

**COMMITTEE ON ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI
RAJ (2022-23)
Demands For Grants (2023-24)
THIRTY-FIRST REPORT**

CHAPTER-1 INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) was created in 2004. The main reason to constitute the Ministry was to oversee the implementation of the system of Panchayats in the country. The Ministry strives to reach its goal with regard to improvements in the functioning of panchayats primarily through policy intervention, advocacy, capacity building, persuasion and financial support. The Ministry also strives to make these institutions an effective, efficient and transparent vehicle for local governance, social change and public service delivery mechanism meeting the aspirations of the rural local population.

The present Report is an examination of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj for the financial year 2023-24 under Rule 331E(1)(a) of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

Since 'Local Government' is a subject of the State list of the Constitution, MoPR supplements and complements the efforts of the State Government. **The Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) and annual Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), where each Gram Panchayat will be provided with one holistic plan through a participatory process by the Gram Panchayat.** The Panchayat Development plan has now been extended to all the tiers i.e. at Block and District level or Block Development Plans and District Development Plans.

Panchayat Statistics (Census 2011) :

- No. of Gram Panchayats: 2,55,600
- No. of Block Panchayats: 6,697
- No. of District Panchayats: 665
- No. of Elected members of PRIs: 30.45 lakhs
- No. of Elected Women: 13.79 lakhs
- Representatives: 45%

As per the data, the National Average Population per Gram Panchayat in India is 3,284, with West Bengal having the maximum population of 18,607 as per the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, GoI.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has adopted 9 thematic approaches by grouping together 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to localize SDGs through PRIs at the grassroots by 2030 in a mission mode. The 9 themes are:

- Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihood Village
- Healthy Village
- Child-friendly Village
- Water Sufficient Village
- Clean and Green Village
- Village with Self-Sufficient Infrastructure
- Socially Secured and Socially Just Villages
- Village with Good Governance
- Women Friendly Village

The scheme of the **Incentivization of Panchayats** is implemented as a Central Component of RGSA to encourage the Panchayats and their representatives for better performance. The report also mentions the Mission Mode Project on e- Panchayat which is also being implemented as a Central Component of RGSA. The Central Sector Scheme of Media and Publicity to disseminate various information among PRIs and the Scheme of Action Research and Research Studies to take up studies on subjects relevant to PRIs are also implemented by the Ministry.

It has been observed that Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) of a large number of stakeholders such as Elected Representatives including Panchs/ Ward members, Functionaries etc. for the improvement in the functioning of Panchayati Raj institutions is a complex task. **Accordingly, the restructured Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) has been approved by the Government of India with a focus on CB&T activities and is being implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj from 2018-19.**

The utilisation of the funds under the International Cooperation which are being used as membership fees of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), is expected to facilitate a global interaction and exchange of ideas in respect of local governance. The Ministry also launched **SVAMITVA Scheme** in April 2020 with the demarcation of the inhabited (Abadi) land in rural areas by drone survey method. As per the scheme, this would **provide the inhabitants with the ‘record of rights’ to village household owners possessing houses in inhabited rural areas in villages and the issuance of property cards to the property owners.** The scheme is expected to cover all the villages by March 2025. **The major objectives of the SVAMITVA scheme for the financial year 2023-24 are as follows:**

- Completion of drone flying in all the inhabited villages by March 2024.
- Saturation of Scheme with the generation of Property cards for all inhabited villages in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Goa and Union Territories of Ladakh, A&N Islands and Lakshadweep.
- Generation of 3.5 crores Property Cards across the Country.

The Report highlighted the issues inhibiting the Panchayati Raj institutions from becoming self-sufficient, decentralized and the centre of local self-governance as envisaged under the Constitution of India. The issues are as follows:

- **Fund, Function and Functionary**, also known as 3Fs are crucial for the efficient functioning of the Panchayati Raj System. Though the PRIs are receiving huge amounts from Central and State agencies, however, proper devolution of constitutionally mandated functions to the three levels of Panchayats along with their mapping with the activities to be performed by the Panchayats and provision for adequate manpower in Panchayats still remain important factors which inhibit the PRIs .

