

Centrally sponsored schemes routed through Panchayats

538. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) currently being routed through Panchayats; and

(b) the role, the State Governments play in operationalizing of CSS in the respective States?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO): (a) The Backward Regions Grant Funds (BRGF) Programme is the main scheme administered by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, which is an Additional Central Assistance (ACA) Scheme and not a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). The Panchayats, the Municipalities and other local bodies are the planning and implementing entities of this programme.

The role of Panchayats varies across different CSSs, which are administered by different Union Ministries. Among the major CSSs, National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, Indira Awas Yojana, Total Sanitation Campaign, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day Meals), National Horticulture Mission, Macro Management of Agriculture, Micro Irrigation etc are the schemes, which provide for roles and responsibilities for Panchayats. Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has issued detailed advisory dated 19.01.2009 (available on www.panchayat.gov.in) to Central Ministries for delineating roles and responsibilities to Panchayati Raj Institutions in implementing CSSs.

(b) The role of the State Government in operationalizing CSS is determined by the respective scheme guidelines and the extent to which States have devolved funds, functions and functionaries (3Fs) to Panchayats, as Panchayat is a State subject and as per Article 243G States are to endow power and authority to Panchayats to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and plan and implement schemes for socio-economic development and social justice, including matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule.

Discretionary powers enjoyed by Ministers

539. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the discretionary powers enjoyed and used by the Ministers in various Ministries, Ministry-wise;

(b) the instance in which such powers are used by the Ministers and senior functionaries of the Ministries, Ministry-wise;