

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 262
ANSWERED ON 19.07.2022

DIGITIZATION OF PANCHAYATS

262. SHRI C.R. PATIL:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to State:

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to fully digitalize the panchayats in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which all the panchayats are likely to be digitized in the country; and
- (c) Whether the Government has requested the States to ensure necessary infrastructure for the purpose and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL)

(a) & (b) Under Digital India Programme, Ministry is implementing e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) with the aim to transform the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by making them more transparent, accountable, and effective. Building on the achievements in the past, the Ministry launched eGramSwaraj, a work-based comprehensive application for PRIs under the e-Panchayat MMP on 24th April 2020. This application encompasses all aspects of Panchayat functioning viz. planning, budgeting, accounting, monitoring, asset management etc, on a single digital platform including online payments. The Ministry constantly engages with the States through virtual and physical training and enablement for States to adopt the eGramSwaraj application. So far, 2.48 lakh GPs have prepared and uploaded their Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) for 2022-23. Under 14th Finance Commission, 1.44 lakh GPs and 91,607 GPs have carried out online transactions during 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively. Similarly, 1.93 lakh GPs have carried out online transactions under 15th Finance Commission during 2021-22.

Further, for attaining the vision of Digital India, BharatNet project is being implemented by Department of Telecommunications in a phased manner to connect all the Gram Panchayats by broadband in the country. So far, 1,78,271 GPs have been made Service Ready under the BharatNet project in the country. The scope of BharatNet on 30.06.2021 has been extended up to all inhabited villages beyond GPs in the country. The targeted date for the completion of the BharatNet project to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats and equivalent in the country is August 2023.

(c) “Panchayat” is a State subject. Thus, providing infrastructural facilities to Gram Panchayats (GPs) is primarily the responsibility of States. However, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) being implemented from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2026, supplements the efforts of States on limited scale by providing financial support for certain infrastructural facilities for GPs such as Gram Panchayat Bhawans, computers and peripherals with special focus on North-Eastern States.
