

Title: Need for holding local government elections in Pondicherry.

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): *In the Union Territory of Pondicherry elections to the local administration bodies have not been conducted for the past 37 years. The Panchayati Raj institutions and Nagar Palikas which are supposed to have periodical elections under the Panchayati Raj Act as enacted in this Parliament through 93rd Amendment of the Constitution are run without elections. Union Government through this enactment has stipulated that Panchayati Raj institutions

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

must have elections once every five years. It is mandatory and a constitutional requirement. Even after so many years of the Centre having legislated this Panchayati Raj Act no step has been taken to hold local bodies' election in Pondicherry, a Union Territory region that comes under the Centre directly. People of Pondicherry could not get basic civic amenities like sanitation and health facilities for want of accountable elected bodies. If there had been regular elections and if there had been regularly elected bodies the Panchayati Raj

Ministry at the Centre would be giving Rs 176 crore to carry out sanitation and other projects every year. That way it is a great loss to the people of Pondicherry. The State administration there in the Union Territory of Pondicherry is not getting its rightful allocation all these years for the past 37 years especially after the establishment of Panchayati Raj system with the constitutionally provided for regular elections. Basic amenities are not being improved adequately in that small but beautiful State of Pondicherry. Hence I urge upon the Union Government especially the Panchayati Raj Ministry and the Law Ministry to take steps to hold elections there for the local bodies.

With this I conclude.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (NAGERCOIL): Sir, I associate myself with hon. Member Shri P. Mohan.

MR. SPEAKER : Very well.

The House is adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.30 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*
