

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3092**  
ANSWERED ON 22.03.2022

**ELECTED WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES IN PANCHAYATS**

3092. SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:  
DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:  
SHRI B.Y. RAGHAVENDRA:  
SHRI S. MUNISWAMY:  
SHRI ANNASAHEB SHANKAR JOLLE:  
SHRI SANGANNA AMARAPPA:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an attempt to overcome the issue of the Proxy members representing the women members in all the systems of the Panchayat Raj and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of measures taken to motivate the elected women Panchayat Raj members to come out of their household activities and participate actively in the development works;
- (c) whether there are any cases of elected women Panchayat Raj members complaining about interference in the system from their immediate family members or the spouse and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of measures taken to stop such incidents and the means to make women elected representatives more powerful and self-dependant?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL)

(a) to (d) 'Panchayat', being 'Local Government', is a State subject and part of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Accordingly, all Panchayat related matters, including the issue of proxy members, come within the purview of States and complaints pertaining to interference by the family members or the spouse in the duties of women public representatives of Panchayats are forwarded to States for redressal.

Further, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj seeks to end the practice of proxy members representing the women members and the interference from family members or the spouse of the women members in Panchayat systems. Advisories, in this regard, have been issued by the Ministry from time to time to States/UTs. Also, the Ministry 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. This Ministry 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 Panchayat funds for women centric activities, combating the evil of women trafficking, female foeticide, child marriage etc.

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