

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:125  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007  
ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON PANCHAYATI RAJ  
Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru

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

- (a) whether any Round Table Conference has been held with the Ministers of Panchayati Raj from the States to identify some dimensions of the Panchayati Raj;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the broad recommendations made in the Round Table Conference; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Union Government to implement those recommendations?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a),(b),(c) & (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a),(b),(c) & (d) FOR LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.125 DUE FOR REPLY ON 7TH MARCH, 2007 REGARDING "ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON PANCHAYATI RAJ".

(a),(b)&(c) : Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened Seven Round Tables of State Panchayati Raj Ministers with the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj between July and December, 2004 as per the details given below :

Ist Round Table 24th & 25th July, 2004 Kolkatta  
IIInd Round Table  
28th -29th August, 2004 Mysore  
IIIrd Round Table 23-24 September, 2004 Raipur  
IVth Round Table 7-8 October, 2004 Chandigarh  
Vth Round Table 28-29 October, 2004 Srinagar  
VIth Round Table 27-28 November, 2004 Guwahati  
VIIth Round Table 17-19 December, 2004 Jaipur

During these Round Tables, the deliberations centered on the 18 identified dimensions of Panchayati Raj ranging from the effective devolution of functions, finances and functionaries to district planning, training and capacity building and IT enabled e-governance. At the conclusion of the Round Tables, nearly 150 Action Points, comprised in a Compendium, were unanimously adopted by the Panchayati Raj Ministers. The Compendium has thus become a national road map for effective Panchayati Raj.

(d): The Union Minister of Panchayati Raj has undertaken a series of Panchayati Raj tours to 21 States/Union Territories and signed Joint Statements of Conclusion on Devolution to Panchayats with the Chief Ministers of the State Governments (and authorities concerned for UTs) except Tamil Nadu where further actions is scheduled and Chandigarh where the Governor has intimated that all villages are to be merged into the Municipalities. To monitor the progressive implementation of effective Panchayati Raj, a Committee of Panchayati Raj Secretaries and a Council of Panchayati Raj Ministers have been constituted. So far, the Committee of Secretaries has held seven meetings. The Council of Ministers has been convened twice, at Kochi in August, 2005 and at Bhubaneswar in June, 2006. In addition, the Empowered Sub-Committee of the National Development Council has also been placed under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Panchayati Raj. It has met in June, September, 2006 and January, 2007.