

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 557
ANSWERED ON 07.02.2024

STRENGTHENING OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS IN GUJARAT

557 Shri Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai:
Shri Zala Kesridevsinhji:

Will the Minister of Panchayati Raj be pleased to state:

- (a) the details on the allocation of funds for strengthening Panchayati Raj institutions in Gujarat;
- (b) the steps taken to promote financial autonomy and accountability within Panchayati Raj bodies in the State, and how it gets reflected in the budget;
- (c) the details of any State-specific initiatives or projects planned to enhance the effectiveness of decentralized governance in Gujarat through the 2024-25 budget; and
- (d) in what manner the budget addressed the digital infrastructure and technological requirements of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Gujarat to improve service delivery and administration?

ANSWER

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

(a) Allocation of funds under the Central Finance Commissions' devolved grants to all States including the State of Gujarat, provision of release of funds under the Schemes of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj i.e. under the Centrally Sponsored scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) and Central Sector scheme of Incentivisation of Panchayats (IoP) to all States and UTs including the State of Gujarat are meant for strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the Country.

(b) Panchayati Raj being a State subject, it is the sole responsibility of the States to devolve finance, functions and functionalities to the Panchayats in such a manner that the Panchayats are empowered and capable of mobilising their resources including financial. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been advocating and advising the States in this respect from time to time. 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. A Central Sector scheme-Mission Mode Project on e-Panchayats 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.

(c) All initiatives and execution of projects by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj for enhancing effectiveness of decentralised governance by the PRIs are common to all States/UTs including the State of Gujarat. During 2024-25, the ongoing schemes of the Ministry will continue to be implemented towards this end.

(d) The budget of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), inter alia, includes provision for computerization of the Panchayats under RGSA scheme, digital solutions under the Mission Mode Project on e-Panchayats scheme. In addition, the Ministry has collaborated with Department of Telecommunications for implementing Digital India, BharatNet project to achieve universal broadband connectivity for all Gram Panchayats including the Gram Panchayats in the State of Gujarat.
