>

Title: Need to ensure mandatory networking of Panchayati Raj Institutions through computerization upto Block level in the country.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): Attention of the Government is drawn to the necessity of mandatory networking of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) through computerization upto Block level so that information is available to all citizens about block level census, status of Central Schemes and the beneficiaries thereto. The practical experience indicates that majority offices are reluctant to computerize the data on various pleas to cover their irregularities. Duplication and repetition of schemes amongst various levels of PRIs together with selection of undeserving beneficiaries depriving genuine one are common practice. The poor people became poorer despite huge amount is transferred from the Central Government through Rural Development schemes. Unless full transparency is ensured through computer networking, even, the vigilance committees may not be able to control the situation.

It is essential that the block offices are fully computerized through National Informatic Centre (NIC) encompassing the Panchayat datas with deployment of adequate staff. Generator should be provided to ensure regularity of power supply, wherever, required. The Block level Community Information Centres (CICs) created under PM package in North East Region could also be utilized.

I, therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rural development to ensure compulsory computerization of block offices immediately in collaboration with the Ministry of Information Technology for better transparency and to make sure that every penny reaches the targeted beneficiaries. If necessary, a fixed percentage may be deducted from all schemes by a policy decision to execute the same.