

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1926

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010

STRENGTHENING OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

Balram Shri P.;Pangi Shri Jayaram;Ponnam Shri Prabhakar;Reddy Shri Komatireddy Raj Gopal;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is taking steps to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in order to bring economic reforms in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government proposes to restructure various centrally sponsored schemes to give more powers to Panchayats and Gram Sabhas;
- (d) if so, the details of the schemes which are proposed to be directly implemented by the PRI; and
- (e) the names of the States where Panchayats has powers to function as self-governed bodies?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Article 243 (G) of the Constitution necessitates the State Legislatures to empower Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of Local Government along with devolution of powers and responsibilities with respect to preparation of plans and schemes for economic development and social justice and for implementation of such schemes. Ministry of Panchayati Raj is persuading the various State Governments and sister Ministries to devolve adequate functions, funds and functionaries to the Panchayats.

(c) & (d): Different Ministries have launched their Centrally Sponsored Schemes that have varying levels of powers/ roles for Panchayats and Gram Sabhas. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has taken up the matter with various central Ministries so as to provide adequate roles to Panchayats in their schemes.

(e): Within the Constitutional framework, Panchayats is a State subject and States enact legislation considered suitable to their context. States vary in the extent of power that they have devolved to the Panchayats to plan, implement and monitor schemes for economic development and social justice.