

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 556
ANSWERED ON 07.02.2024

FUNDS ALLOCATION FOR PRIS

556 Shri Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai:
Shri Zala Kesridevsinhji:

Will the Minister of Panchayati Raj be pleased to state:

- (a) in what manner budget addresses the key challenges faced by Panchayati Raj Institutions in rural areas;
- (b) the details on specific allocations for capacity building programs aimed at empowering Local Governance Bodies;
- (c) the measures being taken to enhance the financial autonomy of Panchayati Raj Institutions, ensuring effective utilization of funds at the grassroots level;
- (d) in what manner the budget aligned with the goal of promoting decentralized planning and decision-making within Panchayati Raj systems; and
- (e) the details of innovative initiatives or technologies being introduced to strengthen Panchayati Raj administration?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL)

- (a) The key challenges faced by the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) providing tier three government in rural areas are (i) the lack of effective governance capability and leadership among the elected representatives of the PRIs and their functionaries, (ii) infrastructure gaps, (iii) inadequacy of funds to run the affairs of the PRIs in efficient and accountable manner. In order to build governance capability of the elected representatives of PRIs, a substantial part of the

budget allotted to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is earmarked for their capacity building and training under its Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA). They are trained not only for building governance capability in them but in thematic areas such as formulation and implementation of panchayat development plans in consultation with all stakeholders. Under RGSA, also, funds are being provisioned to supplement and complement efforts of the State Governments for infrastructure such as Gram Panchayat Bhawans, computers and peripherals. The PRIs are provided with Central Finance Commission Grants for various developmental works. To bring in efficiency, accountability and transparency in the functioning of the PRIs, a Central Sector scheme-Mission Mode Project on e-Panchayats is being implemented to promote e-governance in the PRIs.

(b) About 40% of the budget under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan is allocated towards capacity building and training of the elected representatives of the PRIs and their functionaries.

(c) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been advocating and advising the States to devolve finance, functions and functionalities to the Panchayats for their greater autonomy in their functioning that includes mobilizing their own financial resources. It conducts survey/studies to compile devolution index and rank the States on that basis for corrective measures at their end to empower their Panchayats not only to mobilize the financial resources but also utilise those effectively through need-based Panchayat Development Plans. A Central Sector scheme-Mission Mode Project on e-Panchayats (MMP-ePanchayat) is being implemented by the Ministry to take up various e-governance projects for digitalisation of Panchayats to promote efficiency, accountability and transparency in the functioning of the PRIs. The AuditOnline application developed under MMP-ePanchayat ensures effective and accountable utilization of funds by the PRIs.

(d) As replied in part (a) above.

(e) Computerization in Panchayats and providing net connectivity and adoption of e-Governance applications for planning, budgeting, accounting, payment, monitoring, auditing, asset management, e-service delivery etc. have been introduced to strengthen the Panchayati Raj administration for ensuring efficiency, accountability and transparency.
