from rich countries. There is a DTA between country to country. I cannot at this juncture, without any details, tell you which aircraft are going to be leased, when and from whom. As I said, the tenders have only come in yesterday. It will not be possible for me to quantify about anything on this issue. If there is any information, as and when I receive it, I will pass it on to the hon. Member. I will assure that. As far as acquisition of aircraft is concerned, I can assure you that what has happened in the past will not be repeated in the future. At least as far as we are concerned, we are very committed.

We have asked both the airlines to come up with their programmes at the earliest. There has been an issue ....*(Interruptions)*... I would, Mr. Chairman, with your protection, like to inform the House that earlier the acquisition programmes were based on the requirements of 1998. After 1998, the Boards passed resolutions. We are now in 2004. The aviation industry worldwide and in our country has undergone a change. The needs of Indian Airlines and the Air India have undergone a change. Some of the aircraft, which were owned by the Indian Airlines and the Air India, were acquired in 1998. We are not in 2004 and some of them are going to be phased out, or, have already been phased out, or some of them have become obsolete. As you have rightly said that the average age of an aircraft in India is the highest in the world. So, with this in mind, we have asked Indian Airlines and Air India to quickly come out with a new programme. As soon as we are ready, we will assess the issue; and further progress on that will take place.

पंचायती राज तथा ग्रामीण विकास के बारे में सम्मेलन

*303.**श्री हरीश रावतः** क्या पंचायती राज मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) पंचायती राज व ग्रामीण विकास के बारे में हाल ही में दिल्ली में आयोजित मुख्यमंत्रियों एवं पंचायती राज तथा ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन की मुख्य सिफारिश का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या सम्मेलन की सिफारिशों को लागू करने के लिए कोई कार्य योजना बनाई गई है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

पंचायती राज मंत्री (**श्री मणि शंकर अय्यर**): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर रख दिया गया है ।

(क)से (ग) ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय तथा पंचायती राज मंत्रालय द्वारा संयुक्त रुप से 29-30 जून, 2004 को नई दिल्ली में " पंचायती राज के माध्यम से गरीबी उन्मूलन तथा ग्रामीण समृद्वि" पर मुख्य मंत्रियों तथा राज्यों के पंचायती राज एवं ग्रामीण विकास के प्रभारी मंत्रियों का एक सम्मेलन आयोजित किया गया था। इस सम्मेलन का उद् घाटन माननीय प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा किया गया था।

सम्मेलन में ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय की संपूर्ण ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना, स्वर्णजयंती ग्राम स्वरोजगार योजना, ग्रामीण आवास, प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना, सूखा प्रवण क्षेत्र कार्यक्रम पर चर्चा एवं समीक्षा की गई थी। राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र केन्द्र सरकार के सहयोग से नये जोश के साथ इन कार्यक्रमों के कार्यान्वयन के प्रति वचनबद्व थे।

पंचायती राज के संबंध में संविधान के भाग IX तथा IX क के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन से संबंधित मामलों को पंचायती राज मंत्रालय द्वारा विचार –विमर्श हेतु कार्यसूची के रुप में रखा गया था। इन मुद्दों में कार्यों, वित्त कार्यचारियों का प्रभावी अंतरण, आयोजना, ग्राम सभाएं, महिलाएं, अनुशूचित जाति/जनजाति के लिए आरक्षण, अनुसूचित जात/जनजाति की विशेष समस्याएं, चुनाव लेखा-परीक्षण, समानान्तर निकाय, क्षमता निर्माण एवं प्रशिक्षण तथा पंचायतों की रिपोर्ट एवं न्याय प्रक्रिया से संबंधित मुद्दे शामिल थे। संविधान की परिकल्पना के अनुरुप पंचायती राज संस्थाओं को सुदृढ़ बनाने के लक्ष्य को हासिल करने के लिए कार्य योजना का एक मसौदा तैयार करने हेतु सात गोलमेज सम्मेलन आयोजित करने का निर्णय लिया गया ताकि पंचायती राज संस्थाओं को आर्थिक विकास एवं सामाजिक न्याय के कार्यक्रमों की आयोजना तथा उनके कार्यान्वयन के लिए वास्तविक स्वशासी संस्था बनाया जा सके।

