

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2655
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2014
POWERS TO PRIS
Patle Kamla Devi

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide more powers to the panchayats and gram sabhas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the names of various schemes proposed by the Government to be directly implemented at the level of various Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per Article 243G of the Constitution the Legislature of the State may, by law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government. This includes 29 subjects contained in Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. As per Article 243A, 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. Since as per the Constitution, it is left to the State Governments to devolve powers to the Panchayats and Gram Sabhas, the extent of devolution varies from State to State. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) approved for the 12th Five Year Plan, States are encouraged and monitored to devolve functions, funds and functionaries (3Fs) to Panchayats and Gram Sabhas.

(c) Various Ministries/Departments assign different roles to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Central Government Schemes. Various Ministries and Departments have been advised to revise guidelines of their Schemes to provide appropriate roles and responsibilities to Panchayats.