

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ
(2024-2025)

21

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

GRAM URJA SWARAJ: PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY IN RURAL AREAS

TWENTY FIRST REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

TWENTY FIRST REPORT

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ
(2024-2025)**

(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

GRAM URJA SWARAJ: PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY IN RURAL AREAS

Presented to Lok Sabha on 19.08.2025

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 19.08.2025



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2025/Shraavana, 1947 (Saka)

CRD No. 212

Price: Rs

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Published under Rule 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Seventeenth Edition) and Printed by _____.

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
PANCHAYATI RAJ (2024-2025)**

Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka -- Chairperson

Lok Sabha Members

2. Shri Sandipanrao Asaram Bhumare
3. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay
4. Shri Raju Bista
5. Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey
6. Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal
7. Shri Bhajan Lal Jatav
8. Dr. Mohammad Jawed
9. Shri Jugal Kishore
10. Dr. D. Ravi Kumar
11. Shri Naba Charan Majhi
12. Shri Imran Masood
13. Shri Janardan Mishra
14. Shri Kota Srinivasa Poojary
15. Shri K. Radhakrishnan
16. Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar
17. Shri Omprakash Bhupalsinh Alias Pavan Rajenimbalkar
18. Shri Parshottambhai Rupala
19. Shri Devendra Singh Alias Bhole Singh
20. Shri Ganesh Singh
21. Shri Vivek Thakur

Rajya Sabha Members

22. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
23. Shri H. D. Devegowda
24. Shri Samirul Islam
25. Shri Iranna Kadadi
26. Shri Nagendra Ray
27. Shri Anthiyur P. Selvarasu
28. Shri Sant Balbir Singh
29. Dr. M. Dhanapal
30. Shri Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha
31. Shri P. Wilson

Secretariat

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. Shri D. R. Shekhar | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. Shri V.K. Shailon | - | Director |
| 3. Smt Rashmi Roy | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 4. Shri Sushil Kumar | - | Executive Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (2024-2025) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Twenty First Report on 'Gram Urja Swaraj: Promoting Renewable Energy in Rural Areas' of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

2. The Committee held briefing by the representatives of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) on 25th March, 2025.

3. The Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on 28th May, 2025 and 24th July, 2025.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 18th August, 2025.

4. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officials of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for placing before them the requisite material and their considered views in connection with the examination of the subject.

5. The Committee would also like to place on record their deep sense of appreciation for the invaluable assistance rendered to them by the officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat attached to the Committee.

NEW DELHI
18 August, 2025
27 Shraavana, 1947 (Saka)

SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Rural Development &
Panchayati Raj

TWENTY FIRST REPORT

GRAM URJA SWARAJ: PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY IN RURAL AREAS

PART – I

NARRATION ANALYSIS

A. Introduction

1.1 The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is the nodal Ministry for all matters relating to new and renewable energy – which has been vital in bringing new initiatives such as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) and National Solar Mission.

1.2 With over 60% of the population living in rural areas, adopting a decentralized strategy to address climate change is crucial. Panchayats make substantial expenditure towards payment of electricity bills, and renewable energy can offer a sustainable, cost-efficient alternative.

1.3 The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has initiated the Gram Urja Swaraj campaign with an aim to promote adoption of renewable energy in rural areas and enable Panchayati Raj Institutions to become self-sufficient in terms of energy.

B. Engagement with States

1.4 The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in consultation with MNRE and industry experts, had prepared a Concept Note on ‘Making Panchayats ‘Atma Nirbhar’ through Renewable Energy’ outlining the implementation mechanisms, financing models, year-wise targets, and roles of the Central Government, State Government, and Panchayati Raj Institutions for adopting renewable energy applications in rural areas. The States have been advised to launch a ‘Gram Urja Swaraj’ campaign for renewable energy interventions in rural areas. An Advisory on this matter had been shared with the Hon’ble Chief Ministers of States, by the Hon’ble Minister of Panchayati Raj in March 2022.

