

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4173  
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013  
WORKING OF PANCHAYATS  
Punia Shri P.L.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the elected sarpanches/ pradhans belonging to Scheduled Castes are neither allowed to work nor conduct panchayat meetings;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): It is for the States/UTs Governments to make provisions in their respective Panchayati Raj Laws/Rules ensuring that all the elected representatives, including Sarpanches /Pradhans belonging to Schedule Castes discharge their duty in a free and fair manner. The compliance or otherwise of the related instructions and also taking corrective measures, as and when required in this behalf, are primarily to be looked into by the concerned authority of the States/UTs.

(c): The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) provides financial assistance to States to undertake capacity building of elected representatives and Sarpanches/ Pradhans to enable them to discharge their responsibilities.