

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2464
ANSWERED ON 22.03.2023

EMPOWERMENT OF PANCHAYATS

2464 # SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the basic amenities provided to the Panchayats to improve the standard of living in the villages of Jharkhand, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by Government for empowerment of Panchayats and providing basic facilities to Panchayats during the next two years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL)

(a) Panchayat is a State subject. Therefore, it is for the concerned State Government to provide basic amenities to the Panchayats and endow Panchayats with such powers and authority to enable them function as institutions of self-governance and plan and implement schemes for economic development and social justice. Central Government supplements the efforts of the States through Central Finance Commission Grants.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) reviews the performance of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) throughout the country from time to time through studies, review meetings, field visits, video conferencing, Information Technology applications, Common Review Missions (CRMs) etc.

(b) To strengthen functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions across the country, MoPR has launched eGramSwaraj(<https://egramswaraj.gov.in>), a user friendly web-based portal, which aims to bring in better transparency in the decentralised planning, progress reporting, financial management, work-based accounting and details of assets created. Further, for ensuring timely audit of Panchayat accounts i.e. receipts and expenditures of Gram Panchayats, MoPR has rolled out an online application – AuditOnline (<https://auditonline.gov.in>). This application not only facilitates the auditing of Panchayat accounts but also provides for maintaining of audit records. This application streamlines the process for audit inquiries, draft local audit reports, draft audit paras etc. and thus ensures proper maintenance of accounts by Panchayats to improve transparency and accountability.

To deliver various citizen centric services online in the rural areas and Gram Panchayats, Common Service Centres(CSCs) have been setup through a 'Common Service Centre - Special Purpose Vehicle' (CSC-SPV), a society of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Under the Fourteenth Finance Commission (XIV FC) award for the period of 2015-2020, grants to the tune of Rs. 2,00,292.20 crore were allocated to GPs in 26 States. The grant was provided to GPs for delivering basic services.

Under Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC), Grants to the tune of Rs. 60,750 crore were allocated for the interim period FY 2020-21 and Rs.2,36,805 Crore have been allocated for the period FY 2021-26 to Panchayats in all the three tiers and Traditional Local Bodies and Sixth Schedule areas in 28 States.

During the next two years fund allocated for release to Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) under Fifteenth Finance Commission Grant for providing basic services are as under:-

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2023-24	47018.00
2024-25	49800.00
