

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:535  
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005  
TRANSFER OF FUNDS  
Sonowal Shri Sarbananda

**Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has urged the Ministry of Power to transfer the funds released under the accelerated power reforms and development programme schemes for empowering Panchayati Raj institutions to undertake rural electrification including distribution of electricity;
- (b) ifso;
- (c) the response of the Ministry of Power thereto; and
- (d) the total funds so far distributed and utilized by the Panchayati Raj Institutions in implementing the production and distribution of electricity?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a), (b), (c) & Rural electrification including distribution of energy is a matter listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, which has been assigned to the Panchayats. The Ministry of Power has in its scheme of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification proposed to associate the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the management of rural electricity distribution through franchisees. Moreover the question of independent producers associating panchayats in their enterprises, especially for small scale power generation for local use and sale of surplus to State Electricity Boards is being pursued in the context of the Prime Minister's proposal to promote Rural Business Hubs through the Panchayati Raj Institutions. A summary of the presentation made on the occasion of the National Presentation to representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions may be seen at the Annex.