

Discretionary funds for Panchayats

†1042. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to provide discretionary funds to panchayat representatives;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons for not providing discretionary funds to panchayat representatives, district council members and block representatives for development in the country till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) has recommended grants to Gram Panchayats constituted under Part IX of the Constitution without any share for other levels. Accordingly it has been decided to devolve grants to the tune of ₹2,00,292.20 crore during the period 2015-20 for delivering basic services, creation of reliable database of local bodies' receipts and expenditure through audited accounts and for improvement of own source revenues of the local bodies. Since 2015-16, ₹ 81727.86 crores have been released till 28.02.2018 to different States under FFC award for onward providing to Gram Panchayats. However, no fund has been provided as discretionary funds to Panchayat representatives. FFC had recommended grants only to Gram Panchayats.

State Governments are expected to take care of the needs of the Taluk/Block/Mandal and Zila/District Panchayats and it is incumbent upon the State Governments to utilize the enhanced fiscal space made available to the States by the FFC on account of higher devolution from 32% to 42% of the Centre's net tax receipts.

Utilisation of funds for Panchayati Raj Schemes

1043. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether funds earmarked for Panchayati Raj System are being utilised after converting small schemes into major schemes;
- (b) the amount of funds sanctioned, allocated and utilized for backward areas during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether any target has been fixed for utilizing funds under the scheme in districts identified for the purpose; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.