

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYAT RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 25.08.2011
ANSWERED ON
NYAYA PANCHAYATS .

2517

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI

Will the Minister of COAL PANCHAYAT RAJ be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government proposes to establish Nyaya Panchayats in the country empowering village panchayats to resolve disputes, both criminal and civil of minor nature;
- (b) if so, whether draft bill on the subject is ready;
- (c) the essential features of the bill;
- (d) whether Government proposes to consult State Governments and the other stake-holders in the matter; and
- (e) the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Government proposes to establish Nyaya Panchayats in every Gram Panchayat or a cluster of Gram Panchayats, for providing a system of fair and speedy justice, both civil and criminal, to the citizens at their doorsteps, outside the formal judicial system. The Nyaya Panchayats are proposed to be constituted through the election of the Nyaya Panchas by people residing in the area to which the jurisdiction of the Nyaya Panchayats extends. Provisions are proposed for the reservation for women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to ensure their representation in the Nyaya Panchayats. The Draft Bill defines the civil, criminal and additional jurisdiction of Nyaya Panchayats. In the Draft Bill, conciliation is proposed as a primary means of dispute resolution. Further, Nyaya Sahayaks, who will assist the Nyaya Panchayat in performing their function of dispute resolution, have been proposed. Nyaya Panchayats are proposed as separate and independent dispute resolution bodies, distinct from the Gram Panchayats.

(d) & (e): Yes, Sir. The draft Nyaya Panchayat (NP) Bill was circulated to Ministry of Law & Justice, several other Ministries/ Departments and all States/UTs. Based on comments received, some modifications were made in the Draft Bill. The Draft NP Bill is again circulated for inter-ministerial consultations.