

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1600
ANSWERED ON 07.12.2021

WOMEN SARPANCH IN GRAM PANCHAYATS

1600. MS. RAMYA HARIDAS:

SHRI ANUMULA REVANTH REDDY:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of women who hold the position of Sarpanch in the country especially in the State of Telangana during the last ten years;
- (b) the total number of Sarpanch posts which are occupied by a member from Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe in the country including the State of Telangana;
- (c) the total number of Scheduled Caste members on non-reserved seats in Gram Panchayats in the country including the State of Telangana;
- (d) the number of Gram Panchayats where more than one-third Panchayat council leaders are women in the country including the State of Telangana; and
- (e) whether the Government has made any assessment of the reservation being given to women and SC/ST in Gram Panchayat and if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL)

(a) to (d) As per List II (State List) of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, 'Panchayat', being 'local government', is a State Subject. Accordingly, details regarding Sarpanches or Panchayat council leaders including details regarding numbers of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes or women are not maintained centrally.

(e) Article 243D of the Constitution of India provides for reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in every Panchayat and the number of seats so reserved shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in that Panchayat as the population of the Scheduled Castes in that Panchayat area or of the Scheduled Tribes in that Panchayat area bears to the total population of that area.

Clause (3) and Clause (4) of Article 243D of the Constitution ensure participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions by providing 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. However, as per the information available with the Ministry, 21 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal have made provisions of 50% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions in their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts.
