

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 451
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2018

Women Representatives

†451. SHRI RAM CHARAN BOHRA:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of elected women representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the qualitative changes in socio-economic conditions by increasing participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the strategy formulated by the Government for the improvement of socio-economic condition of women in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per the information received from the States/UTs, there are about 13.67 lakh Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). A statement showing number of EWRs, State/UT-wise is given at Annexure.

(b) & (c) A nationwide study on EWRs in Panchayats 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 their decision making abilities. 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 mitigate domestic violence. Besides, the issues concerning women and children, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to women, sanitation and children are given focussed attention with the women taking over leadership at local levels.

(d) Article 243D of the Constitution ensures participation of women in PRIs by mandating not less than one-third reservation for women out of total number of seats to be filled by direct election and number of offices of chairpersons of Panchayats. Government has been encouraging increased involvement of 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. MoPR has also issued advisories to the States 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, allocation of 10% of Panchayat funds for women centric activities 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. 451 to be answered on 19.07.2018 regarding 'Women Representatives'

S. No.	States / UTs	Elected Women Representatives (EWRs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	78,025
2	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	282
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3,658
4	Assam	13,410
5	Bihar	57,887
6	Chandigarh	58
7	Chhattisgarh	93,287
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	47
9	Daman & Diu	92
10	Goa	516
11	Gujarat	71,988
12	Haryana	29,499
13	Himachal Pradesh	14,398
14	Jammu & Kashmir	11,169
15	Jharkhand	30,757
16	Karnataka	50,892
17	Kerala	9,630
18	Lakshadweep	41
19	Madhya Pradesh	1,96,490
20	Maharashtra	1,21,490
21	Manipur	868
22	Odisha	49,618
23	Punjab	29,190
24	Rajasthan	70,527
25	Sikkim	548
26	Tamil Nadu	39,975
27	Telangana	52,096
28	Tripura	3,006
29	Uttar Pradesh	2,72,733
30	Uttarakhand	35,957
31	West Bengal	29,518
	Total	13,67,652