

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4503
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2014
LEGAL STATUS TO GRAM SABHA
Viswanathan Shri P.

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has granted any legal status to the Gram Sabha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the special powers and privileges being enjoyed by the Gram Sabha;
- (c) whether the Government has received any representation from States or individual Gram Sabha regarding the disqualification in case of meeting not conducted by the Gram Sabha;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) through Gram Sabha?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) Article 243 (b) of the Constitution provides that Gram Sabha means a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a village comprised with the area of Panchayat at the village level. Article 243 A provides that 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.
- (c) & (d) It is for the States/ UTs Governments to make provisions in their respective Panchayat Raj Laws/ Rules regarding the minimum number of Gram Sabha meetings to be held and the Gram Panchayats are responsible for organizing the Gram Sabhas. The compliance or otherwise of the related instructions is also primarily to be looked into by the concerned authorities of States/ UTs.
- (e) The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is implemented as per the provisions of MGNREG Act. Section 16(1) of MGNREGA provides that Gram Panchayats shall be responsible for identification of projects in the Gram Panchayat area to be taken up under the scheme as per recommendations of the Gram Sabha and Ward Sabhas. The Act also provides for greater focus on the provisions for transparency and accountability.