Strengthening of Panchayati Raj

†1286. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a)   the plans to increase the sources of income of the village Panchayats long with the measures to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs);

(b)   whether Government is aware of the fact that rural development has stopped after implementation of MGNREGA; and

(c)   if so, the manner in which the PRIs would be strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) Primarily, the responsibility to increase the sources of the income of the village Panchayats rests with the concerned State Governments. However, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj also implements some schemes/ programmes which aim at strengthening the Panchayats across the country. Under Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA), support is provided to gram Panchayats with low resource base. The States can devolve powers of taxation, and collection of non-tax revenue to PRIs as well as undertake capacity building of Panchayats for improved income generation.

(b)   According to the information received from the Ministry of Rural Development, which deals with MGNREGA, it is not correct that rural development has stopped after MGNREGA.

(c)   Does not arise, in view of reply given to part (b).

Review of laws relating to power sector

1287. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether private power companies have requested Government to review the outdated laws governing power generation projects and provide easier norms for the most competitive business atmosphere for the power industry; and

(b)   if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The Ministry has received a representation from Association of Power Producers (APP) which highlighted that many clearances and compliances are required to set up and run a Power Project.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.