

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 263
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2018

Effective Functioning of PRIs

†263. SHRI ALOK SANJAR:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria stipulated for the assessment of functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the country;
- (b) the details of major hurdles indentified in the effective functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for the resolution of these hurdles along with the mechanism established for the monitoring of the functioning of PRIs; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to bring any effective law in order to improve the functioning of PRIs and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) There is no single criterion stipulated for the assessment of functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the country; however, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has examined the functioning and performance of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) through studies taken up from time to time, on various aspects of Panchayats.

Studies have been conducted on issues such as structure, finances, capacity building and training, elections, e-enablement, devolution of powers to various tiers of Panchayats and other issues affecting growth, development and performance of Panchayats. The findings/ outcomes of these studies are aligned towards enabling PRIs to function effectively and efficiently. Further, MoPR in collaboration with State Governments, identifies and incentivizes PRIs by awarding the best performing Panchayats on the basis of defined criteria/parameters.

(c) To address issues raised in studies, MoPR has taken various measures which include inter alia, issuing guidelines/ advisories to States on effective devolution, basic infrastructure/ amenities, strengthening of Gram Sabhas, enhancing the presence and participation of women in Gram Sabha and Panchayat meetings, allocation of 10% of Panchayat funds for women centric activities and to curb the cases of proxy attendance by relatives of EWRs etc.

Besides, assistance has also been provided to the States/ UTs for capacity building of Panchayats under the relevant schemes of Capacity Building of PRIs. In order to strengthen the governance capabilities of PRIs to deliver on Sustainable Development Goals, the Government has approved the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) to be implemented during 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.

MoPR has also developed a suite of core common applications called the Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES) Applications to aid Panchayats to undertake functions like planning, budgeting, implementation, accounting, monitoring and delivery of citizen services.

(d) Within the Constitutional framework 'Panchayat' is a State Subject mandated under Part IX and List II (State List) of Seventh Schedule (Article 246) of the Constitution of India.
