

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4271
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2014
PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM
Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment with regard to the functioning of Panchayati Raj system in the country after the Constitution amendment has come into force;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether States have given any suggestions to change any of the norms with regard to the implementation of the schemes under the Panchayati Raj system; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), in consultation with States Governments, has framed parameters to analyse the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The assessment of PRIs needs to be State specific. Accordingly, a set of model indicators, questionnaire and marking scheme, to be adopted appropriately by the States/ UTs in their context for assessing PRIs, have been developed by MoPR. Incentive awards are given to the selected best performing Panchayats on the basis of such evaluation. The best practices followed in some of the award winning PRIs are also documented. The progress of action by State Governments for devolving powers to Panchayats and undertaking capacity building of Panchayats to enable them to perform devolved functions effectively and efficiently is also assessed by MoPR. State of Panchayati Raj Reports have been published by the MoPR. Extent of devolution of powers and authority to PRIs by the States is studied, on the basis of which, a comparative assessment of States is undertaken. MoPR also incentivizes States for devolution of powers to Panchayats. Incentive grants are provided to States/ UTs under RGPSA for undertaking legislative and administrative measures for effective devolution of functions, funds and functionaries to the PRIs.

(c) & (d): Inadequate devolution of powers and limited capacity are the major constraints in the functioning of Panchayats. To improve the functioning of PRIs, MoPR is implementing a new scheme, the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) in the Twelfth Plan under which constraints such as inadequate manpower and infrastructure deficit are addressed and funds are provided to overcome these constraints and also for improving Panchayat processes, training, e-enablement of Panchayats, etc. In this regard suggestions made by States in their respective perspective and annual plans under RGPSA are taken into consideration. Under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme, funds are released on the basis of plans made by the Panchayats. The Government periodically reviews the working of the PRIs with the State Governments in meetings, through field visits and other forums. In case of shortcomings, the matter is taken up with the State Government.