

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:114
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2010
PANCHAYATS AS NODAL AGENCY FOR EDUCATION
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Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to advise State Governments to make Panchayats the nodal agency for education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the response received so far from the States; and
- (c) the implementation status thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): As per Article 243G of the Constitution, States are to endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and to plan and implement schemes for economic development and social justice, including those in relation to matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule. Ministry of Panchayati Raj has issued advisories to the States regarding appropriate devolution to Panchayats on 19.1.2009, 9.4.2009, 23.10.2009 and 1.12.2009 respectively (available on MoPR's website (www.panchayat.nic.in)).

While the extent of devolution varies from State to State, under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), States have taken steps to provide roles to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) which include Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat chairing Village Education Committee and School Management Committee, monitoring and supervision of elementary education by three tiers of Panchayats, etc. In the Saakshar Bharat Mission guidelines, the Gram Panchayats along with Committees are implementing agencies.