

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2804
ANSWERED ON 12/08/2026

PANCHAYAT DEVELOPMENT INDEX

2804 DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the operational progress of rolling out the Panchayat Development Index to evaluate the developmental status of rural local bodies;
- (b) the details of the specific socio-economic and infrastructural metrics utilized to score and rank these Panchayats nationwide;
- (c) whether this competitive ranking system is officially linked to the disbursement of performance-based Central and State financial grants;
- (d) the steps taken to verify the accuracy of the localized data submitted by Panchayat secretaries for this index; and
- (e) the measures implemented to support consistently underperforming blocks?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)

(a) The Ministry has led the process of the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) towards the attainment of the National Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The process of localization of SDGs has been conceptualized through a thematic approach by aggregating 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Ministry has developed the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI), earlier known as Panchayat Development Index (PDI). It is a composite assessment framework to measure the incremental performance of Gram Panchayats/Equivalent to Gram Panchayats (GPs) across 9 themes of LSDGs.

The PAI provides theme-wise and overall scores through scorecards and dashboards of the Gram Panchayat. This enables identification of performance gaps, relative strengths, and areas requiring focused attention at the Panchayat level. A total of 2.59 Lakh Gram Panchayats/Equivalent to GPs of 33 State/UTs have been onboarded in the exercise of PAI 2.0 for FY 2023-24.

(b) The Panchayat Advancement Index measures various socio-economic and rural infrastructure metrics, viz., health & nutrition, education, economy, drinking water, sanitation, rural connectivity, etc., through a framework of 150 local indicators. These indicators are broadly mapped across the nine themes of the Localized Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).

In the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI), the Overall and Thematic Scores are computed based on the progress of local indicators. Gram Panchayats are ranked based on their Overall and Thematic Scores.

(c) No, Sir. Performance-based grants to Panchayats are governed by the recommendations of the Finance Commission and the guidelines issued by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. Under the Fifteenth Finance Commission & Sixteenth Finance Commission, PAI scores were neither prescribed nor linked as a benchmark for the release of performance-based grants.

(d) The Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) has a structured, multi-level data validation process involving the Gram Panchayat, Block, District and State administrations to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data.

(e) One of the purposes of the PAI is to identify the development gaps of the Panchayats through the scores achieved across 9 themes of LSDGs. The Overall & Thematic scores help the Gram Panchayats to identify and prioritize key developmental sectors, referred to as “Sankalp”. GPs are advised to take Sankalp by focusing on low-performing sectors/themes before the preparation of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan.
