

to enable them to become true institutions of self-government for the Planning and Implementation of programmes of economic development and Social Justice as envisioned in the Constitution. Some State representatives expressed their reservation over any move to directly fund the panchayat by-passing the State Government. It was clarified that Government policy, based on the National Common Minimum Programme, is to avoid diversion or delay in funds reaching the panchayats and any alternative route for reaching funds to the Panchayats will be explored only in consultation with the State Governments. Some of the State Government demanded more funds for the rural development programmes.

Direct funding to Panchayati Raj Institutions

1572. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allocate funds directly to the Panchayati Raj Institutions for rural development schemes;

(b) whether Government received any complaint relating to the manner adopted by the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA) to implement Central schemes; and

(c) whether Government propose to change the existing criteria for allocation of funds and review the proposed direct funding to Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) (a) to (c) The National Common Minimum Programme of the Government, *inter-alia*, aims at ensuring that all funds given to the States for implementation of Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development Schemes by Panchayats are neither delayed nor diverted. It further states that after consultation with the States, the Government will consider crediting elected Panchayats with such funds directly. There is no proposals to change the existing criteria for allocation of funds for rural development programmes.

Re-survey of Government lands

1573. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has sought Central