

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1746  
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2015  
MAJOR POLICY INITIATIVES  
Rao Shri Rayapati Sambasiva

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

- (a) the major policy initiatives of the Government;
- (b) whether there is any innovative idea or scheme which aims at ensuring a major shift in the way panchayati raj institutions are functioning;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the utilization of funds out of the allocated funds under the various schemes during the current year, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has undertaken a study to know the fruits accrued or benefits reached to the people living in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) to (c): The Ministry has two major schemes. The Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) has been introduced during 2012-13 for strengthening the Gram Panchayats across the country and includes capacity building and training of elected representatives and functionaries, construction of Panchayat Ghars, administrative and technical support to Gram Panchayats, building of training infrastructure, e-enabling of Panchayats, etc. The States are also supported through Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) to fill certain critical gaps in the identified 272 backward districts, and promote decentralized planning.

(d) Details of state-wise funds released under RGPSA and BRGF during 2014-15 are given in a statement at Annex.

(e) & (f) An evaluation of BRGF in 2009 noted that the BRGF had stimulated a process of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI)/Urban Local Bodies (ULB) and laid the foundation for achieving several of their objectives. The Planning Commission had also conducted evaluation study on the implementation of BRGF in 16 States covering the period 2006-07 to 2010-11. The evaluation study looked into various aspects of the programme including financial and physical progress, role of PRIs, convergence of resources from various schemes, accrued benefits to the target group/ area, training, monitoring mechanism etc. and assessed the impact of the scheme on the beneficiaries.