

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 244
ANSWERED ON- 27.11.2024

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AT PANCHAYAT LEVEL

244 # SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

the details of the strategies implemented by Government to increase the participation of women and disadvantaged groups in Panchayats?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(PROF. S. P. SINGH BAGHEL)

“Panchayat”, being “Local Government”, is a State subject and part of State List of Seventh Schedule of Constitution of India. Part-IX of the Constitution, relating to Panchayats, ensures participation of people residing in rural areas by way of conducting direct elections to all the seats in a Panchayat as well as direct/indirect elections to the offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats to establish three-tiers of Panchayati Raj System. Article 243D of the Constitution ensures participation of women, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by mandating not less than one-third reservation out of total number of seats and offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats. States have been empowered to make provisions for reservation of seats or offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at any level in favour of Backward class of citizens. Further, Article 243G of the Constitution ensures their involvement in preparation of plan and implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice.

Due to consistent follow-up actions with States for implementing constitutional provisions for PRIs, 21 States and 2 Union Territories have gone a step further by making provisions for 50% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions within their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts/Rules. The Ministry undertakes extensive capacity-building exercises for Elected Representatives, including Elected Women Representatives, through the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan scheme. This effort aims to develop the capabilities of Elected Women Representatives in Panchayats to enable them to function effectively and discharge their leadership roles efficiently.

The Ministry has issued advisories to States to facilitate the 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 including for the preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans, implementation of schemes at Panchayats, allocation of Panchayat funds for women-centric activities
