

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2159
ANSWERED ON: 19.03.2025

STRENGTHENING OF PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM IN TRIBAL AREAS

2159 #SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:
SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of Panchayati Raj be pleased to state;

- (a) the details of schemes being implemented to strengthen the Panchayati Raj System in the tribal areas of Karnataka and Jharkhand;
- (b) whether Government is working on any new scheme related to rural development through Panchayati Raj in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of schemes being implemented under the Panchayati Raj System in the tribal areas so that the tribal dominated areas can become self-reliant; and
- (d) the details of the major schemes implemented in tribal dominated areas?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL)

(a) to (c) Panchayat is a State subject and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) supplements and complements the efforts of State Governments, including fund support under the schemes towards functioning of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) on a continuous basis.

The MoPR is implementing the following schemes for strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) for their effective operation:

- I. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is implementing the **Centrally Sponsored scheme of Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)** w.e.f. financial year 2022-23 in States/ UTs with the primary objective of developing governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions for formulating holistic, inclusive sustainable Development Programms, converging resources available at GP level, for economic development and social justice which includes rural infrastructure and services. Additionally, the scheme aims at providing infrastructural support like Gram Panchayat Bhawan and computerization. Trainings imparted under revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), aim at enabling Panchayats to function effectively and utilize the funds devolved to them. In addition to training, RGSA supports States and Union Territories (UTs) in establishing institutional mechanisms for capacity building and training. The scheme also aims to enhance the capabilities of Panchayats to raise their Own Sources of Revenue (OSR), enabling them to become self-sustaining institutions of local government.

- II. **Incentivization of Panchayats (IoP)**, a central component of the RGSA scheme, to encourage a competitive spirit among PRIs, under which awards, including financial incentives, are given to the best-performing Panchayats in recognition of their good work in improving service delivery and public welfare,
- III. **Mission Mode Project on e-Panchayats (MMP-ePanchayat)**, a central component of the RGSA scheme, under which various e-governance projects are funded to promote the digitalization of Panchayats, bringing efficiency, accountability, and transparency to the functioning of PRIs and contributing to their overall transformation.

The government implements these schemes in the rural local bodies (RLBs) of States and Union Territories, including Karnataka, Jharkhand, and their tribal regions, to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system and enhance rural development across the country. Further, as of now, no new schemes have been proposed under the Ministry for rural development.

(d) Government of India is implementing several schemes across different ministries for the development of rural area including tribal dominated areas. The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a number of welfare schemes for rural areas viz., Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deen Dayal Upadhyay – Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) and Watershed Development Component (WDC) of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for rural development.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) is actively implementing numerous schemes aimed at the development of tribal-dominated regions across the country. The Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), now known as the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST), serves as a dedicated funding source for tribal development, including in States like Karnataka and Jharkhand. This comprehensive strategy encompasses areas such as education, health, sanitation, water supply, and livelihood. In addition to MoTA, 42 Ministries and Departments allocate a certain percentage of their annual scheme budgets towards tribal development projects under DAPST. The bulk of infrastructure development in tribal-dominated areas, along with the provision of basic amenities, is carried out through various schemes and programs of relevant Central Ministries and State Governments. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs complements these efforts by addressing existing gaps and enhancing their impact.

Another scheme undertaken by MoTA is the ‘Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna’ (PMAAGY), which focuses on the integrated development of 36,428 villages with at least 50% tribal population and 500 Scheduled Tribes (STs). It aims to address critical gaps in eight key sectors: road connectivity, telecom connectivity, schools, Anganwadi centers, health sub-centers, drinking water, drainage, and solid waste management.

MoTA also oversees the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Under this Act, Gram Sabhas are entrusted with initiating the process of recognizing the rights of Forest Dweller Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs), which include rights to protect, conserve, and manage community forest resources for sustainable use.

Another major initiative is the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN), launched with a total budget of Rs. 24,104 crores (Central share: Rs. 15,336 crores, State share: Rs. 8,768 crores). This program is dedicated to improving the socio-economic conditions of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) by providing safe housing, clean drinking water, sanitation, education, health and nutrition services, road and telecom connectivity, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Additionally, on 2nd October 2024, MoTA introduced the Dharti AabaJanjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan. This initiative involves 25 interventions implemented by 17 line Ministries to address infrastructure gaps in 63,843 villages. Over five years, it aims to improve access to health, education, Anganwadi facilities, and livelihood opportunities, benefiting more than 4 crore tribals across 549 districts and 2,911 blocks in 30 States/UTs. The program has a total budget of Rs. 79,156 crores, with Rs. 56,334 crores as the Central share and Rs. 22,823 crores contributed by States.
