

(b) if so, the details thereof including Andhra Pradesh and reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to take action against the violators of such officials?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO):
(a) to (c) Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) is applicable in 9 States having Schedule-V Areas including Andhra Pradesh. Implementation of provisions of the PESA Act is carried out by the State Governments. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj advises the State Governments to carry out necessary amendments in the Panchayati Raj and other State laws so that the PESA Act is implemented in letter and spirit. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has denied that PESA is not being properly implemented in the State.

Infrastructure for panchayats

†1314. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to provide infrastructural facilities to panchayats;

(b) whether it is a fact that the functioning of panchayats gets adversely affected due to the non-availability of their own buildings and infrastructure; and

(c) if so, the initiatives being taken by Government to provide infrastructural facilities to all the panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO):
(a) to (c) Availability of buildings and infrastructure is important for effective functioning of Panchayats. Panchayati Raj being a State subject, the primary responsibility to provide the required infrastructure, including buildings to Panchayats vests with State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations. In order to supplement the efforts of the States and UTs, for improving Panchayat

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

infrastructure, which is needed to facilitate their functioning, financial assistance is provided for the construction of Gram Panchayat (GP) buildings under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana (RGSY) of Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) for districts not covered under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). Assistance is also provided in the form of an untied grant to Panchayats through the States in 250 identified districts under BRGF to bridge critical gaps in local infrastructure and other development requirements. Construction of GP buildings is a permissible activity under BRGF. In addition, construction of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra (BNRGSK) as Village Knowledge Resource Centre and Gram Panchayat Bhawan at Gram Panchayat level are permissible activities under Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.

**Decentralization of power to panchayats
and local bodies**

1315. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent have 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution of India helped the declared aim of decentralising power to Panchayats and urban bodies;

(b) the number of States to which power had been handed over and to what extent;

(c) whether resources also been handed over to them without savings attached; and

(d) whether Government would initiate steps to review this implementation and make amendments in legislation and implementation, if needed, since about two decades have elapsed since legislation in this regard been enacted?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO):

(a) As per 73rd Amendment to the Constitution, Part IX of the Constitution mandates (a) Constitution of Panchayats at Village, Intermediate and District levels