

Management of Anganwadis by Panchayats

*352. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to hand over the management of Anganwadi centres to Panchayats, NGOs or any community-based organizations;

(b) whether some States have already handed over the management of Anganwadi centres to Panchayats and Mother's Committees causing great problems to the Anganwadi workers and helpers; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme wherein the Government of India is responsible for programme planning and operating costs and State Governments are responsible for programme implementation and providing supplementary nutrition. Implementation modalities vary from State to State. Instructions have been issued by the Government of India from time to time to the State Governments to involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and NGOs in the implementation of the programme.

(b) and (c) As per information received so far, PRIs are involved in the implementation of ICDS Scheme in the States of Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Punjab, Karnataka, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland and UTs of Chandigarh, Lakshadweep and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Mother's Committees are involved in Andhra Pradesh. There are no specific representations about great problems being caused to the ICDS functionaries because of the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Given the spirit of the Constitution (Seventy-Third Amendment) Act, 1992 it is expected that various functionaries involved in the developmental tasks will work harmoniously with PRIs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.