Conference to discuss more powers for panchayats

Special Correspondent

JAIPUR: A conference of newly-elected Panchayati Raj representatives in Rajasthan scheduled here for this Saturday will deliberate on proposed devolution of more powers to the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the State.

The conference, being organised by the Institute of Social Sciences (ISS) under the auspices of Association of Local Governance of India, is purportedly to educate the new members on their roles and responsibilities.

The conference assumes significance as it takes place when the Congress Government in the State is planning to hand over at least half a dozen departments, including health and education, to the panchayats.

The State Minister for Panchayati Raj, Bharat Singh, will inaugurate the event. State Planning Board Deputy Chairman Vijay Shankar Vyas will deliver the keynote address while Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot will give the valedictory address.

"The programme will try to elicit the views of the newly-elected members on improving the functioning of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the State for implementation of the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution in letter and in spirit," said ISS Director George Mathew.

"Building solidarity among members"

"The programme also aims at building solidarity among the newly-elected panchayat presidents and members."

Representatives from all district of Rajasthan besides members of civil society organisations will take part in the conference.

"The conference would seek to find ways in which Rajasthan can become a role model for other States in North India," said Dr. Mathew.