1.5 Additionally, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has also issued advisories to States to promote implementation of schemes such as PM Surya Ghar, while highlighting the roles and responsibilities of PRIs.

C. Summary of Concept Note on “Making Panchayats Atma Nirbhar” through Renewable Energy- Gram Urja Swaraj

1.6 While addressing the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference also known as COP26 summit in Glasgow, Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has made in the form of five nectar elements, ‘Panchamrit’, to deal with climate change. First- India will take its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030. Second- India will

meet 50 percent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030. Third- India will reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now till 2030. Fourth- By 2030, India will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by less than 45 percent. And fifth- by the year 2070, India will achieve the target of Net Zero.

1.7 Considering the recent commitment of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India at the COP 26 Summit and the enormous potential of renewable energy in India, this Concept note has been prepared by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in consultation with Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and other industry experts. The objective of this Concept Note is to lay down the major implementation mechanisms, financing models, year-wise targets and role of Central Government, State Government and Panchayati Raj Institutions in effective adoption of Renewable energy applications, for rural areas of the country. Further, it is suggested that a campaign on 'Gram Urja Swaraj' be launched by States with an aim to achieve targets which have been laid down on adoption of renewable energy interventions in rural areas.

1.8 It is widely acknowledged that considerable funds are expended as electricity costs by Panchayats and renewable energy presents itself an option for sustainable and cost-efficient energy systems in rural areas. Renewable energy offers an opportunity to improve the social, economic, environmental and health indicators of rural population. Panchayats could play a critical role in creating awareness, requirement assessment, mobilizing resources and personnel etc. Thus, in the upcoming years, Gram Panchayats would become producers of energy instead of only being consumers and develop own sources of revenue, and employment opportunities for local youth of the villages.

1.9 Major renewable energy models proposed in the note include 'solar rooftop', Solar Tree, Solar powered induction cooktops, Solar Street lighting, Solar Pumps, Solar Mini/Micro Grids, Micro Hydel Power plants, Wind mills and Bio gas plants. As financing of renewable energy initiatives is a major challenge, various implementation models have also been proposed in the concept note where Panchayats could actively play a role in adoption of renewable energy.

1.10 In the upcoming years, factors such as India's demographic dividend, renewable energy potential, and recent push to bring enabling policy ecosystem in renewable energy sector, are expected to make significant contribution towards augmenting income and employment generation in the energy sector in rural areas. Major areas for employment generation include:

- (a) Solar energy assessment of potential sites
- (b) Operations and Maintenance
- (c) Construction and installation
- (d) Sales and services
- (e) Training and apprenticeship

1.11 Skill Development has been a major challenge for the country and ‘rural energy’ could be one of the areas which could be focused in rural areas in the coming years. Thus, it would be appropriate to align or expand the current skill development initiatives of the Government of India. Broadly, ‘Equipment manufacture and distribution’ ‘Project development’; ‘Installation, commissioning and handover’ and ‘Inspection, servicing and maintenance’ are some of the critical areas for skill development in rural areas.

1.12 The Concept Note also highlights policy issues which need to be considered by all stakeholders including

- (a) Panchayats, other Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to get benefits under different Government schemes.
- (b) Enabling adoption of solar rooftop systems for all public buildings such as Panchayat Bhawans, Primary health Centres, Community Health Centres, Anganwadi Centres to make these establishment self-sufficient in terms of their electricity requirements through policy interventions.
- (c) Commensuration of energy selling rate with existing market rates.
- (d) Facilitating Net Metering.
- (e) Promoting solar powered pumps for water supply in rural areas

1.13 In adoption of Solar Energy interventions in rural areas, it is important to develop a spirit of collaboration between different stakeholders working towards rapid adoption of solar energy (as well as other renewable sources as suited by the State such as Hydel energy, wind energy etc.). The State Panchayat Raj Departments can act as a nodal agency for the convergence of all the agencies to ensure cross-cutting partnership of agencies within and outside the Government.

