

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3131

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006

STRENGTHENING PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM IN UNION TERRITORIES

Patel Shri Dahya Bhai V.

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen Panchayati Raj System in the Union Territories like Daman and Diu which has no public representative body; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (b): The Government has taken steps to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions including those in the Union Territories of Daman and Diu which has a Panchayati Raj system in place with 14 Gram Panchayats and 1 District Panchayat. The fourth Round Table of Ministers-in-charge of Panchayati Raj was held at Chandigarh between 7th & 8th October 2004. The conference specifically discussed Panchayati Raj in Union Territories. The seven resolutions adopted for effective implementation of Panchayati Raj in the Union Territories is at Annex - A. Pursuant to the resolution adopted in the 4th Round Table relating to strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions

(PRIs) in the Union Territories, a Working Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister of Panchayati Raj and Minister of State for Home Affairs as Vice Chairman.

Activity mapping in respect of devolution of powers to the Panchayati Raj Institutions as listed in the XI th Schedule of the Constitution to the Union Territories of Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and A&N Islands have been completed. The Activity mapping in respect of the Union Territory of Puducherry is in progress.

The Union Minister of Panchayati Raj is likely to visit Daman & Diu shortly to assess first hand the situation on the ground.

A proposal for the creation of posts for Panchayat Raj Institutions in Daman and Diu has been received from the UT Administration in the Ministry which is being processed.

ANNEX - A FOURTH ROUND TABLE OF MINISTER IN-CHARGE OF PANCHAYATI RAJ – CHANDIGARH, 7-8 OCTOBER, 2004

I. Panchayati Raj in Union Territories

i. As the Union Government has the responsibility for implementing in letter and spirit, the provisions of the Constitution relating to Panchayats and Nagarpalikas, every effort might be made towards evolving the Local Self Government institutions in the Union Territories as a model for the whole country to follow.

ii. Recognizing that decided activity mapping is the foundation for the effective devolution of functions, functionaries and finances, the exercise jointly begun between the Union Government and the joint Administration of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli may be extended to the other Union Territories.

iii. With a view to providing a forum for consultation with representative body of public opinion on issues generally affecting the Union Territories, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs might consider the establishment of an appropriate mechanism to supplement the elected institutions of local self-government.

iv. With a view to institutionalizing consultations on matters relating to Panchayati Raj between the Union Government, the administration of the Union Territories and the elected representatives in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), the Union Government may consider establishing an institutional framework within which periodic consultations are held in New Delhi as well as in the Union Territories. The institutional mechanism could meet twice in a year, once in New Delhi and once in each Union Territory by rotation. In establishing this proposed institutional mechanism, Union Home Ministry may consider co-opting representatives from other Ministries concerned, including the particular the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. This institutional mechanism will consider the specifics of the proposals relating to present shortcomings and future work that might emanate from elected representatives on the one hand, and Administrators concerned with Panchayati Raj on the other.

v. In respect of Union Territories covered by the Island Development Authority (IDA), the Union Home Ministry may please bring to the attention of the Prime Minister's Office the need for IDA to review the implementation of Panchayati Raj in the island territories in its biennial meetings.

vi. With respect to the implementation of the Forest Conservation Act and Coastal Regulation Zone, the special development problems of the Union Territories may be brought to the attention of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests by the Union Ministries of Home Affairs and Panchayati Raj with the view to harmonizing the imperatives of environment with the needs of development to ensure sustainable development.

vii. The Union Ministries of Home Affairs and Panchayati Raj may bring to the attention of the Ministry of Finance, the special problems with respect to construction material faced by the island Union Territories with a view to seeking how their costs of construction might be reduced.