

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:559

ANSWERED ON:23.07.2015

Panchayati Raj Institutions

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Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- a) the number and present status of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) registered and working in the country including Tamil Nadu, State-wise;
- b) the details of the monitoring units set up to review their working and the steps taken by the Government in order to improve the working of PRIs in the country;
- c) the details of funds allocated, utilized, remained unspent and achievements made and works done under various schemes during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise;
- d) whether elections to these Institutions take place in all the States as per the statutory provisions and if so, the details thereof;
- e) whether any review or study has been undertaken to know the success or failure of PRIs in the implementation of various schemes in the country including Tamil Nadu during the said period;
- f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- g) the steps taken by the Government in order to improve the functioning of PRIs and proper utilization of funds in the country?

Answer

MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) The number of Panchayati Raj Institutions viz.Gram Panchayats Block / Intermediate Panchayats and Zila Panchayats in the country, state wise is given in Annexure-I

(b) 'Panchayats' is a state subject, and monitoring of Panchayats is undertaken by State Governments. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) provides technical, financial and functional support to the States to improve the working of Panchayats by organizing training programmes and other capacity building activities for the elected representatives and functionaries.

(c) The details of funds allocated, released and utilized state-wise under the scheme of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) during last three years are given at Annexure II. The physical achievement made during the 2013-14 & 2014-15 under the scheme is Annexure-III. The funds provided to states under the Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) scheme during the last three years is given as Annexure IV. The schemes of BRGF & RGPSA have been transferred to the States w.e.f. from the year 2015-16

(d) Holding elections to the Panchayats is the responsibility of the State Governments and State Election Commissions as per the Constitutional provisions. These provisions are generally followed but elections have not been conducted in Puducherry.

(e) & (f) MoPR assesses the extent of devolution of powers and authority to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by States through an independent study, which ranks States, including Tamil Nadu on a Panchayat Devolution Index (PDI). Ranking of States including Tamil Nadu on PDI from 2011-12 to 2014-15 is at Annexure-(V). Detailed review with State Secretaries on various issues video conferences, zonal meetings, development of RGPSA Management Information System(MIS) are other activities undertaken for review.

(g) To improve the functioning of PRIs, MoPR has been implementing the RGPSA in the 12th Plan under which financial assistance has been provided to build the capacity of Panchayats through provision of manpower, infrastructure, training etc. Under BRGF, The Ministry has supported decentralized planning in Panchayats and funds were provided to the states for 272 identified backward districts with a view to address the issues of regional imbalances in development process. The Ministry has also supported States to devolve powers to panchayats through incentivization and regular reviews. The Ministry is implementing e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project, under Digital India Programme to make Panchayats more transparent, accountable, and effective.

Handbooks/manuals for Panchayats have been developed and shared with States on the issues related to Child Development, Sanitation, Drinking Water, Animal Husbandry etc. to enable them to perform their role in various sectors.
