

Information Kiosks in Kerala

1044. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up Information Kiosks in Gram Panchayats for enabling Information Technology related services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and number of kiosks set up in Kerala and fund provided for this purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI PARSHOTTAMRUPALA): (a) and (b) The State Government of Kerala has informed that it has taken necessary steps to setup Information Kiosks in Gram Panchayats (GPs). Information Kiosks give information about services provided by the GPs for public and status of their application. As per the State Government of Kerala, currently 108 GPs in the State have Information Kiosks and ₹ 1,09,87,153 has been provided for this purpose in the last three years.

Further, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India initiated a project namely, "Common Services Centre (CSC) 2.0" in August, 2015 under Digital India Programme for a period of four years, which aimed to set up at least one CSC at GP level to cover all the 2.5 lakh GPs across the country. The key objective of CSCs is to deliver various citizen centric services, such as, Government to Citizen (G2C), Business to Citizen (B2C) services, financial inclusion services, educational services, skill development services etc. Till January, 2018, there are 2,92,406 CSCs functioning across the country; among which, 1,83,005 CSCs are at GP level. In the State of Kerala, there are 2,498 CSCs functioning across the State; among which 1,370 CSCs are at GP level.

Construction of Panchayat Ghar/Bhawans in Kerala

1045. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Panchayat Ghar/ Bhawans constructed during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 in Kerala State with Central assistance;

(b) the details of budgetary allocation and amount sanctioned to Kerala State during the last three years; and

(c) whether the assistance given to Kerala State has been curtailed or has diminished during the last three years, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI PARSHOTTAMRUPALA): (a) During 2014-15 and 2016-17 - Nil and 2015-16 - 11 (Eleven) Panchayat Ghar/Bhawans were constructed in Kerala State with Central assistance.

(b) The details of fund sanctioned and released to Kerala State under Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA)/ Capacity Building- Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (CB-PSA) during the last three years are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) 'Gram Panchayats' being a State subject, the primary responsibility of welfare and development of these bodies rests with the State Governments. The Government of India devolves funds to supplement the financial resources of Panchayats. Under Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) awards, Kerala State was given ₹ 433.76 crore and ₹ 679.39 crore in year 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively for onward providing to Gram Panchayats for arranging basic services in their respective areas. In the aforesaid context w.e.f. 2015-16, the funds provided for strengthening of Panchayats, under the Central Component are being released to the States including Kerala, only towards critical activities of Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) with particular emphasis on Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Further, the sanction/release of funds to States are subject to Annual Action Plan approved, unspent balance of previous year/s available with the State and submission of Utilisation Certificate in respect of funds released, as per rules.

Statement

Details of funds sanctioned and released to Kerala State under RGPSA/CB-PSA

(₹ in crore)

Year	Annual Action Plan approved	Carry Over Unspent balance from Previous Year	Fund released	Total Fund available with the State during the Year (3+4)
1	2	3	4	5
2014-15*	60.35 (with ₹45.26 cr as Central Share)	8.14	14.49	22.63 (of central share)
2015-16**	10.55	6.94	-	6.94
2016-17**	23.53	3.21	8.55	11.76

* During the F.Y. 2014-15, the scheme was implemented as Centrally Sponsored Scheme with funding ratio of 75:25 between Central and State Government.

** Since the year 2015-16, the scheme is implemented as Central Sector Scheme.