

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO—†1477
ANSWERED ON-20.09.2020

CORRUPTION AND HORSE TRADING IN PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS

†1477. SHRI RAJVEER DILER:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to eliminate financial corruption and horse trading in regional Panchayat elections;
- (b) whether any proposal or request has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding the election of Panchayat Head and District Panchayat Chairperson by the public; and
- (c) if so, the action being taken thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) 'Panchayat', being "Local government", is a State subject and part of State list of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Article 243B, Part IX of the Constitution provides for the constitution of Panchayats in every state at different levels. Accordingly, the Panchayats function in accordance with the respective State Panchayati Raj Act. Article 243 K of the Constitution provides that the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Panchayats shall be vested in a State Election Commission consisting of a State Election Commissioner. Further, subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the legislature of a state may, by law, make provision with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with, elections to the Panchayats.

(b) & (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has received proposal dated 10th October 2019 from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding holding elections through direct voting by the general public for Block Pramukh and Zila Panchayat Adhyaksh. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj requested all the State/Union Territory Governments for their views and comments on the topic. The views of States/ Union Territories received are given at **Annexure**.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) &(c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. †1477 answered on 20.09.2020.

S. No.	State/ Union Territory	Views of States/Union Territories with respect to elections of Chairperson of Panchayat at intermediate & district level
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Direct elections are needed
2	Assam	Direct elections are needed
3	Bihar	Indirect elections are fine
4	Chhattisgarh	Indirect elections are fine
5	Gujarat	Indirect elections are fine
6	Himachal Pradesh	Indirect elections are fine
7	Karnataka	Indirect elections are fine
8	Punjab	Indirect elections are fine
9	Sikkim	Direct elections are needed
10	Uttarakhand	Direct elections are needed
11	Uttar Pradesh	Direct elections are needed
12	West Bengal	Indirect elections are fine
