

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5453  
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2010  
GANDHI'S CONCEPT ON PRIS  
Adityanath Shri Yogi

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating Gandhian concept of three tier Panchayati Raj; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) (b) & (c): In consonance with grassroots democracy envisaged by Mahatma Gandhi, Part IX of the Constitution provides for establishment of a three tier (Village, Intermediate and District) system of Panchayati Raj. However, States having a population of less than 20 lakh may not constitute a Panchayat at Intermediate level. Further, Article 243A of Constitution provides that a Gram Sabha may exercise such powers and perform such functions at the village level as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide.

Under Article 243G of the Constitution, State Legislatures are to endow the Panchayats with powers and authority to enable them to function as institutions of self governance and prepare and implement plans for economic development and social justice, including those in relation to matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule. States vary in the extent of powers that they have devolved to Panchayats. Within the Constitutional Framework, Panchayats are a State subject and States pass legislations suitable in their context. MoPR has been urging and supporting States to devolve funds, functions and functionaries to Panchayats, promote grassroots decentralized planning through Panchayats & empower Gram Sabhas by issuing advisories, conducting review meetings, providing for capacity building and other activities. 2nd October, 2009 to 2nd October, 2010 was celebrated as the 'Year of Gram Sabha'.