

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3873

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2015

SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER

Rao Shri Konakalla Narayana

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are facing a severe shortage of manpower and are also facing some organizational weaknesses in implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes, State schemes, other local initiatives along with their monitoring and implementation;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Union Government to strengthen the PRIs in order to effectively implement e-Panchayats across the country;

(c) whether it is true that many of Gram Panchayats have not been integrated with the State Common Service Centres (CSCs) so far either offline or through e-Panchayat, as it may lead to duplication/overlap in provision of G2C services; and

(d) if so, the measures the Union Government have taken to tackle the issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Panchayats in many States are facing shortage of manpower that hinders their effective functioning. However, in the 12th Plan period under the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj financial support has been provided to States for engaging administrative and technical staff at Gram Panchayat level. Support was also provided for creating infrastructure for capacity building of elected representatives and Panchayat functionaries and programme management to support e-enablement of Panchayats. As per the Union Budget 2015-16 presented to Parliament, e-Panchayat project is covered under the Digital India Programme of Department of Electronics and Information Technology.

(c) & (d): Both Panchayats and Common Service Centres (CSCs) have their footprints in rural areas and are generally the first interface for local populace for receiving any service. While the CSCs are the front-end in the service delivery mechanism, the Panchayats are primarily focusing on the back-end functions of planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring, accounting, verifying, etc., to strengthen the back-end service delivery mechanism. Gram Panchayats (GPs) in many States are also gradually providing services online. In order to enable sustainability of CSCs and to synergize the CSC operations with development programmes at Panchayat level, Government of India has advised States to relocate CSCs from private premises to Panchayat Bhavans/Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendras for the convenience of the local population. While the CSCs in some States are co-located in GPs, they operate as standalone service delivery outlets in other States, as determined by the State Governments.