

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2331

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005

STRENGTHENING OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS

Athithan Shri Dhanuskodi;Meghwal Shri Kailash;Patil Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb

**Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government had organized conferences/seminars of States Panchayati Raj Ministers in order to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country;
- (b) if so, the conclusions reached in these conferences/seminars;
- (c) whether the recommendations made in these conferences/seminars for funding panchayats are under the consideration of the Union Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b): To provide an impetus to the implementation of Part IX of the Constitution in letter and spirit, by States, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened seven Round Tables of State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj between July and December, 2004 and evolved, by consensus, a set of around 150 points for action, which have been put together in a compendium that was adopted unanimously at the conclusion of the last Round Table in Jaipur. Inter-alia, the joint programme of action seeks to ensure that, on the basis of Activity Mapping, Panchayats at various levels are devolved with funds, functions and functionaries to enable them to emerge as institutions of self-government.

(c) to (e): Devolution of finances to the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj System patterned on Activity Mapping for the devolution of functions and functionaries is one of the resolutions of the First Round Table of State Ministers in-charge of Panchayati Raj held at Kolkata on 24-25th July, 2004. In order to achieve this, the State Governments had been exhorted to prepare a road map including a number of components such as inclusion of a Panchayat component in the budget of each State/ Central Government Departments; provision of untied grants to the PRLs and tier-wise allocations from the Twelfth and future Finance Commissions. The Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended a total grant of Rs. 20,000 crore as grants in aid to augment the consolidated fund of the States to supplement the resources of the Panchayats. These grants are mandated to be released in two equal instalments in July and January every year.