

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2517  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2013  
SELF GOVERNANCE OF PANCHAYATS  
Singh Shri Jagada Nand

**Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government has reviewed and studied the extent of powers of self-governance to panchayats as per Article 243G of the Constitution;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has noticed any shortcomings in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO)

(a) & (b): As per Article 243G of the Constitution, States are to endow 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. Within the Constitutional framework, 'local government' is a State subject and States Legislatures pass legislations suitable in their context. The powers devolved by State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) to Panchayats are reviewed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) from time to time. The present status of devolution of Functions, Funds and Functionaries (3Fs) to the Panchayats by various States/UTs is given in Annex.

(c) & (d): While States such as Kerala, Maharashtra, Sikkim and Karnataka have devolved substantial powers to Panchayats, in several States the devolution, particularly of functionaries and funds, is poor.

(e): Keeping in mind the Constitutional provisions in Part IX and the fact that 'Panchayats' is a State subject, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has incentivized States/UTs to devolve powers to the Panchayats. The Ministry has also taken up this issue with other Ministries for assigning specific roles and responsibilities to Panchayats in Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating to socio-economic sectors for rural areas. The guidelines of the newly sanctioned Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) provide for linkage of 20% of the scheme funds to State performance on identified deliverables in the State Plan which, inter alia, include 'Ensuring devolution of functions, funds and functionaries to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)'.