

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2846**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04/01/2018

**Training of Elected Women Representatives of Panchayats**

**2846. ADV. JOICE GEORGE:**

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched an intensive training programme for the Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is of the opinion that this is necessary for the successful functioning of the PRIs;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the major proposals of this programme; and
- (e) whether the Government has earmarked adequate funds for the programme and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (e) In the context of substantial increase in public expenditure through Panchayats, it has become imperative to enhance the capacities of Elected Representatives including Elected Women representatives and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) so as to improve their service delivery, and enable them to become more responsive towards local developmental needs. The Capacity Building & Training of Elected Women Representatives are very important as they are substantial in number and their contributions have been positively improving the performance of PRIs.

The Ministry, under the scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)/ Capacity Building-Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (CB-PSA) [erstwhile scheme of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA)] has been providing financial and technical support to the States for Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) of elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions including Elected Women Representatives (EWRs). During the current year the budgetary allocation (BE) under CB-PSA is to the tune of Rs. 691.9 crore. The following initiatives have been taken by the Government in this regard under the scheme:

- (i) Leveraging technology for greater outreach amongst the large number of Elected Representatives and functionaries of Panchayats, through use of virtual classrooms for distance learning, use of smartphone based applications, use of social media, utilizing short films on best practices of Panchayats and use of portable hand held projectors for wider outreach
- (ii) Trainings on subjects of national importance viz. water conservation, sanitation, health, education, rural development, women empowerment, digital transactions, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) etc.
- (iii) Enhanced focus on trainings on formulation and implementation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs)
- (iv) Scaling up of Exposure visits by Panchayat members to GPs with best practices
- (v) Flexibility to States to evolve State specific training plans
- (vi) Enhanced role to National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) for improved quality of training, online training programmes and support to State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDs) / Panchayati Raj Training Institutes (PRTIs)
- (vii) Innovative training programmes for Panchayat ERs and functionaries involving subjects of national importance and with involvement of subject matter experts incorporating various training methodologies
- (viii) Conference of State Panchayati Raj Ministers' to discuss sectoral issues, capacity building for Panchayats, best practices and way forward for the States
- (ix) National workshops, writeshops, video conferences etc organized at regular intervals
- (x) Online applications developed to cater to various aspects of Panchayats' functioning including planning, budgeting, implementation, accounting, monitoring, social audit and delivery of citizen services

Further, the new restructured scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) aims at strengthening capacities of PRIs for inclusive local governance with focus on optimum utilisation of available resources and improved service delivery with a view to attain to SDGs.

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