

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(2020-2021)

19

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

*[Action taken on the Observations/recommendations contained in Fifteenth Report on
'Demands for Grants (2021-22) pertaining to Ministry of Panchayati Raj.]*

NINETEENTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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Presented to Lok Sabha on 05.08.2021

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 05.08.2021



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2021/Sravana, 1943 (Saka)

CRD No 173

Price : Rs.

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

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**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(2020-2021)**

Shri Prataprao Jadhav -- Chairperson

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Rajya Sabha

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1. Shri D. R. Shekhar - Joint Secretary
2. Shri A. K. Shah - Director
3. Smt. Emma C. Barwa - Additional Director

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (2020-2021) having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present the 19th Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (17th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

2. The Fifteenth Report was presented to the Lok Sabha on 09.03.2021 and was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the same date. Replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 15.06.2021.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 03.08.2021.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifteenth Report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in **Appendix-II**.

NEW DELHI;
03 August, 2021
12 Shravana, 1943 (Saka)

PRATAPRAO JADHAV
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Rural Development

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (2020-21) deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their Fifteenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2021-22) pertaining to Ministry of PanchayatiRaj'.

2. The Fifteenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 09 March, 2021 and was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the same date. The Report contained 16 Observations/Recommendations.

3. Action Taken Notes in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report have been received from the Government. These have been examined and categorized as follows:-

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government: Serial Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15

Total:14
Chapter-II

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of replies of the Government :Serial No. NIL

Total : 00
Chapter-III

(iii) Observation/Recommendation in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee :Serial Nos. 6, 16

Total:02
Chapter-IV

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:Serial No. NIL

Total:0
Chapter-V

4. The Committee desire that Final Action Taken Notes on the Observations/ recommendations contained in Chapter I of this Report may be furnished to the Committee within three months of the presentation of this Report.

5. The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of their Observations/Recommendations that require reiteration or merit comments.

Computerisation of GPs

(Recommendation Serial No. 6)

6. With regard to Computerization of GPs, the Committee recommended as under:-

"The Committee while viewing the MOPR data about State-wise GPs with computers are glad to note that A&N Islands, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and West Bengal have GPs with computers, whereas States with GPs with less number of computers are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, J&K, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Telangana and Uttarakhand. The Committee also note that as against the budgetary demand of Rs.894.03 cr. made out by MOPR only Rs.593 crore has been approved by the Ministry of Finance. The Committee have further been informed that the issue will be taken up before Ministry of Finance by way of Supplementary Grants. In the light of large number of GPs that are without computers as shown above, the Committee strongly recommend that efficacious efforts including sufficient finance is provided to the MOPR for early computerisation of GPs in concerned States/UTs."

7. The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:-

"Panchayat being local government which is part of the State list of 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India, is a State subject and is responsibility of State. However, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) supplements the efforts of the State including provision of Computers through its schemes and programmes. Under the restructured scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) being implemented w.e.f. 2018-19, this Ministry has been supplementing the efforts of state governments in this regard by providing financial support for computers and peripherals to States/ UTs for GPs on a limited scale. Under the scheme, computers for GPs have been approved during the last three years. Further, during the current year, computers for 7696 GPs have been approved in 13 states, so far. Moreover, the untied/ basic grants under 15th Finance Commission can be used by Rural Local Bodies(RLBs) for computer in the respective RLB. If need be, the matter will be taken up with the Ministry of Finance also seeking additional funds for this purpose through Supplementary Demands."

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

8. Having noted the fact that lower level of computerization of Gram Panchayats (GPs) in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chattisgarh, Haryana, J&K, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Telangana and Uttarakhand was due to inadequate availability of funds for computerisation of Panchayats for 2021-22, the Committee were informed that the issue of scarcity of funds would be taken up by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj with the Ministry of Finance for getting Supplementary Grants in order to have efficacious result in this regard.

From the action taken reply, the Committee find that MoPR has reiterated their stand of taking up the issue with Ministry of Finance through Supplementary Grants. The Committee have also been informed about use of untied/Basic Grants funds under 15th Finance Commission (FFC) Grants by concerned States for the purpose. The Committee feel that inability of using these funds by concerned States may be the reason behind their slow progress in Gram Panchayats computerization. In this connection, the Committee find that First Batch of Supplementary Grants (2021-22) of Rs. 1.87 lakh crore laid before the House on July, 2021 does not indicate any demand raised for MoPR by Ministry of Finance. The Committee, however, in order to speed up process to cover large number of Gram Panchayats for computerization, earnestly recommend to the Ministry of Finance to provide more funds for proper utilization for the above slow moving States. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation of approaching the Ministry of Finance for requisite funds in Second Batch of Supplementary Grants (2021-22) for MoPR whenever these come up before Parliament.

Implementation of SVAMITVA Scheme for giving Property Cards to ruralhouse owner

(Recommendation Serial No. 16)

2. With regard to implementation of SVAMITVA scheme for giving property cards to rural house owners, the Committee recommended as under:-

"The Committee note that a sum of Rs. 200 crore has been proposed during the year 2020-21 for Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) which aims to provide the 'record of rights' to village household and issue of property cards to owners that will facilitate monetization of rural residential assets for credit and other financial services. The Committee note the performance of the first Phase of the Scheme where deeds/property cards have been distributed in 763 villages to 1 lakh property owners thereby resulting in a few securing loans from established Banks. Drone flying has been completed in nearly 24000 villages till date and 567 Continuous Operating Reference System (CORS) network have been established for providing a network of reference stations that allows access to long-range, high-accuracy in demarcation of land. The Committee further note that in order to cover about 6.62 lakh villages in the country, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has prepared a tentative plan of covering 2,02,964 villages during 2021-22; 2,72,930 villages in 2022-23 and 64,813 villages in 2023-24 with flexibility of shifting target from one State to other depending on the traction being obtained by the drone survey operations. The Committee on analyzing the above observations, recommend that the Ministry should lay more stress upon the need for proper coordination among the States, Survey of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Director General of Civil Aviation and incorporate the experiences gained during the first phase of implementation of scheme for smooth implementation and improved performance in achieving the tentative goals from 2021-22 to 2023-24."