1.14 The initiative aims to reduce transmission losses, boost rural adoption of renewable energy, and promote community models like solar kitchens and bio-fertilizers. It supports economic growth, rural employment, and Panchayats' contribution to national climate goals and energy self-sufficiency.

D. Incentivising Panchayati Raj Institutions on adoption of Renewable Energy

1.15 Incentivization of Panchayats scheme is one of the components of Centrally Sponsored scheme of revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) of MoPR. Under this scheme, ‘National Panchayat Awards’ are given to the best performing Panchayats, annually on 24th April, celebrated as National Panchayati Raj Day to commemorate 73rd Constitution Amendment Act, 1992.

1.16 As a part of this initiative, awards are being given to PRIs, under 2 special categories including ‘**Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar**’ and ‘**Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar**’.

- (a) **Gram Urja Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar:** This award is given to 3 GPs for their performance regarding adoption and usage of renewable sources of energy.
- (b) **Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar:** This award will be given to 3 GPs who have done exemplary work towards achieving Net-Zero carbon emissions. Similar to Gram Urja Swaraj Puraskar.

1.17 In 2025, the '**Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar**' and the '**Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar**' have been merged to form '**Climate Action Special Panchayat Award**' with an aim to encourage Panchayats to act as climate-responsive local governments. The Climate Action Special Panchayat Award, was conferred to the following GPs on National Panchayati Raj Day NPRD-2025 held at Lohna Uttar Gram Panchayat, District Madhubani, Bihar on 24th April, 2025.

- Rank 1: Dawwa S Gram Panchayat, Gondia District, Maharashtra
- Rank 2: Biradahalli Gram Panchayat, Hassan District, Karnataka
- Rank 3: Motipur Gram Panchayat, Samastipur District, Bihar

The award includes a financial incentive of Rs.1 crore (Rank 1), Rs.75 lakh (Rank 2), and Rs.50 lakh (Rank 3) respectively. The awardees were presented with specially designed trophies and certificates.

E. Special Projects under RGSA

1.18 MoPR under the revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), supports innovation by incubating and developing models of good governance and results-based program delivery through Panchayats. Proposals for innovative activities and processes, including those by government and reputed non-government organizations, are submitted through the State plans. The proposal highlights innovative features, such as strengthening Gram Panchayat governance and service delivery, using technology for local solutions, increasing Panchayats' own source revenue, and enhancing transparency and accountability. Proposals are supported based on its merit and sustainability.

1.19 Additionally, RGSA provides project-based support for economic development and income enhancement. Under this component, Gram Panchayats or clusters of Gram Panchayats are funded for micro projects on economic development and income enhancement. Financial assistance in the form of viability gap funding is provided based on the merit and sustainability of the proposals. The Ministry has funded three innovative and economic development projects related to solar energy adoption in PRIs.

F. Gram Urja Swaraj Portal

1.20 'The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched 'Gram Urja Swaraj' dashboard for ascertaining the suitability and inclination of Gram Panchayats towards adopting renewable energy projects. The objective of the dashboard is to gather key information

such as Gram Panchayats interested in adoption of new and renewable energy projects facilitating implementation of those projects in collaboration with State Governments, DISCOMs and Financial Institutions.

G. Key Challenges

1.21 Access to financing mechanisms: Renewable energy projects entail significant initial costs. Thus, it is important to enable RLBs /SHGs to have ease of access to funds to set up mini-solar parks and roof top installations which could help PRIs attain Energy Self Reliance. Therefore, financial lending institutions are required to develop appropriate financial products with reasonable rate of interest.

1.22 Complex processes & Lack of awareness: In rural areas, the lack of awareness often makes it difficult for beneficiaries to navigate complex registration process for government schemes. The Panchayati Raj Institutions could play a major role in promoting awareness in the rural communities about the benefits of renewable energy schemes such as PM Surya Ghar and support the beneficiaries in registration and installation of solar systems in rural areas.

1.23 Operations & Maintenance Challenges: Maintaining solar systems in rural areas is challenging due to logistical issues in remote areas, lack of skilled technicians, and financial constraints. These factors lead to delays in repairs and reduced system efficiency.

