

Sanctioning of projects through District Collectors and District Development Officers

†5054. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state;

(a) whether Central Government propose to run some projects by sanctioning them directly through District Collectors and District Development Officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such system is not contrary to the basic concept of federal State and is a sort of indirect violation of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKARAIYAR):

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj have no proposal to run any project by sanctioning them directly through District Collectors and District Development Officers. The Ministry of Rural Development have stated that they too do not propose to run any project by sanctioning them directly through District Collectors and District Development Officers. However, a new poverty alleviation programme, the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) has been launched from the month of November 2004 in 150 most backward Districts of the country to generate additional supplementary wage employment with food security. The District Collector is the nodal officer for NFFWP at the District level. The executing agency can be any line Department, PRIs or reputed NGOs. The programme is to be implemented in accordance with the Perspective Plan of Five Years to be got prepared by the District Collectors concerned and forwarded by the State concerned with its recommendations to the Central Government for approval. The focus of the programme will be on works relating to water conservation, drought proofing (including afforestation/tree plantation) and land development. Flood-control/protection (including drainage in waterlogged areas), rural connectivity in terms of all-weather roads and by other similar activity for economic sustainability, keeping in view the area specific problems, may also be taken up.

(c) There is in this no infringing or violation of the Constitution or its Federal Characteristics.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.