

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 32
ANSWERED ON-06.12.2023

Reservation of seats for women in PRI

32. Shri Ryaga Krishnaiah:

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

- (a) the percentage of Panchayati Raj seats reserved for women which are vacant, in States with 50% reservation for women, for the fiscal 2019 to 2022, State-wise;
- (b) the number of Elected OBC Women Representatives in the PRI from 2019 to 2022;
- (c) whether there has been a dip in the number of Elected Women Representatives in PRIs, post-COVID;
- (d) if so, details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) whether Government has taken any steps apart from 1/3 reservation of seats to improve participation of women in PRIs, and to address the issue of token representation, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH)

- (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 32 ANSWERED ON 06.12.2023 REGARDING “RESERVATION OF SEATS FOR WOMEN IN PRI”.

(a) to (d) Article 243D of the Constitution of India provides not less than one-third reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). However, 21 States and 2 Union Territories have gone even further and have made provisions, in their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts/Rules, for 50% reservation for women in PRIs. Reservation for women in PRIs is to be provided through the respective State Panchayati Raj Acts. Since this subject is in the purview of States, details in respect of PRIs like percentage of seats vacant or caste-based data of elected representatives or any analysis of dip in the number of elected women representatives post-COVID, are not maintained by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Further, as the percentage of women representatives in Panchayats is constitutionally and statutorily determined, there seems to be no reason for any kind of reduction in the number of elected women representatives in PRIs, post-COVID.

(e) 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 issued advisories to States to facilitate holding of separate Ward Sabha and Mahila Sabha meetings prior to Gram Sabha meetings. Advisories have also been issued to States for 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.
