

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2888

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008

ARC REPORT ON LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan);Suman Shri Ramji Lal;Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu);Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) in its report on local Governance has expressed concern over the lack of power with the Panchayats in most States to recruit their own staff and determine their salaries, allowances and other conditions of service as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 25, 2008; and

(b) if so, details of the facts reported therein and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (b): Yes. Para 4.1.5.4 of the Sixth Report of 2nd ARC dwells on 'Personnel Management in PRIs'. ARC has recommended that :

(i) Panchayats should have power to recruit personnel and to regulate their service conditions subject to such laws and standards as laid down by the State Government. Evolution of this system should not be prolonged beyond three years. Until then, the Panchayats may draw upon, for defined periods, staff from departments/agencies of the State Government, on deputation.

(ii) All States, a detailed review of the staffing pattern and systems, with a zero-based approach to PRI staffing, may be undertaken over the next one year in order to implement the policy of PRI ownership of staff. The Zila Parishads, particularly, should be associated with this exercise.

Government of India is generally in agreement with the above recommendations. It has been felt that any fresh recruitment should not result in any substantial increase in overall administrative costs. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is in consultation with State Governments/Union Territories Administrations on these issues.