

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:264
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2013
COMPUTERISATION OF PANCHAYATS
Rana Shri Kadir

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to make panchayats self-sufficient and strong;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of panchayats in Uttar Pradesh that have been computerised as on date;and
- (d) the time by which all the panchayats in the State of Uttar Pradesh including Muzaffarnagar and Meerut are likely to be computerised ? *

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) oversees the implementation of Part IX of the Constitution, inserted by the Constitution (Seventy Third Amendment) Act (1992); the provisions of Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996; and Article 243 ZD of Part IX -A relating to the District Planning Committees read with the Eleventh Schedule which illustratively sets out a list of 29 matters, which might be considered by the State Legislatures for devolution to the Panchayats so as to ensure that they function as 'units of self-government'. MoPR is persuading the various State Governments and line Ministries to devolve adequate functions, funds and functionaries to the Panchayats. Development of a strong Panchayati Raj system is essential to improve governance and delivery of services and MoPR has supported the capacity building of Panchayats through its various schemes. With a view to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system and also to address the critical gaps, MoPR is implementing the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) in all States and UTs. RGPSA seeks to strengthen Panchayats by providing adequate technical and administrative support, infrastructure and e-enablement, training etc. States are expected to take measures to devolve more powers to Panchayats and put in place a structure for accountability such as computerization of accounts, social audit etc. The scheme recognizes the fact that States have different needs and priorities and therefore allows for State specific planning, whereby States can choose from a menu of permissible activities. Moreover 20% scheme funds are linked to States performance on devolution and accountability. States prepare perspective and annual plans to access funds under the scheme.

Furthermore, to address the issues of regional imbalances in development process, the Ministry is also implementing the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) programme in 272 identified districts. For effective functioning of Panchayats, under the BRGF Programme, Panchayats in rural areas and Municipalities in urban areas have the central role in planning and implementation of the Programme. Preparation of the District Plans is done by the elected Panchayati Raj Institutions. District Planning Committees (DPCs) at District level are constituted in accordance with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution to consolidate plans of the Panchayats and Municipalities into the District Plan.

Funds under BRGF are released to the State Governments on the basis of these District Plans. An advisory has been issued to all the State Governments on 19.11.2013 stipulating that the list of activities undertaken under BRGF Programme during the preceding year are to be voluntarily disclosed before the Gram Sabha to facilitate empowerment of Gram Sabha and strengthen social audit function of the Gram Sabha. The Annual Action Plan is to be discussed/ ratified in the Gram Sabha.

(c)&(d): As per the information provided by the Govt of U.P., out of the 75 Zila Panchayats (ZPs), 821 Kshetra Panchayats (KPs) and 51,914 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the State of Uttar Pradesh, all 75 ZPs and 821 KPs are equipped with necessary ICT infrastructure. The GPs have no ICT infrastructure. However, the State Govt. plans to provide hardware to 16,432 Gram Panchayats by 2016-17 including some of the Gram Panchayats in Meerut and Muzaffarnagar district. The rest of the Gram Panchayats are expected to be covered subsequently in a phased manner.