

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1047
ANSWERED ON 31/07/2024

DELEGATION OF POWER TO PANCHAYATS

1047 # MS. KAVITA PATIDAR:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- a) whether Government is implementing any scheme to provide adequate infrastructure facilities to panchayats in the Country, particularly in Madhya Pradesh;
- b) if so, the details thereof; and
- c) the details of steps taken to encourage the States to delegate more power to the Panchayats?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ
(PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL)

(a) & (b) 'Panchayat' being a State subject, primary responsibility of providing adequate infrastructure for Panchayats lies with the States. However, under the revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) scheme Ministry supplements the efforts of States/UTs by providing some of the infrastructure, including Panchayat Bhawans and computers, to Gram Panchayats, on a limited scale, with special focus on North Eastern States. Further, the funds received by the Panchayats under Untied Grants of the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC), State Grants & Own Source Revenue can also be utilized for fulfilling the infrastructure requirements as per felt need.

(c) Article 243G of the Constitution of India empowers the Legislature of a State to make provisions, by law, for the devolution of power and responsibilities upon Panchayat at appropriate level, subject to such conditions, as may be, specified with respect to the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to matters included in the Eleventh Schedule. The State legislatures are to consider the 29 subjects illustratively set out in the Eleventh Schedule for devolution to the Panchayats. The performance of the Panchayats depends on the extent of powers and resources devolved to them, which varies from State to State. As 'local government', which includes Panchayats, is a State subject, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been advocating to the States for increased devolution of powers to the Panchayats.