गोल मेज सम्मेलनों की समय तालिका नीचे दी गई है:-

पंचायती राज के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर आयोजित किये जाने वाले सात गोल मेज सम्मेलन गोल मेज सम्मेलन-1

शनिवार-रविवार, 24-25 जुलाई: कोलकाता: "पंचायती राज: योजना और कार्यान्वयन तथा ग्रामीण व्यापार केन्द्र" समानान्तर निकायों के विषय सहित।

गोल मेज सम्मेलन -111

बुधवार-गुरुवार, 22-23 सितम्बर : रायपुरः "पंचायती राज में आरक्षण ", जिससे अनुसूचित जाति जनजाति पंचायत (अनुसूचित क्षेत्रों तक विस्तार) अधिनियम, 1996 (पेसा) के प्रावधान के कार्यान्वयन सहित अनुसूचित जाति और महिलाएं शामिल है ।

गोल मेज सम्मेलन-IV

शनिवार-रविवार, 2-3 अक्तूबरः चण्डीगढ़-: संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों में पंचायती राज और पंचायति राज न्याय प्रक्रिया"

गोल मेज सम्मेलन-V

बुधवार-गुरुवार, 27-28 अक्तूबरः उत्तराचंल (स्थान निर्धारित किया जाना है)- "पंचायतों की स्थिति संबंधी वार्षिक रिपोर्ट" (अंतरण अनुसूची की तैयारी सहित)

गोल मेज सम्मेलन-VI

शानिवार-रविवार, 27-28 नवम्बर गुवाहाटी-"पंचायती राज चुनाव और लेखा परीक्षा"

गोल मेज सम्मेलन-VII

शनिवार-रविवार, 11-12 दिसम्बरः पुणे-"पंचायती राज संस्थाओं का प्रशिक्षण एंव क्षमता निर्माण"

"पंचायती राज प्रभावी अंतरण," जिसमें कार्य, कार्यकर्मी तथा वित्त के साथ-साथ सभाओं को अधिकार सम्पन्न बनाना शामिल था, विषय पर पहला गोलमेज सम्मेलन 24-25 जुलाई, 2004 को कोलकाता में आयोजित किया गया था। इसमें पंचायती राज के प्रभारी मंत्रियों तथा उनके प्रतिनिधियों ने इस बैठक में विचारार्थ विषयों पर लिए गए निर्णयों को अपनी संबंधित सरकारों तक पहुंचाने पर सहमति जाहिर की ।

Conference on Panchayati Raj and Rural Development

*†303. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the main recommendations of the Conference of Chief Ministers and Ministers of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development held recently in Delhi on Panachayati Raj and Rural Development;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any work plan to implement the said recommendations has been formulated; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) A Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers in-charge of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj on "Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj" was organised at New Delhi on 29-30 June, 2004, jointly by the Minister of Rural Development and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The Conference was inauguarated by the Prime Minister.

The Conference discussed and reviewed Sampoorna Gramin RozgarYojana (SGRY), Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Rural Housing (RH), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (WDP), Drinking Water Supply, Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development. State/UTs committed themselves to implementation of these programmes with renewed vigour in cooperation with Central Government.

Issues relating to effective implementation of Part IX and IX a of the Constitution of Panchayati Raj were tabled as agenda for discussions by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. These issues included effective devolution of functions, finance, functionaries, planning, gram Sabha, women, reservation for SCs/STs, special problems of SCs/STs, elections audit, parallel bodies, capacity building and training, State of the Panchayats Report and jurisprudence. The Conferene decided to hold seven Roundtable Conferences to formulate a draft action plar. towards achieving the objective of strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions to enable them to emerge as institutions of self-government for the planning and implementation of programmes of economic development and social justice as envisioned in the Constitution.

The Round Table Meetings have been scheduled as under:—

Schedule of Seven Round Table to be held on different Aspects of Panchayati Raj

Round Table I

Sat-Sun, 24-25 July: Kolkata: "Panchayati Raj: Effective Devolution", comprising Functions, Functionaries and Finances, as well empowerment of Gram Sabhas.

Round Table II

Sat-Sun., 28-29 August: Bangalore-"Panchayati Raj: Planning and Implementation and Rural Business Hubs", including the question of parallel bodies.

