

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3962
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2012
SUSPENSION OF FUNDS TO PANCHAYAT REPRESENTATIVES
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has requested the concerned departments not to release developmental funds to those candidates who were elected unopposed in Panchayat elections in Odisha and were allegedly maoist supporters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any inputs that the funds meant for development schemes are being siphoned off by pro-Left Wing Extremists panchayat members; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Home Affairs had requested the Ministry of Rural Development on 15.02.2012 to consider suspending the release of development funds to 26 Maoist- affected Blocks of Districts Malkangiri, Koraput, Nuapada, Kandhamal, Bolangir, Rayagada, Gajapati and Kalahandi, till such time free and fair elections were conducted in these blocks for Panchayati Raj Institutions. This was in view of the fact that a large number of Panchayati Raj functionaries were elected unopposed in these Blocks due to threats and coercion by the Maoists.

There were inputs which suggested that a fair number of candidates elected unopposed were Maoist supporters, which raised the apprehension that development funds could be diverted to the coffers of the CPI (Maoist). However, the Ministry of Rural Development informed that only the MGNREGA Scheme is directly implemented by the Gram Panchayats and that there are sufficient checks and balances in the Scheme to prevent misuse of funds allotted under this Scheme.