

(RE-INVEST) events. In addition, both sides decided to work in other areas and themes as jointly decided.

(c) World Bank with its expertise and financial strength can help in providing funds from its own source and mobilizing funds from other sources for expansion of solar energy generation programme in the country.

Financial health of Panchayats

756. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial health of Panchayats in Maharashtra and rest of the country is precarious;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government proposes to take to improve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI PARSHOTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Under the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) award, grants to the tune of ₹ 2,00,292.20 crore for the period from 2015 to 2020 are being devolved to Gram Panchayats constituted under Part IX of the Constitution amounting to assistance of ₹ 488 per capita per annum at an aggregate level for 26 States including Maharashtra for delivery of basic services, technical and administrative support towards operations and maintenance, creation of reliable data base of local bodies' receipts and expenditure through audited accounts and for improvement of own source revenue of the Gram Panchayats. This devolution is expected to improve the financial condition of Gram Panchayats and empower them to accelerate the development of civic infrastructure and delivery of basic services smoothly and effectively. Basic grants to the tune of ₹ 1623.32 crore have been released to the State of Maharashtra under the FFC award for the year 2015-16. Besides, Panchayats are also utilizing funds under other schemes of the Central Government like MGNREGS, and schemes of the State Government, State Finance Commission award apart from generating funds through their own sources.

Programmes for Panchayati Raj System

†757. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of programmes have been formulated in the country for Panchayati Raj System and its development;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether country would not progress until all the Panchayats are strengthened; and
- (d) whether it has been decided to implement the Panchayati Raj System in letter and spirit and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has implemented a number of schemes like Backward Regions Grant Fund, Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana, Rural Business Hubs, Panchayat Mahila Evam Yuva Shakti Abhiyan and Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan to strengthen the different aspects of Panchayati Raj system.

(c) Strengthening of Panchayats as institutions of local self-governance is critical to the progress of the country.

(d) Yes, Sir. States are encouraged to devolve powers (Functions, Functionaries and Finances) to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) through advisories and by incentivization of States that devolve powers most effectively to the PRIs. The Government supports the States to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions by providing assistance for capacity building of Panchayats for good governance.

Lack of resources in Panchayats

758. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that lack of resources had triggered unrest in panchayats nation-wide;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there is a fear about the longevity of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and the failure of various Government policies, including Swachh Bharat Mission;
- (c) whether, due to paucity and delay of funds, Panchayats were unable to implement many schemes; and
- (d) if so, whether Government is considering to take appropriate action to revive PRIs across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.