3. The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have stated as under:-

"The Ministry has noted the recommendation and shall ensure the smooth implementation and improved performance for achieving the tentative targets from 2021-22 to 2024-25 as scheme has been approved for implementation upto 2024-25."

COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

4. **The Committee note about the implementation of SVAMITVA scheme for issuing of property cards to rural house owners had recommended that proper coordination among the State and other agencies should be done properly for smooth implementation of the scheme. In this regard, the Ministry in their written reply stated smooth implementation and improved performance for**

achieving the tentative targets from 2021-22 to 2024-25 as scheme has been approved for implementation upto 2024-25. The Committee are, however, dismayed to note that no details regarding as to how the Ministry would ensure smooth and time bound implementation of the scheme have been provided. The Committee, therefore, strongly reiterates its recommendation that the Ministry should make efficacious efforts in order to implement SVAMITVA scheme for issuing property cards to rural house owners within a time frame fixed and in a very coordinated manner in order to achieve its goal as envisaged.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 1)

Downsizing of abysmal MOPR funds and utilisation of allocation

While glancing through the over-all outlays and expenditure of MOPR during the last three years, the Committee are dismayed to note that Budget estimates have been downsized to abysmally low levels with progressively higher reduction year after year for one reason or other. For instance, during 2018-19 the BE of Rs.825.17 cr. were brought down to Rs.716.26 cr. Similarly during 2019-20 and 2020-21 BE of Rs.871.52 cr. and Rs.900.94 cr. were reduced to as low as Rs.500.00 cr. and Rs.690.00 cr. at RE level respectively.

The Committee are further concerned to note procedural issue of RGSA being new scheme for 2018-19 has delayed availability of funds upto August, 2018 leading to late submission of Utilisation Certificates (UCs) for fund releases. The unspent balances with States/UTs has also been the common reason for less expenditure during all these years of 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 also leading to late submission of UCs for fresh releases. The Committee also observe that during the year 2020-21, due to Covid-19 pandemic and to avoid accumulation of unspent funds status, the Ministry of Finance imposed 5% per month restriction on expenditure till November, 2020.

The Committee are also concerned to note that unspent amount of Rs.138.69 cr. is figuring with MOPR as on 05.01.2021 cumulatively under every scheme with highest amount of Rs.66.79 cr. with RGSA.

The Committee, therefore, find that beneficiary States of MOPR funds as also MOPR are themselves responsible for downsizing of funds at RE level and the same does not at all augur well with over-all releases and their utilisation. The Committee, therefore, urge MOPR to impress upon States/UTs Governments for timely submission of proposals and their approval at Central level pending revamp of RGSA scheme, so that amount budgeted for 2021-22 is optimally utilised without any cut at RE level.

Reply of the Government

Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) is a major umbrella scheme of the Ministry and variations in the allocation, utilisation and cut under RGSA has major impact on the overall budgetary allocation of the Ministry. Accordingly, Ministry has taken active steps to optimally utilize the budget allocated for the scheme of RGSA. As regards observation of the committee regarding optimal utilization of funds during 2021-22, the following is the Roadmap for proper utilization of allocated funds under the scheme:

- Timely approval of Annual Action Plans (AAPs) – For the year 2021-22, the States had been asked to submit the AAPs by the end of January, 2021 so as to appraise and approve the AAPs in the beginning of the financial year. The AAPs for 21 States/ UTs have been approved till 20th April, 2021 and it is expected that AAPs of remaining states/UTs will be approved by May,2021. This will provide States full year for implementation of the approved activities.
- Sharing of checklist and providing handholding support to States for formulation of AAPs.
- The states have been impressed upon to liquidate the unspent balance and that the priority in release of funds will be given to those states who have low unspent balance as on 01.04.2021.
- It has been reiterated to the states/UTs that they should endeavour to accomplish the approved activities during the year itself.
- Effectively taking up with the States for release their matching share, liquidate unspent balances and submit the requisite documents viz. UCs etc. for release of funds to the maximum extent
- Regular interaction with States through VCs and telephonic calls for monitoring the progress and expediting the approved activities. Necessary advice/clarification as and when required is issued.
- Region/State-specific VCs also being undertaken.
- Rolling out of MIS and constant monitoring of the progress of approved activities.
- Mandatory release of funds through PFMS till last level of Executing Agency. Integration of RGSA MIS with PFMS.
- New interventions for training of PRIs under the scheme. Realigning the strategy in the changed scenario with focus on promotion of distance learning mode as far as possible.

It may also be mentioned that the Ministry as a new initiative and timely release of funds under the schemes, transferred the award money to the awardee Panchayats on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) 2021 held virtually on 24th April, 2021.

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

Recommendation (Serial No. 2)**Downsizing of budget estimates under RGSA at RE level since 2018-19**

The Committee note that Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), the umbrella scheme for capacity building need of Panchayats from 2018-2021 for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with focus on convergence with Mission Antyodaya with emphasis on strengthening Panchayats in 117 Aspirational Districts in the country is witnessing huge reduction at RE stage in the light of staggering unspent balances and procedural issues like late availability of funds, release of corresponding State share, delayed submission or non-submission of requisite documents.

The Committee find that during 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 as against the BE of Rs.720.80 cr., Rs.762.34 cr. and Rs.790.53 cr., the RE were brought down to as low as Rs.622.41 cr., Rs.432.96 crore and Rs.499.94 cr. respectively largely because of unspent balances. The Committee's examination have revealed that large unspent amounts are figuring in Bihar (Rs.76.53 cr.), Arunachal Pradesh (Rs.27.24 cr.) Gujarat (Rs.21.63 cr.), Telangana (Rs.7.26 cr.) etc. and States of Karnataka, Nagaland, A&N Islands have not submitted documents. The Committee while examining Demands for Grants (2021-22) of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has come across a major issue that the State Governments are not very keen to avail of MOPR funds in the first instance as compared to funds of other Ministries as the MOPR funds are quite less and also involve a lot of formalities for compliance. Further, the Secretary, MOPR was candid enough in submission before the Committee that Ministry of Finance latest directive of releasing the funds in four instalments instead of two instalments has further compounded the situation. In view of the facts and circumstances nurtured above, the Committee feel that, MOPR, being nodal Ministry for RGSA in the country, should give a top priority for full utilisation of available funds during 2021-22 along with beneficiary State/UT Governments so as to avoid reduction at RE stage. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommend MOPR to coordinate with the concerned State Governments for liquidating their unspent balances, submission of pending documents etc. so that SDGs are fulfilled and real capacity building in 117 Aspirational Districts is achieved during terminal year RGSA i.e. by 2021-22.

