

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3209**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2017

**WOMEN SARPANCH**

**3209. SHRI DHARAM VIRA:**

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- a) the number of women Sarpanch in the country, State-wise;
- b) whether any study or survey has been conducted to ascertain the upliftment of women in rural areas, if so, the details thereof; and
- c) the details of the action plan chalked out by the Government for further empowerment of rural women?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): The representation of women in Panchayats is dynamic and depends on the reservation policy of the State and number of women winning the elections. As per the information received from the States/UTs a statement showing state – wise number of women sarpanches in the country is given at **Annexure**.

(b): A nationwide study on Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions commissioned by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) was published in 2008. The study assessed the empowerment of EWRs in various aspects, including enhancement of the self-esteem, confidence and decision making abilities of EWRs. The study indicated that the participation of women in Gram Sabhas has increased, and attention was being given to women related issues such as drinking water, sanitation and child-sex ratio. The study reported that EWRs had made efforts to encourage girls' enrolment in schools and to mitigate domestic violence.

(c): Article 243D of the Constitution ensures participation of women in (Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by mandating not less than one-third reservation for women in seats and the offices of chairpersons in Panchayats. Moreover, 19 States have made provisions for reservation of one-half of the total number of seats for women in Panchayats. Reservation for women is aimed at empowering women and making Panchayats more gender friendly. Over the years, there has been substantial increase in the involvement and activities of women in the functioning of panchayats and their development related activities. Government has been encouraging increased involvement of the 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. Besides, MoPR has been advocating 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 and to curb the cases of proxy attendance by relatives of EWRs.

**Annexure**

Annexure referred to in reply to Part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3209 for 03.08.2017

**State-wise details of women sarpanch**

<b>SL No.</b>	<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>Women Sarpanch</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	6,584
2	Assam	1,093
3	Bihar	4,289
4	Chandigarh	4
5	Chhattisgarh	5,822
6	Dadar Nagar Haveili	11
7	Daman & Diu	8
8	Goa	79
9	Gujarat	4,676
10	Haryana	2,565
11	Himachal Pradesh	1,631
12	Jharkhand	2,284
13	Karnataka	3,011
14	Kerala	471
15	Lakshadweep	4
16	Madhya Pradesh	11,864
17	Maharashtra	13,960
18	Manipur	68
19	Odisha	3,351
20	Punjab	4,436
21	Rajasthan	5,121
22	Sikkim	88
23	Tamil Nadu	4,289
24	Telangana	4,600
25	Tripura	285
26	Uttar Pradesh	19,992
27	Uttarakhand	4,007
28	West Bengal	1,657
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,06,250</b>

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