To upgrade the functioning of PRIs the government has taken up several innovations, some of which have been mentioned here: through policy interventions, advocacy, capacity building, persuasion and financial support. The government has recently introduced many innovative changes in the Panchayati Raj Institutions such as **Public Finance Management System(PFMS), e-GramSwaraj, AuditOnline, Single Nodal Agency, Gram Manchitra, Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) Scheme, revamped training and capacity building of elected Panchayat Representatives through the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan Scheme, Government e-Marketing (GeM), focus on efficient delivery of services and entitlements, linking of Gram Panchayat Development Plan/Block Panchayat Development Plan /District Panchayat Development Plan with the Localising of Sustainable Development Goals etc.**

CHAPTER-2 EXAMINATION OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2023-24)

Table 1
(Rs in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	BE Proposed by MoPR	BE Approved by MoF
i.	Umbrella Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan	1014.30	895.00
ii.	SVAMITVA	98.39	76.00
iii.	Secretariat Services	57.00	45.42
	Total	1169.69	1016.42

The above table displays the Budget Estimate given by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Under the Umbrella of Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), four schemes have been included. Every scheme has been allocated a specific budget under different heads as per their requirement.

- The first scheme, **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**, has a total budget approval of Rs 819 crores, categorised into two heads namely the grants-in-aid and the office expenses & professional services with the allocation of Rs 810 cores and Rs 9 crores respectively.
- The second scheme was initiated under the same umbrella is the **incentivization of the panchayats**, which had a total of Rs 47.80 crores allotted, distributed in four sub-categories namely grants in aid (Rs 46.00 crores), professional services (Rs 0.564 crores), office expenses (Rs 1,200 crores) and training expenses (Rs 0.036 crores).
- Thirdly, the **Mission Mode Project on e- Panchayat** has been allotted a total of Rs 20 crores, distributed in three sub-categories namely grants in aid (Rs 0.25 crores), Office Expenses (Rs 18.25 crores) and capital expenditure (Rs 1.50 crores).
- The fourth scheme under this umbrella is the **Action Research and Publicity** which has a total allocation of Rs 8 crores, divided into four sub-heads as grants in aid (Rs 5.6 crores), advertising and publicity (Rs 2.00 crores), professional services (Rs 0.32 crores) and other administrative expenditure/ office expenses (Rs 0.01 crores).
- Rs 0.20 crores have also been allocated for international cooperation.

SVAMITVA with a total allocation of Rs 76 crores divided into four parts as grants-in-aid with Rs 51.30 crores, office expenses with Rs 4.16 crores and capital expenditure with Rs 20.54 crores. Therefore, a total allocation of Rs 971 crores has been done to schemes. The third element of the table is the allocation to the non-sector scheme with a total of Rs 45.42 crores. Therefore, there is a total budget approval of Rs 1,016.42 crores.



CHAPTER- 3 BUDGET UTILISATION TRENDS

Over the years different amounts have been spent on various schemes for the upliftment of panchayats. The report presents information about the past four years i.e. 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 (as of 31.12.2022).

- **For the financial year 2019-20**, the budget estimates for the revenue expenditure on the government and non-government schemes combined was Rs 871.37 crores, the revised estimates stood at Rs 500 crores and the actual expenditure capped at Rs 498.29 crores.
- **For the financial year 2020-21**, the budget estimates for the revenue expenditure on the government and non-government schemes combined was Rs 900.94 crores, the revised estimates stood at Rs 690 crores and the actual expenditure capped at Rs 687.07 crores.
- **For the financial year 2021-22**, the budget estimates for the revenue expenditure on the government and non-government schemes combined was Rs 913.43 crores, the revised estimates stood at Rs 868.38 crores and the actual expenditure capped at Rs 864.84 crores.
- **For the financial year 2022-23** (as of 31.12.2022), the budget estimates for the revenue expenditure on the government and non-government schemes combined was Rs 868.57 crores, the revised estimates stood at Rs 905.77 crores and the actual expenditure capped at Rs 701.04 crores.

