

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1626

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2015

STRENGTHENING OF PRIS

Galla Shri Jayadev

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

- (a) the extent to which the two centrally sponsored schemes i.e. Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan and Backward Regions Grant Fund helped in strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country;
- (b) the physical targets set and achieved in each of the above schemes since their inception, district- wise and year-wise; and
- (c) the constraints the Government is facing in imple- mentation of the above schemes and the manner in which the Government is planning to address the same?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) The schemes of RGPSA and BRGF have contributed towards strengthening PRIs in the country. The scheme of RGPSA was launched in the year 2012-13 and on the basis of Annual Plans received from 27 States/ UTs, financial assistance has been provided to them inter-alia for engaging administrative & technical staff, construction of Gram Panchayat Bhawans, creation of training infrastructure for the capacity building of Elected Representatives (ERs), Panchayat functionaries (PFs) at the level of State, District, Block etc. The financial assistance provided under the scheme for Capacity Building & Training (CB&T) of ERs, PFs has extended its outreach and improved the quality of training. Under RGPSA the amount released to States/ UTs on the basis of their Annual Plans 2013-14 & 2014-15 (upto 28th February 2015) is Rs. 560.60 cr. and Rs. 476.63 crore respectively. BRGF was launched in 2007. As a result of efforts made under the BRGF Programme, all the BRGF States have now constituted DPCs or equivalent bodies. Under this Programme Ministry had released Rs 21623 crores to the States during the XIth Five Year Plan. During the XIIth Five Year Plan, till 28.2.2015, the Ministry has released Rs. 9339.45 crores.

(b) No physical target is set under the schemes. Funds under the BRGF are utilized by the PRIs to bridge critical gaps in local infrastructure and other development requirements. Funds under RGPSA are provided to States for taking measures to strengthening their Panchayati Raj System as per their needs.

(c) For the effective implementation of the schemes the Ministry regularly follows up with States about the progress made in the implementation of the scheme. Review meetings at the highest level and video conferences with the States are some other measures to ensure proper utilization of funds. Various administrative and other constraints are addressed from time to time.