Commission consisting of a State Election Commissioner to be appointed by the Governor. As the Constitution empowers the State Election Commissions in matters of elections to Panchayats, the question of the Union Government empowering the Election Commission of India to hold Panchayat Elections does not arise.

(c), (d) & (e) Does not arise. However, the question of elections to Panchayats was discussed at the Guwahati Round Table of States and Union Ministers of Panchayati Raj in November, 2004 and the conclusions arrived at are annexed.