

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6057

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2015

FUNDS FOR PRIS

Chavan Shri Harishchandra Deoram;S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Government policy for ensuring balanced development of all the villages through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the country;
- (b) the details of funds allocated to panchayats during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding misuse of panchayat funds in various States/UTs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof during the said period, State/UT-wise;
- (e) whether the Government is aware that the accounts of PRIs are not being audited in various States/UTs; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a): The policy of the Government is to empower Panchayati Raj Institutions to ensure inclusive development of rural areas with focus on social justice and efficient delivery of services. To further this objective, recently the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission that will bestow grants-in-aid of Rs. 2,00,292.20 crores to Gram Panchayats, for the period 2015-20, for the provision of basic services such as drinking water, sanitation, local roads, foot- paths, playgrounds and other rural infrastructure.

(b): Ministry of Panchayati Raj had been implementing the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) and Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA), till the year 2014-15. However, with effect from 2015-16, BRGF and RGPSA (State component) have been delinked from budgetary support of the Central Government. The details of funds released under BRGF and RGPSA during the last three years, State/ UT-wise are at Annex.

(c) & (d): Since, Panchayats is a State subject, complaints regarding misuse of panchayat funds are forwarded to the concerned State/UT for taking necessary action.

(e) & (f): Article 243J of the Constitution of India provides for the State Legislatures to make provisions with respect to the maintenance of accounts by the Panchayats and auditing of such accounts is being done as per relevant laws framed in each State. In so far as the Union Government is concerned, adoption of an accounting system for maintenance of accounts by Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), and a codification pattern consistent with the Model Accounting System for Panchayats and adoption of eight digit database format has been prescribed by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for local bodies. These accounting systems have been fully adopted by 23 States till 2014-15.