

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:458
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2004
MONITORING OF FUNDS
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether electronic monitoring of funds utilization at Panchayati Raj Institutions is being done by the Government;
- (b) if so, whether the State Governments have given approval in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Centre-sponsored DRDA is being merged with PRI;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Union Government sought views of different State Governments in this regard; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) & (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) & (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 458 DUE FOR REPLY ON 26.8.2004 REGARDING MONITORING OF FUNDS

(a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c) Does not arise.

(d) to (g) As per the existing DRDA Administration Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Rural Development DRDAs will maintain their separate entity but will function under the chairmanship of the chairperson of the Zilla Parishad. They are expected to act as a facilitating and supporting organization to the Zilla Parishad, providing necessary executive and technical support in respect of poverty reduction efforts. The Guidelines state that the DRDA is visualized as a specialized and professional agency for managing the Rural Development programmes and have a role distinct from other agencies including PRIs. According to the Guidelines, DRDA will, therefore, need to develop distinctive capabilities rather than perform tasks that are legitimately in the domain of the PRIs or the line departments. They have further stated that DRDAs are expected to coordinate effectively with the Panchayati Raj Institutions but under no circumstances will perform the functions of the PRIs.

A Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers in charge of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj on 'Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj' was organized at New Delhi on 29-30 June, 2004 jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The Conference decided to hold seven Round Table Conferences to formulate a draft Action Plan towards achieving the objective of strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions 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. The first Round Table Conference of Ministers of State Governments in charge of Panchayati Raj was held at Kolkata. In respect of DRDAs, the first Round Table Conference agreed to recommend to their respective Governments for joint acceptance by the Centre and the States, the following points of action:-

(i) Reconceiving the role of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) as an important instrument for Panchayati Raj development through the progressive merger of DRDAs with the District Panchayats. The technical expertise and other facilities of the DRDAs should become available to all tiers of the PRIs under the overall responsibility and disciplinary control of the elected authority in the PRIs at the appropriate level;

(ii) The activities of the reconceived DRDAs with respect to the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj System should be patterned on the activity map for the devolution of functions, functionaries and funds so that all the three tiers of PRIs have equitable access to the resources, expertise, facilities and manpower of the DRDAs'.

