

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO– †3686
ANSWERED ON- 11.08.2026

GRAM PANCHAYATS

†3686. SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:

SHRI RAJKUMAR ROAT:

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after three decades of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, full devolution of 29 subjects, adequate financial powers, and necessary administrative staff have not been provided to Gram Panchayats in the various States of the country, including Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the status and major finding of the devolution of those 29 subjects, the financial resources made available, and the manpower provided to the Panchayats, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any evaluation regarding the status of devolution of financial, administrative and functional powers to the Panchayats by the States during the last five years, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a time-bound action plan to make Panchayats the real units of local self-governance in real-terms, if so, the details along with the proposed timeline thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)

(a) to (c) “Panchayat”, being “Local Government”, is a State subject and part of State List of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Panchayats are set up and operated through the respective State Panchayati Raj Acts. States have made their own Panchayati Raj Act, subject to the provisions of the Constitution of India. Article 243G of the Constitution of India empowers the Legislature of a State to make provisions, by law, for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayat at the appropriate level, subject to such conditions as may be specified, with respect to the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The State legislatures are to consider the 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule for devolution of powers and responsibilities to Panchayats. Accordingly, all matters relating to Panchayats, including, devolution of 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule, adequate financial powers, to provide necessary administrative staff to Gram Panchayats and to make the financial resources available to Panchayats, fall within the purview of State/Union Territory (UT) Government concerned.

However, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj reviews performance of Panchayats, from time to time, through studies, review meetings, field visits, video conferencing, Information Technology applications etc.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has released a report titled “Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States - An Indicative Evidence-Based Ranking, 2024” in February 2025 to assess the effectiveness of devolution and the role of local governments in strengthening grassroots democracy. This report presents the Devolution Index, which provides the overall scores and ranks for all States/UTs covered under Part-IX of the Constitution, based on six identified dimensions: Framework, Functions, Finances, Functionaries, Capacity Enhancement, and

Accountability. This report reveals that the extent of devolution has increased from 39.9% to 43.9% between the period 2013-14 to 2021-22. Ranking of the States/UTs, including the State of Rajasthan, in Devolution Index and Sub-indices is attached as **Annexure-I**.

In these six identified dimensions, **Framework** includes reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and women, Panchayats elections & State Election Commission, Panchayats duration, dissolution & bye elections, constitution and function of District Planning Committee, role of Panchayats in Committees and parallel bodies/institutions, autonomy to Panchayats. **Functions** includes functions assigned to Panchayats including Activity Mapping, expenditure incurred and actual involvement of Panchayats, involvement of Panchayats in important Schemes. **Finances** includes Fifteenth Finance Commission Grants to the Panchayats, State Finance Commission (SFC), money transfers to Panchayat on accounts of the SFC recommendations, empowerment of Panchayats to impose tax and collect revenue, funds available with Panchayats, expenditure of Panchayats, initiatives related to finance, accounts and budget. **Functionaries** includes physical infrastructure of Panchayats, e-connectivity of Panchayats, Panchayats officials. **Capacity Enhancement** includes training institutions, training activities—training of elected representative and officials. **Accountability** includes accounting and audit of Panchayats, social audit of Panchayats, functioning of Gram Sabha, transparency & anti-corruption, Panchayats assessment & incentivization.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV-FC) recommended grants to the tune of ₹2,97,555 crore for the period 2020-21 to 2025–26 (including interim period 2020-21) for Panchayats across all three tiers, including Traditional Local Bodies and Sixth Schedule areas in 28 States, out of which ₹2,82,632.34 crore had been released as on 31st March, 2026.

(d) “Panchayat” is a State subject, therefore the matter falls under the purview of the State/UT Government concerned to formulate a time-bound action plan to make Panchayats the real units of local self-governance.

ANNEXURE-I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3686 for answer on 11.08.2026

Ranking of States/UTs in Devolution Index (DI) and Sub-indices

Rank	DI		Framework		Functions		Finances		Functionaries		Capacity Building		Accountability	
	State	Score	State	Score	State	Score	State	Score	State	Score	State	Score	State	Score
General Category States														
1	Karnataka	72.23	Kerala	83.56	Tamil Nadu	60.24	Karnataka	70.65	Gujarat	90.94	Telangana	86.19	Karnataka	81.33
2	Kerala	70.59	Maharashtra	74.74	Karnataka	57.62	Kerala	62.89	Tamil Nadu	84.25	Tamil Nadu	84.29	Kerala	81.18
3	Tamil Nadu	68.38	Karnataka	74.43	Odisha	57.46	Tamil Nadu	55.78	Kerala	82.99	Gujarat	83.96	Maharashtra	80.36
4	Maharashtra	61.44	Haryana	73.3	Rajasthan	56.13	Rajasthan	54.56	Karnataka	80.11	Goa	77.7	Uttar Pradesh	76.07
5	Uttar Pradesh	60.07	Madhya Pradesh	70	Kerala	53.86	Odisha	53.57	Chhattisgarh	78.33	Andhra Pradesh	76.69	Tamil Nadu	71
6	Gujarat	58.26	Odisha	69.2	Uttar Pradesh	46.89	West Bengal	52.96	Bihar	75.13	Uttar Pradesh	74.44	Andhra Pradesh	60.49
7	Rajasthan	56.67	Rajasthan	68.54	Maharashtra	46.52	Uttar Pradesh	51.76	Maharashtra	73.63	Maharashtra	73.35	Telangana	60.43
8	West Bengal	56.52	Chhattisgarh	68.51	Chhattisgarh	42.39	Chhattisgarh	51.45	Andhra Pradesh	68.78	Karnataka	71.59	Chhattisgarh	58.17
9	Chhattisgarh	56.26	Tamil Nadu	66.83	Gujarat	41.23	Telangana	46.86	West Bengal	67.76	Kerala	71.11	West Bengal	57.87
10	Telangana	55.1	West Bengal	62.3	Madhya Pradesh	39.47	Bihar	43.86	Rajasthan	64.03	West Bengal	70.63	Odisha	51.92
11	Andhra	54.4	Gujarat	61.6	Telangana	38.7	Andhra	43.1	Uttar	63.1	Madhya	70	Bihar	51.6