Therefore it can be observed that for the years 2019-20; 2020-21 and 2021-22 the revised estimates were less than the budget estimates whereas, for the year 2022-23, the revised estimates stood higher than the budget estimates. For all four years, the actual expenditure has been recorded as less than the revised estimates. Despite higher allocation sought by the Ministry at RE stage, the Ministry of Finance imposed drastic cuts and allocated the reduced funds to the Ministry at RE stage during the last three years. However, almost 100% of RE allocation has been utilized by the Ministry. For 2022-23, against the Budget estimates of Rs.868.57 crore, an amount of Rs.905.77 crore has been approved at the RE stage. The Ministry has already spent around 93% of the BE and around 89% of the RE 2022-23. The Ministry will spend all the RE amount by 31.03.2023.

CHAPTER- 4 REALIZATION OF KEY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS THROUGH RASHTRIYA GRAM SWARAJ ABHIYAN

BACKGROUND

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) was approved by the Government of India for implementation during 2022-23 to 2025-26. The total outlay of the scheme is Rs.5,911 crore, including Rs.3,700 crore Central Share and Rs.2,211 crore State share. The scheme has been approved for implementation in all States and Union Territories, including institutions of rural local government in non-Part IX areas, where Panchayats do not exist.

ANALYSIS

The revamped RGSA is a significant initiative by the Government of India to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The scheme has a clear focus on capacity building and training of elected representatives, functionaries and other stakeholders of the Panchayats. This is essential to ensure that PRIs are effectively able to play their role in local governance and development. The scheme has also been designed to be flexible and responsive to the needs of the States and UTs. This will help to ensure that the scheme is implemented effectively and that the benefits reach the intended beneficiaries.

The revamped RGSA is a welcome step by the Government of India. It has the potential to make a significant contribution to the strengthening of PRIs and the achievement of SDGs. The success of the scheme will depend on the effective implementation of the scheme by the States and UTs.

INCENTIVIZATION OF PANCHAYATS

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has been incentivizing the best performing Panchayats/states/Union Territories (UTs) through National Panchayat Awards under the 100% Centrally funded Incentivization of Panchayats scheme, one of the central components of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).

The National Panchayat Awards were revamped in 2022 to assess the performance of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through 9 identified Localization of SDGs themes namely,

- Poverty-free and enhanced livelihoods Panchayat
- Healthy Panchayat
- Child-friendly Panchayat
- Water-sufficient Panchayat
- Clean and Green Panchayat
- Self-sufficient infrastructure in Panchayat
- Socially Secured Panchayat
- Panchayat with good governance
- Women-friendly Panchayat

The revamped National Panchayat Awards competition is pyramidal and multi-level at Block, District state/UT and national levels where awardee GPs will be shortlisted at the respective level and further nominated for a higher level.

The awards will enable the ranking of all the participating Gram Panchayats /equivalent bodies across the country at every level i.e. Block, District, State/UT and National to enable creating a baseline for them to assess their status under each of the LSDG themes. This will enable these local bodies to achieve the SDGs in a phased manner by the year 2030.

Apart from this, special awards for GPs and Institutions have also been instituted. The National Panchayat Awards is a significant initiative by the Government of India to recognize and reward the best performing Panchayats/states/UTs. The awards will help to motivate Panchayats to improve their performance and achieve the SDGs.

The success of the National Panchayat Awards will depend on the effective implementation of the scheme by the MoPR and the States/UTs. The MoPR will need to provide adequate support to the States/UTs to ensure that the awards are implemented in a fair and transparent manner. The States/UTs will need to ensure that all Panchayats are aware of the awards and that they are encouraged to participate in the competition.

The National Panchayat Awards have the potential to make a significant contribution to the achievement of the SDGs in India. The awards will help to improve the performance of Panchayats and make them more effective in delivering services to the people. The categories of the National Panchayat Awards with effect from 2023 are given as under:

- **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Panchayat State Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSP):** It is for the top 3 ranking Gram panchayats under each of the nine award themes.

