

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2739
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2015
EVALUATION OF FUNCTIONING OF PRIS
Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government evaluates the functioning of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the report of the last evaluation done;
- (c) whether the Government has found any irregularity in the functioning of the PRIs in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of the constraints faced in effective functioning of the PRIs in the country; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to address them?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), in collaboration with State Governments, has framed parameters to analyse the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). 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 these award winning PRIs have also been documented. State of Panchayati Raj Reports have been published by the MoPR. MoPR also assess the extent of devolution of powers and authority to PRIs by States through an independent study, which ranks States on a Panchayat Devolution Index (PDI). Study for 2013-14 was conducted by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). States were ranked on the cumulative as well as incremental PDI in this study.

(c) & (d): As Panchayats are a State subject, irregularities in functioning of PRIs are addressed by the States. 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 State Governments.

(e) & (f): Inadequate devolution of powers and limited capacity are the major constraints in the functioning of Panchayats. To improve the functioning of PRIs, MoPR has been implementing the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) in the Twelfth Plan under which funds are provided to build the capacity of Panchayats through provision of manpower, infrastructure, training etc. States have also been exhorted to devolve powers and responsibilities to Panchayats and put in place structures for accountability. Under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) scheme of MoPR, funds are released on the basis of plans made by the Panchayats and support is provided for decentralized planning.