Round Table III

Wed.-Thursday 22-23 September: Raipur- "Reservations in Panchayati Raj", comprising Schedule Tribes (including implementation of the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA), Scheduled Castes and Women.

Rond Table IV

Sat-Sun 2-3 October: Chandigarh- "Panchayati Raj in Union Territories and Panachyati Raj jurisprudence".

Round Table V

Wed-Thur. 27-28 October: Uttaranchal (Venue to be decided) -"Annual Reports on the State of the Panchayats" (including preparation of a Devolution Index).

Round Table VI

Sat.-Sun. 27-28 November: Guwahati-" Panchayati Raj Elections and Audit".

Round Table VII

Sat.-Sun., 11-12 December: Pune- "Capacity Building and Training for Panchayati Raj Institutions".

The first Round Table Conference on "Panchayati Raj: Effective Devolution", comprising Functions, Functionaries and Finances, as well empowerement of Gram Sabhas was held at Kolkata on 24-25 July, 2004 in which Ministers in charge of Pancyayati Raj and their representatives agreed to recommed to their respective Governments the conclusions

reached during this Round Table for the Action Plan to be adopted at the Meeting of the Chief Ministers scheduled to be held early next year.

श्री सभापतिः हवाई जहाज की स्पीड कम है।

श्री हरीश रावतः हवाई जहाज के बाद पंचायत में आ रहे है ।

श्री सभापति: 15 मिनट ले लिए एक क्वेश्चन ने । आप तो बोलिए ।

श्री हरीश रावतः सर, पंचायतों का सशक्तिकरण एक महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है और सशक्तिकरण के लिए आवश्यक है कि राज्य सरकारं विभिन्न विभागों का दायित्व पंचायतों को सौंपे। पिछले दिनों जो मुख्य मंत्रियों और पंचायती राज मंत्रियों का सम्मेलन हुआ है, मैं माननीय राज्य मंत्री से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या विभिन्न राज्यों के बीच में इस बात की सहमति बनी है कि उनको कितने-कितने विभागों का दायित्व पूरे तरीके से पंचायतों को सौंपना चाहिए और कौन-कौन से ऐसे राज्य है जिन्होंने 10 या 10 से ज्यादा विभागों का दायित्व पूर्णतया पंचायतों को सौंप दिया है और कौन ऐसे राज्य है जो राज्य अभी तक पंचायतों को विभिन्न विभागों की जिम्मेदारी सौंपने से हिचकिचा रहे है?

श्री मणिशंकर अय्यरः सभापति महोदय, विभागों का सुपुर्दी करण नहीं होता है, विभागों के जो अन्य कार्य है, उनका सुपुर्दी करण होता है। मैं बड़े हर्ष से कहना चाहता हूं कि जो मुख्य मंत्रियों का सम्मेलन हुआ, उसमें आप सहमति से यह किया गया कि जो एजेंडा पेपर हमने उसदिन पेश किया था जिसमें कि पंचायती राज के 16 रुखों का जिक्र था, उस पर हम आगे बहस करने वाले है और आगे बहस करने के लिए 7 गोलमेज का इंतजाम हो चुका है। पहली गोलमेज पिछले महीने कोलकाता में हुई और उसमें हमने विचार किया था सुपुर्दी करण और अव्वल अधिकारी, द्वितीय अधिकारीगण और तीसरा अर्थव्यवस्था इसके साथ-साथ हमने ग्राम सभा के बारे में भी चर्चा की और आम सहमति से हमने कुछ सिफारिशों तैयार की है जो कि हर राज्य का प्रतिनिधि अपनी राज्य सरकार के सामने पेश करने के लिए सहमत रहे। तो ऐसा ही आने वाले 4-5 महीने के अंदर हमारा कार्यक्रम दिसम्बर महीने तक खत्म करने का इरादा है। इन आने वाले 4-5 महीनों में हम बाकी जो 6 गोजमेज है, उनका इंतजाम करने वाले है और मैं उम्मीद रख रहा हूं कि दिसम्बर-जनवरी तक आम सहमति से राज्य सरकार और केन्द्र सरकार के बीच में किसी प्रकार का मतभेद न होत हुए हम ज्वाइंट एक्शन प्लान तैयार करें जिसके आधार पर हम सब एक दूसरे के साथ कंधे से कंधा लगाकर आगे बढ़ पाएं ।

