

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 880
ANSWERED ON-14.12.2022

MEETINGS OF GRAM SABHAS

880. SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Gram Sabhas are held in accordance with the provisions of Part IX Article 243A of Constitution of India with minimum number of people in the village(s) actually attending and taking collective decisions twice a year regarding the requirements of the villages based upon resources available;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government is contemplating any step to ensure the above, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL)

(a) & (b) In terms of provisions of Article 243A of the Constitution of India, a Gram Sabha may exercise such powers and perform such functions at the village level as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide. Therefore, powers and functions of a Gram Sabha, including holding of Gram Sabha meetings, ensuring its quorum and taking collective decisions etc., are governed by the respective State Panchayati Raj Acts and rules, which may vary across States. Data, in this regard, is not maintained centrally.

(c) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has circulated detailed advisories to the States and Union Territories in August 2021 and September 2022, to revitalize the institution of Gram Sabhas by taking up measures such as sharing basic details of flagship schemes of the Government in Gram Sabha meetings, increasing the frequency of Gram Sabhas, preparation of regular standing agenda for the Gram Sabha, preparation of annual calendar for Gram Sabha, attendance of Group 'A' and 'B' officers in the Gram Sabha meetings, ensuring maximum attendance in Gram Sabha, formation and functioning of Standing Sub-Committees of Gram Sabha, and assigning meaningful and effective roles to the ward members as sector enablers and members of the sub-committee etc. Further, to facilitate meetings of Gram Sabha become more participatory, transparent and vibrant, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has also launched the portal <https://meetingonline.gov.in>