

also seeking to further strengthen the cooperative sector through the National Cooperative Housing Federation.

- (iv) Government is also seeking to give a boost to housing through the propagation of appropriate cost effective and environment friendly technology.

CAPART

115-47

Grants to the States

(Rs. in Crore)

- 9*. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI :
SHRI VAIKO :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) was established;

(b) the activities undertaken by the CAPART in the Country;

(c) the grants sanctioned by the Government during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) the details of unspent grants during the said period, year-wise;

(e) the number of projects sanctioned so far since 1986 alongwith the number of incomplete projects as on date;

(f) the number of voluntary organisations blacklisted during each of last three years in the Country, State-wise;

(g) the reasons therefor; and

(h) the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) was established on 1st September, 1986.

(b) The activities undertaken by the CAPART include :-

- (i) Supporting Voluntary Organisations (V.Os) in implementing projects for sustainable development in the rural areas;
- (ii) Promotion of appropriate technologies;
- (iii) Promotion of marketing of rural products through Gram Shree melas;
- (iv) Acting as a data bank for information on voluntary sector; and

- (v) Capacity-building of V.Os and rural communities.

(c) and (d) The Government does not sanction grants to CAPART on State-wise basis. The amount of grants released by the Government to CAPART and the amount of unspent balance remaining with CAPART during each of the last three years is given below :-

Year	Amount Released	Unspent Balance
1995-96	48.73	18.08
1996-97	50.00	27.80
1997-98	52.36	34.21

(e) The number of projects sanctioned by CAPART since 01.09.86 till 31.12.98 are 18,126 and the number of incomplete projects are 12,356.

(f) Total number of voluntary organisations blacklisted by CAPART so far is 248. Out of this, the VO's blacklisted during the last three years is given below, State-wise :-

State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Assam	01	-	-
Andhra Pradesh	Nil	-	-
Bihar	01	-	-
Delhi	02	-	-
Haryana	02	-	-
Karnataka	Nil	-	-
Kerala	Nil	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	Nil	-	-
Maharashtra	Nil	-	-
Manipur	03	-	-
Nagaland	07	-	-
Orissa	02	-	-
Rajasthan	01	-	-
Tamil Nadu	Nil	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	02	-	-
West Bengal	03	-	-
Total	24	Nil	Nil

(g) Whenever the work of a V.O is found unsatisfactory and the mala-fides of the V.O. is established involving misuse of funds misrepresentation or involvement in other acts of moral turpitude, the V.O is placed under black listed category.

(h) The details of the action taken in respect of 248 V.Os placed in the blacklisted category by CAPART are as under :-

S.No.	Action Taken	No. of VO's
1.	Intimation regarding placing in blacklist sent	248
2.	Inquiry conducted by Project Evaluators of CAPART	58
3.	Subjudice cases	02
4.	Re-evaluation ordered	01
5.	FIR loged	28
6.	Departmental Processing	133
7.	CBI inquiry	26

11-119

Funds to the Panchayat

*10. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to withhold assistance to Panchayats where civic elections have not been conducted;

(b) if so, the details of the affected States alongwith the quantum of funds withheld on this account;

(c) whether most of these States have diverted the allocated funds for other purposes; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures taken to discourage such practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) to (d) Article 243E of the Constitution Seventy-third Amendment Act, 1992 stipulates that the term of the Panchayats is 5 years from the date of the first meeting of the Panchayat, unless sooner dissolved. Panchayat elections are required to be held before the expiry of the 5 year term stated above and in any case, such elections shall be completed before the expiry of 6 months from the date of dissolution of the Panchayats. The

provision is mandatory and there is no scope whatsoever, for discretion of either the State Election Commission or the State Governments.

The following States have not held Panchayat elections in accordance with the Constitution 73rd Amendment.

(i) Arunachal Pradesh: Elections have not been held in the State as the Arunachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Bill has not received the assent of the President.

(ii) Assam : Panchayat Elections have not been held after the expiry of the term of the Panchayats in October, 1997. The State Government has been citing several reasons.

(iii) Bihar : Panchayat elections have not been held in the State, as the validity of certain provisions in the Bihar Panchayati Raj Act is to be adjudicated by the Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The matter is presently sub-judice.

(iv) Pondicherry : Elections were not held in the UT, as the validity of certain provisions in the Pondicherry Panchayati Raj Act had been challenged. The judgement, of the Chennai High Court has become available and the UT Administration is examining its implications.

(v) Karnataka : Panchayat elections are due in the State in March, 1999. The State Government has reportedly decided not to hold Panchayat elections in March/April, 1999 when due, on the grounds that issues relating to delimitation of Gram Panchayat area need to be addressed before fresh Panchayat elections are held.

The State Governments of Assam, Karnataka and Pondicherry have been requested to hold Panchayat elections in their States at the earliest. The Government has urged them to comply with the Constitutional provisions regarding Panchayat elections and has also intimated them that it will not be able to continue to transfer funds under rural development programmes meant for Panchayats to States where Panchayats are not in position. The decision has not been made operative yet as the response of the State Government is awaited.

Regarding diversion of allocated funds, there have been no specific reports of such diversion if any. The sanction order releasing funds to the State Governments invariably stipulate that the funds