

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 368
ANSWERED ON- 04.02.2025

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS

368. DR. KALYAN VAIJINATHRAO KALE:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the elections for local bodies have not been held in Maharashtra during the last five to seven years;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Ministry to ensure timely elections;
- (c) whether any communication has been made in this regard along with the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested to the Union Government to intervene in the said matter to ensure timely local body elections;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government is aware of the serious concerns taken by the Court in the past regarding the delay in such elections; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the action to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(PROF. S. P. SINGH BAGHEL)

(a) to (e) ‘Panchayat’, being “Local Government”, is a State subject and part of State list of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Article 243K (4) of the Constitution provide that, subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Legislature of a State may, by law, make provision with respect to all matters relating to, or in connection with, elections to the Panchayats.

The Govt. of Maharashtra has informed that elections to Gram Panchayat have been held regularly as per rules. Elections to Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis have not been conducted on the expiry of their term due to stay order of Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP No. 19756/2021 and Writ Petition No. 980/2019 filed regarding reservation given to Other Backward Classes of citizens.

The Ministry is continuously requesting the Govt. of Maharashtra to make efforts to remove hurdles and conduct Panchayat elections in conformity with Constitutional provisions, without any further delay. Recently, the Ministry made a communication to the Govt. of Maharashtra on 18.12.2024. However, the Government of Maharashtra has not requested to the Ministry to intervene in the this matter.

(f) & (g) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has not received any communication/direction from any Hon'ble Court regarding delay in Panchayat elections.
