JAIPUR: There is a need to strengthen the Gram Panchayat system for the effective implementation of Panchayati Raj. The development projects should reach the person at the end, said Panchayati Raj and Rural Development minister Bharat Singh on Saturday.

He was addressing a one-day workshop on strengthening Panchayati Raj.

“There are loopholes in Panchayati Raj and the state government intends on removing them, to strengthen the system,” he said.

The workshop was organised by the Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Institute (IGPRI) and Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), New Delhi.

The jila pramukh, pradhan, sarpanch and other department officials attended the workshop.

Minister for state Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Ameen Khan, suggested that a daily allowance of Rs 50 should be given to people in areas where concrete work is not undertaken.

Addressing the participants, Khan said that the duty assigned to them should be done with honesty and not be considered a business.

“Rajasthan is taking a lead in devolving powers to Panchayati Raj system in north India. Inclusion of excluded communities is a remarkable initiative done through the Panchayati Raj system,” said George Mathew, director, ISS.

Heading the first session of the workshop, Vice President of State Planning Board, Professor VS Vyas said the subjects to be transferred to the panchayat will be decided by the chief minister, but decentralization will happen.

“Decentralization is unstoppable now, but with it, the responsibilities of the elected representatives will also increase,” he said.

During the open session, Durgesh Choudhary, a sarpanch from Nagaur suggested that the gram sabha should be given the authority to appoint a teacher temporarily. “Like legislators and members of parliament, an emergency fund of Rs 1 lakh should be sanctioned to the sarpanch for small works,” he said.

Bikaner pradhan Bhomraj Arya, said, “How will strengthening happen when the panchayat building doesn’t have electricity or phone facility.”