

Release of Funds to Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh

82. SHRI G. V. L. NARASIMHA RAO: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds released so far to Andhra Pradesh under devolution to the Gram Panchayats as per the 14th Finance Commission award during the current financial year;

(b) whether any funds have been withheld, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether 14th Finance Commission recommended that funds for Gram Panchayats be released only when elections are held, for having duly elected Gram Panchayats;

(d) if so, the steps proposed by State Government to access lapsed funds, if any; and

(e) steps taken by the Ministry to ensure that elections are held to the Gram Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) During the current financial year, an amount of ₹ 858.99 crore has been released so far to Andhra Pradesh under devolution to the Gram Panchayats (GP) as per the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) award. Gram Panchayat (GP) elections in the State are pending since August, 2018. State has been requested to resubmit the proper Utilisation Certificate citing duly constituted GPs.

(c) to (e) The FFC has recommended Grants, namely, Basic Grant and Performance Grant for duly constituted Gram Panchayats. In this regard the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has clarified in its Guidelines for implementation of FFC recommendations that a duly constituted Panchayat means a Panchayat where elections have been held and an elected body is in place as provided in part IX of the Constitution of India. Panchayat being a State subject, the State is keen to hold elections to GPs whose term expired by 1st August, 2018. The State Election Commission has also initiated the process of holding elections by publishing Electoral Rolls. The Ministry has requested the State to inform about the constitution of duly elected Gram Panchayat after completion of elections, which are due since August, 2018.