

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2936
ANSWERED ON:30.03.2012
AMENDMENT IN PANCHAYATI RAJ ACT
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Manjhi Shri Hari

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the extent of devolution of powers to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs);
- (b) if so, the details of thereof;
- (c) whether the working of PRIs was subjected to any review, recently;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the follow-up corrective action taken in the matter;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to amend the Panchayati Raj Act; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the proposal?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Article 243G of the Constitution provides that States may endow Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and to plan and implement schemes for economic development and social justice, including those in relation to matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule. Within the Constitutional Framework, 'Panchayats' is a State subject, and States vary in the extent to which they devolve powers to Panchayats. The present status of devolution of Funds, Functions and Functionaries (3Fs) to Panchayats by major States/UTs is given in Annex.

The devolution of powers to Panchayats and their working has been reviewed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) in various forums from time to time, including through the State of Panchayati Raj Report (SoPR).

(d): MoPR has encouraged States to devolve 3Fs to Panchayats in various ways MoPR has also incentivized State Governments to devolve 3Fs to the Panchayats by awarding the States ranked high on a Devolution Index (DI) prepared annually through an independent agency under the Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS). Further, MoPR has awarded Panchayats for performance under PEAIS and taken up capacity building measures through its schemes i.e., Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana (RGSY), the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) and Panchayat Mahila Evam Yuva Shakti Abhiyan (PMEYSA).

(e) & (f): As Panchayat is a State subject, it is for the respective States to amend their Panchayati Raj Acts in their context, as needed.