

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:364

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2014

RAJIV GANDHI PANCHAYAT SASHAKTIKARAN ABHIYAN

Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has launched Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashakti- karan Abhiyan (RGPSA) to enhance capacities and effectiveness of Panchayats and Gram Sabhas in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Union Government provides funds to the State Governments under the said programme;
- (c) if so, the amount allocated and released to the States/UTs during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether any criteria has been fixed for release of funds by the Union Government and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Union Government for effective implementation of RGPSA?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(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 364 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2014, REGARDING Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan

(a) Yes, Madam. The 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 for Panchayat processes, etc.

(b) Funds are provided to the States/UTs on the basis of Annual Plans as approved under the scheme.

(c) The scheme was launched in 2012-13 The details of amount allocated to the States/UTs from 2012-13 onwards are given in the Annexure.

(d) The funding of RGPSA for State plans is on a 75:25 sharing basis by the Central and State Governments respectively. For NE States, this ratio is 90:10. States are required to fulfill some essential conditions for accessing any RGPSA funds which include:

Regular elections to Panchayats or local bodies in non-Part-IX areas under the superintendence and control of the State Election Commission (SEC).

At least one third reservation for women in Panchayats or other local bodies.

Constitution of SFC every five years, and placement of Action Taken Report on the recommendations of the SFC in the State legislature.

Constitution of District Planning Committees (DPCs) in all districts, and issuing of guidelines/ rules to make these functional. States fulfilling these conditions are released funds on the basis of approval of their Annual Plans as per the guidelines.

(e) For the effective implementation of RGPSA, the National Capability Building Framework (NCBF) 2014 has been prepared after extensive consultations with States/Non-Government Organi- sations with a view to expanding the outreach and enhancing the quality of training for the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Besides, Handbooks/Manuals for training of PRIs have been developed and shared with the State Governments on the issues related to sanitation, drinking water and governance in Panchayats. Consultative workshop with SIRDs to enable peer learning was also held. Detailed review with State Secretaries on RGPSA, conduct of video conferences, zonal meetings, development of RGPSA Management Information System (MIS) are some of the other activities undertaken for effective implementation of RGPSA.