

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1356
ANSWERED ON- 11.02.2026

ISSUE OF SARPANCH PATIS

1356. DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the persistent problem of “Sarpanch Patis” undermining the autonomy and decision-making authority of elected women representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions across States;
- (b) if so, the measures taken, including advisories, social campaigns, legal reforms, monitoring and schemes to empower women sarpanchs;
- (c) whether the Ministry is engaging with States and civil society to develop structured interventions and campaigns to end such proxy practices; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH)

(a) to (d) “Panchayat”, being “Local Government”, is a State subject and part of the State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, any issue related to Sarpanch Patis in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) lies in the domain of the States.

On the direction of the Hon’ble Supreme Court, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj constituted an Advisory Committee in September 2023 to examine the issue of Women Pradhans being represented by the male members of their families and also to examine other issues related to proxy practices. The Committee has submitted its Report with recommendations to the Ministry in February 2025, and the same has been accepted by the Ministry.

The Advisory Committee recommended that the State Governments take necessary measures, including social campaigns, legal reforms, monitoring and schemes to eliminate Sarpanch Patis in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and ensure empowerment of women Sarpanches. Owing to the importance of this matter and its impact on women's leadership in PRIs, this Ministry has also constituted a Task Force on 17th April 2025.
