

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2629**  
ANSWERED ON 02/08/2018

**Strengthening of PRIs**

2629. SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:  
SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have achieved their objectives on completion of 25 years of their inception, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has launched a new scheme-Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken a Mission Antyodaya to bring one crore households out of poverty to make 50,000 Gram Panchayats poverty free, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is urgent need for implementation of e-governance in panchayats to make them transparent, accountable and effective institutions of self- governance; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government for strengthening PRIs?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) The 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment to the Constitution gives Constitutional status to the local self governments and provides an institutionalized platform for inclusive economic development and social justice. The Constitution of India recognized Panchayats as 'Institutions of local self-government'. The major objectives of this amendment, including three tiers of Panchayats, holding elections to Panchayats every five years, reservations in seats and offices for the Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Women, rotation of reserved seats and offices of chairpersons and setting up of State Election Commissions have, by and large been implemented by all the States/UTs covered under Part IX of the Constitution of India, and this has resulted in the strengthening of Panchayati Raj System in the country. As per article 243G of the Constitution, States are to endow Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function, and to plan and implement schemes for economic development and social justice including those in relation to matters listed in the Eleventh Schedules. The strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) mainly depends on the extent of powers (funds, functions and functionaries) devolved, and capacity building of Panchayat functionaries, which differs from State to State.

(b) In order to strengthen governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions to deliver on Sustainable Development Goals, the Government has launched the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) to be implemented from 2018-19 to 2021-22 with total outlay of Rs 7255.50 crore having Central share of Rs. 4500 crore and State share of 2755.50 crore. The scheme will have both central as well as state components. The central component will be fully funded by Government of India. However for the State component, the funding pattern will be 60:40 for all States, except North East and Hill States where Centre and State ratio will be 90:10. For Union Territories (UTs), the Central share will be 100%. The Scheme will extend to all States and Union Territories of the country with emphasis on convergence with Mission Antyodaya and strengthening of Panchayats in the identified Aspirational Districts.

(c) Yes Madam. The Department of Rural Development has undertaken Mission Antyodaya in which the State Governments have purposively selected 50,000 Gram Panchayats in about 5,000 clusters to drive economic activities along with development of physical infrastructure and human development on a priority. In October, 2017, ranking of these Gram Panchayats on parameters of physical infrastructure, human development and economic activities was done to facilitate identification of gaps in a quest for Poverty Free Gram Panchayats through convergent action. The State Governments were advised that the State Action Plan in respect of Rural Development schemes be based upon the gap analysis of Mission Antyodaya Gram Panchayats so as to fill those gaps in saturation mode in the year 2018-19. The progress over the years would be quantified both at the level of Households and Gram Panchayats to monitor the change. The Department of Rural Development will support States in transforming these Clusters/Gram Panchayats within a defined time frame.

(d) & (e) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is implementing e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) under Digital India Programme that seeks to transform the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), making them more transparent, accountable and effective as units of decentralized local self-governments. Under e-Panchayat MMP, a suite of Core Common Software Applications has been developed to address various aspects of Panchayats' functioning including planning, budgeting, implementation, accounting, monitoring, social audit and delivery of citizen services like issue of certificates, licences etc. To bring transparency and accountability, all records available in these applications are published online and information is available till Gram Panchayat level. The recently launched scheme of RGSA also promotes e-governance and other technology driven solutions to enable good governance in Panchayats for administrative efficiency and improved service delivery.

MoPR 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 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.

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