

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2791
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04/01/2018

Empowerment of Panchayats

†2791. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to bring rural staff and important local officials such as teachers, doctors, anganwadi workers, agricultural assistants, veterinary doctors, linemen of electricity department and telephones who deal with all the villagers under the monitoring of Gram Sabha to ensure effective functioning of Panchayats;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to provide funds to the Panchayati Raj Institutions, improve their functioning and development of their workers in order to empower the panchayats?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Article 243G of Part IX of the Constitution allows discretion to State to endow, to the Panchayats with powers and authority including in areas listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, to enable them to function as institutions of local self-governance to prepare plans and implement schemes for economic development and social justice. The extent and pace of devolution, including the monitoring of functionaries to Panchayats, vary from State to State. In some schemes of the Government, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been entrusted central role in implementation and monitoring of the schemes.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been providing programmatic support for strengthening of PRIs, advocacy support for inter-ministerial and multi-sectoral coordination, and capacity building of Elected Representatives and functionaries of PRIs to improve their functioning and effectiveness. Under Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC), grants to the tune of Rs. 2,00,292.20 crore for the period from 2015 to 2020 have been allocated to Gram Panchayats (GPs) constituted under Part IX of the Constitution, for delivering basic services. The FFC funds are expected to improve the living conditions of the people in the rural areas as these relate to the provision of basic services and other essential infrastructure for the people in the villages. 10% of the Basic Grant allocation can be used by GPs as technical and administrative support towards Operation & Maintenance and Capital expenditure within the components of Basic Services. The Ministry has developed a suite of core common applications collectively called – Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES) Applications to cater to various aspects of Panchayats’ functioning including planning, budgeting, implementation, accounting, monitoring and delivery of citizen services like issue of certificates.