

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3659

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010

SUPERVISORY AGENCY FOR PANCHAYATS

Anandan Shri K.Murugeshan;Ganeshamurthi Shri A.;Pratap Narayanrao Shri Sonawane;Tagore Shri Manicka

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has appointed any supervisory agency to look into the affairs of Panchayat Raj in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has any plan to give incentive/award to the best Panchayat for recognition of the services rendered for the development of the panchayat;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any conference of Chief Ministers/Ministers of Panchayati Raj/Rural Development was held for development of rural areas in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details for the last three years and outcome thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): No supervisory agency has been appointed to look into the affairs of Panchayati Raj in the country. However, under the Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS), an independent agency is assigned the task of preparation of Devolution Index (DI) to measure the extent of devolution of functions, funds and functionaries to Panchayats by the States and rank them for incentive awards each year. The study for preparation of DI and ranking of States for the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 was assigned to the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi and that for 2009-10 to the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi. In addition, Vigilance & Monitoring Committees are constituted at the State as well as District level to function as an important instrument for effective monitoring of implementation of programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development.

(c) & (d): Giving incentive/award to the best performing Panchayats in States/UTs would depend on availability of funds.

(e) & (f): Meetings/Conferences with State Governments are held from time to time to discuss implementation of programmes and other issues. The Council of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj has reviewed from time to time the implementation of the resolutions passed in the Seven Round Tables of Ministers in-charge of Panchayati Raj (July-December, 2004). During the last three years, two meetings of the Council were held on

(i) 17th – 18th August 2007; and

(ii) 25th April 2008. The topics of discussion included People's Plan in Kerala, Backward Regions Grant Fund etc. and charter of demands from Panchayati Raj Institutions presented to the Prime Minister of India on 24th April 2008 respectively. Central Government has taken appropriate action and also issued necessary advisories to States/UTs on the outcomes of these meetings.