

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:425

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2015

STRENGTHENING OF PRIS

Chaudhary Shri C.R.;Ram Shri Vishnu Dayal

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate measures have been taken by the Government to strengthen and empower the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), thereby making them self-reliant, effective and efficient institutions and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce schemes for the development of Panchayats on the lines of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial assistance extended by the Government to the Panchayats for development activities during each of the last three financial years; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to impart training to new members of PRIs and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) to (d) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 425 FOR 23.04.2015, REGARDING STRENGTHENING OF PRIs.

(a) The schemes of the Ministry, i.e the Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) and Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) transferred to States from 2015-16, supported States/UTs in developing and empowering their Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Under RGPSA, financial assistance has been provided to States for engaging administrative & technical staff, construction of Gram Panchayat Bhawans, training and creation of training infrastructure for Elected Representatives and functionaries of Panchayats etc. Under BRGF, the Ministry has supported decentralized planning in Panchayats. The Ministry has also supported States to devolve powers to Panchayats through incentivization and regular reviews. As per the Fourteenth Finance Commission award for 2015-20, funds to the tune of Rs. 200,292 crore are to be provided to Gram Panchayats for basic services such as drinking water, sanitation, infrastructure etc. over a period of five years commencing 2015-16.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Under the scheme of BRGF, funds were provided to the States for 272 identified backward districts with a view to address the issues of regional imbalances in development processes. Under the RGPSA, financial assistance was provided to the States/UTs as a whole for strengthening the Panchayati Raj system. Details of financial assistance provided to States/UTs under RGPSA and BRGF schemes during each of the last three financial years are given in Annex-I & II.

(d) Training of new members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) is undertaken by the respective States. Ministry of Panchayati Raj supports the States in building their institutional capacity for training of PRIs through developing resource material and coordinating peer learning workshops.