

(a) whether the chapter entitled "PESA, Left-Wing Extremism and Governance: Concerns and Challenge in India's Tribal Districts" by Ajay Dandekar and Chitrangadha Chowdhury of the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA) from the "State of the Panchayat Report, 2010," commissioned by the Ministry as an independent evaluation, was excised before the Report was printed for release by the Prime Minister on National Panchayat Day, 24 April, 2010;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether, in view of the contents of the chapter having since entered the public domain, he would consider tabling the chapter in Parliament; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) As per Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) entered into with IRMA, the first volume of the "State of the Panchayats Report, 2010," had to contain a collection of reports on seven themes, one of which was "PESA - Panchayats". The chapter PESA was not included in the SoPR in view of the fact that the contents of the Chapter referred to in the question, as sent by IRMA, were found not as per MoU.

(c) and (d) In view of the position above and the fact that SoPR is not tabled in the Parliament, it would not be appropriate to table the above Chapter.

#### **Making Panchayati Raj more effective**

1753. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the participants in the National Convention of District and Intermediate Panchayati representatives held in April 2008 presented a Charter to Government setting out a series of recommendations to Government on how to make Panchayati Raj in the country more effective;

(b) whether Government has considered these recommendations, where required in consultation with State Governments; and

(c) if so, which of the recommendations have been rejected or modified and which have been accepted for implementation and the steps being taken to implement the approved recommendations and the time-frame thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Recommendations in the Charter primarily relate to matters that are within the mandate and jurisdiction of States such as devolution of funds, functions and functionaries, training and computer facilities for PRIs, etc. States have been requested to take required action in this regard.

**Control over subjects for women panchayat representatives**

1754. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the views of Experts like Bidyut Mohanty from the Institute of Social Sciences, Delhi that women panchayat leaders should be given complete control over all the 29 subjects under the Eleventh Schedule;

(b) if so, whether women special programmes would be launched regarding the "Capacity and Awareness building of Women Sarpanches and Pradhans" as majority of them do not realize their real powers; and

(c) whether "Darkness of Ignorance" must be addressed at grassroot level if the recent amendment to give 50 per cent reservation to women is designed to fulfill their constitutional role?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) Yes. According to information provided by Ms Bidyut Mohanty, she has made such observations and the same were referred to in an article by Ms. Pamela Philipose.

(b) and (c) Efforts are made towards sensitization, capacity building and awareness building of Elected Representatives including Sarpanches and Pradhans, whether women or men, under Schemes of Government like Backward Regions Grant Fund programme, Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana and Panchayat Mahila Evam Yuva Shakti Abhiyan (PMEYSA). PMEYSA is a specifically designed programme which aims at strengthening the capacity building and training of Elected Women Representatives and Elected Youth Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Government is conscious of the fact that with the increase in percentage of reservation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions, such facilities for Elected Women Representatives will have to be increased to sensitize them toward their powers and therefore suitable measures are taken accordingly from time to time.