

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2059
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2010
PANCHAYAT OFFICES
Shanavas Shri M. I.

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Panchayat offices in the country, which are non-functional;
- (b) the norms/criteria followed for construction/maintenance of a Panchayat office;
- (c) whether lack of infrastructure and sufficient allocation of funds caused for poor maintenance/functioning of Panchayat offices in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the allocation of funds for the purpose during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ(Dr. C.P. Joshi)

(a) to (d): It is assessed that 57,743 Gram Panchayats in the country do not have their own Panchayat office buildings.

Panchayati Raj is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Governments to provide adequate infrastructure, including offices, to Panchayats and maintain them as per the State norms. States undertake construction of Panchayat offices under their own schemes and programmes. Ministry of Panchayati Raj supplements the efforts of the States through the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana (RGSY), for which States have to contribute 25% of the project cost. The details of funds released to the States under RGSY in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are at Annex-I.

Additionally, the untied development grants under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) that are also made available to the Panchayats towards bridging critical gaps in local infrastructure can also be used for construction and renovation/ reconstruction of the Panchayat offices.