

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2102
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012
POWER TO GRAM SABHA
Azad Shri Kirti (Jha)

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are working with the same spirit in the country for which they have been constituted; and

(b) if so, the extent to which the Gram Sabhas are exercising their powers and the extent to which the compliance is being made by the State Governments in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO)

(a) & (b): The functioning of the Panchayats is governed by the provisions contained in Part IX of the Constitution. As per Article 243G, States are to empower the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self government and to plan and implement schemes for economic development and social justice including those in relation to matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule. Similarly Article 243A states that 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. The functioning of the Panchayats and the Gram Sabha varies across States depending on the extent of their empowerment by the States. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj periodically reviews the working of PRIs with the State Governments in meetings, through field visits and other forums. Ministry of Panchayati Raj has issued guidelines to all the States for effective functioning of the Gram Sabha. The Ministry also awards Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar to encourage effective Gram Sabha.