

[24 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

**Schemes for Panchayati Raj Institutions**

† \*416. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of awareness and training schemes run by Government for representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and members of Standing Committees of Gram Sabha;

(b) the ratio of the share of Central and State Government in the funding of the scheme;

(c) whether Government are considering to increase their share; and

(d) if so, by when a decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Panchayat Development and Training" is being implemented by the Government for imparting training to the elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and other Rural Development functionaries. Under this scheme, Central assistance is provided to the States, NGQs and other institutions for the above purpose. As per the funding pattern under the scheme, the total approved cost of proposals received from the State Governments for implementation of this scheme is shared in the ratio of 75:25 between Central and State Government. Besides, 20% increase in the cost per participant over and above the standard norms is allowed while estimating the total cost of proposals from North-Eastern States and Hilly areas of the country. 100% Central assistance is provided to NGOs for implementing this scheme.

(c) The Government is not considering increasing its share.

(d) Does not arise.

**Action plan for irrigation schemes in Orissa**

\*417. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Orissa is a drought-prone area;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the cash-strapped State is not in a position to upgrade its irrigation schemes to help the farmers of the drought-prone areas;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.