Reply of the Government

The committee will appreciate that the Ministry has all along been striving for optimum utilization of funds under the scheme of RGSA. It is also worthwhile to inform that 99.92% of RE allocation of Rs.499.91 crore for the scheme during 2020-21 has been expended. As regards observation of the committee regarding optimal utilization of funds during 2021-22, the following is the Roadmap for proper utilization of allocated funds under the scheme:

- Timely approval of Annual Action Plans (AAPs) – For the year 2021-22, the States had been asked to submit the AAPs by the end of January, 2021 so as to appraise and approve the AAPs in the beginning of the financial year. The AAPs for 21 States/ UTs have been approved till 20th April, 2021 and it is expected that AAPs of remaining states/UTs will be approved by May,2021. This will provide States full year for implementation of the approved activities.
- Sharing of checklist and providing handholding support to States for formulation of AAPs.
- The states have been impressed upon to liquidate the unspent balance and that the priority in release of funds will be given to those states who have low unspent balance as on 01.04.2021.
- It has been reiterated to the states/UTs that they should endeavour to accomplish the approved activities during the year itself.
- Effectively taking up with the States for release their matching share, liquidate unspent balances and submit the requisite documents viz. UCs etc. for release of funds to the maximum extent
- Regular interaction with States through VCs and telephonic calls for monitoring the progress and expediting the approved activities. Necessary advice/ clarification as and when required is issued.
- Region/State-specific VCs also being undertaken.
- Rolling out of MIS and constant monitoring of the progress of approved activities.
- Mandatory release of funds through PFMS till last level of Executing Agency. Integration of RGSA MIS with PFMS.
- New interventions for training of PRIs under the scheme. Realigning the strategy in the changed scenario with focus on promotion of distance learning mode as far as possible.

Through the above multipronged approach, it is expected that allocated funds will be fully utilized and intended objectives of the scheme are met to the extent possible.

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

Recommendation (Serial No. 3)**Good work done by MOPR during Covid pandemic appreciated**

The Committee appreciate that during difficult Covid 19 pandemic time, the MOPR had successfully implemented SVAMITVA facing challenges like paucity of field level manpower and drone by completing drones flying in 24,000 villages and had also undertaken e-Panchayat MMP by launching of e-Gram Application, online audit and on-boarding of 15th FC and other schemes on e-Gram Swaraj-PFMS integration for real time online payment by PRIs. The Committee feel that the same pace of implementation be maintained and accelerated further in post Covid time also so that the desired results of the scheme could be achieved as envisaged by the Government.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry has noted the recommendation and shall ensure the effectiveness of the implementation of the scheme.

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

Recommendation (Serial No. 4)**Declining trends of Elected Representative (ER) trained**

The Committee are constrained to note the declining number of Elected Representative (ERs) trained under RGSA from 53.70 lakh in 2017-18 to as low as 43.04 lakh in 2018-19 and 33.98 lakh in 2019-20 and 14.29 lakh during 2020-21 as on 31.01.2021. The Committee are also dismayed to note huge gap between Annual Action Plans (AAPs) approved for implementation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) vis-a-vis Fund released during 2018-19 onwards. For instances, during 2018-19 as against Rs.1826.87 cr. of AAPs approved, the fund released were as low as Rs.598.27 cr., similar is the position in remaining years also. The Committee also find a disquieting feature in the level of approval of AAPs which has almost doubled from Rs.1826.87 cr. in 2018-19 to as high as Rs.3302.94 cr. in 2020-21 at the same time the level of funds released remained almost static between Rs.598.27 cr. in 2018-19 to 432.90 cr. in 2019-20 and Rs.433.15 cr. in 2021-22 till now. In this connection, MOPR has revealed before the Committee that out of 35 States/UTs, as low as 23 States/UTs have been released necessary funds, leaving the remaining States on account of lack of submission of

documents including UCs, Audited Statement, non release of State share and unspent balances. The Committee also find under RGSA, ERs are to act as Sector Enablers in wide variety of areas like animal husbandry, afforestation etc. to develop governance capabilities of Panchayats to deliver on SDGs that cover ending poverty and hunger and to other areas like Health, Education and so on.

In this connection, the MOPR has laboured to convince the Committee by showcasing that training has been imparted to as high as 41.13 lakh ERs with 2.47 lakh GPDPs prepared during 2020-21 in 117 Aspirational Districts in the country. The Committee, however, feel that looking at declining rate of ERs trained during 2018-19 onwards with wide gaps visible between AAPs and funds released, the facts depict altogether different story and GPDPs apparently appear only on Papers. With a view to finance these GPDPs the Committee feel that huge 15th FC Grants funds for Panchayats be meaningfully utilised. The Committee, therefore, recommend that all out efforts be made by MOPR to reverse the situation with regard to training of ERs and reducing the rising gaps between AAPs approved and funds released expeditiously.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry agrees to the fact that the achievement of trainings in comparison to the targets in the Annual Action Plan (AAP) of respective states/UTs had been less. However, it may be appreciated that the training activities were approved only on basis of proposals submitted by States/UTs in their respective AAPs. Hence it was for the states/UTs to ensure that the approved activities were accomplished in a timely manner. The Ministry on its part had been impressing upon the states/UTs to accomplish the approved activities in the respective year itself. The less achievement of trainings can also be attributed to the delay in holding of elections in some states/UTs viz Haryana, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Puduchery, Andaman & Nicobar. The activity relating to training of ERs and other stakeholders of Panchayats seems to have also been impacted due to COVID Pandemic. To address the issue, the Ministry has impressed upon the states/UTs to realign their training strategy as under:

- Capacity building of PRIs following phased saturation approach with focus on newly elected representatives and functionaries of PRIs with priority on Mission Antyodaya GPs and 117 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog.
- Orientation training of newly elected PRI Elected Representatives (ERs) within 6 months of their election, followed by refresher courses within two years.
- To mobilise, educate and transform Ward Members or Panchs into Sectoral Resource Persons with a clear role and thus greater influence to transform them into agents of change.
- Partnership and networking with institutions of excellence/Universities/Colleges, for preparation of quality training modules and developing pool of Master Trainers for PRIs from academics/faculties.
- Support for strengthening institutional structure for training
- Scaling up of exposure visits for PRIs to promote learning through peer exchange and development of model panchayats as peer learning Sites.
- Focus on digital literacy of PRIs and their stakeholders
- SHG-PRI Convergence through joint training, need based training for formulation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans and their implementation.
- Focus on Own Source Revenue Generation
- Leveraging of technology for greater outreach amongst the elected representatives of Panchayats by distant mode through IP based technology, use of Smartphone based applications, use of social media, utilizing short films on best practices for wide reach.

