

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:417  
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2014  
PERFORMANCE OF PRIS  
Rajbhar Shri Ramashankar

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

- (a) the key role of Panchayats in rural governance and socio-economic development of the country;
- (b) whether the Government has reviewed/ assessed the performance of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the country;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof including the various loopholes or deficiencies noticed in the functioning of Panchayats as institutions of local Self-Government;
- (d) whether the Government has launched Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) to strengthen Panchayati Raj; and
- (e) if so, the key features of the scheme including the conditions/ norms laid down to release funds to the States under RGPSA?

**Answer**

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 PARTS (a) to (e) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NUMBER 417 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.2.2014, REGARDING PERFORMANCE OF PRIs

(a) Within the Constitutional framework, 'local government' is a State subject. As per Article 243G, State legislatures may endow Panchayats with powers and authority to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and plan and implement schemes for economic development and social justice including on matters listed in Eleventh Schedule.

(b) & (c) MoPR periodically reviews the working of the Panchayats with the State Governments in meetings, through field visits and studies. During the formulation of the 12th Five Year Plan, the functioning and performance of Panchayats was examined and it was found that many core aspects of Panchayati Raj like availability of man power and infrastructure at the Gram Panchayat level, devolution of 3Fs (Funds, Functions and Functionaries), institutional infrastructure for training, capacity of Gram Sabhas in PESA areas etc. needed to be addressed.

(d) & (e) In order to address the above mentioned issues, a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) has been launched for strengthening the Panchayati Raj system across the country during the 12th Five Year Plan. RGPSA supports need based activities including administrative and technical expertise and infrastructure for Gram Panchayats, capacity building and training, e-enablement of Panchayats, special support to Panchayat processes etc. Funds under the scheme are provided on the basis of State plans. States are required to make commitments regarding enhancing devolution and accountability.