

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1501
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26/07/2018

Restructured Schemes of RGSA

1501. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched new restructured scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), for developing governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- (b) whether a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Chairman-NITI Aayog was constituted to restructure the existing scheme of his Ministry as RGSA;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the recommendations made therein;
- (d) the salient features of the activities taken under RGSA for PRIs;
- (e) whether Gram Kisan Sabhas have been organized in Panchayats across the country under RGSA, if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Telangana; and
- (f) the details of the monitoring mechanism proposed to help PRIs deliver Sustainable Development Goals?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) Yes, Madam.
- (c) A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Vice-Chairman NITI Aayog to review the schemes of Ministry of Panchayati Raj, to review the existing schemes and examine the proposal of restructuring of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) to address the challenges faced by rural local bodies. The committee held several discussions, including consultations with Panchayat Elected Representatives (ERs) and Secretaries of Panchayati Raj departments of selected states during its deliberations. The committee also co-opted several sector experts and had extensive discussions and in-depth analysis before finalising its recommendations. The recommendations of the Committee broadly included restructuring of Scheme as Centrally Sponsored Scheme with Central and State components with 60:40 sharing ratio for State component (90:10 for North East and Hill States), State component to include

trainings/workshops, administrative and technical support including e-enablement of Gram Panchayats (GPs) and GP buildings, with Capacity Building (CB) thrust on GPs under Mission Antyodaya along with Panchayat ERs within 6 months of their election followed by focussed training on specialised subjects like e-enablement, participatory planning, leadership roles and account keeping etc within two years.

(d) The scheme envisages enhancement of capacities of Panchayats to deliver on Sustainable Development Goals, through a concerted capacity building process and expansion of outreach and coverage of training. It will strengthen Gram Sabhas to function effectively as the basic forum of people's participation with focus on vulnerable groups. It will incorporate greater thrust for e-enablement of Panchayats, for e-governance to enhance efficiency and transparency.

(e) There is no specific provision for organisation of Gram Kisan Sabhas under the scheme of RGSA, however the scheme envisages promoting effective and inclusive participatory planning through Gram Sabha by converging available resources/ schemes in all States including Telangana.

(f) The scheme provides for National Steering Committee (NSC) under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister-Panchayati Raj for providing overall policy direction and a Central Empowered Committee (CEC) headed by Secretary, Panchayati Raj to oversee implementation of the scheme. It also provides for National Plan of Technical Assistance, for inter-alia assessment of CB initiatives of all States / UTs and setting up of a National Project Management Unit comprising of domain experts and consultants for providing technical support for planning, implementation and monitoring.