Further, in the context of COVID Pandemic, the states/UTs have been advised to adopt alternate approaches to CB&T and to focus on online interventions and to ensure that Capacity Building efforts are not derailed. The judicious mix of training in online and offline mode will ensure optimum utilization of the existing resources. It is heartening to note that inspite of COVID Pandemic, a total of 33.34 lakh (approx.) ERs and other stakeholders have been trained during 2020-21. Further, during the current year till date, AAP of 31 states/UTs have been approved which include various and multiple trainings to be imparted to 1.37 crore (approx.) ERs and other stakeholders. It is also worthwhile to mention that for managing and monitoring the training activities of PRIs and other Stakeholders, the revamped Training Management Portal (TMP) has been rolled out. The states/UTs have to mandatorily register on the TMP. As informed to the committee that MIS for RGSA has also been made operational for capturing the progress of approved activities of AAP including Trainings. With the above multipronged approach, it is expected that the targets for CB&T activities could be achieved to the maximum extent possible.

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

Recommendation (Serial No. 5)**Shortage of Gram Panchayats Bhawans and low level of computerisation of Gram Panchayats in different States/UTs.**

The Committee are constrained to note that out of 2.56 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country, only 1.98 lakh GPs have their own office buildings and only 2.01 lakh GPs are equipped with computers even after the recommendations of Expert Committee headed by Sumit Bose stressed on the issue of shortage of staff in Panchayat way back in December, 2016. Apart from this MOPR has also elaborated that over 30,000 GP Bhawans are either completed or under completion through variety of schemes including RGSA, MGNREGA, FC Grants etc., besides 1347 new GPs have been constructed and 24,808 Bhawans are under construction under Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan (GKRA) in six States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The Committee recommend that all States/UTs deficient with GPs Bhawans be pursued to construct the concerned GP Bhawans expeditiously.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry in all earnestness is seized of the concern expressed by the esteemed Committee to provide each Gram Panchayat / Rural Local Body a building of its own. The Ministry has also been making all its efforts to provide financial assistance to the maximum possible limit to States / UTs for this purpose. In addition to the sanction of approximately 4400 GP Bhawans under the scheme of RGSA, the Ministry has further approved construction of 340 GP buildings in the North East States under the Scheme. It is also worthwhile to mention that construction of Gram Panchayat Bhawan was also taken up as a component of Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan (GKRA) launched by the Government for employment generation and creation of durable infrastructure in rural areas in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. As per reports available, a total of 1347 numbers of GP Bhawans have been constructed and 24808 GP Bhawans are at different stages of construction under GKRA. In addition, the Untied Grants of the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) can be utilized for all felt needs under the 29 subjects enshrined in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution and thus it would also cover construction and repair of Gram Panchayat Bhawans in the rural areas, as one of the permissible activities for XV FC mandated activities by Rural Local Bodies (RLBs).

With a view to expedite saturation in this direction, a Joint Advisory was issued to States / UTs by Secretary of this Ministry and that of Ministry of Rural Development on 10.06.2020 requesting for construction of GP buildings utilizing various resources under convergence mode viz. Unspent 14th Finance Commission, FFC grants, 15th Finance Commission untied grants, MGNREGS funds and other funds from State Finance

Commission (SFC) / Own Source Revenue (OSR) etc. In furtherance to that as per D.O. Letter dated 07.01.2021 issued by this Ministry to all States / UTs, they have been requested to undertake / concerted efforts to clear the infrastructure deficit regarding GP Bhawans by utilizing various resources at their level. They have also been advised to examine the possibility of creating a cluster of contiguous GPs for construction of GP Bhawans where the size of GPs is small. It has also been advised to States that while creating new GPs, the States should simultaneously make provision for creation of GP Bhawan also through available resources under central schemes or from the State Budget or OSR of the Panchayats.

With the constant follow-up to be made in this direction, it is expected that the deficit in GP Bhawans will be abridged to a great extent.

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

Recommendation (Serial No. 7)

Devolution of Powers

The Committee note that Article 243G allows discretion to the States in the matter of devolution of powers (funds, functions and functionaries) to Panchayats and the States vary in the extent to which they have devolved powers to the Panchayats despite persuasion by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The Committee further note that Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC), in its interim report, for the Financial Year 2020-21, have recommended grants to the tune of Rs.60,750 crores and XV FC in its report for the period 2021-26 has awarded grants of Rs. 2,36,805 crore to the rural local bodies in all the three tiers and the traditional bodies of fifth and sixth schedule areas in 28 States for creation of infrastructure and assets essential towards delivery of basic services to the citizens i.e. water supply, sanitation, street lighting, and connectivity by roads, various community assets like Gram Panchayat Bhawans etc. Additional Rs.70,051 crores out of grants for local governments have been earmarked for health sector for local bodies (both rural and urban) with a view to address the vulnerabilities exposed by the COVID pandemic. The Committee, consider that central grants by way of XIVFC and XVFC for creation of infrastructure and assets essential towards delivery of basic services to the citizens makes it necessary that the States devolve powers and functions to Panchayats so that the goal of Panchayati Raj through all round development of the rural India is accomplished. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry continue their efforts to persuade States to devolve powers to the Panchayats and provide financial assistance to enable

them to perform devolved functions effectively besides seeking directions from the Central Finance Commission/Ministry of Finance over the shortcomings experienced.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) continuously advocates with and persuades the State Governments for devolution of adequate funds, functions and functionaries to the Panchayats. It also has been advocating for sufficient administrative and financial powers to be devolved to the Panchayats so that the Panchayats are able to deliver basic services autonomously to the rural citizens. To promote devolution of functions, MoPR has issued advisories on the various aspects of such devolution, like activity mapping, placement of functionaries etc. to the Panchayats. Further, to encourage States to empower Panchayats, the performance of States regarding devolution have also been measured through a study on Panchayat Devolution Index (PDI).

