

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5027
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2015
POWERS TO PRIS
Pathak Smt. Riti

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of States who have not delegated powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) till date;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to persuade these States to expedite matter to delegate power to PRIs; and
- (c) the details of steps taken to ensure transparency in the functioning of PRIs?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) As the Constitution entrusts the States with devolution of powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), States vary widely in the extent of devolution of powers to PRIs, but no State under Part IX of the Constitution can be held to not have delegated any powers to PRIs. States such as Kerala, Sikkim, Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal have devolved maximum powers to PRIs, as per an independent study.

(b) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has continuously persuaded the State Governments to devolve powers to the Panchayats and also provided assistance to the States/UTs for capacity building of Panchayats to enable them to perform devolved functions effectively and efficiently. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj also recognizes and incentivizes the States/UTs for devolution of powers to Panchayats and awards best performing Panchayats in each State.

(c) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has supported States to take measures to promote transparency and accountability in Panchayats by institutionalizing accountability processes such as voluntary disclosure of information & social audit and strengthening the system of budgeting, accounts and audit, including use of e-enabled processes. Through the software PRIAsoft of MoPR, Panchayats have been enabled to put accounts on-line. The criteria used for awarding best performing Panchayats include several indicators related to transparency and accountability. MoPR has also provided funds for training of Gram Sabhas to ensure accountability to the people.