

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2975
ANSWERED ON 18/03/2026

CAPACITY BUILDING OF PRIS UNDER RGSA

2975 SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the approach being followed to strengthen functional capacities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) through training and handholding under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA);
- (b) the steps taken to integrate e-Panchayat platforms with planning, budgeting and service delivery functions at the Gram Panchayat level; and
- (c) whether any monitoring or evaluation framework has been laid down to assess progress in localisation of Sustainable Development Goals through Panchayat-led planning under the Abhiyan?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)

(a) Panchayat, being “Local Self Government”, is a State subject and part of the State list of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Thus, providing support to strengthen Panchayat capacity is primarily the responsibility of States/UTs. However, the Ministry is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme called Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) w.e.f. financial year 2022-23, with the main objective of building the capacity of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by imparting training to Elected Representatives (ERs), functionaries and other stakeholders to develop their governance capabilities & leadership roles, enabling Panchayats to function effectively across all States/UTs.

Under the scheme of revamped RGSA, the Ministry provides support for CB&T of elected representatives, functionaries and other stakeholders of Panchayats in different categories viz. general orientation and refresher training, thematic training, specialized training, panchayat development plan training, etc. Capacity-building initiatives have enabled Panchayat representatives to undertake participatory planning, particularly in the preparation and implementation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs).

Further, 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). Under this MDP training, 3,381 have been trained so far as of 28.02.2026.

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. Under the Specialised Module of OSR, 1,78,405 have been trained so far as of 28.02.2026.

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. Under the Specialised Module of WER, 1,05,966 WERs have been trained so far as on 28.02.2026.

In addition to training interventions, the scheme supports institutional strengthening and the creation of basic infrastructure for capacity building at the Panchayat level. This includes support for establishing institutional mechanisms for training and capacity building, and for creating Panchayat infrastructure such as Gram Panchayat Bhawans, computer facilities, and the co-location of Common Service Centres (CSCs) in panchayat office premises, on a limited scale.

(b) Further, to promote e-enablement of Panchayats, the Ministry is implementing the e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP), which has strengthened transparency, efficiency, and governance at the grassroots level. Under this, the eGramSwaraj application facilitates digital planning, accounting, monitoring, and online payments at the Panchayat level and is integrated with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) for real-time payments and seamless fund flow. The application is also integrated with the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to enable transparent procurement of goods and services by Panchayats. In addition, the Audit Online application has been developed for conducting online audits of Panchayat accounts and financial management.

(c) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has anchored the process of Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by aggregating the 17 SDGs into 9 themes. To measure the process of implementation of LSDGs at the grassroots level, the Ministry has developed the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) as a composite assessment framework to measure the incremental performance of Gram Panchayats/Equivalent to Gram Panchayats across the nine themes. The PAI provides theme-wise and overall scores through scorecards and dashboards, enabling identification of performance gaps, relative strengths, and areas requiring focused attention at the Panchayat level. The PAI provides an evidence-based framework for evaluating performance across measurable indicators under the nine themes within the State/UT, and grades GPs under five categories i.e. Achiever (A+), Front Runner (A: 75 to below 90), Performer (B: 60 to below 75), Aspirant (C: 40 to below 60) and Beginner (D: 0 to below 40), based on the PAI score. The index also intends to support the Gram Panchayats in preparing evidence based Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) by assessing the critical gaps across 9 themes of LSDGs.