- **Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Satat Vik as Puraskar (NDRGGSP):** It is for the top 3 Gram Panchayats with the highest aggregate/average score under all nine themes combined and the top 3 Block and District Panchayats with the highest aggregate score under all themes of all concerned GPs.
- **Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar(GPDPA):** It is for 3 GPs for their performance regarding adoption and usage of renewable sources of energy.
- **Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar (CFGPA):** It is for 3 GPs who have done exemplary work towards achieving Net-Zero carbon emissions.
- **Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar:** It is for 3 Institutions across the country that have provided institutional support to GPs in achieving the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).

The number of Gram Panchayats incentivized during the last three years under different categories of awards as under:

S.NO	Category of Award (for Panchayats)	No. of Gram Panchayats Awarded		
		Award Year 2020	Award Year 2021	Award Year 2022
i	DDUPSP	139	148	156
ii	NDRGGSP	27	30	27
iii	GPDPA	28	30	29
iv	CFGPA	30	30	29

MISSION MODE PROJECT ON E-PANCHAYAT

E- Panchayat is a mission mode project (MMP) of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) that aims to computerize the operations of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India. The project was launched in 2002 and has been implemented in all states and union territories. The objective of e-Panchayat is to improve the efficiency and transparency of PRIs by providing them with access to information and communication technology (ICT). The project has helped to improve the following aspects of PRIs :

- **Planning:** e-Panchayat has helped PRIs to develop better plans by providing them with access to data and information.
- **Implementation:** e-Panchayat has helped PRIs to implement their plans more efficiently by providing them with access to online tools and resources.
- **Monitoring:** e-Panchayat has helped PRIs to monitor the progress of their plans more effectively by providing them with access to real-time data and information.
- **Accountability:** e-Panchayat has helped PRIs to be more accountable to the people by providing them with access to online tools and resources.

The success of e-Panchayat has been due to a number of factors, including:

- The strong support of the MoPR
- The commitment of the states and union territories
- The involvement of the PRIs
- The use of innovative technologies

E-Panchayat has had a significant impact on the functioning of PRIs in India. The project has helped to improve the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of PRIs. This has led to better delivery of services to the people.

In addition to the above, the MoPR has also taken the following steps to further strengthen e-Panchayat:

- Computerization of Panchayat operations, leveraging BharatNet for internet connectivity
- Applications to be made mobile based for accessing them from anywhere and everywhere

These steps are expected to make e-Panchayat more accessible and user-friendly and will help to further improve the efficiency and transparency of PRIs.

The funds released to the National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICS), National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD & PR) and State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDs) during the last three years: (Rs. in Crores)

Year/ Organization	NICS	NIRDPR	SIRDs
2019-20	7.08	0.16	NIL
2020-21	17.79	NIL	NIL
2021-22	11.22	NIL	NIL

BHARATNET CONNECTIVITY

The BharatNet project is implemented by the Ministry of Telecommunications in a phased manner to create a network to connect all the Gram Panchayats with broadband in the country. The targeted date to complete this project is 2024-25. According to the report, as on 6 February 2023, out of 2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats, 1.92 lakh gram panchayats have been made Service Ready under the BharatNet project in the country. Out of the total mentioned, 80640-gram panchayats are operational.

As per the evidence provided by the Secretary, MoPR, out of 2.5 lakh panchayats, 1.9 lakh panchayats have been made service ready, but all the panchayats are not operational.

ACTION RESEARCH AND PUBLICITY

The Action Research and Publicity (ARP) scheme is a 100% centrally funded scheme that aims to effectively communicate through all available media platforms for advocacy, awareness, and publicity regarding Panchayati Raj and its programmes. The research component of the scheme is meant for taking up research studies through institutions to assess the impact of various schemes/programmes/initiatives of the Government related to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

The ARP scheme is a central component of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) scheme. The objective of the ARP scheme is to build capacity within and enhance the performance of Panchayats at all levels. The research component of the scheme is meant to assess the impact of various schemes/programmes/initiatives of the Government related to PRIs.

The ARP scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR). The MoPR has taken the following steps to implement the ARP scheme effectively:

- The MoPR has developed a comprehensive media plan for the ARP scheme. The media plan includes a mix of traditional and non-traditional media channels.
- The MoPR has created a dedicated team to implement the ARP scheme. The team includes experts in media, research, and communication.
- The MoPR has developed a monitoring and evaluation system for the ARP scheme. The monitoring and evaluation system will help to ensure that the scheme is implemented effectively and that the objectives of the scheme are met.

