

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:236

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005

MERGER OF CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES FOR PRIS

Mohite Shri Subodh

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to merge some of the centrally sponsored schemes for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has sought the views of the State Governments in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a), (b), (c) & (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 236 DUE FOR REPLY ON 8-12-05 REGARDING MERGER OF CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES FOR PRIs.

(a) & (b): In pursuance of the decision taken in the 51st meeting of the National Development Council held on 27-28 June, 2005, an Expert Group has been set up by the Planning Commission on 13-10-05 to develop concrete proposals for restructuring Centrally Sponsored Schemes(CSS) in consultation with the Ministries/ Departments concerned. The terms of reference of the Expert Group include, inter-alia, the amalgamation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes into four or five broad heads with the freedom to develop locally relevant programmes; to examine the feasibility of the transfer of CSSs to States/UTs and the modalities thereof; to suggest restructuring and rationalization of CSS with a focus on the Millennium Development Goals; to suggest restructuring of CSS with a view to transferring some of the resources allocated to them directly to the authorities/Panchayati Raj Institutions/Local Bodies at the district level or below; and to examine the feasibility of introducing a system of social audit in the CSS.

The Expert Group is required to submit its report within six months from the date of issue of the Order for consideration of the Planning Commission.

(c) & (d): The Expert Group includes representatives of four States, namely, Kerala, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Tripura as members and their views would be taken into consideration while finalizing the recommendations.