

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2156
ANSWERED ON 19/03/2025

PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS (PRIS) IN PROMOTING RURAL TOURISM

2156 SMT. SANGEETA YADAV:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in promoting rural tourism as a key component of making India a Viksit Bharat by 2047;
- (b) whether Government has formulated any schemes to develop cultural heritage sites, eco-tourism, and homestay infrastructure in villages through PRIs; and
- (c) whether any financial support and capacity-building measures for local bodies to enhance rural tourism, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(Prof. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL)

(a) to (c) ‘Panchayat’ being “local government” is a State subject and part of State list of Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India. Article 243G of the Constitution empowers State Legislatures to endow Panchayats with the necessary powers, responsibilities, and authority to function as self-governing institutions, enabling them to prepare plans for economic development and social justice, and implement schemes related to the 29 subjects in the Eleventh Schedule, which includes the key areas of rural infrastructure and services.

However, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) supplements the efforts of State Governments through various Capabilities Building & training programmes & providing financial assistance through various schemes and Finance Commission grants to enhance the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

The Ministry is implementing Revamped Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) w.e.f. financial year 2022-23 in States/ UTs with main objective of building capacity of Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs) through imparting training to the Elected Representatives (ERs), functionaries and other stakeholders to develop their governance capabilities for leadership roles to enable the Panchayats to function effectively. **The** Ministry is committed for making Panchayats vibrant and self-sufficient **by enhancing** leadership qualities and managerial skills by providing trainings covering different aspects which includes Poverty Alleviation, Own Source Revenue generation etc. as per the local conditions of Panchayats strength & local opportunities available in the rural areas.

Under the scheme, various components are supported for re-imagining Panchayati Raj Institutions as vibrant centres of local self-governance and economic growth with special focus on localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at grassroot level adopting thematic approach. While the scheme primarily focuses on building capacity of elected representatives & functionaries of three tiers of PRIs, however, under the scheme, financial support in the form of viability gap funding for the components like Economic Development & Income Enhancement Projects have been supported for micro projects for GPs/ cluster of GPs which includes eco-tourism, homestay infrastructure, cultural heritage sites etc.

In addition, Panchayati Raj Institutions, as a fulcrum of rural governance, takes up various types of infrastructure works including those for developing cultural heritage sites, eco-tourism, and homestay infrastructure in villages out of fund devolved to them under Finance Commission Grants, Own source of revenue or in convergence with the funds available under various schemes of Central & State Governments.