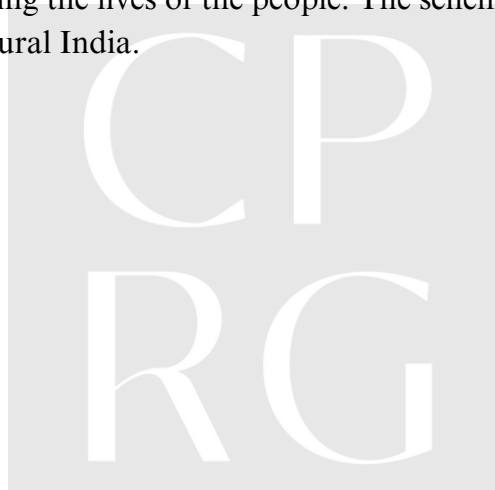
The ARP scheme has been implemented in all states and union territories. The scheme has been well-received by the stakeholders. The scheme has helped to improve the awareness of Panchayati Raj and its programmes among the people. The scheme has also helped to improve the performance of Panchayats at all levels.

The ARP scheme is a valuable tool for the MoPR to achieve its objectives of strengthening Panchayati Raj and improving the lives of the people. The scheme is expected to play a major role in the development of rural India.

Here are some of the key benefits of the ARP scheme:

- Increased awareness of Panchayati Raj and its programmes among the people
- Improved performance of Panchayats at all levels
- Enhanced capacity of Panchayats to deliver services to the people
- Increased accountability of Panchayats to the people
- Improved transparency in the functioning of Panchayats

The ARP scheme is a valuable tool for the MoPR to achieve its objectives of strengthening Panchayati Raj and improving the lives of the people. The scheme is expected to play a major role in the development of rural India.



CHAPTER- 5 SVAMITVA (SURVEY OF VILLAGES AND MAPPING WITH IMPROVISED TECHNOLOGY IN VILLAGE AREAS) SCHEME

Objective: To provide the „record of rights“ to village household owners possessing houses in inhabited rural areas in villages and issuance of property cards to the property owners.

Funding: The SVAMITVA scheme funds are released for the following components:

- Establishment of CORS network (funded to Survey of India)
- Large Scale Mapping using Drones (funded to Survey of India)
- IEC Initiatives (funded by MoPR to State Revenue Department)
- Project Management (funded to National Informatics Centre and State Revenue Department)
- Application Enhancements (funded to National Informatics Centre)
- Documentation support, National/ Regional level Workshops and Exposure visits (funded to State /any Government agency under Grant-in-aid head)
- The majority of funds under the scheme is earmarked for CORS and LSM components and these are sanctioned by Survey of India.
- Funds on a limited scale under IEC and SPMU components are released to the States/UTs.
- Funds are also provided to NICSII for the Enhancement of the Spatial Planning Application “Gram Manchitra” & Online Monitoring System; Central Infrastructure - Hardware & Software and NPMU.

Implementation:

- The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in collaboration with the State Governments and Union Territories.
- The Survey of India is the nodal agency for the implementation of the scheme.
- The scheme is being implemented in a phased manner, with the first phase covering 9 states.

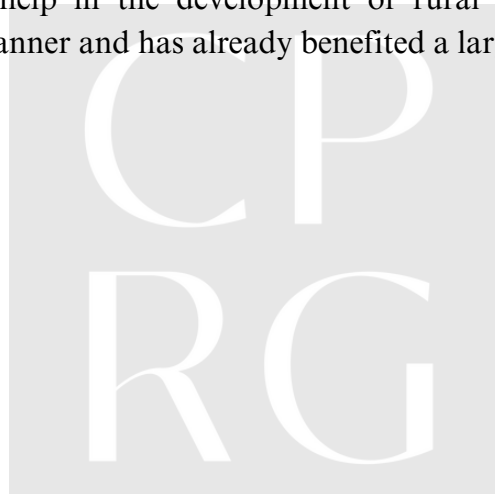
Benefits:

- The scheme will provide clarity on property rights in rural areas.
- It will help in reducing property-related disputes and legal cases.
- It will enable the villagers to use their property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits.
- It will help in the development of rural areas by providing accurate land records for rural planning.
- It will help in the determination of property tax, which would accrue to the Gram Panchayats directly in States where it is devolved or else, add to the State exchequer.
- It will help in the preparation of a better-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) by making use of GIS maps.