श्री हरीश रावतः सभापति महोदय, पिछले दिनों यह बात बहुत चर्चा में थी कि पंचायतों को केन्द्र से सीधे धन दिया जाए या नहीं दिया जाए कुछ राज्य इस मामले में सहमत है और कुछ राज्य सहमत नहीं हैं। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इस विषय में अभी तक कुछ

मदों में सीधे पंचायतों को केन्द्र से पैसा जा रहा है और कुछ और मदों में भी जाने की बात बहुत राज्यों के पंचायती राज मंत्रियों द्वारा भी और पंचायतों के नेताओं द्वारा भी उठाई जा रही है। तो माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कोशिश करें कि केंद्र सरकार ने इस विषय में क्या निर्णय लिया है? क्या राज्यों के बीच इस विषय में कोई सहमति हो पाई है?

श्री मणि शंकर अय्यर: सभापति महोदय, इस विषय पर किसी प्रकार का मतभेद अन्य राज्य सरकारों और केंद्र सरकार के बीच में नहीं है। हालांकि यह सच है कि एक सोच है कि जो वेतन है, वह सीधा हम पंचायती राज संस्थानों को भेजें । जो हमारे कॉमन मिनिमम प्रोग्राम हैं, उसमें हमने यह कहा है कि विलम्ब नही होना चाहिए और किसी प्रकार का डाइवर्शन नहीं होना चाहिए कि जो वेतन यहां से राज्य सरकार को पहुंचता है, वह जो पंचायतों को भेजा जाना चाहिए, वह जल्दी ही और सीधे उनको भेजा जाए। इस सिलसिले में हमारी मॉनिटरिंग बहुत ही सख्त रहेगी। यदि उस मॉनीटरिग के ज़रिए कुछ दिक्कत निकल आए, तब राज्य सरकारों से बातचीत करके हम देखेंगे कि और कौन सा विकल्प है कि जो पैसा पंचायतों को पहुंचना चाहिए, वह वैसे ही वहां पहुंचे। यह भी स्पष्टीकरण मैं देना चाहता हूं कि तकरीबन आधा पैसा, जो केंद्र सरकार से पंचायतों को जाता है, वह ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय के द्वारा जाता है और वह राज्य सरकारों के द्वारा नही, वह सीधा डी0आर0डी0ए को पहुंचता है और वहां हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि वह पंचायती राज संस्थानों और डी0आर0डी0ए के लिए तकरीबन एक सा हो जाए, ताकि हम कह सकें कि असलियत में वह पैसा पंचायतों को पहुंच रहा है। वैसे ही सर्व शिक्षा अभियान के द्वारा काफी पैसा पहुंच रहा है। उसके लिए भी कुछ इंतज़ाम हो रहा है। इसलिए मुझे नहीं लगता है कि किसी प्रकार का मतभेद है। प्रधान मंत्री जी ने जो मुख्य मंत्री सम्मेलन में कहा, उसको मैं यहां दोहराना चाहता हूं, In the best traditions of fiscal federalism, the Centre and the Centre and the State should cooperate in order to strengthen the finances of the Panchayats."यह है हमारी नीति और इसमें कोई बदलाव नहीं लाया जाएगा ।

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, it is true that Prime Minister has taken initiatives, but, I think, the hon. Minister will also agree with me that this effective devolution of funds, functions and functionaries is moving at a very slow pace. I am not saying that this has not been happening during these three months. Right from the time of the Constitution Amendment, till now, all these subjects — the three Fs: funds, functions and functionaries, which are supposed to be devolved to the local bodies, — if you look at the chart which the Minister is kind enough to distribute among the Members of the House — have not been devolved to local bodies by many of the State Governments for variety of reasons. I have gone through the reply given by the hon. Minister that he had a round

