

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1673
ANSWERED ON-15.03.2023

RESERVATION IN PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS FOR WOMEN

1673. SHRI MASTHAN RAO BEEDA:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) State-wise percentage of Panchayati Raj seats reserved for women that are vacant in States with 50% reservation for women for the fiscal years 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22;
- (b) number of elected women representatives in Panchayati Raj in Andhra Pradesh in the following years 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022;
- (c) whether there has been dip in the number of elected women representatives in PRIs post-covid;
- (d) if so, State-wise details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has taken any step apart from 1/3 reservation of seats to improve participation of women in PRIs and to address issue of token representation; and
- (f) if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL)

(a), (c) and (d) In terms of Article 243D of the Constitution of India, reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) is to be provided through the respective State Panchayati Raj Acts. Since it is in the purview of State Legislature, details relating to seats vacant in PRIs or dip in the number of elected women representatives are not maintained by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

(b) Elections to Panchayats in State of Andhra Pradesh were held in 2014 and their tenure ended in 2019. Though State Election Commission issued notification in March 2020 for conduct of Panchayats elections, election process had to be stopped due to COVID-19 pandemic situation. There were no elected Panchayats during 2019-20 to 2020-21. Elections to PRIs were conducted by the State in April, 2021. Accordingly, details of elected women representatives in PRIs of Andhra Pradesh in 2021-22 are as under-

| Name of the office of Panchayati Raj Institutions | Total number of seats | Number of seats elections withhold | Number of seats Elections held | Number of women representative elected |
|--|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Zila Parishad Territorial Constituency | 660 | 8 | 652 | 353 |
| Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency | 10047 | 344 | 9703 | 5670 |
| Sarpanch Gram Panchayat | 13371 | 274 | 13097 | 7434 |
| Ward member Gram Panchayat | 134057 | 3095 | 130962 | 72177 |
| Total | 158135 | 3721 | 154414 | 85634 |

(e) to (f) Government has been encouraging increased involvement of women in the functioning of Panchayats through active participation in the Gram Sabha meetings for preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans and various schemes being implemented by the Panchayats. This Ministry has also issued advisories to the States to facilitate holding of separate Ward Sabha and Mahila Sabha meetings prior to Gram Sabha meetings, enhancing the presence and participation of women in Gram Sabha and Panchayat meetings, allocation of Panchayat funds for women centric activities, combating the evil of women trafficking, female foeticide, child marriage etc.
