

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3272
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004
PANCHAYATI RAJ IN FIFTH SCHEDULE AREAS
Gamang Shri Giridhar

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the aims and objectives of Panchayati Raj envisaged in the Constitution has been achieved particularly with regards to Fifth Schedule Areas and as institution of self-government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof particularly with regards to extension of panchayat Fifth Schedule Area;
- (c) whether this Ministry will convene a meeting of State Governments having Scheduled Areas, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and other concerned Ministries to discuss the issue relates to Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes to find out the achievements; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (d) To a very large extent, mandatory provisions of Parts IX of the Constitution have been complied with almost entirely in letter and, to some extent, in spirit as well.

However, with regard to the devolution of funds, functions and functionaries as provided for in Article 243G as also the mandatory provisions relating to District Planning Committees much work remains to be done in most States and Union Territories. In Panchayati Raj Institutions, reservations have been provided for on the lines set out in the Constitution. In so far as Fifth Schedule Areas are concerned, the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 came into force with effect from 24.12.1996. This Act has been extended to the Tribal Areas of nine States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan. All these States had amended the State Panchayati Raj Acts in terms of the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA), but some of the States are yet to take up amendments of the subject laws relating to land, minor minerals, water bodies, village markets etc. During the Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj on 'Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj', it was decided to hold seven Round Table Conferences on different aspects of Panchayati Raj to be attended by the Ministers of Panchayati Raj of various States/UTs along with their officials. Round Table-III will be held on 22-23 September, 2004 at Raipur on the subject of 'Reservations in Panchayati Raj'. The implementation of PESA and issues relating to reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women will be discussed in this Round Table.