

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 396
ANSWERED ON-01.12.2021

FUNCTIONING OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS

396. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has devised any parameters to analyse the functioning and success of Panchayati Raj Institutions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the outcome of such analysis in the State of Haryana; and
- (c) the major constraints in effective functioning of Panchayats along with the steps taken to address the same and actively involve Panchayats in the planning process to be undertaken in their jurisdiction?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Constitution of India envisages for Panchayats to function as institutions of self-government and prepare plans and implement schemes for economic development and social justice. Accordingly, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) seeks to make Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) an effective, efficient and transparent vehicle for local governance, social change and public service delivery mechanism meeting the aspirations of local population through policy interventions, advocacy, capacity building, persuasion and financial support. To strengthen functioning of PRIs across the country, MoPR has launched eGramSwaraj (<https://egramswaraj.gov.in>), a user friendly web-based portal, which aims to bring in better transparency in the decentralised planning, progress reporting, financial management, work-based accounting and details of assets created. Further, for ensuring timely audit of Panchayat accounts i.e. receipts and expenditures of Gram Panchayats, MoPR has rolled out an online application – AuditOnline (<https://auditonline.gov.in>). This application not only facilitates the auditing of Panchayat accounts but also provides for maintaining of audit records. This application streamlines the process for audit inquiries, draft local audit reports, draft audit-paras etc. and thus ensures proper maintenance of accounts by Panchayats to improve transparency and accountability. Further, the State Government of Haryana has informed that

the functioning and success of Panchayats for improving their performance was assessed on seven parameters including best Sex Ratio, Education (zero dropouts), Hygiene, Peace and Harmony (no litigation), Environment preservation, Good Governance and Social Participation.

(c) MoPR has been taking several steps for effective functioning and strengthening of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the States and Union Territories covered under Part IX of the Constitution through provisioning of financial and technical assistance under the schemes and programmes of the Government and issue of advisories from time to time. The various measures taken include incentivizing the States which have devolved more functions, funds and functionaries to Panchayats, providing financial and technical assistance for capacity building of Panchayats to enable them to perform the devolved functions effectively and efficiently, strengthening systems of budgeting, accounting and auditing, development of software applications and imparting training for their use to bring in transparency, accountability and efficiency in their functioning, incentive awards to the selected best performing Panchayats and assisting the States in formulation of detailed guidelines for preparation of participatory Gram Panchayat Development Plans by the Gram Panchayats utilising the resources available at their command.
