

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:145
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2011
PLAN APPROACH FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM
Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain experts have pointed out that the focus and planning of the plan outlay for the Panchayati Raj System including Rural Governance during the Eleventh Five Year Plan was inadequate;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to address the issue while finalizing the approach paper to the Twelfth Five Year Plan; and
- (d) if so, the details, thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is Laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 145 REGARDING PLAN APPROACH FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM BY DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2011

(a) to (d): The 73rd Constitution Amendment Act,1992 which came into effect in April,1993 brought about major reforms in the Panchayati Raj System. The planning process including that of the Panchayati Raj System and Rural Governance is constantly under review through various mechanisms including the Mid Term Appraisal (MTA) to assess the constraints and the initiatives which can be taken. During the course of the MTA of the Eleventh Plan, it was felt that District Planning should become an integral part of the planning process in the States and these plans should be consolidated by DPCs as mandated in the Constitution. The MTA also emphasized the need to build up organizational capacity of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) through staff and professional support, training of functionaries and elected representatives, merger/accountability of parallel and para statal bodies to PRIs and harmonization of community based organizations with PRIs.

The main sources of outlay for the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) include inter alia allocation of funds under Centrally sponsored schemes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Additional Central Assistance such as the District Component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund, funds from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Central and State Finance Commission awards.

Planning Commission has undertaken a wide ranging consultative process for preparing the Approach to the Twelfth Five Year Plan including regional consultations in which representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions were also involved. The Approach Paper will be finalized shortly.