As per article 243-I of the Constitution, State Governments are to constitute the State Finance Commission (SFC), every five year, which would review the Panchayat finances and make recommendations towards the distribution between the State and the Panchayats of the net proceeds of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees leviable by the State, the determination of the taxes, duties, tolls and fees which may be assigned to, or appropriated by, the Panchayats, the grants-in-aid to the Panchayats from the Consolidated Fund of the State and the measures needed to improve the financial position of the Panchayats. The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) has prescribed the due Constitution of SFC and submission of Action Taken Report on the recommendations of the SFC to the legislature as per Constitutional provisions as an eligibility condition for receipt of XV FC Grants from FY 2024-25 onwards. MoPR will also follow up with the States towards timely constitution of SFCs and implementation of their recommendations towards improvement of Panchayat Finances

Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) has recommended grants to Rural Local Bodies in two parts. The Basic (Untied) grants can be utilised by the RLBs for felt needs within the 29 subjects enshrined in the Constitution 11th Schedule. The Tied grants are to be utilized in the National focus areas of Water Supply and Sanitation.

MoPR has also forwarded the draft guidelines towards operationalization of Fifteenth Finance Commission recommendations for Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) to Ministry of Finance (MoF). The provisions of the final guidelines issued by MoF will be operationalized towards release of grants to the RLBs in the States. Thus, the XV FC funds will contribute towards higher devolution of funds to the Panchayats as well as utilization of the same in the functions devolved to them.

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

Recommendation (Serial No. 8)

Regarding construction of floorwise Gram Panchayat Bhawans and need for Bank Branches in the vicinity of Panchayats

During the course of evidence of the representative of MOPR various issues relating to RGSA that came up before the Committee are construction of floor wise Panchayat Bhawans due to land constraints, redressal of complaints against Common Service Centres in Panchayats regarding non-payment of salaries to staff employed, non-availability of stationary for office work etc, need for opening Bank Branches near Panchayats in Odisha, need for holding Gram Sabha elections in Tamil Nadu for audit purposes etc. All these issues were taken up with MOPR and based on the latest update from MOPR the Committee find there is no bar on construction of double storey GP Bhawans in rural areas where there is scarcity of land.

The Committee are also perturbed to note that of the 2.46 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) using Gram Swaraj Applications only 1.41 lakh GPs and equivalent make online payments. The Committee, further received a lukewarm response from the Ministry, during evidence, on the point relating to non-availability of Bank Branches in the vicinity of the Panchayat Bhawans where major activities of rendering various services to the rural populace are undertaken crucial for strengthening transparency & accountability. The Committee noting that more than one lakh GPs are yet to initiate online payments and the problems being faced due to non-availability of Bank Branches near Panchayat Bhawans in the rural India, recommend that the Ministry should work on removing the shortfall in the number Gram Panchayats making online payments and seek help of the financial institutions/Banks in coordination with the Ministry of Finance for creating an apparatus of a

Small Banking Unit either in the vicinity of Panchayat Bhawans or in Panchayat Bhawans wherever feasible for rendering banking services to the rural populace. They should also seek opinion on the possibility of delegating banking functions related to services rendered by Panchayats Bhawans to the chain of Post Offices available across the country. On the issue of opening of Bank Branches in GPs in Odisha, the Committee have been informed that MOPR has already taken up the issue with Department of Financial Services. On the issue of holding Gram Sabha Elections in Tamil Nadu, the Committee have been informed that State Government has intimated that Panchayats elections would be taken up after Assembly election in April-May, 2021. In view of the foregoing, the Committee recommend that the issue of complaints against Common Service Centre and opening Bank Branches in Odisha only, not other States be taken up by MOPR in a right direction at the earliest. The Committee, further emphasise the MoPR to coordinate with States/UTs for putting a display board depicting the services rendered along with the charges in all Gram Panchayat Bhawans.

Reply of the Government

In so far as construction of floor wise Gram Panchayat Bhawans, the committee has noted the position brought out before it that there is no bar on construction of double storey GP Bhawans in rural areas where there is scarcity of land.

In respect of banking facilities in Odisha, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has taken up the matter with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance. Consequently, Department of Financial Services has issued a letter dated 25.03.2021 for appropriate action regarding opening of more branches with a view to cover all the beneficiaries under different Rural Development and Panchayati Raj schemes so that the villagers are not forced to travel too long. Department of Financial Services has also forwarded to SLBC convener Odisha, a list of villages not covered by banking touch point within 5 km radius to ensure coverage by deploying banking outlet(s) on priority.

An advisory has been issued to all the States to ensure that all the transactions (*i.e. receipt and expenditure*) incurred by the Panchayats are done 100% online under the Central Finance Commission from 1st April 2021 onwards. It is also submitted that during the year 2020-21; 1.54 lakh PRIs have done online transactions. Several online trainings

and handholding sessions have also been continuously provided for the same. In this regard, the remaining Rural Local Bodies shall be onboarded on eGramSwaraj-PFMS Interface for payment purposes at the earliest.

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

Recommendation (Serial No. 10)

Obtaining of action taken on 1.98 lakh audit objections on 14th FC Grants from concerned State Governments expeditiously

The Committee appreciate that MOPR is going for automation of 2.55 lakh Panchayats by way of promoting various Applications like e-Gram Swaraj for amalgamating various functionalities like planning, monitoring accounting and on-line payments, Gram Manchitra (GIS) by use of geo spatial technology for avoiding de-duplication of assets and Audit online for Panchayats, showcasing 2.46 lakh GPs uploading their GPDPs (2020-21), 2.31 lakh GPs closing their year books representing (2019-20), 1.41 lakh GPs equipped with online payment and 98,557 GPs need to be e-audited representing at least 20% GPs in each States/UTs. They are, however, dismayed to note that only a few States of Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh are good performing States. The Committee, therefore, feel that all out efforts be made that similar work is done in other States/UTs also.