1.24 Challenges in monitoring progress of implementation of scheme due to lack of real-time data on the portal.

1.25 No bifurcation of data on solar installations in rural and urban areas. As a result, it is not possible to monitor the implementation of the scheme in rural areas.

1.26 PRIs are also facing challenges in receiving incentives under the PM Surya Ghar scheme.

H. Engagement With MNRE

1.27 To strengthen convergence between the Ministries and accelerate the adoption of renewable energy through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), a high-level meeting was convened on 11th June 2025 between the Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), and the Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), along with senior officials from both Ministries. The Key highlights of the discussion are as follows:

- The Solar potential tool may be utilized for preliminary survey and identification of potential rooftops for the scheme, and then, PRIs can highlight the benefits of solar rooftop solarization through PM Surya Ghar.

- The possibility of enabling demand aggregation at scale at the Gram Panchayat level may be explored within the PM Surya Ghar Portal to facilitate faster and easier demand collection at the grassroots,
- NIC GIS may collaborate with MNRE to leverage the Solar estimation tool and corresponding SVAMITVA data for preliminary inspection.

1.28 A joint advisory (dated 7th July 2025) from Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, was sent to the Chief Secretaries of States, requesting convergence of efforts of stakeholders such as Energy, Panchayati Raj etc., and expedite implementation of schemes such as PM Surya Ghar and PM KUSUM, with active involvement of PRIs.

I. Recognition of GPS as Entities by MNRE

1.29 During the course of the Gram Urja Swaraj initiative, it was also observed that the Schemes of the Ministry of the New and Renewable Energy were primarily focused on end users at the grassroots level, and the Panchayati Raj Institutions were not adequately recognised as beneficiaries in schemes such as Grid Connected Rooftop Solar programme. The Grid Connected Rooftop programme has now been subsumed into the PM Surya Ghar Scheme.

1.30 Considering the large scope of adoption of solar energy in rural areas, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been consistently in pursuance with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for including Panchayati Raj Institutions in its schemes.

1.31 As a result, MNRE under its schemes such as PM Surya Ghar has, given due consideration to the PRIs, since January 2024.

J. Incentives For PRIs for Successful Implementation of Solar Rooftops

1.32 **Incentives for local bodies under PM Surya Ghar Scheme:** As a result of the discussions, MNRE has made provisions for '**Incentives to Local Bodies**' under the PM Surya Ghar Scheme, to promote participation of local bodies in rural areas.

1.33 Under the scheme, Gram Panchayats shall be provided with financial assistance in the form of incentive of ₹ 1,000 per installation in their respective jurisdiction.

1.34 **Utilising data from SVAMITVA Scheme:** Under the SVAMITVA scheme by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, rural landowners are issued property cards, and digital maps of village properties are being generated. To enhance the operational efficiency of the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, the Ministry is collaborating with the MNRE to leverage the comprehensive data from the SVAMITVA Yojana. This dataset, encompassing detailed land ownership records and digital property maps, will facilitate precise rooftop area measurements, identification of suitable concrete roofs, and streamline the assessment process for solar panel installations. Furthermore, the mapping of rooftop areas will

enable more efficient management by consolidating plant installations under one or two vendors.

1.35 Representation of Ministry of Panchayati Raj in the Steering Committee of PM Surya Ghar: As a part of its collaboration with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, **Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been made a part of the Steering Committee for PM Surya Ghar Scheme, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, Government of India since September 2024.**

K. Technological Interventions

1.36 Gram Manchitra: In order to encourage the Spatial Planning by the Gram Panchayat, Ministry of Panchayati Raj had launched the Geographic Information System (GIS) application “Gram Manchitra” (<https://grammanchitra.gov.in>). This application facilitates and supports Gram Panchayats to perform planning at Gram Panchayat level using geo-spatial technology.

