

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 537
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2026

PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS IN ASSAM

537. MD. RAKIBUL HUSSAIN:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Assam;
- (b) the number of Gram Panchayats functioning under the three-tier system in the State;
- (c) whether all Panchayats are receiving funds and grants in a timely manner; and
- (d) the measures taken to strengthen decentralised governance at the grassroots level?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH)

(a) to (d) As per the provision of Constitution of India and the State Panchayati Raj Acts , Panchayati Raj Institutions are Constitutional bodies. Since, “Panchayat”, being “Local Government”, is a State subject and part of State List of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Panchayats are set up and operate through the respective State Panchayati Raj Acts which may vary from State to State, subject to the provisions of the Constitution. Article 243G of the Constitution empowers the Legislature of a State to make provisions, by law, for the devolution of power and responsibilities upon Panchayat at appropriate level, subject to such conditions as may be specified, with respect to the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to matters included in the Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution. The State legislatures are to consider the 29 subjects set out in the Eleventh Schedule for devolution of power and responsibilities upon Panchayats. Accordingly, the enhancement in devolution of powers, functions and resources to Panchayats depends on the extent of powers and resources devolved to them by the States concerned, which varies across States.

Accordingly, all matters relating to Panchayats, including reviewing of functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) , strengthening decentralized governance etc, comes under the jurisdiction of the state concerned.

The Government of Assam has informed that regular meetings have been held to review the functioning of PRIs. There are total 2192 Gram Panchayats functioning under the three-tier system in the state of Assam and all Panchayats are receiving funds and grants in a timely manner.

Also, the grants recommended by the 15th Finance Commission for Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) are released by the Ministry of Finance to the States in accordance with the guidelines issued in this regard. The details of allocation and release of grants under the 15th Finance Commission to the State of Assam for RLBs are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)			
S. No.	Year	Allocation	Release
1	2020-21 (Interim Period)	1604.00	1604.00
2	2021-22	1186.00	1186.00
3	2022-23	1228.00	1228.00
4	2023-24	1241.00	1241.00
5	2024-25	1315.00	1315.00
6	2025-26	1283.00	213.90 (Till date)

Further, to strengthen the local self-governance framework of Panchayati Raj Institutions across the country, this Ministry has launched eGramSwaraj (<https://egramswaraj.gov.in>), a user friendly web-based portal, which aims to bring in better transparency in the decentralized planning, progress reporting, financial management, work-based accounting and details of assets created. The eGramSwaraj portal has also been integrated with Public Financial Management System for online transfer of the Central Finance Commission funds by the States to PRIs and enabling Panchayats to make real-time payments to vendors/service providers. Panchayats prepare and upload their Annual Panchayat Development Plans on eGramSwaraj portal. In addition, the Ministry has integrated eGramSwaraj with the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to bring transparency to Panchayat procurement.

The Ministry has implemented Mission Mode Project on e-Panchayats (MMP-ePanchayat), a Central component of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) scheme under which various e-governance projects are funded towards digitalization of Panchayats. Revamped Centrally Sponsored Scheme of RGSA has been implemented w.e.f. financial year 2022-23 in States/ Union Territories with main objective for capacitating PRIs through imparting training to all the Elected Representatives, functionaries and other stakeholders to develop their governance capabilities for leadership roles to enable the Panchayats to function effectively. Under the scheme, Ministry supplements the efforts of States/UTs on limited scale for creating basic infrastructure for effective functioning of Gram Panchayats such as Construction of Gram Panchayat Bhawans, Computers and Co-location of Common Service Centres (CSC) with Gram Panchayat Bhawans with focus on North East States, as proposed by States/UTs in their Annual Action Plans and later approved by Central Empowered Committee. Ministry has also been providing support to the States/UTs, under the scheme of revamped RGSA for setting up of Project Management Units (PMUs) at States, District and Block level as approved in the Annual Action Plan for effective implementation of the scheme and setting up of institutional mechanism as State, District and Block level Panchayat Resource Centres to support Capacity Building & Training of Panchayats.

An online application ‘AuditOnline’ has been developed for online audit of Panchayat accounts and their financial management. AuditOnline portal, launched in April 2020, facilitates transparent auditing of Central Finance Commission funds utilization and strengthens financial management of Panchayats. Similarly, Panchayat NIRNAY is an online

application which aims at bringing transparency and better management in conduct of Gram Sabhas by Panchayats.

The Government of Assam has also informed that in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), Gram Panchayat-wise planning is prepared by the PRIs in a participatory and decentralized manner.
