

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;