GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 83
ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 15TH DECEMBER, 2017/
AGRAHAYANA 24, 1939 (SAKA)

INDEPENDENT WOMEN DIRECTORS

QUESTION

83. SHRI RAJENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS   कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्री
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about forty per cent of the listed National Stock Exchange (NSE) companies do not have an independent women director;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is a fact that a Government panel has recommended the appointment of one independent women director in the listed companies; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government has taken any decision in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE   (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY)
AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS   (श्री पी .पी .चौधरी(
विधि और न्याय एवं कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(a) & (b):- Section 149 of Companies Act, 2013 read with the corresponding rules requires every listed company to have a women director. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has also mandated under SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 for appointment of at least one woman director on the boards of listed companies. It is not, however, mandated that the woman director has to be an independent director. As per the details received from SEBI, 1608 of the 1668 active listed companies, required to appoint a women director, have appointed a woman director.

(c) & (d):- SEBI had appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Uday Kotak in June 2017 to make recommendations pertaining to corporate governance in listed entities in India. The Committee submitted its report on Oct 5, 2017. One of the recommendations in the report is that every listed entity should have at least one independent woman director on its board of directors.   So far, Ministry of Corporate Affairs has not received any proposal from SEBI in this regard.

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