

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2576
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2004
MEAGRE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO PANCHAYATS
Barman Shri Ranen;Baxla Shri Joachim

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is satisfied with the allocation of Rs.20 crore to the Ministry keeping in view the large jurisdiction of the Ministry;
- (b) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to acquire more funds from the Planning Commission;
- (c) the allocation made by the Ministry in the current Budget for the State of West Bengal;
- (d) the manner in which the Government will ensure Implementation of Part IX of the Constitution in the country particularly in West Bengal with such a meagre allocation; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

- (a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been allocated Rs. 30.60 crores for the financial year 2004-05. This amount was allocated keeping in view the fact that the Ministry has been recently created and it will take sometime before it becomes fully functional. The process of creation of posts etc. is in hand and higher allocation has been requested for the next year.
- (b) The Planning Commission has been approached for enhancement of funds for the next financial year.
- (c) No State-Wise allocation is made by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj as funds are released based on specific proposals received from States for Training for Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions. A proposal received from West Bengal is under consideration.
- (d) & (e): Panchayati Raj is a State subject. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is responsible for the work of advocacy for and monitoring of the implementation of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 to ensure that the State Panchayati Raj Acts adhere to the provision of the Act and are implemented in letter and spirit. A Conference of Chief Ministers and State Minister in charge of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj on `Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj was organized on 29-30 June, 2004 jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Issues relating to effective implementation of Part IX and IXA of the Constitution on Panchayati Raj were tabled for discussion by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The Conference decided to hold seven round table conferences. Six round table conferences have already been held in which 16 of the 18 identified dimensions of Panchayati Raj have been discussed. The remaining two dimensions will be discussed in the seventh round table conference which is scheduled to be held at Jaipur on 17-19 December, 2004.