

**Involvement and activities of women in Panchayats**

†2142. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the involvement and activities of women in the functioning of Gram Panchayats and Panchayat Development Schemes implemented by Panchayats have not been as expected so far in the Country;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government has taken several policy measures to ensure women's expected involvement and activities in them during the last two years and whether its positive outcome have been seen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (d) The article 243D of the Constitution ensures participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by mandating one third reservations for women in seats and offices of chairpersons in Panchayats. As a result, there are more than 14.00 lakh elected women representatives which constitutes around 48% of the total elected representatives. Government has been encouraging increased involvement of the women in the functioning of Panchayats through active participation in the Gram Sabha meetings for preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans and various schemes being implemented by the Panchayats. Over the years, there has been substantial increase in the involvement and activities of women in the functioning of Gram Panchayats and their development related activities. Besides, Ministry has issued advisories from time to times to States/UTs for conducting mahila sabha meetings before the meetings of Gram Sabha, quorum for women in Gram Sabha meetings and allocation of 10% of Panchayats funds for women centric activities, etc., in order to enhance involvement of women in Panchayats.

**Budget allocations of the Ministry**

2143. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budgetary allocations of the Ministry during the last five years and the current year, year-wise and plan and non-plan wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions has adversely been affected due to reduced budgetary allocations of the Ministry;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) if so, how the Ministry is planning to address this problem;
- (d) whether discontinuation of Backward Region Grants Fund would not defeat the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendment Act; and
- (e) the details of major consequences of discontinuation of BRGF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) The details of budgetary allocations of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj during the last five years and the current year, year-wise and plan and non-plan wise is given below:

(₹ in crore)

| Year    | Budget  |         |          |      |
|---------|---------|---------|----------|------|
|         | Plan    |         | Non Plan |      |
|         | BE      | RE      | BE       | RE   |
| 2011-12 | 5250.00 | 4113.00 | 0.65     | 0.65 |
| 2012-13 | 5350.00 | 4000.00 | 0.74     | 0.66 |
| 2013-14 | 7200.00 | 3500.00 | 0.70     | 0.70 |
| 2014-15 | 7000.00 | 3400.00 | 0.70     | 0.69 |
| 2015-16 | 394.00* | 220.00  | 0.75     | 1.50 |
| 2016-17 | 750.00  |         | 18.33    |      |

B.E.: Budget Estimates

R.E.: Revised Estimates

\* Includes ₹300 crore received through supplementary grant.

(b) to (e) The main reason for reduction in allocation for the Ministry of Panchayati Raj was due to the fact that district component of Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) and state component of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) were delinked from the central support w.e.f. 2015-16. However, there has not been any adverse impact on the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) on account of reduction of Ministry's allocation. Under the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (FFC) award, a much larger amount *i.e.* ₹2,00,292.2 crore has been allocated for the period 2015-20 as compared to ₹65160 crore recommended under 13th Finance Commission. These bands are directly flowing to the Gram Panchayats. Further based on FFC award, States also got enhanced share of allocation in the central taxes *i.e.* from 32% to 42%. This has provided much needed

flexibility to the States to formulate and implement the development plans as per local requirements especially to address the issues of backwardness. With the enhanced flow of funds to the Gram Panchayats on account of FFC award, transfers by the State Governments and State Finance Commissions, the role of Ministry of Panchayati Raj has increased particularly in strengthening the capacities of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in association with the States in imparting trainings to the elected representatives and Panchayat functionaries to promote good governance at the grassroots level. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been allocated ₹ 768.33 crore during the current financial year of 2016-17 so that the PRIs are enabled to play their role as assigned under the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution.

#### **Involvement of panchayats for SDGs**

2144. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared a plan to involve Panchayats to prioritise Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and prepare a roadmap for meeting these goals and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of efforts made by the Ministry to involve Panchayats by implementing various schemes and achieve the desired goals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has developed a draft vision document and broadly identified -Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relating to poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality and empowerment of women, clean, energy, decent work and livelihoods, and eco restoration, afforestation, etc., wherein Panchayats can play important role in achieving the identified targets.

During the current year, the States have been requested to focus on priority development areas of SDGs to be undertaken by Panchayats and funds have been provided for capacity building & training of elected representatives and other stakeholders of Panchayats for the same. A one day inter-ministerial consultation was also organized to understand SDG related targets of Central Sector Schemes and the roles Panchayats can play in the attainment of such identified targets. A three-day capacity building programme of Sarpanches and Panchayat Secretaries from eight States has been conducted from 30th November to 2nd December 2016 at New Delhi. Various topics including role of Panchayats