1.37 Rooftop solarization potential estimation tool: In its novel effort, the Ministry has developed a Rooftop solarization potential estimation tool, in the Gram Manchitra application. By analyzing digital maps and data on village properties, the tool helps estimate the potential for rooftop solar installations, identifying suitable rooftops for solar panel installations based on accurate measurements of rooftop areas. The Rooftop Solarization Potential Estimation Tool within the Gram Manchitra application can be used by various stakeholders, including Gram Panchayat officials, local government authorities, planners, solar vendors, and implementing agencies. MNRE and MoPR are currently conducting a pilot test utilizing the solar rooftop potential estimation tool

PART – II

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Creation of New Scheme namely “Gram Urja Swaraj”

Gram Urja Swaraj is a campaign launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to help villages use clean energy like solar, wind, and biogas. It encourages Panchayats to use renewable energy to meet their needs and rely less on traditional energy. During the briefing representatives of MoPR has stated that MoPR do not have any scheme and no budget has been allocated for this purpose. Representatives of MoPR has also stated that under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), panchayats are given awards for good performance. Two special awards, Gram Urja Special Panchayat Award and Carbon Neutral Special Panchayat Award were introduced under RGSA. The winner GP get reward an amount of Rs 1 crore, Rs 75 lakh and Rs 50 lakh for first, second, and third place. The Committee note that panchayats can play an important role in making Gram Urja Swaraj success by helping villages to generate their own energy, improve livelihoods, and move towards a cleaner and more sustainable future. The Committee, therefore recommend that MoPR should start a dedicated scheme with adequate fund to help villages become self-reliant in clean and affordable energy by using renewable source like solar power, windmills, biogas and small energy grids. This scheme should focus on support to Gram Panchayats by giving them financial and technical help, train young people to manage these energy systems, encourage people to use energy wisely, and

involve the whole community. The Committee feel this will enable increased Renewable Energy Penetration in rural infrastructure and households.

2. Creation of Rural Renewable Energy Fund

The Gram Urja Swaraj Campaign aims to promote renewable energy adoption at the Panchayat level to achieve self-reliance in rural energy needs. MoPR's role is limited to collaboration and identification of projects, with funding largely routed through the MNRE. This dependency limits MoPRs operational autonomy and slows grassroots implementation. The Committee recommend that MoPR should establish a dedicated Rural Renewable Energy Fund under its own budget to reduce dependence on MNRE and enable Panchayats to directly plan, sanction and implement renewable energy projects. Funds can be pooled from Finance Commission grants, State Finance Commissions, NABARD's Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, CSR Contributions and development partners. The Committee is of the view that this will enable financial independence for Panchayats in energy planning and faster implementation through direct MoPR funding channels. The Committee urge the MoPR, for other MNRE projects associated with Rural Development and Panchayati Raj better coordination should be maintained between both the Ministries.

3. Enhancing Quality and Durability of Solar Films

Improving the quality and durability of solar films under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and PM-KUSUM is important for the scheme's long-term success. The Committee note that low-quality films produce less electricity and degrade faster when exposed to heat, rain, and dust, leading to frequent repairs

and higher costs. This can reduce trust in the program and discourage people from using it. The Committee recommend that the MoPR must take strong steps for installation of quality standards and durable solar films from approved manufacturers and trained installer. Mandatory use of solar films with UV resistance, moisture protection, BIS certification, IEC safety guidelines along with 10 years warranty would serve the purpose effectively. Further, Committee urge the MoPR should conduct third-party audits for quality checks of solar films as the Committee are of the view that using better-quality solar films work more efficiently, save money over the period, benefiting both the households and the Government's investment. Further, in order to have optimal results there is a need to employ trained and certified installers to maintain the performance and durability of the solar films.

4. Upgrading Battery Technology for Renewable Energy

As the India moves towards clean and green energy source like solar and wind energy. To ensure the long-term efficiency, success and reliability on renewable energy systems, the energy storage batteries are playing a vital role. The Committee observe that batteries currently in use are outdated, have limited storage capacity, and stop functioning properly over the period. Frequently replacing solar batteries and purchasing new batteries can make using solar energy more expensive in the long run and make it harder for people to afford or rely on solar energy. To make renewable energy systems work better and last longer the Committee recommend that the MoPR should explore possibility to procure latest upgraded battery with provision of its replacement and

upgradation. The scheme provides financial aid or subsidies to individuals and communities who wish to adopt better battery systems. It could also encourage research and development in battery technology for long-term improvements. This will help make our energy system more reliable and move towards clean, green energy.

