

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*65**  
ANSWERED ON 17.12.2018

**25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF PRIs**

\*65 DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Panchayati Raj Institutions are a mix of remarkable success and staggering failure;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there has been a lack of devolution of authority and finances for PRIs;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) details of Government plans in this regard?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ  
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) to (d) IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 65 FOR ANSWER ON 17.12.2018 REGARDING 25th  
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF PRIs**

(a) to (d) The 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment to the Constitution of India provided constitutional status to the Panchayats and institutionalized platform for local governance in rural areas. The provisions have been detailed in the Article 243 of the Constitution. 'Panchayats' being 'Local Government' is a State subject under Part IX and List II (State List) of Seventh Schedule (Article 246) of the Constitution and the State Legislatures pass legislations suitable to their context within the framework of Article 243. Mandatory provisions incorporated through the 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment include three tiers of Panchayats, direct election to seats at all three tiers of Panchayats and indirect elections to offices of chairpersons of Block and District Panchayats, reservations in seats and offices for the SCs, STs and women, rotation of reserved seats and offices of chairpersons, setting up of State Election Commissions, holding elections to Panchayats every five years etc. These provisions have by and large been implemented by all the States/UTs covered under Part IX of the Constitution of India. This has resulted in the strengthening of Panchayati Raj System in the country, and has helped in improving the life of rural citizens and marginalized people.

Article 243G allows discretion to the States in the matter of devolution of powers (funds, functions and functionaries) to Panchayats. The States vary in the extent to which they have devolved powers to the Panchayats to plan, implement and monitor schemes for economic development and social justice. Union Government has continuously persuaded the State Governments to devolve powers to the Panchayats and has provided assistance to enable them to perform devolved functions effectively and efficiently.

Under the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC), Rs. 2,00,292.20 Crore have been allocated to the Gram Panchayats constituted under Part IX of the Constitution in 26 States, amounting to an assistance of Rs. 488 per capita per annum at an aggregate level, for the award period 2015-20, for delivering basic services including water supply, sanitation including septic management, sewerage and solid waste management, storm water drainage, maintenance of community

assets, maintenance of roads, footpaths and street-lighting, and burial and cremation grounds, and any other basic service within the functions assigned to them under relevant legislations. The FFC grant is more than three times the grants given under Thirteenth Finance Commission. Upto 10% of grants can be used by Gram Panchayats for their operation and maintenance including purchase of computer, paying wages for contractual staff etc. The FFC funds have improved the living conditions of the people in the rural areas. The releases of FFC Grants to State Governments for Gram Panchayats for the year 2015-16 to 2018-19 (as on 12.12.2018) are as follow:

(Rs. In crore)

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Total
FFC grant	21510.46	32099.90	33263.90	20227.24	107101.50

Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) took the initiative of preparing model guidelines for GPDP and supported States in developing their State specific guidelines. Based upon these State specific guidelines, the Gram Panchayats have been formulating their GPDP for implementation for their own plans and projects. Based on interactive discussions with different stakeholders the model guidelines have further been revised to make GPDP planning comprehensive and holistic.

The Government launched People's Plan Campaign as 'Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas' from 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018 to enable the Gram Panchayats to prepare comprehensive GPDP for the year 2019-20 in an evidence based and structured manner. The objectives of this campaign include strengthening the role of Elected Representatives of Panchayats and Women Self Help Group (SHGs), evidence based assessment of progress made in 29 subjects; strengthening of PlanPlus (a web based participative decentralized software) for providing a holistic development plan of Gram Panchayat, and structured Gram Sabha meetings spread over the campaign period. The data on basic social and economic assessment as per Mission Antyodaya format is made available to the Gram Panchayats to enable them to identify the gaps, which are to be addressed through the GPDP. This is an intensive and structured exercise for planning through convergence among Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), concerned line departments and women SHGs.

The Government is implementing newly restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) w.e.f. 2018-19 with the primary aim of strengthening PRIs for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with main thrust on convergence with Mission Antyodaya and emphasis on strengthening PRIs in the 117 aspirational districts. The total approved budget outlay for the scheme for four years is Rs. 7255.50 crore. The scheme extends to all States and UTs. RGSA has programmatic focus for phased saturation mode on ensuring basic orientation training for the Elected Representatives of Panchayats, within six months of their election. Refresher trainings have to be ensured within 2 years. It incorporates greater thrust for e-enablement of Panchayats for e-governance to enhance efficiency and transparency.

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