

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:406

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004

FUNDS EARMARKED FOR WELFARE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN PANCHAYATI RAJ

Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has urged the panchayati raj minister to identify centrally-sponsored schemes being implemented through panchayati raj institutions and has urged that at least 1/3rd of the funds given to panchayati raj under centrally-sponsored schemes to be earmarked for the welfare of women and children;

(b) if so, whether any concrete programme has been prepared by the ministry; and

(c) if so, the total funds to be earmarked for the purpose as suggested by the Prime Minister?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) & (c) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has gone through the list of approximately 300 schemes listed in Volume-II of the Expenditure Budget 2004-05 which, in the explanatory notes, itemizes, inter alia, the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The overwhelming majority of these schemes is related to the 29 subjects listed in the XI Schedule. In most Centrally Sponsored Schemes, there is considerable scope for increasing the involvement of Panchayats in line with the letter and spirit of Part IX and IX-A of the Constitution. As such, it is not until the provisions of Article 243G pervade the conceptualization of Centrally Sponsored Schemes that Panchayats will actually be empowered to function as 'institutions of self-government' in respect of such schemes. These are among the issues that are being pursued by consensus in the series of seven Round Tables of Panchyati Raj Institutions being organized by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj; six of which have already been held. It is only after the flow of funds to the Panchayats is streamlined that at least 1/3rd of the funds could be earmarked for women and children.