

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2488

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005

CONSTITUTION OF DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEES

Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shahid Shri Mohammed;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether under the 74th Constitution (Amendment) Act each State and Union Territory (UT) is required to constitute District Planning Committees(DPCs);
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government is aware that many States/UTs have not set up the District Planning Committees;
- (c) if so, the reasons put forward by the concerned States /UTs for not constituting DPC;
- (d) whether the Union Government proposes to issue fresh guidelines to the concerned States/UTs for setting up such bodies;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken or being taken by Union Government to ensure that each State/UT set up DPCs?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to(f): All States and Union Territories (except Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, J&K, the Hill areas in the State of Manipur, the Hill areas of the District of Darjeeling for which Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council exists, NCT of Delhi) and Sixth Schedule Areas where Autonomous District Councils have been constituted, are required to set up District Planning Committees in accordance with Article 243ZD of the Constitution of India. The States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, West Bengal and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman& Diu and Lakshadweep have constituted District Planning Committees in all the Districts. Manipur has constituted these Committees in four Valley Districts. District Planning Committees have not been constituted in Jharkhand and Pondicherry where elections to Panchayats are yet to held. Uttar Pradesh has enacted legislation for District Planning Committees but is yet to issue the notification for the constitution of these bodies. Maharashtra has not constituted DPCs in accordance with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution, but has District Planning and Development Councils head by a Minister, including nominated members from Panchayats and Municipalities. Andhra Pradesh has issued an Ordinance in September, 2005 for the constitution of DPCs pending the passage of the relevant bill in the Legislative Assembly. Punjab has enacted legislation on the constitution of DPCs in October, 2005. The Union Territory of Chandigarh has stated that since it comprises just one district, the planning function can be carried out at the territorial level.

Between July and December, 2004, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened seven Round Table Meetings with the State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj and evolved by consensus 150 points for action relating to 18 dimensions of Panchayati Raj which have been put together in a compendium that was adopted unanimously at the conclusion of the last Round Table held at Jaipur. During the second Round Table held at Mysore on 28-29 August, 2004, the subject of Planning was discussed. In this meeting it was resolved that there shall be constituted in every State at the District Level, a District Planning Committee (DPC) by the end of the financial year 2004-05 wherever such DPCs did not exist. It was also resolved that all DPCs should be constituted according to the procedure laid down in the Constitution in Article 243ZD. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has also addressed all Secretaries of Panchayati Raj in States on 30th May, 2005 requesting them to constitute DPCs in their respective States if the same had not been constituted. Their attention was also drawn to the meeting of the Committee of Chief Secretaries and Secretaries of Panchayati Raj in the States/Union Territories held on 11th April, 2005 wherein the Ministry of Panchayati Raj had communicated that the States that had not constituted DPCs in accordance with Article 243ZD of the Constitution should do so within 31st October, 2005.

The Planning Commission has sent out guidelines for preparation of District Plans and their incorporation into the Annual Plans of States for 2006-07 to Planning Secretaries of all States/ UTs on 24 October, 05. These guidelines state that the Planning Commission will take the following points into consideration before approval of the Annual Plan Proposals for 2006- 07:

1. The District Planning Committees should be constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution by the time the Annual Plan Proposals are presented;
2. The composition of the District Planning Committees is to be decided by the law made in the connection by the legislature of the

State;

3. Taking into account the imperative need to increase the professional competence of the DPCs, whose main responsibility and function is to consider the Gram Panchayat and Block Panchayat development plans, as also those municipalities of districts and to consolidate and prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole, the DPC should be required to consult institutions and professionals, as may be specified for this purpose by the Governor under Article 243 ZD (3) (b).