

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1388
ANSWERED ON-30.07.2021

STRENGTHENING OF PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM

1388. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:
LT. GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.):
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to bring about changes in the Panchayati Raj system in order to strengthen it;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the views of the State Governments have been taken in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Central Government to incorporate their views while making such changes; and
- (e) whether any study/assessment has been made on the performance of the Panchayati Raj system?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL)

(a) The Panchayati Raj system of local self government was introduced by the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution of India. Part IX was inserted in the Constitution as a sequel to the 73rd Constitutional Amendment in 1993, bestowing the Constitutional mandatory status to the 'Panchayats'. The Government has no proposal under consideration to bring about changes in the existing Panchayati Raj system.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) & (d) A matter was raised during zero hour on 11.12.2019 by an Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) on the need of direct election for chairperson of district and block Panchayat in Uttar Pradesh. Accordingly, Ministry of Panchayati Raj had sought views/suggestions of all States/Union Territories to amend Article 243(C)(5) of the Constitution of India. As per views/suggestions received, it was found that most of the States/Union Territories were not in favour of amendment in existing Constitutional provision relating to process of indirect election of chairperson of District Panchayat and Intermediate Panchayat.

(e) ‘Panchayat’, being ‘Local Government’, is a State subject and part of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The implementation of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution, including performance of the Panchayati Raj system, is reviewed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj from time to time through studies and discussions in review meetings with the States. The performance of the Panchayats depends on the extent of powers and resources devolved to them, which varies from State to State. The performance of Panchayats is monitored by the State Governments. MoPR supports States in building capacities of Panchayats for rural governance. It also helps States in developing guidelines for participatory planning by Panchayats and preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans; bring in efficiency, transparency and accountability for achieving development objectives. Further, with a vision to digitalize Panchayati Raj Institutions for empowering rural India, Ministry has developed a simplified work based accounting application—eGramSwaraj (egramswaraj.gov.in) to address various aspects of Panchayat functioning including planning, budgeting, implementation, accounting and monitoring to make them more transparent, accountable and effective as organs of decentralized self-governing institutions.
