

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1122
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21/12/2017

Women Sarpanches of Minority Communities

1122. SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of women Sarpanches belonging to the minorities in the Panchayati Raj system;
- (b) whether the Government has taken/ proposes to take any measures to make the system more representative;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) to (d): As per information available, details of women sarpanches, which include women sarpanches belonging to the minorities are given at **Annexure**. No separate data for women sarpanches belonging to minorities is maintained centrally. Part-IX of the Constitution, which relates to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), does not specify any reservation in seats and the offices of chairpersons in PRIs for the minority communities.

Under Article 243D of the Constitution, provisions have been made for mandatory reservation of seats and offices of Chairpersons in PRIs for persons belonging to certain identified categories like Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women. Moreover, a State Legislature can make provision for reservation of seats in any Panchayats or offices of Chairperson in the Panchayats in favour of backward classes. Such provisions of reservation and the rotation of reserved seats and offices of Chairperson to different constituencies make Panchayats inclusive and representative institutions. Besides, the Gram Sabha which is the forum that ensures direct, participative democracy, offers equal opportunity to all citizens including the poor, the minorities, the women and the marginalised to discuss, debate, consider and approve proposals, making the Panchayati Raj system more representative.

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1122
to be answered on 21.12.2017**

S.No.	State/ UT	Sarpanches
1	Andhra Pradesh	6,584
2	Andman & Nikobar	24
3	Assam	1,093
4	Bihar	3,772
5	Chandigarh	4
6	Chhattisgarh	5,822
7	Dadar Nagar Haveli	11
8	Daman & Diu	8
9	Goa	72
10	Gujarat	4,676
11	Haryana	2,565
12	Himachal Pradesh	1,631
13	Jharkhand	2,284
14	Karnataka	3,050
15	Kerala	471
16	Lakshadweep	4
17	Madhya Pradesh	11,864
18	Maharashtra	13,960
19	Manipur	68
20	Odisha	3,351
21	Punjab	4,431
22	Rajasthan	5,013
23	Sikkim	88
24	Tamil Nadu	4,289
25	Telangana	4,600
26	Tripura	285
27	Uttar Pradesh	19,992
28	Uttarakhand	4,007
29	West Bengal	1,657
	Total	1,05,676
