

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2846
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2014
EMPOWERMENT OF PANCHAYATS
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz;Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds provided to panchayats for the development of villages in various States and Union Territories (UTs) during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UTs-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up a separate fund for the empowerment of panchayats;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the progress made in this regard so far?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) With a view to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across all the country to enable them to discharge their duties for balanced development on the basis of schemes/programmes of different Ministries and States, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) implements the Backward Regions Grant Funds (BRGF) which provides untied funds to Panchayats on the basis of plans prepared by them. Financial assistance under BRGF is provided for Panchayats through States in 272 selected districts in the shape of development grant and for capacity building. The details regarding funds allocation and releases under BRGF to the various States during the last three years and current year are at Annexure. Along with BRGF, MoPR also builds capacities of Panchayats through Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) launched fully during 2013-14. Under RGPSA, in 2013-14, plans of 26 States for strengthening their Panchayats have been approved.