

Additional allocation of the Ministry

†2316. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether an additional allocation of mere ₹ 1000 crore is adequate after a huge deduction in the Budget of the Ministry;

(b) the details of items for which this amount would be utilized and the amount of allocation to be made under this, State-wise;

(c) the prospective plan of the Ministry for strengthening the Panchayati Raj System; and

(d) the mode of financial assistance to be provided by the Ministry for the development of backward regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHALCHAND): (a) to (c) An amount of ₹ 94.00 crore has been allocated to Ministry of Panchayati Raj as Budget Estimate (BE) for 2015-16. This Ministry has requested Ministry of Finance for additional allocation to be considered in the First Batch of Supplementary Grants for 2015-16.

(d) Ministry of Panchayati Raj was implementing the scheme on Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) till 2014-15, under which funds were provided to 272 backward districts in the country for addressing the regional developmental imbalances and filling up the resource gaps in developmental schemes. The scheme has been transferred to States from 2015-16.

Monitoring of Activity Maps in CSS

2317. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steering Committee established under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Panchayati Raj to monitor progress with regard to incorporating Activity Maps in Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) continues to be operational;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what alternative mechanism, if any, has been put in place in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHALCHAND): (a) to (c) A Steering Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary, Panchayati Raj to ensure better coordination with

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Central Ministries for enhancing the role of Panchayats in Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs). The meeting of the Committee was held on 26.7.2013. The Committee still exists.

Model Activity Maps in CSS

2318. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether, at the instance of the former Prime Minister, the Cabinet Secretary was directed to ensure that all the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) incorporate the Model Activity Maps for the devolution of funds, functions and functionaries to Panchayats;

(b) the current state of progress with regard to these instructions; and

(c) whether the Cabinet Secretary is continuing to monitor and expedite progress in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHALCHAND): (a) and (b) The Cabinet Secretary in a letter dated 6th August, 2013, directed Secretaries of the concerned Ministries/Departments for taking time-bound action for revision of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) guidelines and preparation of Activity Mapping based on the recommendations contained in the Report of the Expert Committee on 'Leveraging Panchayats for Efficient Delivery of Public Goods and Services'. The Committee of Secretaries (CoS), in its various meetings, reviewed the progress made on the matter by the eight line Ministries/Departments. All the concerned line Ministries/Departments, by and large, reported revision in the guidelines of their CSSs and preparation of "Activity Mapping" for their schemes.

(c) The last meeting of the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) was held on 19-02-2014.

Single teacher schools in Assam

2319. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that schools are running with a single teacher in Tea Gardens of Assam and if so, the details thereof;

(b) how many schools are running there and what is the teacher capacity in each school, district-wise;

(c) what are the steps/measures taken by Government to protect Education Act there; and