

below:

(Rs. in Crores)

9th plan	:	2061.98
1997-98	:	350.91
1998-99	:	353.20

(c) The Government have established a system of monitoring and evaluation which includes various mechanisms such as progress reports; financial returns; audit reports; intensive inspections by officers of both the Central Government and the State Governments; Area Officers schemes and review by various Committees. In addition, all the States have been requested to set up Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at State/district and block levels.

#### **Contribution of enhanced decentralization in rural areas**

2265. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether successive Governments have been moving towards increased decentralization of Government functioning and strengthening of Panchayati Raj institutions; if so, whether any study has been made to find out whether this enhanced decentralization has contributed towards improving the quality of public service delivery in rural areas, especially amongst the rural poor; and

(b) if so, what are the results thereof and what steps Government propose to take to achieve the anticipated advantages of decentralization?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Decentralisation of Government functioning and strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions has been a matter of concern for the Central Government. Although Panchayati Raj is a State subject and the issues relating to the strengthening of these Institutions are within the jurisdiction of the States/UTs, yet the States/UTs have been urged by the Central Government at various fora to speed up strengthening of the PRIs to enable them to function as institutions of self-government. The devolution to the Panchayati Raj Institutions by the State Governments varies from State to State. No comprehensive study has been made to specifically assess the contribution of enhanced decentralisation towards improving the quality of public service delivery in rural areas, especially among the rural poor. Decentralisation and strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions is an ongoing process and it is expected to eventually lead to improve the quality of public service delivery through enhanced people's participation, especially the rural poor.