

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1587  
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004  
ELECTRICITY TO PANCHAYATS  
Munshiram Shri

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to assign the work of electricity distribution to the panchayats in the States in order to strengthen the panchayati raj system as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara dated October 13, 2004;
- (b) if so, whether the Government propose to make available the funds and the resources to the panchayats for the generations of electricity through the conventional and non-conventional energy resources;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by when this scheme is likely to be prepared?

**Answer**

ANSWER MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANISHANKAR AIYAR)

(a), (b), (c) & (d) A Conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers in charge of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj on Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj was organized in New Delhi on 29-30 June, 2004, jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The Prime Minister in his inaugural address at this Conference emphasized the need to learn from the Chinese Model of Rural Business Hubs that add value to agricultural produce within the rural areas. The Conference decided to hold seven Round Table Conferences to formulate a draft action plan for achieving the objectives of strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions to enable them to become true institutions of self-government for planning and implementation of programmes of economic development and social justice as envisioned in the Constitution. Round Table-II was held on 28-29 August, 2004 at Mysore where the subject 'Panchayati Raj : Planning and implementation and Rural Business Hubs' was discussed. Certain presentations were made in regard to Agriculture/Horticulture, bio-diesel through the plant Jatropha, exploiting isolated gas wells for Panchayats by the experts in the field. The Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj, thereafter, requested the Minister of Panchayati Raj to hold a national presentation of rural business hubs. Accordingly, a National Presentation on Rural Business Hubs with the theme 'Economic Empowerment through Panchayats' was held on 5th November, 2004 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) from the States and Union Territories. The members of the CII also participated in the presentation. Presentations were made on several subjects including Power through Bio-mass, Exploiting isolated Gas Wells for Panchayats and Power Generation for Panchayats. Through this National Presentation, an awakening has been sought to be generated among the Panchayats about optimal utilization of control over their local resources. Further action in regard to generation of electricity through the Conventional and Non-conventional energy resources, which find place in the XI Schedule may be, taken by the State Governments in the light of the presentations made during National Presentation on 5th November, 2004.