

**Compliance of Planning Commission's directives on district planning**

858. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has evaluated the extent of compliance with its directives on District Planning dated 26 August, 2005 and the Manual on District Planning dated 1st April, 2009, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether 'Economic and Social Planning' is included in the Concurrent List even if local bodies fall within the State List of Schedule VII; and

(c) the further steps the Planning Commission intends to undertake to ensure conformity with the provisions of the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution relating to planning by the local bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) Planning Commission issued the guidelines for District Planning on 25th August, 2006. This was followed by the Manual for Integrated District Planning to facilitate the States in undertaking the district planning exercise. The position of district planning is reviewed with the State Governments from time to time and feedback received shows that majority of the States/Union Territories have issued the notification/order for setting up of DPCs and they are functioning/partly functioning in these States. These States/UTs have also issued their own guidelines for preparation of district plans.

(b) Yes Sir. 'Economic and social planning' is included at Sl. No. 20 of the Concurrent List of Schedule VII of the Constitution. However, "Local government, that is to say, the Constitution and powers of municipal corporations, improvement trusts, district boards, mining settlement authorities and other local authorities for the purpose of local self-government or village administration" is included at Sl.No. 5 of the State List of Schedule VII of the Constitution.

(c) The Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) is one of the instruments to strengthen the planning process in the districts. Further, the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abihaman (RGPSA) has been initiated, *inter alia*, to strengthen the constitutionally mandated framework on which Panchayats are founded. The Planning Commission continues to be in constructive dialogue with the States to reinforce and support steps being taken in making the vision of empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions a reality.