	Pradesh	3		5		7	Pradesh	9	Pradesh	3	Pradesh			4
12	Madhya Pradesh	50.9 4	Andhra Pradesh	60.0 8	West Bengal	33.0 7	Maharashtra	42.9 6	Madhya Pradesh	62.2 2	Rajasthan	61.4 3	Gujarat	47.9
13	Odisha	50.0 3	Uttar Pradesh	54.6 4	Punjab	31.9 7	Madhya Pradesh	42.3 4	Telangana	58.0 1	Bihar	55.2 7	Haryana	41.9 3
14	Bihar	48.2 4	Goa	52.8 8	Andhra Pradesh	30.5	Gujarat	41.6 3	Goa	46.3 1	Chhattisgarh	47.6 1	Rajasthan	41.4 3
15	Haryana	39.3 3	Bihar	49.7 6	Jharkhand	27.5 6	Haryana	40.3 8	Haryana	38.4 8	Odisha	43.4 3	Madhya Pradesh	36.5 5
16	Goa	37.7 1	Punjab	47.2 6	Bihar	18.6 9	Punjab	36.3 6	Jharkhand	27.8 3	Haryana	35.3 5	Goa	31.7 5
17	Punjab	29.3 4	Telangana	45.3 5	Haryana	16.8 2	Jharkhand	30.0 5	Odisha	27.4 2	Punjab	26.3 4	Punjab	24.8 7
18	Jharkhand	27.7 3	Jharkhand	42.3	Goa	6.63	Goa	26.8 8	Punjab	8.2	Jharkhand	24.7 2	Jharkhand	16.4 7
Northeastern / Hilly Area States														
1	Tripura	57.5 8	Uttarakhand	70.9 5	Sikkim	42.5 9	Tripura	59.1 6	Himachal Pradesh	70.0 6	Himachal Pradesh	83.6 8	Tripura	70.6 9
2	Himachal Pradesh	53.1 7	Tripura	66.5	Assam	28.6 6	Himachal Pradesh	48.4 1	Assam	65.1 2	Tripura	76.8 2	Assam	57.1 4
3	Uttarakhand	49.1 1	Sikkim	65.2 7	Himachal Pradesh	23.0 1	Uttarakhand	47.1 1	Uttarakhand	60.4 9	Assam	71.9 6	Uttarakhand	52.7 2
4	Assam	49.0 6	Himachal Pradesh	62.2 2	Tripura	21.5	Sikkim	43.5	Tripura	52.2 2	Uttarakhand	56.0 2	Himachal Pradesh	39.4 1
5	Sikkim	43.8 1	Assam	54.0 4	Uttarakhand	16.6 8	Assam	34.0 6	Sikkim	31.4 2	Sikkim	53.2 3	Sikkim	34.9 4
6	Arunachal Pradesh#	17.9 6	Arunachal Pradesh#	41.5	Arunachal Pradesh#	12.7	Manipur#	13.1 7	Manipur#	21.4	Arunachal Pradesh#	37.4	Manipur#	28.7 5
7	Manipur#	17.1 3	Manipur#	34.0 5	Manipur#	11.2 3	Arunachal Pradesh#	6.83	Arunachal Pradesh#	5.74	Manipur#	3.75	Arunachal Pradesh#	22.5 6

Union Territories														
1	Jammu and Kashmir	27.85	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	55.21	Jammu and Kashmir	11.88	Puducherry	16.16	Lakshadweep#	39.53	Jammu and Kashmir	55.08	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	45.73
2	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	27.15	Lakshadweep#	31.42	Ladakh	11.08	Jammu and Kashmir	13.29	Jammu and Kashmir	36.97	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	54.82	Jammu and Kashmir	39.76
3	Lakshadweep#	18.32	Jammu and Kashmir	23.07	Lakshadweep#	10.36	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	9.09	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu#	31.69	Ladakh	29.32	Puducherry	29.33
4	Ladakh	16.18	Ladakh	22.21	Puducherry	4.63	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu#	5.45	Ladakh	25.25	Lakshadweep#	15.18	Lakshadweep#	28.13
5	Puducherry	16.16	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu#	22.06	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4.5	Lakshadweep#	3.99	Puducherry	21.49	Puducherry	13.75	Ladakh	27.43
6	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu#	13.62	Puducherry	9.31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu#	0	Ladakh	0	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	20.94	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu#	8.57	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu#	24.91
	National Average	43.89		54.29		29.18		37.04		50.96		54.63		47.51

Source: Report titled “Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States - An Indicative Evidence-Based Ranking, 2024”

Note: #States for which previous data is used.
