

Effective role of Panchayats in development

† *229. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the country's utmost need is balanced development;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the working of Panchayats would have to be made more effective, efficient and people-friendly for the purpose of balanced development; and
- (d) if so, the national level plan chalked out by Government for improving the functioning of these Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. It would be correct to state that the country's current development objective is sustainable economic growth with balanced, inclusive and equitable development with greater accountability of the delivery mechanism to the people. After economic liberalization process was kick - started in 1991, the economy has been steadily growing leading to an increase in GDP and growth rate. Government has been taking concrete steps to progress towards this objective. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment put in place a structure of local governance that is accountable to the citizens and is based upon participative decision making by the Gram and Ward Sabhas. For the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012), Government shaped plans & strategies to the objective of Inclusive and Equitable Growth. For the 12th Plan again, it has emphasized as its main approach, reduction of disparities and inclusive growth.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The national level plan for improving the functioning of PRIs is chalked out in the Roadmap for Panchayati Raj (2011-2017). The Roadmap logically delineates the issues and specific action plans within the larger governance framework for creating an effective Panchayati Raj structure. It highlights key aspects for empowerment, enablement and accountability of the PRIs for better governance and faster development including devolution of functions, funds and functionaries

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

as envisaged in the Constitution, Capacity Building of the Panchayats and Functionaries, decentralized planning, effective implementation of PESA, empowered elected village councils in the Sixth Scheduled Areas and changes in the constitutional and legal framework.

This national Roadmap is enabled and assisted by the Government by the provision of funds under several schemes, the most important of which are:

- The Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) provides untied grants to the Panchayats in the backward regions in order to reduce development deficits of the country, with the requirement that the District Plans for utilization of the grant be prepared by the involvement of the Gram Sabhas.
- The Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana (RGSY) which aims at Capacity Building and Training of the Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions as well as the Functionaries.

CAG report on construction of private airports

*230. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) report on the aviation sector, where it has found huge cost overruns, corrupt practices and mismanagement in the construction of various private airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government owned Airports Authority of India (AAI) has lost its legitimate share of revenue due to formation of joint ventures to build these airports;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any investigation has been conducted in the matter;

(f) if so, action taken against the guilty officials; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAM): (a) No, Sir.