

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3808

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2011

DEVOLUTION OF POWER TO PRIS

Baitha Shri Kameshwar ;Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao ;Karunakaran Shri P.;Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar
Ganeshrao;Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether devolution of power to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) has been affected throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the progress made in this regard;
- (c) the present status of devolution of departments/subjects with funds, functions and functionaries of the PRIs for various States/UTs., including Jharkhand, State/UT- wise;
- (d) the names of the States/UTs in which process of devolution of powers to PRIs is substantial and those States/UTs where it is slow alongwith the measures taken by the Union Government to persuade the State Governments to speed up the process;
- (e) whether all the States/UTs have the three-tier system of the PRIs;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the names of such States/UTs and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO)

(a)to(d): As per Article 243 G of the Constitution, the Legislature of a State may, by law, endow Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and for preparation of plans and implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice including 29 matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule. As per Article 243H of the Constitution, a State Legislature, may, by law, authorize or assign taxes, duties etc to Panchayats and provide for grants-in-aid.

As the Constitution leaves it to States to devolve power to Panchayats, States vary in the extent to which they have devolved funds, functions and functionaries (3Fs). The status regarding devolution of 3Fs to Panchayats in various States/UTs, including Jharkhand is given in Annexure.As per an independent study that ranked States on a Devolution Index (DI) for the year 2010-11, Kerala, Karnataka, Sikkim and West Bengal were found to have devolved most powers to Panchayats and given incentive awards. The States of Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Bihar, Uttarakhand and Puducherry ranked low on that DI.

To promote devolution, MoPR has issued advisories on Activity Mapping, Panchayat finances and Manpower for Panchayats (available on www.panchayat.nic.in). States have been incentivised for devolution of 3 Fs to Panchayats under Panchayat Empowerment & Accountability Intensive Scheme (PEAIS).

(e)to(g): As per Article 243B, three tier Panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels are to be constituted in all States. Panchayats at the intermediate level may not be constituted in a State having a population not exceeding 20 laliks`. Where Part IX of the Constitution applies, all the States have constituted Panchayats in conformity with the Constitution. Elections have been held up in Andhra Pradesh as per Honourable High Courts order and in Puducherry because of administrative difficulties.