

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3855
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2015
REVIEW OF FUNCTIONING OF PRIS
Ajmal Shri Sirajuddin

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has conducted any review of the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken by the State Governments thereon;
- (c) the details of existing mechanism for such review;
- (d) whether the mechanism is adequate to gauge the performance of these institutions; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. 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. 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). The study for 2011-12, 2012-13 and 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. The study for 2014-15 is being undertaken by the Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS). The Ministry also periodically reviews the working of the PRIs with the State Government in meetings, through field visits and other forums. In case of shortcomings, the matter is taken up with State Governments.

(d) and (e): With every year, there has been incremental improvement in the quality of assessment. Greater emphases on field level status of devolution have been given in 2014-15. For assessment at the Panchayat level, States have been provided with an appropriate software to streamline the process.