5. Training to local youths for Maintenance of Solar Panels

Solar energy is becoming more popular in the country as it is clean and good for the environment. Regular maintenance is essential to keep solar panels working smoothly. During the course of evidence, the Committee note that there is an acute shortage of trained/skilled mechanics to repair and maintain solar panels. The Committee therefore recommend that the MoPR should hire special agencies or establish training centres to train the people to maintain and repair solar panels. These agencies/centres should focus on developing the skills needed in this field by training more mechanics targeting local youths and local mechanics, so that it will be easier for solar panel owners to find local mechanics who can resolve their problem quickly. This way purpose of the scheme will be useful for the villagers.

6. Panchayats as Energy Producers

The Committee recommends Panchayats should be empowered as energy producers, with legal backing in State Panchayati Raj Acts to own renewable energy assets and sell surplus power to DISCOMS, creating sustainable local revenue streams. Further, Committee also suggests MoPR to act as nodal for multi-Ministry Convergence-use MGNREGA (MoRD) for labour components,

MoHUA for solar street lighting, PM-KUSUM for solar lighting-while forging direct partnerships with PSUs and CSR agencies for sponsorship of energy infrastructure.

**NEW DELHI
18 August, 2025
27 Shraavana, 1947 (Saka)**

**SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Rural Development &
Panchayati Raj**

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ
(2024-25)

**EXTRACTS OF THE MINUTES OF THE TWENTY FIRST SITTING OF THE
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, THE 25th MARCH, 2025**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs to 1621 hrs in Committee Room 'C',
Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka -- *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Raju Bista
3. Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal
4. Shri Bhajan Lal Jatav
5. Dr. Mohammad Jawed
6. Shri Jugal Kishore
7. Shri Janardan Mishra
8. Shri Kota Srinivasa Poojary
9. Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar
10. Shri Omprakash Bhupalsinh *alias* Pavan Rajenimbalkar
11. Shri Ganesh Singh

Rajya Sabha

12. Shri Iranna Kadadi
13. Shri Nagendra Ray
14. Shri Sant Balbir Singh

Secretariat

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. Shri Des Raj Shekhar | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. Shri Vinay P. Barwa | - | Director |
| 3. Shri L. Singson | - | Deputy Secretary |

Representatives of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Designation
1.	Shri Vivek Bharadwaj	Secretary
2.	Shri Sushil Kumar Lohani	Additional Secretary

3.	Dr. Bijaya Kumar Behera	Economic Advisor
4.	Shri Alok Prem Nagar	Joint Secretary
5.	Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh	Joint Secretary
6.	Shri Vipul Ujwal	Director
7.	Shri Ramit Maura	Director
8.	Shri Ram Pratap	Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened for XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX and having a briefing by the representatives of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on the subject 'Gram Urja Swaraj: Promoting Renewable Energy in Rural Areas'. XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX

[Thereafter the representatives from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj were called in]

3. After welcoming the representatives, the Chairperson in his opening remarks stressed upon the efforts that have been taken and to be taken by the Ministry for implementation of Gram Urja Swaraj in the rural areas of the country along with the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders at State and Central Government level and the progress made so far.

4. The Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj after taking permission from the Chairperson directed the Joint Secretary, MoPR to make a Power Point Presentation on the overview of the 'Gram Urja Swaraj: Promoting Renewable Energy in Rural Areas'. During the presentation, the Joint Secretary, MoPR highlighted the aims and progress made under Gram Urja Swaraj since its inception in the year 2022. The MoPR has prepared a Concept Note in consultation with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Industry and States on 'Making Panchayats Atma Nirbhar through Renewable Energy' and Ministry gives award every year to those Gram Panchayats who perform better in this area.

