

Title: Need to advise the Union Territory Administration of Pondicherry to hold Panchayat elections at an early date
– Laid.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (PONDICHERRY) : According to the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, Panchayat election should be conducted regularly for every five years. But in the Union Territory of Pondicherry, these elections have not been conducted for the last about 34 years depriving the local people of the benefits of grassroot democracy and development. It was said that the matter relating to the validity of provisions pertaining to reservation for Backward Classes in the Pondicherry Panchayat Act was subjudice. On a similar issue pertaining to Tamil Nadu, the Hon'ble High Court at Chennai had passed orders making it possible for the Tamil Nadu Government to hold elections. Accordingly, the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India advised that UT Administration to take appropriate action to hold Panchayat elections at the earliest. But till date elections have not been conducted and the Government of India may again persuade the UT administration to hold elections immediately.