

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 561
ANSWERED ON 07.02.2024

BUDGET FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

561 Shri Zala Kesridevsinhji:
Shri Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai:

Will the Minister of Panchayati Raj be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to ensure social inclusivity and gender sensitivity in budget for Panchayati Raj development projects;
- (b) the details of an overview of the envisioned outcomes and impact assessment mechanisms associated in budget for Panchayati Raj;
- (c) how budget addressess the digital infrastructure and connectivity needs of Panchayati Raj institutions to enhance efficiency in service delivery;
- (d) provisions to encourage community participation and engagement in decision-making processes at the local governance level; and
- (e) insights into any policy changes or legislative measures that complement the budgetary allocations for the Ministry in the upcoming fiscal year?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is implementing the scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) for capacity building and training of elected representatives of the PRIs and their functionaries in various thematic areas such as formulation and implementation of panchayat development plans for socio-economic development of weaker sections of the society, women and children and such other vulnerable groups. Under the localization of sustainable development goals (LSDG) initiative of the MoPR, emphasis has been laid for capacity building

and training of the PRI representatives to formulate theme-based Gram Panchayat Development Plans through convergence of resources and activities with a ‘whole of Government and whole of Society’ approach for gender sensitive and socially inclusive development to ensure socially secured, women and child friendly villages in consonance with the sustainable development goals.

(b) In addition to the mandatory evaluation of the relevant scheme of RGSA for its effectiveness in providing training as a major component of the scheme, the Ministry has introduced Panchayat Development Index (PDI) which can gauge the performance of the Panchayats in achieving various developmental goals through planning and execution of panchayat development projects.

(c) The budget of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), inter alia, includes provision for computerization of the Panchayats under RGSA scheme, digital solutions under the Mission Mode Project on e-Panchayats scheme. In addition, the Ministry has collaborated with Department of Telecommunications for implementing Digital India, BharatNet project to achieve universal broadband connectivity for all Gram Panchayats to enable them to provide e-service delivery.

(d) In addition to conducting of Gram Sabhas by the Gram Panchayats involving all Stakeholder and voters of the Gram Panchayats to formulate and approve Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP), People’s Plan Campaigns (PPC) are organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj every year to consult all stakeholder before formulating annual GPDP by the Gram Panchayats.

(e) The existing measures/initiatives for central support to the States for capacity building and training of the elected representatives of the PRIs and their functionaries localization of sustainable development goals, digitalization of Panchayats, infrastructural support to the PRIs, collaboration with relevant Ministry ensuring digital infrastructure to the Panchayats will continue in the upcoming fiscal.
