

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:258

ANSWERED ON:07.02.2014

PARTICIPATION OF YOUTHS IN PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM

Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to encourage youths' participation in the effective implementation of Panchayati Raj System in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the existing system of Panchayati Raj has achieved the desired results as envisaged in the Constitution 73rd (Amendment) Act;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 258 FOR 7.2.2014 ASKED BY SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR ABOUT

"Participation of youths in Panchayati Raj System"

(a) & (b) The Union Government encourages the participation of all sections of society including women and youth in Panchayats. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA), the Central Government provides funds to States to strengthen Panchayats and make their functioning more democratic and participatory, thereby strengthening the access of all sections of society to Panchayats.

(c) & (d) As per Article 243B of the Constitution, three tier Panchayats at the Village, Intermediate and District levels are to be constituted in all States to which Part-IX of the Constitution is applicable. However, Panchayats at the Intermediate level may not be constituted in a State having a population not exceeding 20 lakh. Broadly, the three tier Panchayati Raj system operating in the country has been structured according to the relevant provisions in the Constitution. The status of devolution of powers to Panchayats and the capacity of Panchayats differ widely across States.

(e) With a view to further strengthen Panchayats across the country, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) during 12th Five Year Plan Period, which supports need based activities of the States including provision of administrative and technical expertise at Gram Panchayats, capacity building & training, e-enablement of Panchayats, Construction/ repair of Gram Panchayat buildings, Panchayat processes etc. Under RGPSA, States are encouraged to devolve powers to Panchayats and put in place a framework of accountability. MoPR promotes decentralised planning in Panchayats, through its programme, the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), wherein untied funds are provided to Panchayats through State Governments on the basis of Plans prepared by them.