

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3596**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3.4.2017

**Gender responsive governance in PRIs**

**3596. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA:**

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry, has taken steps to promote gender responsive governance of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the details of measures taken by the Ministry to train Panchayati Raj representatives for effective implementation in the wake of emerging models like Rurban Governance and Smart Cities;

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) The article 243D of the Constitution ensures participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by mandating reservations for women in not less than one-third seats to be filled by direct election, and offices of chairpersons in Panchayats. As a result, there are about 14.39 lakh elected women representatives in Panchayats constituting 46% of around 31.26 lakh of the total elected representatives. Government has been encouraging increased involvement of the women in the functioning of Panchayats through their active participation in the Gram Sabha meetings, preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans and various schemes being implemented by the Panchayats. Over the years, there has been substantial increase in the involvement and activities of women in the functioning of Gram Panchayats and their development related activities. Besides, Ministry has issued advisories from time to times to States/UTs for conducting Mahila Sabha meetings before the meetings of Gram Sabha, quorum for women in Gram Sabha meetings and allocation of 10% of Panchayats funds for women centric activities etc. in order to enhance involvement of women in Panchayats.

(b) Under the National Rurban Mission, various consultation workshops /meetings /trainings have been held involving representatives of PRIs to develop their capacity for effective implementation and Governance under the Mission. Further, no training has been imparted to representatives of PRIs for matters related Smart Cities since Smart Cities Mission' has a mandate concerning urban region/ areas.

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