

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:288

ANSWERED ON:22.07.2003

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR

MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a national policy to strengthen the voluntary sector especially in areas of rural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen the relationship between Institutions of local self governance and voluntary organizations?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U. V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

(a)&(b) The Ministry of Rural Development has no such proposal.

(c)&(d) The Council for Advancement of Peoples' Actions and Rural Technology (CAPART) under the Ministry of Rural Development functions as a nodal agency for promoting action through voluntary agencies in the sector of rural development. It encourages voluntary agencies to work in coordination with the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) with the aim of generating local level socio-economic development. Towards further strengthening the relationship between voluntary agencies and PRIs, CAPART endorses all sanction letters of projects to the PRIs in whose areas the concerned projects and Voluntary Organisations are located. CAPART also advises the voluntary organisations to place the project implementation reports before Panchayat Gram Sabhas.

In addition to the above, a resolution is insisted upon from the Gram Panchayat in the case of CAPART supported projects on common lands and assets to the effect that Gram Panchayat (in the case of common property resource like fisheries tanks, common pasture lands, community forests/wood lots, etc.) shall be willing to share the benefits from these assets with the weaker sections of society such as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, women and other persons below the poverty line in an equitable manner before implementing CAPART programmes through Voluntary Organisations.