

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1358
ANSWERED ON 11/02/2026

CAPACITY BUILDING OF ELECTED PANCHAYAT REPRESENTATIVES

1358. SMT. RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the training and capacity-building programmes conducted for elected Panchayat representatives across the country;
- (b) the number and nature of training programmes organised under various schemes, including Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), State-wise;
- (c) the extent of participation of women and representatives from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other marginalised groups;
- (d) whether any independent evaluation has been undertaken to assess the effectiveness of such training in improving governance, financial management and service delivery; and
- (e) whether inadequate capacity and follow-up support continue to weaken grassroots democracy and the corrective measures proposed to strengthen Panchayati Raj institutions?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)

(a) to(c) Panchayat, being a “Local Self Government”, is a State subject and part of the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Accordingly, strengthening Panchayat capacity is primarily the responsibility of States/UTs. However, the Ministry is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely the Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), w.e.f. financial year 2022-23, with the objective of supporting Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs) by imparting trainings to Elected Representatives (ERs) and other stakeholders to develop leadership abilities, thereby enabling Gram Panchayats to function effectively across all States/UTs.

Under the scheme, capacity building support is provided to elected representatives,

functionaries, and other stakeholders of Panchayats under different categories, viz. basic orientation and refresher programmes, thematic interventions, specialized trainings and Panchayat Development Plan-related programmes, etc. The scheme also supports exposure visits to facilitate experiential learning and replication of best practices for strengthening Panchayat governance, as well as development of training modules and materials etc. The State/UT- wise details of number of participants provided training under revamped RGSA during the last three years is at **Annexure-I**.

Further, to enhance skills and knowledge, a major step has also been taken to build capacity and train elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayats through institutes of excellence such as IIMs/IITs under the Leadership/Management Development Program (MDP). So far, 3,381 participants have been provided training under MDP.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with IIM Ahmedabad, has also developed a training module on Own Source Revenue (OSR) to strengthen the financial self-reliance of Gram Panchayats. The module helps elected representatives and Panchayat functionaries understand how OSR is generated through tax and non-tax sources. So far, 2,24,379 participants have been trained in OSR.

Additionally, the Ministry has launched a Specialized Training Module for the capacity building of Women Elected Representatives (WER) of Panchayati Raj Institutions. The focus of this training module is to build the capacity of WERs across different aspects of rural governance and enhance their knowledge and practical skills for the effective discharge of roles and responsibilities as elected representatives, thereby promoting women-led governance. A total of 1,05,923 WERs, including Master trainers (as on 31st January 2026) have been trained on this Specialized Module.

A real-time monitoring of trainings is undertaken through the Training Management Portal (TMP). Apart from this, the implementation of RGSA is regularly reviewed through meetings/ video conferences, field visits by the Ministry's officials, as well as pre-CEC meetings. The Central Empowered Committee also reviews the implementation of RGSA, while approving the Annual Action Plans of States/UTs.

Since 2022-23 to 2025-26 (as on 31.01.2026), the number of women elected representatives, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other marginalized communities participated and trained under Revamped RGSA is as under:

Year	WERs*	SCs*	STs*	OBCs*
2022-23 to 2025-26 (as on 31.01.2026)	29,71,964	24,83,579	21,65,748	47,04,582

Source: Training Management Portal

**Categories are not mutually exclusive.*

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. To assess the effectiveness and to propose the corrective measures to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions, an external evaluation of the Revamped RGSA has been undertaken through the Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA). The study conducted a large-scale field survey covering 600 Gram Panchayats across 120 blocks in 60 districts of 16 States, engaging over 6,000 stakeholders, including Elected Representatives, Panchayat Functionaries, line department officials, trainers/faculty, and State/District RGSA units. The evaluations indicate that the scheme's structured, multi-layered capacity-building, combining classroom/thematic modules, exposure visits and digital learning, has enhanced PRI capacities in Panchayat operations, planning, and implementation (including GPDP), digital governance, citizen engagement and financial management. Post-training assessments record measurable gains in knowledge and practice, supporting more effective local governance and the localisation of SDGs. In addition, NITI Aayog has commissioned an independent assessment study of RGSA to provide complementary evidence on outcomes. The study has observed that RGSA has made a significant contribution to strengthening governance capacity at the grassroots level. The scheme has also substantially advanced several cross-cutting themes, including accountability, transparency, gender mainstreaming, effective use of digital infrastructure, and convergence.

Annexure-I

Annexure refer to in reply to Part (a) to (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1358 to be answered on 11/02/2026 regarding Capacity Building of Elected Panchayat Representatives.

The State/UT- wise details of number of participants provided training under revamped RGSA during the last three years

Sl. No	States	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1874	2865	5221
2	Andhra Pradesh	649156	165001	325643
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3,711	6138	12344
4	Assam	227733	348183	144936
5	Bihar	404406	163809	435896
6	Chhattisgarh	121099	163292	90559
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	575	1000	1073
8	Goa	1777	3548	4519
9	Gujarat	250	1938	90368
10	Haryana	4859	12431	11909
11	Himachal Pradesh	9531	92458	120455
12	Jammu & Kashmir	284138	350026	82534
13	Jharkhand	8302	54056	135817
14	Karnataka	213467	363317	321380
15	Kerala	179478	149153	129632
16	Ladakh	0	0	26
17	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
18	Madhya Pradesh	281610	86884	242279
19	Maharashtra	1041165	984321	363111
20	Manipur	894	5591	195
21	Meghalaya	11,588	74410	78537
22	Mizoram	2659	9800	9841
23	Nagaland	1832	3435	4725
24	Odisha	79116	160774	279505
25	Puducherry	0	0	0
26	Punjab	36378	13359	122848
27	Rajasthan	2481	96389	71795
28	Sikkim	13,552	11249	6709
29	Tamil Nadu	106560	101513	78490
30	Telangana	14506	2441	1701
31	Tripura	7743	63715	54228

32	Uttarakhand	48241	144374	22342
33	Uttar Pradesh	263409	82712	76302
34	West Bengal	174974	272762	228081
35	NIRDPR and Others	5229	1438	1941
	Total	4202293	3992382	3554942
