

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3714

ANSWERED ON 09.08.2018

Success of PRIs

3714. SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) System in India has not been an absolute success according to the Government;
- b) if so, the details thereof;
- c) whether its functioning in all these years has demonstrated numerous shortcomings;
- d) if so, the details thereof;
- e) whether it is full of unscientific distribution of functions; and
- f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) The 73rd Amendment to the Constitution which came into effect from April 24th, 1994, gave Constitutional status to Panchayats. The major objectives of this amendment, was to provide for Gram Sabhas in a village, constitution of Panchayats at village & other levels, ensure direct elections to Panchayats every five years, fix a term of five years for Panchayats, reservations in seats and offices for the Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Women, and make provisions for elections to Panchayats under the superintendence, direction and control of the chief electoral officer of the State; and devolution by the State legislature of powers & responsibilities upon Panchayats. These

objectives have been implemented by most States/UTs covered under Part IX of the Constitution of India.

Article 243G allows discretion to States in the matter of devolution of powers (funds, functions and functionaries) and authority to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to enable them to function as institutions of local self-governance. The States vary significantly in the extent to which they have devolved powers to the Panchayats to plan, implement and monitor schemes for economic development and social justice. States also vary in the extent to which they have built the capacities of Panchayats in the discharge of the devolved powers. Accordingly, the performance and success of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) also varies from State to State.

Some major shortcomings in the functioning of Panchayats in some areas include inter alia Inadequate devolution of resources and powers in line with functions devolved on Panchayats, manpower constraints, inadequate/ poor capacities of elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayats, lack of basic infrastructure and amenities in Panchayats, social inequalities and lack of transparency.
