

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4448
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2004
DIRECT FUNDING TO PANCHAYATS BY U. K.
Channappa Shri Kunnur Manjunath

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the British Government has started providing direct grants to a panchayat in Tamil Nadu as reported in Indian Express dated July 2, 2004;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government consider seriously replicating such an arrangement in other States to improve the functioning and performance of Panchayati Raj;
- (d) if so, whether the Government studied the implications and feasibility of a foreign Government directly extending financial assistance to a Panchayat in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (f) A news item appeared in the Indian Express dated 2nd July, 2004 under the caption `U.K. Gift to TN Village : A Panchayat Academy`. The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.