

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO- 289
ANSWERED ON- 20.08.2025

CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PESA

289#*. SMT. RAMILABEN BECHARBHAI BARA:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific objectives behind the decision to set up Centres of Excellence in central universities to institutionalise the implementation of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA);
- (b) the planned functions and key responsibilities envisaged for these Centres of excellence in supporting tribal communities under the PESA framework;
- (c) the details of the selection process adopted for shortlisting the Central universities and the number of proposals received in response to the same; and
- (d) the current status of the proposal, including the names of the States in which the proposals have been received?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *289 FOR ANSWER ON 20.08.2025 REGARDING “CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PESA”

(a)&(b) The main objectives/functions for establishing Centre of Excellence (CoE) in central universities is strengthening institutional support and research, capacity building of community leaders, elected representatives, Panchayat functionaries and state officials in PESA states. In addition, the objective is to bridge the gap between the academic knowledge and ground level administration in PESA areas along with ensuring participatory planning at grassroots level.

(c) & (d) A list of National Level Universities with having tribal studies departments was obtained from Department of Higher Education. Thereafter, a request for proposal (RFP) for formulations of Centre of Excellence was floated and proposals were received from 8 Universities. A scrutiny committee was appointed for the purpose shortlisted the following 4 Universities:

- i. Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh
- ii. Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh
- iii. Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh
- iv. University of Karnataka, Karnataka

After evaluation, the scrutiny committee recommended setting up the first Centre of Excellence at Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak Madhya Pradesh which has been accepted. The funding for the CoE by the Ministry has been proposed through the State component of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) Scheme, wherein 60% of the funding will be borne by MoPR and 40% by the State government where the University in which CoE will be set up or located.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed amongst the ‘Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)’, ‘Government of Madhya Pradesh’, and ‘Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU)’, on 24th July 2025 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
