

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:282

ANSWERED ON:03.07.2009

FUNCTIONING OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

Dubey Shri Nishikant

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any review of the functioning of Local Self Government Institutions during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken by the State Governments thereon;
- (c) the details of existing mechanism for such review;
- (d) whether the mechanism is adequate to gauge the performance of these institutions; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (Dr.C. P. JOSHI)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): Consultative mechanisms have been set up to review the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the States/UTs covered under Part-IX of the Constitution. Council of Ministers of Panchayati Raj chaired by Minister of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development reviewed the progress during the last three years. Two meetings of this Council were held respectively in August, 2007 and April, 2008. A Committee of Chief Secretaries of States and Panchayati Raj Secretaries of the State Governments chaired by the Union Secretary of Panchayati Raj has been set up to monitor the progress and implementation of the Action Points resulting from the Round Tables held previously. Six meetings of this Committee were held during last three years. Various issues impinging on the functioning of PRIs are discussed by the Council of Ministers and the Committee chaired by Union Secretary of Panchayati Raj. The issues include Devolution of Powers to PRIs, Activity Mapping, Capacity Building & Training, Setting up of District Planning Committees (DPCs) & Preparation of District Plan, IT enabled e-governance, Role of Gram Sabhas, Implementation of PESA, Annual Reports on the State of Panchayats, Centrality of PRIs in implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Rural Business Hubs through Public-Private- Panchayat Partnerships, Accounting and Audit, etc. State Governments take necessary follow-up action on the decisions /action points emerging from these meetings, which are discussed in subsequent meetings.

(d): Several issues have emerged from the review mechanism. These are addressed on priority basis. Local Self Government Institution is a State subject and its functioning is an evolutionary process as mandated in Part-IX and Part- IXA of the Constitution. As such in the existing Constitutional framework, the present mechanism to monitor the performance of these institutions is considered adequate.

(e): Not Applicable.