During the course of examination broadly issues came up before the Committee namely need for audit of Panchayats in the light of alleged misuse of Fourteenth FC Grants (2015-2019).

As regards, addressing the issue of misuse of Fourteenth FC Grants for Panchayats, the Committee are dismayed to note that as large as 1.95 lakh audit objections have been recorded by 14 States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh. In this context, the Committee find that MOPR plans to bring 98,557 GPs under Audit online fold and over 5,207 auditors already online registered with 1.94 lakh audit observations recorded and 10,853 audit reports generated. In view of the facts and circumstances shown above, the Committee recommend that raising of as high as 1.98 lakh audit objections on 14th FC Grants by Panchayats puts a

question mark on functioning of Panchayats and MOPR should come up with an action taken report thereon from concerned expeditiously.

Reply of the Government

The audit observations in the Audit Online system are the preliminary findings of the Local Fund Auditors, which would need to be processed further as per the respective State Audit Procedure and State Panchayati Raj Act / Rules.

MoPR will request the respective States to expeditiously deal with the audit observations in accordance with the extant provisions in their Act/Rules in a time bound manner. The AuditOnline application has also the provision to upload the final action taken reports along with the Audit Reports.

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021 Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

Recommendation (Serial No. 11)

Ministry of Finance to issue Guidelines for reforming the functioning of Panchayats for use of 15th Finance Commission

In view of large number of audit observations regarding alleged misuse of XIV FC Grants funds of referred to be the Committee feel that there is a need to bring in reform the functioning of Panchayats by way of issuing necessary guidelines thereto and also to obtain views of Expert Committee and MPs thereon. In this context, the MOPR updating the position has conveyed before the Committee that MOPR provides inputs to Ministry of Finance for issue of Guidelines on use of 15 FC Grants and suggestions of Experts / MPs are also taken it consideration. On the issue of obtaining action taken on audit objections by MOPR the Committee are dismayed to note the MOPR stand opining that this issue falls within the domain of State Governments. The Committee, therefore, recommend that ways and means are to be worked out for bringing transparency in use of 15th FC funds by Panchayats.

Reply of the Government

15th Finance Commission has prescribed the eligibility condition of display of provisional annual accounts and audited annual accounts for the Rural Local Bodies

(RLBs) to draw 15th Finance Commission Grants from FY 2021-22. In order to facilitate the RLBs to comply with these requirements, MoPR has mandated that the RLBs have to be mandatorily on-boarded on eGramSwaraj from April, 2021. Their auditing of annual accounts also have to be done online through AuditOnline Platform. These requirements for utilization of 15th Finance Commission Grants through eGramSwaraj/ Audit Online would promote transparency in use of funds by the Panchayats.

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

Recommendation (Serial No. 12)

Transfer of funds from State Treasury to Block Development Officer in place of Sarpanch

The Committee further observe that on visualisation of the goal, all Gram Panchayats shall evolve to undertake functions relating to the 29 Services covering the 18 departments for overall development of Rural India by way of creation of infrastructure and assets essential towards delivery of basic services to the rural population. The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Finance Commission have awarded huge grants for the purpose. However, considering Gram Panchayats still in the evolution process, it is essential that the Block Development Officers in the States are given the responsibility to oversee the implementation, release/utilisation of the central funds to the States for even rural development of the country. The Committee, therefore, emphasize that the responsibility of release/utilisation of the central allocation to Gram Panchayats for implementation of the rural development schemes should be given to the Block Development Officers (BDOs) so that the Gram Panchayats / Rural Local Bodies can recommend the BDOs to undertake the developmental works and other functions for the overall development of rural populace. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj should evolve a suitable mechanism for the purpose.

Reply of the Government

15th Finance Commission has prescribed that the grants are to be released directly to the RLBs by the State Governments within 10 working days of its receipt from Ministry of Finance (MoF) which needs to be complied with while transferring the funds by the State Governments.

The States have their respective rules/procedures vide which the services of BDOs are utilized towards implementation of rural development schemes/ programmes in the RLBs. As such the BDOs are also being involved by the respective States in the preparation and monitoring of the Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) / Block Panchayat Development Plans towards utilization of Central Finance Commission Grants.

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

Recommendation (Serial No. 13)

'Incentivisation of Panchayats'

The Committee note that National Panchayat Awards are conferred to Panchayats across the Country under "Incentivization of Panchayats" under five different categories covering areas i.e. socio-economic development; for adopting child friendly practices; efficiency, transparency and accountability in functioning; Sanitation/civic services/innovation in revenue generation/social sector performance; Natural Resource management and disaster management on the National Panchayati Raj Day for creating awareness and motivation among Panchayats to perform better. The allocation for BE 2021-22 at Rs. 48 crore has seen an increase of 2.13% over the BE 2020-21. The Committee desire that the funds allocated for the scheme are pragmatically utilized for awarding best performing Panchayats with wide publicity of the event in local and national dailies so as to motivate others Panchayats to make headlines in print and electronic media by improving their functioning to qualify for National Panchayat Awards. The Committee also desire that a Mobile App may be launched for the purpose of connecting all Gram Panchayats on one platform to obtain the inputs on the details of awards and the criteria for selection with prize details for easy dissemination of information.

Reply of the Government

Through 'Incentivization of Panchayats' scheme, a holistic approach has been taken by Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) towards creating an overall system of good governance by which deserving Panchayats and States/Union Territories (UTs) gets recognition through awards and financial incentives while setting a model for others to follow. It is anticipated that these financial incentives, released for public development purposes in general, provides an impetus for overall good governance at grassroots levels

thus benefitting the nation as a result. The States/UTs have also been advised to ensure proper utilization of award money released. States/UTs are ensuring issuance of necessary instructions to the awardee Panchayats for optimal utilization of these funds as per guidelines. States/UTs have also acknowledged that the award money is contributing a lot in case of infrastructural development and are being used for improving delivery and services etc.

