

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1912
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010
PESA ACT
Sugumar Shri K.

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to implement the provisions of Panchayats (Extension of the Scheduled Areas) (PESA) Act, 1996 effectively in the naxal/maoists affected States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the effective implementation of PESA in these States would be a right step in a right direction to resolve their problems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) (PESA) Act, 1996 extends Part IX of the Constitution with certain modifications and exceptions, to the Schedule V areas of 9 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan. The Government has taken various steps to implement the Provision of PESA effectively by States. These include:

1. Guidelines of PESA: An advisory, 'Effective implementation of PESA particularly in the context of prevailing extremism', dated 21st May, 2010 from the Union Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj have been issued to all PESA States. It is available on website of Ministry of Panchayati Raj, www.panchayat.nic.in

2. PESA Model Rules: Draft Model Rules for PESA were prepared by the Ministry and circulated to all PESA States for framing of rules for effective implementation of PESA.

3. Visits and meetings in PESA States: Field visits have been made to PESA States. Meetings were held with officials of State Departments concerned with PESA implementation.

4. Three Sub-Committees: MoPR constituted three sub-committees, namely the B D Sharma sub-committee on 'Model Guidelines to vest Gram Sabhas with Powers as envisaged in PESA; the Raghav Chandra sub-committee on 'Land Alienation, Displacement, Rehabilitation & Resettlement' and Shri A.K. Sharma on Minor Forest Produce'. Report and recommendations of all the sub-committees have been forwarded to the PESA States.

(c)&(d): PESA promotes people-centric governance and provides a central role to the Gram Sabha. Empowerment of people is critical in the Schedule V Areas. It is expected that increased decentralized governance will reduce the grievances of the people.