

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj under the scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) provides assistance to the States/ UTs for capacity building and training of Panchayat Elected Representatives (ERs) and functionaries, to enable them to perform their functions, including planning and implementation of development programmes, effectively and efficiently. The training area covers Panchayat governance including functions of public representatives, Panchayat finance, various schemes of Government and the role of Panchayats therein etc. States/ UTs have been advised to include modules on subjects of national importance such as water conservation, health, sanitation, less-cash transactions etc. in their trainings for ERs and Functionaries of Panchayats. Exposure visits of ERs and Panchayat functionaries to Panchayats with best practices are promoted to enhance learning and motivation. Trainings are also conducted for Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES) applications developed by the Ministry to cater to various aspects of Panchayats functioning including planning, budgeting, implementation, accounting, monitoring, social audit, delivery of citizen services. The Government has consistently impressed upon the States/ UTs to adopt new and innovative best practices, and to also leverage technology for maximum outreach for Capacity Building of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has been organising three-day sensitization training programme for Elected Representatives from Urban Local Bodies under Individual Capacity Building as per guidelines of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). These programmes cover aspects such as major issues and challenges of urban development, best practices that have been evolved by cities in various sectors through site visits, and the role that elected representatives can play in improving their cities.

- (c) Question does not arise.

#### **Implementation of rural projects for PRIs**

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

- (a) whether adequate rights have been conferred on Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for implementation of rural projects;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain basic problems were raised at Prime Minister's level and in the conferences of representatives of Gram Panchayats held under the aegis of the Ministry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to address them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) and (b) Panchayats as institutions of local self-government mandated under Part IX of the Constitution of India are in best position to understand the local issues and to plan, prioritize and implement various schemes/programmes of rural development. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been given adequate role for decision making, planning, implementation, selection of beneficiaries and monitoring under the various Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes (CSSs) like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP).

(c) and (d) Gram Panchayat representatives are invited on National Panchayat Day and other conferences held by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) to felicitate them and discuss the problems being faced by them in Panchayats. The Prime Minister in his speeches during National Panchayat Day for 2015 and 2016 had highlighted the issues affecting rural masses such as water scarcity, school dropouts, poverty, solid waste management, open defecation, malnutrition among children, modern techniques for irrigation etc.

The Fourteenth Finance Commission award has devolved large funds to Gram Panchayats to address issues of basic amenities within Panchayat areas. This has also lent support to the Gram Panchayats for discharge of their mandated function for planning the social and economic development of the area through preparation of an integrated Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has proactively supported the Capacity Building & Training (CB&T) of Elected Representatives (ERs) and functionaries of Panchayats through funding support to States for trainings with special focus on GPDP trainings and cross state sharing of best practices under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA). States/UTs have been advised to include modules on the subjects of national importance such as water

conservation, health, sanitation, less-cash transactions etc. in their training for ERs and functionaries of Panchayats. Trainings on various aspects of Panchayat functioning have also been imparted to ERs and Panchayat stakeholders.

Further, the Government, in collaboration with the State Governments and Panchayati Raj Institutions, launched the Gram Uday se Bharat Uday Abhiyan during 14th April to 24th April, 2016 to disseminate information about various schemes/programmes of the Government for the development of the rural areas, encouraging the rural masses to actively participate in the development process of the Gram Panchayat and also to address the local socio economic issues.

#### **Rural electrification**

886. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of rural electrification and the time-frame to electrify all the villages in the country;

(b) whether Government is implementing the Decentralised Distribution Generation (DDG) scheme for the electrification of villages located in backward and inaccessible areas through new and renewable energy sources; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the number of villages covered under DDG scheme, so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) As per information provided by the States, there were 18,452 un-electrified villages in the country as on 01.04.2015. 13,872 un-electrified census villages have been reported to be electrified up to 30.06.2017. The time-frame to electrify all the villages is 1st May, 2018.

(b) and (c) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) is to provide access to electricity to un-electrified villages/habitations where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective including the villages located in backward, remote, inaccessible and forest areas. DDG can be from renewable sources such as biomass, biofuels, biogas, Mini hydro, solar etc. Under the scheme, 4,220 projects have been sanctioned with the total project cost of ₹ 1354.60 crore, covering 3,285 un-electrified villages in various