

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO—†626**  
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2026

**GRAM SABHA DECISIONS**

†626. SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any national policy or guidelines to make Gram Sabha decisions binding;
- (b) the norms set for the minimum number of Gram Sabha meetings, minimum attendance requirement and implementation of decisions; and
- (c) the details of punitive provisions proposed against the Panchayats that ignore the decisions of Gram Sabhas?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH)

**(a) to (c)** “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. In terms of provisions of Article 243A of the Constitution of India, a Gram Sabha may exercise such powers and perform such functions at the village level as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide. Therefore, powers and functions of a Gram Sabha, including formulating any policy or guidelines to make Gram Sabha decisions binding, to set norms for the minimum number of Gram Sabha meetings, minimum attendance requirement and implementation of decisions and punitive provisions against the Panchayats that ignore the decisions of Gram Sabhas etc, are governed by the respective State Panchayati Raj Acts and rules. These may vary across States.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has circulated detailed advisories to the States and Union Territories to revitalize the institution of Gram Sabhas by taking up measures such as sharing basic details of flagship schemes of the Government in Gram Sabha meetings, holding minimum 6 and maximum 12 Gram Sabha meetings in a year, ensuring minimum quorum as provided in the State Panchayati Raj Act, preparation of regular standing agenda for the Gram Sabha, preparation of annual calendar for Gram Sabha, attendance of Group ‘A’ and ‘B’ officers in the Gram Sabha meetings, ensuring maximum attendance in Gram Sabha, formation and functioning of Standing Sub-Committees of Gram Sabha, and assigning meaningful and effective roles to the ward members as sector enablers and members of the sub-committee etc. Further, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has also launched the ‘Panchayat-NIRNAY’ App to facilitate meetings of Gram Sabha becoming more participatory, transparent and vibrant.

\*\*\*\*\*