

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3449
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018

WOMEN SARPANCH IN PANCHAYATS

3449. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of women sarpanch in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether there has been an increase in the female sarpanchs over the years, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether female sarpanchs have performed better than their male counterparts and whether their trend has shown any progress in the status of women in village areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) & (b) In terms of Article 243D of the Constitution, not less than one-third seats of total number of seats filled by direct election in every Panchayat, and of the total number of offices of chairpersons in Panchayats are reserved for women. However, 20 states have made provisions for reservation of one-half seats of the total number of seats for women in Panchayats. The representation of women in Panchayats is dynamic and largely depends on the reservation policy of the States/UTs and number of women elected, etc. As such year-wise information on elected women representatives is not maintained by the Ministry. As per the information received from the States/UTs, there are about 13.75 lakh Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) including women sarpanches in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The State-wise details of women sarpanches is at **Annexure-I**.

(c) No comparative empirical study on functioning of male and female sarpanches is available, however enhanced participation of women is expected to result in empowerment of rural women in various aspects, including participation of women in Gram Sabhas, enhancement of self-esteem, confidence and decision making abilities and more attention to women related issues such as drinking water, sanitation and child–sex ratio, encouragement for girls' enrolment in schools and mitigation of domestic violence etc. Besides, the issues concerning women and children including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to women, sanitation and children are also more likely to get focused attention with the women taking over leadership at local levels.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) & (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3449 to be answered on 26.03.2018

S.No.	State/ UT	Women Sarpanches
1	Andhra Pradesh	6584
2	Andaman & Nicobar	24
3	Assam	1093
4	Bihar	3772
5	Chandigarh	4
6	Chhattisgarh	5822
7	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	11
8	Daman & Diu	6
9	Goa	73
10	Gujarat	4676
11	Haryana	2565
12	Himachal Pradesh	1631
13	Jharkhand	2284
14	Karnataka	3050
15	Kerala	471
16	Lakshadweep	4
17	Madhya Pradesh	11864
18	Maharashtra	13960
19	Manipur	68
20	Odisha	3600
21	Punjab	4431
22	Rajasthan	5341
23	Sikkim	88
24	Tamil Nadu	4289
25	Telangana	4602
26	Tripura	285
27	Uttar Pradesh	19992
28	Uttarakhand	4007
29	West Bengal	1557
	Total	106154
