

Rahul Bhatnagar, IAS
Secretary



भारत सरकार
पंचायती राज मंत्रालय
डॉ. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद रोड, कृषि भवन,
नई दिल्ली - 110001
Government of India
Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, Krishi Bhawan,
New Delhi-110001

D. O. No. M-11015/162/2019-CB

Dated: 12th July, 2019

Dear Principal Secretary / Secretary,

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are mandated for functioning as effective and efficient Institutions for Local Self Governance in Rural areas, on various subjects including the 29 subject areas that are to be devolved to Panchayats. The Elected Representatives (ERs) of Panchayats, Panchayat Functionaries and other stakeholders are being imparted capacity building and training (CB&T) to enable them to discharge their duties effectively inter alia for implementing Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. To strengthen the governance capabilities of PRIs, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) is being implemented from 2018-19. Feedback received from the field indicates that while Sarpanches/ Heads of GPs have been normally receiving trainings, exposure visits etc, the Ward Members, by and large, are not getting such opportunities. Therefore, their potential is not being utilised in the developmental activities.

3. As you would know, the Central Government is formulating VISION 2022 and in the overarching VISION 2022 for India, the GPs have to play a crucial role as anchors of local governance in rural areas. In the present scenario they are to be transformed into potential agents for social change, poverty eradication and doubling the farmers' income.

4. Therefore, Ward Members of GPs need essentially to be trained and capacitated in certain thematic areas viz. Animal Husbandry, Afforestation, Agricultural and Horticultural Practices, Agricultural produces and markets; Health & Nutrition; Water conservation, Micro Irrigation and soil conservation; ODF Villages, Sanitation & waste collection; advocacy of Education, Social Issues, Own Sources of Revenue, income generating activities and other themes / matters of local importance. The RGSA capacity building component will be modulated to that end.

5. To fulfil that vision, I shall be grateful if you could as an initial step, kindly issue appropriate directions to the concerned authorities of PRIs to ensure that priority is accorded for the CB&T of all the ERs of GPs, including the Ward Members, for achieving the objective of turning them into sector specialists, who may guide the local

developments falling within their domain. Towards this, a particular ward member would be required to be designated as the nodal authority for a particular sector by the GP and their contacts would be required to be available with the State and Central Government. Secondly the respective field functionaries' details (mobile number and contacts) would have to be made available to these nodal authorities. The most important aspect in this regard would be development of training content and process of imparting of training through respective SIRDs. In order to further enhance the effectiveness of this strategy, a higher level of training module can be formulated and training to the nodal authorities of GP (designated Ward Members) can be imparted through specialized sectoral training Institutions/ Centers.

6. Therefore, I would urge you to set the process in motion and direct that Ward Members are designated as nodal authorities, as well as direct the field functionaries at the district/ Block/ GP to coordinate and facilitate the realisation of objective through nodal authorities at the GP level. Parallely, the SIRDs and the specialised sectoral institutions/ Centers may also be galvanised towards planning for training to be imparted. Action taken in the matter may also be shared with this Ministry.

With regards,

Yours sincerely



(Rahul Bhatnagar)

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