While making vigorous efforts for creating greater awareness and motivation among Panchayats across the country for National Panchayat Awards through print and electronic media, it is ensured that States/UTs also encourage and provide support for publicity for it through their own advertisements in local newspapers, advisories and follow-ups. This endeavour of Ministry is significantly supported by States who are ensuring adequate contribution towards it through various measures such as invitation of awardees in training programmes, dissemination of information through print /social media in regional languages and official communications etc. As a result of such combined efforts to make the scheme and scheme of competition among the PRIs, the level of competition has increased over the years as the total number of participation in 2021 has reached around 74,000 which is an increase of 28% over the previous year.

For National Panchayat Awards, an online-portal/MIS (www.panchayataward.gov.in) is available for Panchayats to apply for awards and obtain all the information on the details/procedures, guidelines, questionnaires and other relevant information regarding National Panchayat Awards. Further, based on technical consultations and feasibility, interventions would be made to explore the possibility for providing all Panchayats a common platform through a mobile-based app to obtain the inputs on awards and also further catapult the efforts of Ministry towards dissemination of information.

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

Recommendation (Serial No. 14)

Slow work done under Action Research and Research Studies (AR&RS)

In the opinion of the Committee Panchayati Raj is an evolving process wherein new developments take place continuously, requiring regular examination so as to make structural changes for effective programme, planning and implementation of the Schemes. The Committee find that since launch of the re-structured RGSA, of the 11 studies undertaken in the areas of Economic development and income generation; Impact

Assessment of training of PRIs; Gender responsive initiatives for PRIs; Effectiveness of Gram Sabha / role of Gram Panchayats in marketing of rural produce in Mizoram; Utilisation and impact evaluation of Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) Grants to Gram Panchayats; Gram Panchayat Development Plan(GPDP) vis-à-vis Panchayat Delivery service; Evaluation of Media & Publicity & Action and Research Studies, 3 studies have been completed, 5 are in the final stages of completion, 1 in the Draft submission stage and rest of the two studies due for submission of Draft in June and August 2021. The Committee, therefore, desires that the Ministry should complete all the pending studies in the time bound manner and prepare a comprehensive paper on the transformation of the Panchayati Raj Institutions since the launch of the Scheme and the resultant structural changes incorporated therein so far. The Committee noting that RGSA is due for independent evaluation, hope that the comprehensive paper will result in restructuring of the Scheme into a more effective and powerful tool to the transformation of Panchayati Raj Institutions. The Committee may be apprised of the outcome in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry regularly review and follow up with the agencies for completion of the sanctioned studies within stipulated time period, which is generally complied by them. Once the studies are completed, actions initiated to disseminate the findings to the concerned for suitably incorporation in policy decisions.

As the Committee desired to be apprised the progress of the sanctioned studies, in this regard it may be mentioned that, the reports of the studies "Time & Work Study" and "Impact assessment of training of representatives of PRIs" are under examination at Ministry end. The study reports are under finalisations and acceptance stage. However, based on the draft reports that has covered most of the ToR of the study and awaiting some minor modification, Ministry has initiated action to issue necessary advisory to the States for corrective measures. Further, the studies on "Documentation of Governance Arrangement in Non-Part IX Areas of North Eastern States"; "Role of Panchayats in Economic Development and Income Generation in Rural Areas"; Gender Responsive initiatives for PRIs and Utilization of Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) Grants to Gram Panchayats have been completed. Based on the findings / recommendations of these studies along with the findings and recommendations of the study which is currently

in progress on independent evaluation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry namely *Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) being carried out by M/s. National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi* (draft report is expected to be submitted by August, 2021), a comprehensive paper will be drafted and revisions / amendments will suitably be incorporated in restructuring of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of *Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), for making the scheme more effective and powerful tool for the transformation of Panchayati Raj Institutions.*

In addition to above the Ministry had also undertaken the third party evaluation of the schemes of Media & Publicity and Action Research & Research Studies (AR&RS). The final reports have been finalised and accepted by Ministry, which, inter alia, has recommended the continuation of these schemes. The findings/ recommendation of the reports are being utilized in modifying the schemes while extending the same for next 5 years from FY2021-2022 to FY2025-2026.

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

Recommendation (Serial No. 15)

Media and Publicity (M&P)

The Committee note that the BE 2021-22 has been raised to Rs. 12 crore with an increase of 50% over the BE 2020-21 under Media and Publicity Scheme wherein importance is given to advocacy and publicity of the Panchayati Raj programmes that aim to build capacity and enhance the performance of Panchayats at all levels. The principal expenditure defrayed under Media and Publicity is against printing and distribution of the quarterly Gramoday Sankalp (GuS) magazine involving more than Rs.1.60 crore for each issue and Grants-in-aid released to selected State(s) to organise the National Panchayati Raj Day celebration and such other function in connection with giving various Panchayat awards. The year 2020-21 did not witness the physical conduct of award distribution in association with State/s due to prevailing pandemic and dispatch of magazines/books etc. in physical due imposition of complete lockdown. Sixth issue of GuS produced as e-book led to reduction in cost on account of printing and dispatch. Completion of subsequent two issues got delayed due to COVID. The initiative of the Ministry to reach out to the Panchayats across the Country through Sixth Edition of quarterly magazine as e-book

“Gramoday Sankalp” and other measures to maximize outreach through Panchayati Raj Day celebration and for organizing award functions is commendable. However, the Committee fail to understand why the same method of e-books was not adopted in release of the subsequent two editions in the COVID pandemic. The Committee, therefore desire, that the Ministry should spruce up their activities again by continuing quarterly magazine “Gramoday Sankalp” in physical format as well as e-book format and resuming Panchayati Raj Day celebration / award ceremonies, in the improved present scenario besides dissemination of the information on various social media platforms i.e. Facebook and Twitter.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry has continued the production of all the subsequent issues of quarterly magazine “Gramoday Sankalp” in both physical format as well as digital format. The digital/pdf version of the magazine is regularly uploaded on the website of the Ministry. However, as the target group for circulation/ readership is all villages including remote and far flung areas, thus for wider reach and publicity sending physical copy in their own language is more impactful.

