

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-†3820
ANSWERED ON-17.03.2020

ELECTION OF PANCHAYATS

†3820. SHRI AKSHAIBAR LAL:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to hold elections for the Block Pramukh and Jila Panchayat Adhyaksh through direct voting by the general public in the States;
- (b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be held and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has sent the proposal for holding elections for the Block Pramukh and Jila Panchayat Adhyaksh through direct voting by the general public, to the Election Commission;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has received proposal from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding holding elections through direct voting by the general public and if so, the action taken in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d) No, Sir. 'Panchayat', being "Local Government", is a State subject and part of State list of Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India. Mandate for setting up of Panchayats is provided by Article 243 in Part IX of the Constitution of India. Accordingly, the Panchayats are setup and are operated through the respective State Panchayati Raj Acts. As per Article 243K (4) of the Constitution, the Legislature of a State may, by law, make provision with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with, elections to the Panchayats. Further, as per the Article 243C(5)(b) of the Constitution, the Chairperson of a Panchayat at the intermediate level or district level shall be elected by, and from amongst, the elected members thereof.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has received proposal dated 10th October 2019 from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding holding elections through direct voting by the general public for Block Pramukh and Jila Panchayat Adhyaksh. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj requested all the State/Union Territory Governments for their views and comments on the topic. The views of States/ Union Territories received so far is given at **Annexure**.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. †3820 answered on 17.03.2020.

S. No.	State/ Union Territory	Views of States/Union Territories with respect to elections of Chairperson of Panchayat at intermediate & district level
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Direct elections are needed
2	Assam	Direct elections are needed
3	Bihar	Indirect elections are fine
4	Chhattisgarh	Indirect elections are fine
5	Gujarat	Indirect elections are fine
6	Himachal Pradesh	Indirect elections are fine
7	Karnataka	Indirect elections are fine
8	Punjab	Indirect elections are fine
9	Sikkim	Direct elections are needed
10	Uttarakhand	Direct elections are needed
11	Uttar Pradesh	Direct elections are needed
12	West Bengal	Indirect elections are fine