

## Department of Panchayati Raj – Policies & Practices


### ~A Commitment to PRIs~

#### **Summary / Bullet Points**

The policy of the Panchayati Raj Department is available at the departmental website <https://www.panchayatiraj.up.nic.in> in English language.

#### ***The salient features of the policy are as follows:***

- ✚ The policy has been framed keeping in the vision – develop the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as the unit of democracy at the grass root level in accordance to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1992.
- ✚ It aims at to fulfill the mission of strengthening of PRIs through transfer of powers, functions, functionaries & funds.
- ✚ The State is committed to empower Panchayats in the manner that they be able to implement various schemes, levy taxes, frame the budget and improve the status of sanitation in the rural area.
- ✚ Structural Framework: The State has three levels of Panchayats:
  - ❖ Zila Panchayat (District Panchayat)
  - ❖ Kshettra Panchayat (Intermediary Panchayat)
  - ❖ Gram Panchayat (Village Panchayat)
- ✚ To oversee the work of these panchayats, offices and officials are appointed at state, division, district, block & village levels.
- ✚ Panchayati Raj Department is also the administrative department to the State Election Commission (SEC)
- ✚ Panchayati Raj Department / PRIs are governed by following two State Acts:
  - ❖ UP Panchayat Raj Act 1947,
  - ❖ UP Kshettra Panchayats and Zila Panchayat Act 1961
- ✚ Panchayat elections are being held under the directions, superintendence and control of State Election Commission since 1995.
- ✚ Last Panchayat election were held in 2010 and next election are scheduled for 2015
- ✚ Funds to Panchayats are devolved from the divisible pool of the total net tax receipts of the State on the recommendations of State Finance Commission (SFC)
- ✚ First State Finance Commission was constituted in 1994, the current State Finance Commission (SFC), i.e. fourth SFC was constituted in Dec 2011
- ✚ Gram Sabha is the most effective institution at the Gram Panchayat level. All schemes and budget are approved by it.
- ✚ Likewise, Kshettra & Zila Panchayats also approve their schemes & budgets in the general meeting attended by all the members.

 The policy with regard to various schemes implemented by PRIs is as follows:

#### **❖ Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA)**

- Operational since April 2012.
- Was known as Total Sanitation Campaign till March 2012.
- The ambit of beneficiaries has been extended from families living below poverty line to other poor/ low income groups in the rural areas.
- Construction of Individual household latrines, toilets in schools and anganwadis and action on solid & liquid waste management are the activities which are being undertaken.
- Target- declare state of Uttar Pradesh as 'Nirmal Uttar Pradesh' by 2022

#### **❖ Rajeev Gandhi Panchayat Shashktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA)**

- The main objective is to strengthen PRIs through various actions
- The State Govt has taken a number of actions to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)
- The scheme is being used as an opportunity to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The State Govt has taken up Construction of Panchayat Bhawans and placement of a Panchayat Sahayaks in each of the 16,432 Gram Panchayats and equip them with laptops under the programme.
- The scheme is sponsored by MoPR, GoI with 75% funding from the Centre and 25% from the State

#### **❖ Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF)**

- The Scheme is aimed at filling the critical gaps in local infrastructure and developmental schemes by taking the schemes which are required at Panchayat and Municipal level
- The scheme is being implemented in 35 districts of the State
- Works/ Schemes are selected by Panchayats and ULBs which are finalized in the District Planning Committee of the district, constituted under UP District Planning Committee Act 1999

#### **❖ State Finance Commission (SFC)**

- The main objective of the SFC is to discern and recommend the ways and means to improve and invent the new sources of income of Panchayats and recommend the formula of distribution of funds from the State divisible pool to the Municipalities and Panchayats.
- Currently, out of the total divisible pool in total net tax receipts of the State, 60% is being given to Municipalities/ULBs and 40% to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

- Funds devolved under the recommendation of SFC -to the Panchayats are utilized on the maintenance of assets owned by Panchayats.

#### ❖ **Central Finance Commission (CFC)**

- Funds on the recommendations of Central Finance Commission (CFC) are being received by the State Panchayats since 1996-97.
- Currently, as in SFC, 20% funds to Zila Panchayats, 10% to Kshetra Panchayats and 70 % to Gram Panchayats are being devolved.
- Funds are not tied to any schemes at the village level, however, funds are to be used on priority basis on the schemes pertaining to drinking water and sanitation.

#### ❖ **Anteyesti Sthalon Ka Vikas (Development of Cremation Grounds)**

- The esteemed scheme was introduced by the State Govt in 2014-15.
- The cremation grounds without proper infrastructure and are in use will be developed under the scheme.
- Platforms, prayer house, store fire-woods and other civic facilities such as drinking water and toilets etc., would be constructed at the site.
- Panchayats to construct the infrastructure facilities.