

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3112  
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2014  
DECENTRALIZATION EMPOWERMENT OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE  
Bhamre Dr. Subhash Ramrao

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

- (a) whether the Government has initiated any study regarding the progress made in decentralization and empowerment of local self-governance in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the targets made in the laws towards decentralization and empowerment of local self-governance and the achievements made so far;
- (c) whether the local self-governance is capable of providing better services to the citizens;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government towards empowerment of local self-governance in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) The Government has engaged various agencies for field assessment of the status of Devolution of Powers and Resources across the States and Union Territories in the country in the last eight years and to develop indicative evidence based ranking. The study for 2013-14 has been conducted by the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.

(b) (c) & (d) The objectives of such studies are:

Assess the actual outcome of activity mapping covering the transfer of functions, institutional functionaries, and finances to PRIs for the subjects listed in the 11th Schedule;

Assess the implementation of major Centrally Sponsored Schemes and important State Schemes in various States and Union Territories by the PRIs in terms of actual operationalization of convergence;

Look into the segregation of functions across various tiers of Panchayati Raj and the mechanisms of inter-tier co-ordination; and Arrive at an indicative ranking on the status of devolution based on field studies.

As per the provisions of Article 243G of the Constitution, the Legislature of a State may by law, endow the Panchayats with certain powers, authority and responsibilities which inter-alia enable them to function as institutions of self- government with respect to

- (i) Preparation of plans for economic development and social justice, and
- (ii) Implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule.

The level and extent of devolution of funds, functions and functionaries to the Panchayati Raj Institutions varies from State to State. The objective of devolution is to provide efficient services to the people based on local needs.

(e) To empower the Panchayati Raj Institutions to function as ideal institutions of local self- governance in rural areas, the State Governments have been repeatedly exhorted by the Ministry to devolve funds, functions & functionaries to the Panchayats. States have taken steps in this direction which vary in the extent in different States. The Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashakti- karan Abhiyan scheme of this Ministry supports the States to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions to improve their local governance capabilities.