

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 254**  
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2024

**WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM**

254 SHRI R. DHARMAR

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the names of schemes/programmes launched by Government to strengthen Panchayati Raj System to improve rural areas of the country including Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government has taken initiatives to increase participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs);

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has made any assessment of impact of increasing participation of women in PRIs on the basis of the social and economic conditions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL)

(a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is implementing the (i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) with the primary objective of strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by way of capacity building and training of the Elected Representatives (ERs) and their functionaries, providing infrastructural support like Gram Panchayat Bhawan and Computerisation, (ii) Incentivization of Panchayats (IoP), a Central Component of RGSA scheme, to encourage competitive spirit among PRIs under which, Awards including financial incentives are given to best performing Panchayats in recognition of their good work for improving delivery of services and public good, (iii) Mission Mode Project on e-Panchayats (MMP-ePanchayat), a Central component of RGSA scheme under which various e-governance projects are funded towards digitalization of Panchayats to bring in efficiency, accountability and transparency in the functioning of the PRIs and for its overall transformation. These schemes are implemented by the government in all rural local bodies (RLBs) of the States/UTs to strengthen Panchayati Raj System to improve rural areas of the Country including the state of Tamil Nadu.

(b) & (c) Article 243D of the Constitution of India provides for not less than one-third

reservation for women in PRIs out of total number of seats to be filled by direct election and number of offices of chairpersons of Panchayats. As on date, 21 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, and 2 UTs namely, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu' and Lakshadweep have made provision for 50% reservation for women in PRIs in their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts. In respect of remaining Part-IX States/UTs, Constitutional provision, as prescribed in Article 243D, applies.

In addition to continuous follow-up actions with the States for implementation of constitutional provisions for reservations for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), the Ministry of Panchayati Raj 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 feticide, child marriage etc.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The question does not arise in view of (d) above.

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