

The Ashok Mehta Committee Report of 1978 recommended that Panchayati Raj may be included in the Constitution. In keeping with the spirit of the Ashok Mehta Committee recommendations, some states, including , West Bengal, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, revisited their respective Panchayati Raj systems and undertook several new initiatives to endow local bodies with more powers, leading to these initiatives being cited as “second generation”, panchayats, which served as a prime inspiration and example for subsequent reform *i.e.* Constitution (Seventy Third Amendment) Act, 1992 which came into force on 24th April, 1993.

(c) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj have constituted an Expert Committee to examine how Panchayats could be leveraged for more efficient delivery of public goods and services under the Chairmanship of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha).

Release of funds for Odisha

2094. DR. DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, Government would release balance funds of Rs. 14.01 crore to the State Government of Odisha under Capacity Building Grant during 2012-13;
- (b) if so, by when it would be released; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the Capacity Building component of Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), States are entitled to funds @ Rs. 1 crore per BRGF district. Odisha entitlement till 2011-12 was Rs. 19 crore. During 2011-12, an amount of Rs. 4.80 crore was released as the first installment to Odisha against the approved Capacity Building plan for the year. However since BRGF funds are lapsable, Odisha cannot claim the balance amount of Rs. 14.20 crore of Financial Year 2011-12 during the current Financial Year.

Classification of Panchayats

2095. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has classified the requirements of Panchayats into two categories;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof; and
- (c) to what extent the above classification helps Panchayats to work more effectively?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

Districts of Odisha under BRGF

2096. DR. DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to include the remaining 10 districts of Odisha under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF);
- (b) if so, by when it would be released; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Initially, 19 districts of Odisha were covered under the District Component of Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). In the current financial year; one more district of Odisha namely Bargarh has been included. There is no proposal under consideration to include more districts under BRGF in Odisha in the current year.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Reply to MPs' communications/letters

†2097. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministers and Government officials are bound to reply all the letters written by the Members of Parliament (MPs);
- (b) if so, whether it is being followed;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government would remind all the Ministers and officials in this matter;
- (d) if so, by when; and
- (e) the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.