

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1504**  
ANSWERED ON-02.08.2023

**UNTOUCHABILITY IN PANCHAYATS**

**1504. SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:**

Will the Minister of **PANCHAYATI RAJ** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the practice of untouchability and biasness against Dalit Members/Presidents still exist in many Village Panchayats;
- (b) whether the practice of gender discrimination still exists in many of our Village Panchayats;
- (c) whether Government has initiated any specific actions to end such unconstitutional practices;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL)

(a) to (e) “Panchayat”, being “Local Government”, is a State subject in terms of the State list of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Mandate for setting up of Panchayats is provided by Article 243C in Part IX of the Constitution of India. Accordingly, the Panchayats are setup and operated through the respective State Panchayati Raj Acts. As such, to take cognizance of any unconstitutional practice, such as of untouchability and biasness against Dalit Members/Presidents or gender discrimination, in Panchayats and to initiate any action in these cases, comes within the purview of State Governments. Further, whenever such complaints are received in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, including those through print/mass/web media, these are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for redressal of grievances.

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