

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5269
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2014
STRENGTHENING PRIS
Panda Shri Baijayant "Jay"

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken up projects to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions in the State of Odisha; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) & (b) Under the newly formulated Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions, annual plan for Rs. 76.62 crores was sanctioned and Rs. 28.73 crores was provided as first instalment to the State of Odisha in the year 2013-14. The amount was provided for construction of Panchayat Bhawans, Capacity Building & Training of Elected Representatives and Panchayat functionaries, Special Support for Gram Sabha in PESA Areas, etc. Under the District Component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme, 20 districts of Odisha are covered. The Ministry had released Rs. 283.63 crores to the State Government during 2013-14. The allocation for 2014-15 has been fixed at Rs. 396.83 crores. One of the mandatory conditions for release of Development Grant under the BRGF is that the district plans prepared by these local bodies need to be consolidated and approved by the District Planning Committees constituted under Article 243 ZD of the Constitution. The BRGF guidelines also provide for audit of works through a Review Committee at District level and Social Audit and Vigilance at the Panchayat levels.