

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3595**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2017

**BENEFITS OF GRAM PANCHAYATS**

†3595. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- a) the total number of villages in the country;
- b) the number of villages having gram panchayat in the country;
- c) the number of villages which are yet to receive the benefit of gram panchayat (independent);
- d) the number of villages having facility of panchayat ghar; and
- e) the number of villages still not having the facility of panchayat ghar?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ  
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) : According to the Census of India 2011 there are 6,40,867 villages in the country.

(b) & (c): Article 243B of Part IX of the Constitution provides that Panchayats at the village level shall be constituted in every State and Union Territory covered under the Part IX. In terms of sub-clause (g) of Article 243 of the Constitution, village means a village specified by the Governor by public notification to be a village for the purpose of Part IX and includes a group of villages so specified. Further, according to Article 243(C)(1) of the Constitution, States are to decide the composition of Panchayats provided that the ratio between the population of the territorial area of a Panchayat at village level and the number of seats in such Panchayat to be filled by election shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout the State. Accordingly, there may be more than one village under the ambit of one Gram Panchayat and the position varies from State to State. As per available information, total no. of Gram Panchayats in the country are about 2,48,728.

(d) & (e): In view of the reply to part (b) & (c) above, number of Gram Panchayats having and not having the facility of panchayat ghars are about 2,00,187 and 48,541 respectively.

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