

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 247
ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024

DIGITIZATION OF PANCHAYATS IN ODISHA

247. SHRI DEBASHISH SAMANTARAY :

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to State:

- (a) the number of Panchayats in Odisha that have been digitized under the e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project;
- (b) whether there is a timeline for digitizing the remaining Panchayats in Odisha; and
- (c) the improvements expected in governance and public service delivery through the digitization of Panchayats?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL)

(a) to (c) Under Digital India Programme, Ministry is implementing e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) with the aim to making Panchayats, more transparent, accountable, and effective as local self-governments. Building on the achievements in the past, the Ministry launched eGramSwaraj, a work-based comprehensive application for Panchayats under the e-Panchayat MMP on 24th April 2020. This application encompasses all aspects of Panchayat functioning viz. planning, budgeting, accounting, monitoring, asset management etc., on a single digital platform including online payments. Currently, 2.54 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) across India have prepared and uploaded their Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) for the financial year 2024-25. Additionally, 2.36 lakh GPs have conducted online transactions under the 15th Finance Commission grants. In Odisha, 6,787 out of 6,794 GPs have prepared their GPDPs for FY 2024-25. In addition, 6,786 out of 6,794 GPs have adopted the eGramSwaraj-PFMS interface so far.

The digitization of Panchayats is expected to significantly enhance governance and public service delivery in the following ways:

Transparency and Accountability: Comprehensive digital platforms like eGramSwaraj provide real-time access to data on planning, budgeting, and accounting, enabling citizens to monitor the functioning of Panchayats.

Financial Management: Integration with platforms such as PFMS, AuditOnline and Government e-MarketPlace (GeM) ensures better financial transparency, audit readiness, and

streamlined procurement processes.

Improved Asset Management: Tools like mActionSoft enable geo-tagging of assets at all stages of development, providing a robust repository of information on infrastructure created under Panchayat initiatives.

Efficiency in Service Delivery: Digitized processes reduce delays and errors in fund transfers, improve planning for development works and ensure proper utilization of grants.

Strengthened Governance: With the availability of audited accounts in the public domain, decision-making processes at the grassroots level are expected to improve, fostering citizen participation in local governance.

The Ministry is committed to achieving 100% digitization of Panchayats across the country, including Odisha. Efforts are going on to ensure that all remaining Panchayats are brought under the fold of the e-Panchayat MMP.