5. Subsequently, Members raised their individual queries. The queries of the Members were replied by the Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj. He further stated that the no fund has been allocated by the Ministry for the particular programme and the Nodal Ministry for same is MNRE. Certain issues which remained unanswered alongwith those which warranted elaborate reply, the Ministry were requested to send written replies thereto in writing within 15 days.

[The Witnesses then withdrew]

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

XXX Not related to the Draft Report.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ
(2024-25)

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY SIXTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, THE 28th MAY, 2025

The Committee sat from 1100 hrs to 1255 hrs in Committee Room 'D', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka -- *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Raju Bista
3. Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey
4. Shri Bhajan Lal Jatav
5. Dr. Mohammad Jawed
6. Shri Naba Charan Majhi
7. Shri Imran Masood
8. Shri Janardan Mishra
9. Shri Kota Srinivasa Poojary
10. Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar
11. Shri Parshottambhai Rupala

Rajya Sabha

12. Shri H. D. Devegowda

Secretariat

- | | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| 1. | Shri Des Raj Shekhar | - | Additional Secretary | |
| 2. | Shri V. K. Shailon | - | Director | |
| 3. | Shri L. Singson | - | Deputy Secretary | - |

Representatives of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Designation
1.	Shri Vivek Bharadwaj	Secretary
2.	Shri Sushil Kumar Lohani	Additional Secretary
3.	Dr. Bijaya Kumar Behera	Economic Advisor
4.	Shri Alok Prem Nagar	Joint Secretary
5.	Ms. Mukta Shekhar	Joint Secretary
6.	Shri Ram Pratap	Director

Representatives of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Designation
1.	Shri JVN Subramanyam	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Pankaj Saxena	Scientist-G
3.	Ms Suman Chandra	Director
4.	Shri Jeevan Kumar Jethani	Scientist-F

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened for taking oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on the subject 'Gram Urja Swaraj: Promoting Renewable Energy in Rural Areas'.

[Thereafter the representatives from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy were called in]

3. After welcoming the representatives, the Chairperson in his opening remarks stressed upon the various important aspect of the campaign on the 'Gram Urja Swaraj; promoting renewal energy in rural areas, target fixed, funds allocated, expenditure incurred thereon, implementation on ground and progress made so far. The Chairperson, then asked the representatives of the Ministries to introduce themselves and place their views on the subject.

4. Thereafter, the Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj requested Chairperson to allow the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNER), the Nodal Ministry for generation of renewable energy in the country to make their Power Point Presentation. With the permission of the Chairperson, the Joint Secretary, MNER then made a Power Point Presentation and briefed and highlighted on the overview of the promotion and generation of renewable energy in the country.

5. Thereafter, the Members raised queries on provision/plans for using of nano solar panels instead of big solar panels, lack of publicity and promotion regarding the scheme, steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce energy generation cost (per KW) through renewable sources. The queries of the Committee were responded to by the witnesses.

6. The Chairperson then thanked the representatives of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for their valuable information and requested them to furnish written information on queries/points raised by the Members on which the replies were not readily available with them within 15 days to this Secretariat.

[The Witnesses then withdrew]

A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.
The Committee then adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ
(2024-25)

**EXTRACTS OF THE MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FIRST OF THE COMMITTEE HELD
ON THURSDAY, THE 24th JULY, 2025**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs to 1650 hrs in Committee Room 'B', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka -- *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

15. Shri Sandipanrao Asaram Bhumare
16. Shri Raju Bista
17. Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey
18. Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal
19. Shri Bhajan Lal Jatav
20. Dr. Mohammad Jawed
21. Shri Jugal Kishore
22. Dr. D. Ravi Kumar
23. Shri Imran Masood
24. Shri Janardan Mishra
25. Shri Kota Srinivasa Poojary
26. Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar
27. Shri Omprakash Bhupalsinh *alias* Pavan Rajenimbalkar
28. Shri Parshottambhai Rupala

