

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1373  
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2012  
MEETING/VIDEOGRAPHING OF GRAM SABHA PROCEEDINGS  
Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

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

- (a) whether the guidelines issued by the Union Government to the States for holding regular meetings and video recording of the proceedings of Gram Sabhas have improved the transparency and accountability in the Panchayati Raj System;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the progress made, the present status of implementation/ compliance of said guidelines by the States/ Union Territories; and
- (c) the mechanism put in place by the Union Government to monitor the implementation of the said guidelines by all the States?

**Answer**

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

(a) to(c): The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has advised the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to prepare an annual calendar of Gram Sabha meetings and to ensure that atleast four meetings of Gram Sabha are held in an year with advance and widely publicized Notices. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has also advised the State Governments and Union Territories that in regard to sensitive, controversial and contentious issues such as those relating to forest produce, land acquisition, mining & natural resources likely to affect the traditions and way of life of the community, and on which the consensual agreement of the Gram Sabha in PESA area is necessary and transparency of decision making is imperative, to make a full video-and-audio-graphic record of all Gram Sabha meetings and proceedings therein and the members present. The Ministry has further advised the State Governments to retain a copy of such record in both the Panchayat office and in the District Panchayat Secretary's office and to issue directions to the District Collectors/ ZP/ CEOs to take necessary administrative action to enable the Gram Panchayat to make and keep such records. The Ministry is not maintaining a data base on the number of meetings held in a year or the videography of the proceedings of the meetings.