

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2823
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2021

EGRAM SWARAJ

2823.# Dr. ANIL JAIN:

Will the Minister of **PANCHAYATI RAJ** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has issued any Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) regarding eGram Swaraj,
- (b) if so, the details thereof,
- (c) whether it is a fact that through decentralized planning, progress reporting and work-based accounting, better transparency and strengthening would be brought in e- Governance of Panchayati Raj Institutions under eGram Swaraj in the country, and
- (d) whether it could be ensured that provided funds to Panchayats would not be misused and transparency would be maintained in the use of funds?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d) Under Digital India Programme, Ministry is implementing e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) with the aim to transform the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), making them more transparent, accountable and effective as decentralized local self-governments. The Ministry launched e-GramSWARAJ, a work-based Accounting Application for Panchayati Raj Institutions under the e-Panchayat MMP on 24th April 2020. This application encompasses all aspects of Panchayat functioning viz. planning, budgeting, accounting, monitoring, asset management etc., on a single digital platform including online payments. Various training materials and artifacts relating to e-Gram SWARAJ viz. Brochures, quick reference guide, SOP for Online Payment module etc. have been made available to the Panchayats. These are also available on the e-Gram SWARAJ website. (<https://egramswaraj.gov.in/>)

e-GramSWARAJ has been integrated with Public Financial Management System (PFMS), called e-GramSWARAJ-PFMS Interface (eGSPI), for tracking funds under Central Finance Commission provided to the Panchayats and carrying out real time payments to service providers. eGSPI envisages to establish sound financial management system, enhance transparency and accountability of Panchayats.

So far, 2.47 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) for 2020-21 and 1.58 lakh GPs for 2021-22 have prepared and uploaded their Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs). 2.35 lakh GPs have closed their year books for the year 2019-20 and 1.92 lakh GPs have closed month books for 2020-21. Furthermore, under 14th Finance Commission, 1.03 lakh GPs and 1.43 lakh GPs have carried out online transactions during 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively. Similarly, 1.08 lakh GPs have carried online transactions under XV Finance Commission in the current year. The Ministry constantly engages with the States for continuous improvement of the e-GramSWARAJ Application.

Further, for strengthening financial management of PRIs, Ministry also launched an application – AuditOnline, on 15th April 2020, for online audit of PRI accounts. This is in compliance with the XV Finance Commission recommendations of ensuring availability of audited accounts online.
