

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1186

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2004

MEETING OF CHIEF MINISTERS ON PANCHAYATI RAJ

Chaliha Shri Kirip;Nair Shri P.K. Vasudevan;Patel Shri Dinsha J.;Patil Shri Prakash V.

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

- (a) whether the Prime Minister has convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers in New Delhi on June 28 and 29 on `Poverty Alleviation and rural prosperity through Panchayati Raj`;
- (b) if so, the details of subjects discussed there in and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether some State Governments have opposed the Union Government move to give Panchayats more powers and the funds; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR A1YAR) :

(a) A Conference of chief minister and State Ministers in-charge of Rural development and Panchayati Raj on `Poverty Alleviation and Rural Prosperity through Panchayati Raj` was organised at New Delhi on 29-30 June, 2004, jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Panchayati raj. The Conference was inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

(b) The Conference discussed and reviewed Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Rural Housing (RH) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert development Programme (DDP), Wasteland Development Programmes (WDP), Drinking Water Supply Programme of the ministry of Rural Development. States/UTs committed themselves to implementation of these programmes with renewed vigour in cooperation with Central Government. issues relating to effective implementation of Part ix and ix a of the Constitution on Panchayati Raj were tabled as agenda for discussions by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. These issues included effected devolution of functions, finances, functionaries, planning, Gram sabhas, women, reservation for SCs/STs, special problems of SCs/STs elections, audit, UTs without Legislature, parallel bodies, capacity building and training, and state of the panchayat Report and jurisprudence. The Conference decided to hold seven Roundtable Conferences to formulate a draft action plan towards achieving the objective of strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions to enable them to become true institutions of seif-government for the planing and implementation of programmes of economic development and social justice as envisioned in the constitutions.

(c) and (d) Some State representatives expressed their reservation over any move to directly fund the Panchayats by-passing the State Governments. It was clarified that government policy, based on the National Common minimum Programme, is to avoid any diversion or delay in funds reaching the Panchayats, and that any alternative route for reaching funds to the Panchayats will be explored only in consultation with State Governments.