Rajya Sabha

29. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
30. Shri Samirul Islam
31. Shri Iranna Kadadi
32. Shri Sant Balbir Singh

Secretariat

- | | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| 1. | Shri Des Raj Shekhar | - | Additional Secretary | |
| 2. | Shri V. K. Shailon | - | Director | |
| 3. | Smt. Rashmi Roy | - | Deputy Secretary | - |

Representatives of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Designation
1.	Shri Sushil Kumar Lohani	Additional Secretary
2.	Shri Alok Prem Nagar	Joint Secretary

Representatives of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Sr. No.	Name of the Witness	Designation
1.	Shri Santosh Kumar Sarangi	Secretary
2.	Shri JVN Subramanyam	Joint Secretary
3.	Shri Pankaj Saxena	Scientist-G
4.	Ms Suman Chandra	Director
5.	Shri Jeevan Kumar Jethani	Scientist-F

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened for (i) XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX; and (ii) oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on the subject 'Gram Urja Swaraj: Promoting Renewable Energy in Rural Areas'.

3. XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX

[Thereafter, the representatives from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy were called in]

4. The Chairperson welcomed the witnesses and in his opening remarks outlined the importance of new and renewable energy in the country. The Chairperson, then asked the representatives of the Ministries to make their oral evidence and place their views on the subject with joint presentation. The Chairperson further drew the attention of the Ministries to the directions of Hon'ble Speaker regarding confidentiality of the discussions before the start of the meeting. Thereafter, the witnesses introduced themselves to the Committee and with the permission of the Chairperson, the Joint Secretary, MNRE made a joint Power Point Presentation on the subject 'Gram Urja Swaraj: Promoting Renewable Energy in Rural Areas' as per the directions of the Hon'ble Members of the Committee given in the previous meeting. The presentation highlighted action taken by the MNRE in consultation with MoPR are as follows:

- i. Issuance of Joint Advisory to States by both Secretaries, MoPR & MNRE

- ii. Amendments issued for Model Solar Village guidelines under PMSG: MBY
- iii. IEC Material for PM KUSUM & PMSG: MBY schemes shared with MoPR for further dissemination to GPs.
- iv. Amendments issued for Incentive to Local Bodies guidelines under PMSG: MBY
- v. Integration Gram Maanchitra Portal with National Portal of PMSG: MBY initiated.

5. Subsequently, Members raised their individual queries. The queries of the Members were subsequently replied by the witnesses. On certain issues Ministries could not provide immediate reply, they were requested to send written replies thereto as early as possible.

[The Witnesses then withdrew]
A record of verbatim proceedings has been kept.
The Committee then adjourned.

XXX Not related to the Draft Report.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (2024-25)

**EXTRACTS OF THE MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY, THE 18th AUGUST, 2025**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs to 1530 hrs in Committee Room 'C', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Raju Bista
3. Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey
4. Shri Bhajan Lal Jatav
5. Dr. Mohammad Jawed
6. Shri Jugal Kishore
7. Shri Imran Masood
8. Shri Janardan Mishra
9. Shri Ramashankar Rajbhar
10. Shri Omprakash Bhupalsinh *alias* Pavan Rajenimbalkar
11. Shri Parshottambhai Rupala

Rajya Sabha

12. Smt. Geeta *alias* Chandraprabha
13. Shri Iranna Kadadi
14. Dr. M. Dhanapal
15. Shri Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha

Secretariat

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. Shri D. R. Shekhar | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. Shri V. K. Shailon | - | Director |
| 3. Smt Rashmi Roy | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed the newly nominated Members along with the other Members to the sitting of the Committee convened for consideration and adoption of the following Draft Reports:

- a. XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX XXX
- b. Draft Report on "Gram Urja Swaraj: Promoting Renewable Energy in Rural Areas" pertaining to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj

3. Above mentioned draft Reports were taken up for consideration one-by-one and after discussion, the Committee adopted the same without any modifications. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the aforesaid Draft Reports and present the same to the Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

XXX Not related to the Draft Report.