

M/s. Alacrity Exports Private Limited, Jaipur, were found viable for setting up RBHs on Kantha Hand Stitched products in Chamba and Sirmour Districts of Himachal Pradesh and financial assistance of approximately Rs. 16.00 lakh each was provided to the Implementing Agency during the years 2008-09.

Since, this is a demand driven Scheme, the financial or other assistance would be provided in case of the projects received from these two districts in future after examining the same as per the guidelines of the Scheme and others relevant factors thereof.

Transfer of subjects to Panchayats

1358. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts so far made by the Ministry to transfer subjects prescribed to Panchayats by various States;

(b) the details of States which have transferred all the prescribed subjects to Panchayats;

(c) what are the reasons that other States are not inclined to transfer the subjects; and

(d) how the Ministry is persuading the States to transfer subjects to Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): (a) and (d) Ministry of Panchayati Raj has issued advisories to the States on 9.4.2009, 23.10.2009 and 1.12.2009 on Panchayat finance, manpower and effective devolution of Funds, Functions and Functionaries (3Fs) respectively (available on MoPR's website www.panchayat.nic.in). In addition, under Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS), the Ministry commissions every year a study on the Devolution Index (DI) that ranks States for undertaking measures for devolution of funds, functions and functionaries (3Fs) to the Panchayats. The DI study for the year 2009-10 found the performance of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Maharashtra and among the North East States, Sikkim to be the best in devolution of 3Fs.

(b) and (c) Under Article 243G of the Constitution, States are to endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and to plan and implement schemes for economic development and social justice, including those in relation to matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule. 'Panchayats' is a State subject and the States devolve powers to the Panchayats in their own context.