

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1438
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.11.2016
EMPOWERMENT OF PANCHAYATS

1438. SHRI G. HARI:
SHRI K. PARASURAMAN:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to hire junior level engineers and data entry operators for working in panchayats to make the panchayats e-governance friendly, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there are 58000 gram panchayats across the country without permanent office facilities and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has rolled back the BRGF scheme, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Union Government had asked the State Governments to increase their own funding resources to empower panchayats and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

- (a) Under the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Shashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) scheme of the Ministry, until 2014-15, funds were provided to States for engaging administrative and technical staff (accountant-cum-data entry operators, junior engineers) at block and Gram Panchayats level. However, with effect from 2015-16, the State component of RGPSA has been delinked from the central support and the States have been advised to devolve funds, functions and functionaries to Panchayats to equip them to perform their functions smoothly.
- (b) As per the information shared by State Governments, over 57,000 Panchayats do not have their own buildings. The State/UT-wise detail of Panchayats without buildings is placed at Annexe.
- (c) From the financial year 2015-16 onwards, the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) has been delinked from the budgetary support of the Central Government on account of higher devolution of funds to the States from 32% to 42% of the Centre's net tax receipts.
- (d) Under the Fourteenth Finance Commission award, release of Performance Grants to Panchayats is linked, *inter alia*, with the increase in Own Source Revenue by the Gram Panchayats over the preceding year that has been reiterated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to the States.

Annex referred to in reply to part (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No 1438 for 24.11.2016 regarding Empowerment of Panchayats

Details of Panchayats without building

State/UT	Number of Panchayats without building
Andhra Pradesh	11,811
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	**
Arunachal Pradesh	1247
Assam	314
Bihar	2182
Chandigarh	**
Chhattisgarh	93
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	**
Daman & Diu	**
Goa	7
Gujarat	336
Haryana	2516
Himachal Pradesh	212
Jammu & Kashmir	1943
Jharkhand	952
Karnataka	0
Kerala	3
Lakshadweep	**
Madhya Pradesh	3500
Maharashtra	4363
Manipur	57
Mizoram	**
Odisha	245
Puducherry	**
Punjab	7754
Rajasthan	723
Sikkim	17
Tamil Nadu	613
Telangana	275
Tripura	150
Uttar Pradesh	16342
Uttarakhand	1143
West Bengal	60
Total	57078

** Information is not available with the Ministry.

Source of information: Plan Proposal of States submitted under RGSA scheme Information as on 25/7/2016