table conference in Kolkata, wherein the Ministers had agreed to place it before the Chief Ministers. I would like to humbly remind the hon. Minister that he was also a participant in one of the all-India seminars, where the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House were there. Umpteen number of times, we have decided about this. But this is not happening. That is the practical problem. How do you plan to proceed further with regard to persuading the State Governments to see that all those 16 or 18 subjects, which they have mentioned in the Constitution 73rd and 74th Amendments, are devolved to the local bodies at the earliest? Can we have a time frame? With regard to funds sent directly to Panchayats, a debate is going on. They want it to be earmarked. They do not want any diversion to happen. The States want to have the money and, then, send it to districts. This is all what is happening. The hon. Minister is also aware of it. My point is, can you think of some sort of time frame to persuade the States, failing which some action will be taken to persuade them to fall in line?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am happy to inform the hon. Member that with regard to devolution of functions, it was agreed in Kolkata that... We are talking about devolution; we are talking about functions, but what we need to do is to determine what the activities within each function are, to see which activity should be devolved to which tier of the Panchayati Raj system. This, he would recall from the days when he was the Minister, has been referred to in the Task Force Report as "actively mapping'. The activity mapping has been undertaken with regard to some functions in some States, but in no State with regard to all functions. I am very happy to say, Sir, that at Kolkata, we agreed that the activity-mapping should be completed within the fiscal year 2004-05, because it was further agreed that once we have activity-mapping for the functions covering all the three tiers of Panchayati Raj, automatically, the devolution of functionaries would follow the same activity-map and the devolution of finances should also follow the same activity map; and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj have offered to make available technical expertise to any State that wishes to have it for completing this activity. Now, of course, all that we were able to do in Kolkata was to have a unanimous recommendation on the part of the Ministers of Panchayati Raj, and it is still for the States to accept it, but, I think, we made quite remarkable progress in the last one hundred days in removing a key road block that existed in the past which was that while we did have occasional meetings

of Panchyati Raj Ministers or Chief Ministers, we were not able to follow that thing through consistently all the time. So, drawing from the lessons of the past, I thought that instead of leaving it to the Group of Ministers to try to come up with recommendations that everybody accepts that we should so repeatedly meet each other over the period of six months that at the end of the day we become a single community during ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is enough. Mr. Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, I would like to know what are the major recommendations of round table one with regard to functionaries since in Andhra Pradesh, we have three-tier system and five functionaries. The Andhra Assembly had passed a Resolution requesting the Government of India to allow it to have three-tier system and three functionaries. Since there is a clash, contradiction and confusion among the functionaries in Andhra Pradesh, will the hon. Minister consider the unanimous resolution of Andhra Assembly to whjch all the parties were partners? There was a report in Andhra Pradesh that only one person opposed it in Delhi. I believe, it was you, Mr. hon. Minister; you were in the Opposition, at that time. Now, you are in the Government and the Congress Party was also a party to that Resolution. My question is, will you agree to this?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the primary job of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is to secure the implementation in letter and spirit of the existing provisions of Part IX and Part IXA of the Constitution to the extent that it impinges on Panchayati Raj directly. Now, the hon. Member is aware of how much time it took and how many Governments were involved in moving from the preparation of the 64th Amendment to the passage of the 73rd and 74th Amendments. In the light of that, making amendments to the Constitution is not a child's play. And, rather than get distracted into attempting to amend the Constitution once again which will open up a Pandora's box of numerous suggestions, I think, it would be a more useful use of my time to concentrate on implementing the current provisions. With regard to the problem that Andhra Pradesh has, I might say that it is uniquely Andhra Pradesh's problem because you have super-imposed the new system of Panchayati Raj on the old *mandal* system that you had. Such a system also existed in Karnataka, but they adapted to the new regime, whereas you stuck with the same regime. Now, this is entirely a decision for the state Government to take, and I do

not wish to sit in judgement on what the Andhra Pradesh Government decided. But I would say that there are enormous problems involved in effecting a change to the Constitution at this stage, and I would rather concentrate on implementing the existing provisions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, my request is, in view of the unanimous Resolution of Andhra Pradesh Assembly, will the hon. Minister...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already put your question. Now, next question. Question No. 304.

Self-employment schemes

*304. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the various self-employment schemes being run for extending credit to unemployed youth by different banks in different States;

(b) whether these schemes conform to the local resource availability and the employment based on such resources;

(c) whether a periodic evaluation is done to judge their efficacy for continuation; if so, the resultant achievements in terms of credit extended for self-employment; and

(d) the details of the credit schemes, which were initiated but failed to take off to promote sustainable employment and the reasons for their failure?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Credit is being provided by banks in different States under various self employment schemes, namely Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swama Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (NSLRS), Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Differential Rate of Interest Scheme (DRI) implemented by different Ministries/Departments.