

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5252

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2014

CHANGES IN PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM

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Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring about changes in the Panchayati Raj System in order to strengthen it;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the views of State Governments have been taken in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Union Government to incorporate their views while making such changes;
- (e) whether any study/assessment has been made on the performance of the Panchayati Raj System; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) & (b) Panchayati Raj is a State subject and accordingly the responsibility of promoting and strengthening Panchayati Raj lies with the State/ UT Governments. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has schemes of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) and Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) to support State Governments in this effort. The activities permissible under RGPSA and BRGF for strengthening the Panchayati Raj System include providing administrative and technical support, capacity building and training of Elected Representatives and Panchayat functionaries, construction of Gram Panchayat buildings, strengthening of training infrastructure, e-enabling of Panchayats, consolidation and approval of annual plans of Panchayats and Municipalities by the District Planning Committees, etc.

(c) & (d) Soliciting views and feedback from the State Governments for effecting improvements in the implementation guidelines of RGPSA and the BRGF Programme is a continuous process.

(e) & (f) States are assessed annually based on their performance against the Panchayat Devolution Index (DI) by a national level independent agency. The Ministry has got conducted several studies touching on various aspects of performance of the PRI system including devolution of Functions, Funds and Functionaries by the States to the PRIs. These study reports have been shared with the States/UTs.