ANNEXURE II

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PANCHAYAT FUNCTIONARIES

1. Do you think daily newspapers while reporting on the working of the incumbent panchayats and the performance of its elected members in the lead-up to the panchayat elections communicate details accurately and perceptively?
   Yes / No

2. What is the main focus of reports published by newspapers on the panchayats prior to the panchayat elections as part of election coverage?
   a) Sensational news like clashes between members of opposing political parties, in-fighting within a party or between coalition members, or political partnership involving otherwise known opponents
   b) News on the performance of the incumbent panchayats and the development work undertaken by them in their last tenure
   c) News on the administrative measures adopted by the State government to conduct the panchayat election
   d) News on the active participation of the grassroots in the formation and implementation of the various plans and programs in their panchayat areas

3. Did you find the newspaper reports useful and adequate for providing 'informed choices' to the voters?
   Yes / No

4. Do you think that political reports on panchayat elections published by the newspaper of your choice are prejudiced in favor of a specific political party or a particular political ideology and hence your preference for that particular newspaper?
   Yes / No

5. Who among the following influences your voting decision in the panchayat elections?
   a) Newspapers or other mass media
   b) Fellow community members
   c) Local political party leaders
   d) None

6. Do you believe that the mass media such as newspapers can play an active role in promoting grassroots participation in local governance?
   Yes / No