During the process the Ministry provided the following Plan of Action for the SVAMITVA scheme

1. There will be a **drone-based survey** of all inhabited villages across the country. Till now the drone surveys have been completed in 2.25 lakh villages against the target of 3.72 lakhs.
2. Secondly, there will be the generation of a legal document which will be called a **“Property Card”** for property holders as per States/ UTs Rules/ Acts. Till now 1,09,82,217 property cards have been issued across 68,598 villages of 16 states.
3. The third one is the operationalisation of the **Continuous Operating Reference Stations (CORS)** across the country to provide 5cm accuracy in locational services for multifarious applications.

Overall, SVAMITVA is a comprehensive scheme that aims to provide clarity on property rights in rural areas and help in the development of rural areas. The scheme is being implemented in a phased manner and has already benefited a large number of people.



CHAPTER-6 TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE GRAM PANCHAYATS

Panchayati Raj System

It is the third tier of Government in India. It is a system of self-government at the village, block and district levels. The Constitution of India empowers the State Legislature to make laws relating to all Panchayat-related matters, subject to provisions of the Constitution.

Audit of Panchayati Raj Institutions

The audit is an effective mechanism of ensuring accountability of Elected Representatives/Panchayat functionaries/officials. Article 243J of the Constitution of India provides that the Legislature of a State may, by law, make provisions with respect to the maintenance of accounts by the Panchayats and the auditing of such accounts. Accordingly, State Governments have been vested with the sole responsibility of audit of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Audit Online Platform

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has provided the platform of AuditOnline, since 15th April 2020, in order to enable the States to complete the statutory audits of their RLBs in a timely manner and also to facilitate the availability of the audited accounts of the Panchayats online.

XV Finance Commission Recommendations

As per the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of XV FC recommendations dated 14th July 2021, one of the mandatory conditions, inter alia, to be eligible for the release of Grants, the Rural Local Bodies are to ensure their accounts are audited as well.

Audit of Panchayats

The 15th Finance Commission mandated that with effect from 2023-24 all accounts of Panchayats are to be audited for the Year minus two (for the year 2023-24, audit will be carried out for 2021-22). The 15th Finance Commission also mandates that they be placed in the public domain.

Action Taken Report (ATR) Module

In order to realise the principle of accountability through Audit, the Ministry is proposing to bring in a more structured culmination to the online audit process by incorporating the Action Taken Report (ATR) Module. Towards these end, the Ministry has engaged with States in a structured manner to bring the audit of Panchayats to the level of 100% as mandated by the 15th Finance Commission.

As per the report, for the year 2019-20, out of 255,541 Gram Panchayats, the audit was completed for 118,356 (46%) panchayats. In the year 2020-21, out of 269,422 Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs), the audit was completed for 187,565 (70%) of the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Across India, a total of 12,12,233 and 19,65,074 audit observations were recorded in 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively. As far as the State Finance Commissions (SFCs) are considered, the Committee noted that out of 26 states for which information was given by the Ministry, only nine states have constituted 6th State Finance Commissions and out of them only two are active. Some states have not even constituted 4th and 5th Finance Commissions. Since it is necessary that State Finance Commissions are constituted regularly for the devolution of funds to PRIs from state finances, the Committee, therefore recommend that the MoPR should impress upon the State Governments to constitute SFCs regularly and this matter may be taken up at the highest level with them.

The audit of Panchayati Raj Institutions is an important mechanism for ensuring the accountability of Elected Representatives/Panchayat functionaries/officials. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is taking steps to ensure that all accounts of Panchayats are audited and placed in the public domain.

