

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2828

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2010

PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS

Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias;Hazari Shri Maheshwar

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to conduct panchayat elections simultaneously across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the States where panchayat election is not regularly held.
- (c) whether there has been any instance where any mis-utilisation of funds allocated for the purpose has occurred; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the salient features of election process?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (Dr. C. P. JOSHI)

(a) & (b): The Constitution mandates that where Part-IX applies, Panchayat elections be conducted every five years, under the overall superintendence, direction and control of the State Election Commission. The Constitution also empowers the States Legislatures to make laws regarding elections. There is no provision in the Constitution for holding Panchayat elections simultaneously across the States.

Panchayat elections have not been held regularly in Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir.

(c) & (d): Since funds for Panchayat elections are provided by the State Government, any incidence of mis-utilization of funds in this connection is looked into the State Government concerned.