

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4427
ANSWERED ON 28.03.2023

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY AT PANCHAYAT LEVEL

†4427. SHRI Y. DEVENDRAPP
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA
SHRI RANJEETSINGH NAIK NIMBALKAR
SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL
SHRI DILIP SAIKIA

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the steps that have been taken to establish social justice and equality at the panchayat level in the country;
- (b) the details of the schemes related to the empowerment of panchayats in the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and North East setting targets and achieving them during the last four years; and
- (c) the details of rights that have been given to the local panchayat unit to provide basic services like education, health, housing, etc. to the rural population of the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL)

(a) Provisions of Part-IX of the Constitution of India strengthen the foundation of democracy at grassroots level by ensuring social and political empowerment of the weaker sections of the society. Article 243D of the Constitution empowers the States to ensure participation of SCs, STs, women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by mandating not less than one-third reservation for these categories in their respective State Panchayat Laws. Further, States have also been empowered to make any provision for reservation in any Panchayat in favour of backward class of citizens. Article 243G of the Constitution empowers the States to ensure involvement of persons

elected from reserved category of SCs, STs, women and backward class of citizens in decision making and preparation of plan for development of Panchayats.

(b) To empower the Panchayats in the country including in the state of Karnataka, Maharashtra and North-eastern States, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is implementing the (i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) with the primary objective of strengthening PRIs by way of capacity building and training of the elected representatives and the functionaries of the PRIs, (ii) Incentivization of Panchayats (IoP), a Central Component of RGSA scheme to encourage competitive spirit among PRIs under which, Awards including financial incentives are given to best performing Panchayats in recognition of their good work for improving delivery of services and public good, (iii) Mission Mode Project on e-Panchayats, a Central component of RGSA scheme under which various e-governance projects are funded towards digitalization of Panchayats to bring in efficiency, accountability and transparency in the functioning of the PRIs for overall transformation of PRIs.

(c) Article 243G of the Constitution stipulates States to endow the Panchayats with powers and authority to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and prepare and implement plans for economic development and social justice including for matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.
