

Therefore, the State Government desires that the representatives and personnel of Panchayat Raj are exposed. For such exposure towards the State Government, needs help of the Government of India.

- (ix) 3552 Gram Panchayats of the State having more than 500 population should be provided computers in the first phase and training to the Panchayat representatives/functionaries be given again.
- (x) The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj expresses its commitment to the Government of Uttaranchal to provide technical assistance for making reforms in the system of Panchayati Raj, prepare new Panchayati Raj Act, particularly considering the specific geographical condition of the State and conditions and problems as well as the interest of different classes and communities such as minorities, SCs and STs, women, backward and weaker sections etc. Activity Mapping and transition of financial powers.

The objective of the State is to have a strong Panchayati Raj capable representative of Panchayati Raj and transparent Panchayat system and it is believed that it can be achieved only with the active support of the Government of India.

Devolution of powers to Panchayat

2281. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether devolution of powers to the panchayat bodies under 73rd amendment to the Constitution of India is being monitored by his Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details of the powers devolved upon various panchayat bodies by the State Governments as per the list of items mentioned in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution;
- (c) whether Government propose to make devolution fully or partly mandatory; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

[16 August, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) (a) and (d) Article 243 G of the Constitution provides for the devolution of powers to empower Panchayati Raj Institutions, including Gram Panchayats, to function as "institutions of self-government" for the twin purposes of (i) making plans for economic development and social justice for their respective areas, and (ii) implementing programmes of economic development and social justice in their respective areas, for subjects devolved to PRIs including those listed in the XI Schedule, and subject to such conditions as the State may, by law, specify.

Schedule XI of the Constitution Provides for the devolution of powers to Gram Panchayats and Panchayati Raj Institutions with regard to subjects that have a bearing on economic development and social justice in rural areas.

A joint programme of action has been chalked at the seven Round Tables held last year between Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj and State Ministers of Panchayati Raj to ensure that on the basis of Activity Mapping, Panchayats at various levels are devolved with funds, functions and functionaries to enable them to emerge as institutions of self-government. Efforts are also being made to institutionalize social audit measures through Gram Sabha so that Gram Panchayats are made responsible to the Village Community as a whole.

The Ministry of Pachayati Raj convened Seven Round Table meetings with State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj and evolved, by consensus, a set of around 150 points for action which have been put together in a compendium that was adopted unanimously at the conclusion of the last Round Table in Jaipur. A Council of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj under the Chairmanship of Union Minister for Panchayati Raj has been constituted under the Chairmanship to monitor the implementation of the recommendations. A Committee of Chief Secretaries of States and State Panchayati Raj Secretaries has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Panchayati Raj) to monitor the progress on the implementation of the 150 recommendations of the Seven Round Tables. Two review meetings of the Committee have so far been held on the 11th April, 2005 and 29th June, 2005. The inaugural meeting of the

Council, has been held on 5th-6th August, 2005 at Kochi at which a Joint Statement of conclusions was adopted. A copy of the Statement is attached. [Refer to the Statement-I appended to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 2280]

The Ministry has now initiated a process of visiting each of the States/UTs to review with the authorities concerned the progress in implementing the points for action contained in the compendium. It is expected that this will accelerate the base of implementation of provisions of Part IX, read with Article 243ZD of the Constitution and bring about greater conformity, in both letter and spirit, to the Constitutional provisions of Panchayati Raj in all States/UTs concerned.

Implementation of constitutional provisions by Panchayats

2282. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States have implemented the provisions of the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution of India regarding devolution of power to the Panchayats under the three tier development administration system;

(b) if not, what are the reasons for the same; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to see that all the States implement the provisions?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) All States to which the Constitution 73rd Amendment Act applies have devolved powers and responsibilities to Panchayats in varying measure, except Jharkhand and Pondicherry where elections to Panchayats are yet to be held. Elections are now scheduled to be held in Jharkhand in September-October 2005.

However, implementation of Article 243ZD under the 74th Amendment relating to constitution of District Planning Committees has been uneven. A letter was sent by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj to Secretaries of Panchayati Raj in the States/UTs on 30.5.2005 requesting them to constitute DPCs in their respective States in conformity with