The Ministry is constantly using Social Media Platforms of Ministry of Panchayati Raj posting/ tweeting/ sharing the various IEC materials for raising awareness through MoPR’s social media handles at grass root levels. As regards resuming Panchayati Raj Day celebration/award ceremonies, the rising number of cases in the second wave of the pandemic has forced the Ministry to organize the National Panchayati Raj Day 2021 (NPRD 2021) virtually. There was an online registration for participation in the NPRD 2021 event. Due to active online campaigning 5,70,21,034 persons registered for the event, and digitally participated in the event.

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

CHAPTER III

**RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE
IN VIEW OF REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT**

NIL

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021 Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

CHAPTER IV**RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE****Recommendation (Serial No. 6)****Computerisation of GPs in some States**

The Committee while viewing the MOPR data about State-wise GPs with computers are glad to note that A&N Islands, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and West Bengal have GPs with computers, whereas States with GPs with less number of computers are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, J&K, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Telangana and Uttarakhand. The Committee also note that as against the budgetary demand of Rs.894.03 cr. made out by MOPR only Rs.593 crore has been approved by the Ministry of Finance. The Committee have further been informed that the issue will be taken up before Ministry of Finance by way of Supplementary Grants. In the light of large number of GPs that are without computers as shown above, the Committee strongly recommend that efficacious efforts including sufficient finance is provided to the MOPR for early computerisation of GPs in concerned States/UTs.

Reply of The Government

Panchayat being local government which is part of the State list of 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India, is a State subject and is responsibility of State. However, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) supplements the efforts of the State including provision of Computers through its schemes and programmes. Under the restructured scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) being implemented w.e.f. 2018-19, this Ministry has been supplementing the efforts of state governments in this regard by providing financial support for computers and peripherals to States/ UTs for GPs on a limited scale. Under the scheme, computers for GPs have been approved during the last three years. Further, during the current year, computers for 7696 GPs have been approved in 13 states, so far. Moreover, the untied/ basic grants under 15th Finance Commission can be used by Rural Local Bodies(RLBs) for computer in the respective RLB. If need be, the matter will be taken up with the Ministry of Finance also seeking additional funds for this purpose through Supplementary Demands.

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 8 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 16)**Implementation of SVAMITVA Scheme for giving Property Cards to rural house owner**

The Committee note that a sum of Rs. 200 crore has been proposed during the year 2020-21 for Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) which aims to provide the 'record of rights' to village household and issue of property cards to owners that will facilitate monetization of rural residential assets for credit and other financial services. The Committee note the performance of the first Phase of the Scheme where deeds/property cards have been distributed in 763 villages to 1 lakh property owners thereby resulting in a few securing loans from established Banks. Drone flying has been completed in nearly 24000 villages till date and 567 Continuous Operating Reference System (CORS) network have been established for providing a network of reference stations that allows access to long-range, high-accuracy in demarcation of land. The Committee further note that in order to cover about 6.62 lakh villages in the country, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has prepared a tentative plan of covering 2,02,964 villages during 2021-22; 2,72,930 villages in 2022-23 and 64,813 villages in 2023-24 with flexibility of shifting target from one State to other depending on the traction being obtained by the drone survey operations. The Committee on analyzing the above observations, recommend that the Ministry should lay more stress upon the need for proper coordination among the States, Survey of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Director General of Civil Aviation and incorporate the experiences gained during the first phase of implementation of scheme for smooth implementation and improved performance in achieving the tentative goals from 2021-22 to 2023-24.

Reply of The Government

The Ministry has noted the recommendation and shall ensure the smooth implementation and improved performance for achieving the tentative targets from 2021-22 to 2024-25 as scheme has been approved for implementation upto 2024-25.

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 11 of Chapter I of the Report)

CHAPTER V

**RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF
THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED**

NIL

(O.M. No. H-11013 (25)/1/2021Plan Co-ordination Dated: 15 June, 2021)

**NEW DELHI;
03 August, 2021
12 Sravana, 1943 (Saka)**

**PRATAPRAO JADHAV
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Rural Development**

ANNEXURE I**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT (2020-2021)****EXTRACTS OF THE MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, 03 AUGUST, 2021**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1555 hrs. in Committee Room. 'B,' Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe (PHA), New Delhi.

Prataprao Jadhav -- **Chairperson**

MEMBERS***Lok Sabha***

2. Shri C. N. Annadurai
3. Shri Rajveer Diler
4. Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey
5. Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria
6. Dr. Mohammad Jawed
7. Prof. Rita Bahuguna Joshi
8. Shri Narendra Kumar
9. Shri Janardan Mishra
10. Shri B. Y. Raghavendra
11. Shri Talari Rangaiah
12. Smt. Gitaben Vajesingbhai Rathva
13. Smt. Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah
14. Shri Vivek Narayan Shejwalkar
15. Dr. Alok Kumar Suman
16. Shri Shyam Singh Yadav

Rajya Sabha

17. Shri Shamsheer Singh Dullo
18. Shri Iranna Kadadi
19. Shri Sujeet Kumar
20. Shri Rathwa Naranbhai Jemlabhai

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Shri D. R. Shekhar | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Shri. A. K. Shah | - | Director |
| 3. Smt. Emma C. Barwa | - | Additional Director |
| 4. Shri Nishant Mehra | - | Deputy Secretary |

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened for consideration and adoption of the XXX Draft Action Taken Reports on Demands for Grants (2021-22) in respect of (i) XXX XXX XXX (ii) XXX XXX XXX, (iii) XXX XXX XXX, (iv) Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

2. The Committee considered and adopted the Draft Reports without any amendment and authorised the Chairperson to present Reports to the House.

The Committee then adjourned.

XXX Not related to the Draft Report

APPENDIX - II

[Vide para 4 of Introduction of Report]

**ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FIFTEENTH REPORT (17TH LOK SABHA) OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

I.	Total number of recommendations:	16
II.	Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government :	
	Serial Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15	
	Total:	14
	Percentage:	87.5 %
III.	Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies :	
	Serial No. NIL	
	Total:	00
	Percentage:	00 %
IV.	Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee :	
	Serial Nos. 6 and 16	
	Total:	02
	Percentage:	12.5 %
V.	Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited :	
	Serial Nos. NIL	
	Total:	00
	Percentage:	00 %