

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 256**  
ANSWERED ON- 24.07.2024

**ROLE OF WOMEN IN PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS (PRIs)**

256. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has carried out any assessment of the role of women representatives in Panchayats;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures proposed to make their participation effective?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(PROF. S. P. SINGH BAGHEL)

(a) to (c) Panchayats are setup and operate through the respective State Panchayati Raj Acts. All Panchayat related work, including assessment of the role of women representatives in Panchayats, comes within the purview of State Government. However, the Ministry reviews performance of Panchayats, from time to time, through studies, review meetings, field visits, video conferencing, Information Technology applications, Common Review Missions etc.

Article 243D of the Constitution of India provides not less than one-third reservation for women out of 'total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat' and 'total number of offices of chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level'. However, 21 States and 2 Union Territories have gone even further and have made provisions of 50%

reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions in their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts/Rules.

The Ministry holds extensive exercise of capacity building of Elected Representatives, including Elected Women Representatives, through the scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan. This Ministry focuses on developing the capacity of Elected Women Representatives of Panchayats to enable them to function effectively in Gram Panchayats and properly discharge their leadership roles. The Ministry has also 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.

The Ministry has also 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.

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