

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3188
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2014
IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORTS
Patil Shri Sanjay(Kaka) Ramchandra

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Reports of Balwant Rai Mehta Committee of 1957 and the Ashok Mehta Committee of 1978 were considered and their recommendations which have been implemented so far particularly those related to addressing the public services mechanism for rural areas;
- (b) if so, the areas in rural sector which got benefitted after their implementation;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to set up another such Committee in view of the Sarpanches and Gram Sabha playing a pivotal role and the sizeable financial resources under their custody for creating rural infrastructure; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

- (a) & (b) In 1957, the Report of Balwant Rai Mehta Committee recommended that there should be administrative decentralization for effective implementation of development programmes, and the system so created be placed under the control of local bodies. National Extension Service and Community Development blocks were recommended to be set up with co-terminous elected Panchayat Samities. Zila Parishads were also recommended to be set up as an advisory bodies to Panchayat Samities. Panchayati Raj legislations were enacted by some States to give effect to the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee recommendations. Subsequently, the National Development Council (NDC) endorsed the basic principles of democratic decentralization enunciated in the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee Report and laid the duty of working out the structures on each State. The Ashok Mehta Committee, formed in 1978, recommended that Panchayati Raj be included in the Constitution. The Ashok Mehta Committee also recommended greater responsibility for the Zila Parishad in the areas of planning and co-ordination. In keeping with the spirit of the Ashok Mehta Committee recommendations, some States, including West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh revisited their respective Panchayat Raj systems and adopted new institutional arrangements for local governance for the benefit of rural areas.
- (c) There is no proposal to set up any Committee as referred to in this Part.
- (d) Does not arise.