

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4270  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2014  
SCHEMES FOR IMPROVEMENT IN RURAL VILLAGES  
Rao Shri Rayapati Sambasiva

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

- (a) the details of the major schemes which aim at improving the functioning of panchayats;
- (b) the mechanism framed to ensure that the programmes and the funds spent under the Ministry is benefiting the panchayats of the villages in remote areas, hilly regions, deserts etc. across the country;
- (c) whether a review was conducted to know the utility of various schemes, plans and programmes of the Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that maximum benefits accrue to the panchayats of the county?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) and (b): Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) implements two major schemes, the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) and the Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) for strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Under RGPSA, funds are provided to States to provide administrative and technical support and physical infrastructure to Gram Panchayats, along with capacity building and training of Elected Representatives and functionaries of PRIs. Under BRGF, funds are provided through the States to bridge critical gaps in local infrastructure and other developmental requirements in the identified backwards districts, which include remote areas, hilly regions and deserts and for capacity building of PRIs. MoPR periodically reviews and monitors the programmes through meetings, field visits and studies.

(c) and (d): Along with meetings and field-based monitoring, the Ministry has got conducted several studies including devolution of functions, funds and functionaries by the States to PRIs with the broad aim of strengthening Panchayats. These study reports have been shared with the States/UTs.