

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:646

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2015

RAJIV GANDHI PANCHAYAT SASHAKTIKARAN ABHIYAN

George Shri (Adv.) Joice;Panda Shri Baijayant "Jay"

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the mandate and present status of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) in the country;
- (b) the funds allocated, released and utilized under RGPSA during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the role of RGPSA in youth empowerment and effective intervention of youth in Panchayati Raj system?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

a) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) was 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. So far, 27 States / UTs, in varying degrees, have accessed funds under the scheme on the basis of their Annual Plans. Besides, certain activities for providing technical support to States / UTs under central component of the scheme have also been undertaken.

b) Funds are provided to the States/UTs on the basis of Annual Plans as approved under the scheme. The scheme was launched in 2012-13, funds were provided to 12 States for limited activities in 2012-13. The scheme became fully operational in 2013-14. The details of amount released to the States / UTs from 2012-13 onwards are given in the Annexure.

c) The Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) encourages the participation of all sections of society including women and youth in Panchayats through strengthening of the Gram Sabha and capacity building of all stakeholders in local governance. Under the RGPSA, the Central Government provides fund to States to strengthen Panchayats and make their functioning more democratic and participatory.