

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION 4229
ANSWERED ON 01.04.2026

PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS (PRIS)

4229 SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to State:

- (a) details of funds provided and technical assistance given to Panchayats for various e-governance projects to develop digital solutions;
- (b) to what extent developed eGramSwaraj and AuditOnline are helping Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to transform themselves in rural local governance and ensuring transparency in the country, particularly in Karnataka; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that 16th Finance Commission submitted its Report and if so, details of funds or percentage of funds earmarked for Panchayats by it?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)

(a) Under the e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project, funds are being provided to National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSI) for central-level support towards maintenance of e-Panchayat applications. No funds are being released to the States/UTs

Technical assistance is provided through centralized hosting of e-Panchayat applications, application support, user management, issue resolution, updates, and onboarding support to States/UTs and Panchayats. Further, capacity-building programmes, training workshops, user guidelines and handholding support are also provided to Panchayati Raj Institutions for effective utilization of digital tools and timely service delivery.

(b) The Ministry is implementing the e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) under RGSA across the country including Karnataka state, which has significantly enhanced transparency, efficiency, and governance at the grassroots level.

The e-Gram Swaraj and AuditOnline applications, developed under e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP), have significantly contributed to strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by enabling end-to-end digital governance. e-Gram Swaraj facilitates planning, budgeting, accounting and monitoring of Panchayat activities on a unified digital platform, thereby improving transparency, efficiency and real-time tracking of works and fund utilization.

AuditOnline enables online auditing of Panchayat accounts, ensuring timely and standardized audit processes, improved financial discipline and enhanced accountability. Together, these platforms have helped PRIs transition towards data-driven decision-making, improved record keeping, better financial management and increased transparency in rural local governance.

Further, the Ministry has also developed several other applications under the e-Panchayat MMP. The Meri Panchayat application provides citizens access to information on Panchayat planning, activities and progress of works. Panchayat NIRNAY facilitates transparent conduct and management of Gram Sabha meetings. In addition, the Ministry has introduced SabhaSaar, an AI-enabled platform for voice-to-text transcription and summarisation of Gram Sabha and Panchayat meetings to ensure accurate documentation of proceedings.

As on 26.03.2026, during the current FY 2025–26, out of a total of 2,58,730 Gram Panchayats and equivalent across the states, 2,51,321 Gram Panchayats and equivalent (97.13%), have uploaded their Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) on e-Gram Swaraj and 2,45,191 Gram Panchayats and equivalents (94.76%) have made payments amounting to ₹41,125 crore through the e-Gram Swaraj–PFMS interface. Further for the Audit period 2023-24, Audit reports for 2,51,385 GPs have been generated.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Sixteenth Finance Commission has recommended a total grants of Rs. 7,91,493 crores (Rupees Seven lakh Ninety One thousand Four hundred and Ninety Three crores) for duly constituted Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for the award period from year 2026 27 to year 2030 31.

The allocation between ULBs and RLBs has been divided in the ratio of 40:60. Accordingly, out of the total allocation for Local Bodies, Rs. 3,56,257 crores (Rupees Three lakh Fifty Six thousand Two hundred and Fifty Seven crores), i.e. 40% of total Local Body Grant, has been recommended for the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Rs. 4,35,236 crores (Rupees Four lakh Thirty Five thousand Two hundred and Thirty Six crores), i.e. 60% of the total Local Body Grant, has been earmarked as grants to Rural Local Bodies.

The grant allocated for RLBs is further sub-divided into 80% as Basic grant (Rs. 3,48,188 crores), 10% as RLB performance grant (Rs. 43,524 crores) and 10% as State performance grant (Rs. 43,524 crores). The entire performance component is untied.

The Basic grant is further divided into the ratio of 50:50 as Tied (Rs. 1,74,094 crores) and Untied (Rs. 1,74,094 crores). The tied component should be directed towards ‘Sanitation and Solid Waste Management’ and/or ‘Water Management’, including O&M expenditures for the aforementioned tied items. Untied grant used for projects based on local needs (e.g., roads, drains, street lights, burial grounds, parks).
