

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5227
ANSWERED ON- 24.03.2026

WOMEN PRADHANS IN PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS

5227. SHRI CAPTAIN BRIJESH CHOWTA:
SHRI TANGELLA UDAY SRINIVAS:
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the key findings and actionable recommendations of the Advisory Committee constituted by the Ministry on issues concerning women pradhans;
- (b) the initiatives and solutions being implemented by the Ministry to address the Pradhan-pati phenomenon and to promote genuine empowerment, accountability and effective participation of women in reserved seats;
- (c) whether certain States have experienced delays in conducting timely Panchayat elections as mandated under Article 243E, guidelines issued by Ministry to facilitate compliance in such cases, State-wise including Himachal Pradesh;
- (d) if so, the details of utilisation and progress of the e-Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Nirnay platforms for scheduling and managing Gram Sabha meetings in the States, State/UTs-wise; and
- (e) the number of elected representatives, panchayat functionaries trained under the Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan since 2022-23, State and district-wise including Dakshina Kannada?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)

(a) and (b) “Panchayat”, being “Local Government”, is a State subject and part of the State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, any matters related to address the Pradhan-pati phenomenon and to promote genuine empowerment, accountability participation of women in reserved seats lies in the domain of the State.

On the direction of the Hon’ble Supreme Court, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj constituted an Advisory Committee in September 2023 to examine the issue of Women Pradhans being represented by the male members of their families and also to examine other issues related to proxy practices. The Committee has submitted its Report with recommendations to the Ministry in February 2025, and the same has been accepted by the

Ministry.

The Advisory Committee recommended that the State Governments take necessary measures, including legal safeguards, capacity-building, women ombudspersons, public oath-taking, mentorship by women leaders, social audits and penal provisions to eliminate proxy leadership in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and ensure real empowerment, autonomy and accountability of elected women representatives.

This Ministry has implemented the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) w.e.f. FY 2022-23 in States/ UTs with main objective of capacitating PRIs through imparting training to the Elected Representatives, including Women Elected Representatives, functionaries and other stakeholders to develop their governance capabilities for leadership roles and to function effectively. A total of 30,94,748 Women Elected Representatives were trained from FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26 (as on 28th February 2026) under this scheme. Further, to strengthen the Women-Led Initiatives, the Ministry has launched a comprehensive Specialized Training Module “Championing Change -Empowering Women Leaders in Local Governance and Beyond” as a part of “Shashkta Panchayat Netri Abhiyan” Campaign for the capacity building of Women Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj System. The focus of the training module is to build the capacity of the Women Elected Representatives on different aspects of rural governance; enhance the knowledge & practical skills for effective delivery of their roles & responsibilities as elected representatives, and also to develop the leadership, communication, managerial, & decision making skills for fostering women-led governance. A total of 1,05,966 Women Elected Representatives (as on 28th February 2026) have been trained on this special module.

Article 243D of the Constitution of India provides not less than one-third reservation for women in PRIs out of ‘total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat’ and ‘total number of offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level’. However, 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 and 2 Union Territories namely, Lakshadweep and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, have gone even further and have made provisions of upto 50% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions in their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts/Rules encouraging increased participation in grassroots governance.

(c) The details of the States and Union Territories, where Panchayat elections were delayed, including Himachal Pradesh is placed at **Annexure I**. This Ministry, from time to time, issues advisories to the States and Union Territories for conducting elections.

(d) The Ministry is implementing the e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) under RGSA, which has significantly enhanced transparency, efficiency, and governance at the grassroots level. The eGramSwaraj application, developed as part of the e-Panchayat MMP, has facilitated digital planning, accounting, monitoring, and online payments at the Panchayat level. The integration of eGramSwaraj with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) enables real-time payments to vendors and service providers, ensuring seamless fund flow and reducing delays. During Financial Year 2025–26, 2,55,254 Gram Panchayats across the country, uploaded their Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs). During the same period, Panchayati Raj Institutions made payments amounting to ₹53,342

crore through the eGramSwaraj–PFMS interface. The State-wise adoption status of eGramSwaraj, for the 15th Finance Commission is provided in the **Annexure II**.

Further, applications developed by the Ministry like Meri Panchayat have endeavoured to bring transparency in Panchayat Governance by making information on planning, activities and progress of works in Panchayat accessible to public. Similarly, Panchayat NIRNAY is an online application aims at bringing transparency and better management in conduct of Gram Sabhas by Panchayats. As per the information available on Panchayat NIRNAY Portal (<https://meetingonline.gov.in/>), over 2.57 lakh Gram Panchayats have scheduled the Gram Sabha using this portal. All the 28 States and 6 Union Territories are utilising the application to conduct Gram Sabha meetings.

(e) State-wise and District-wise details of number of elected representatives, panchayat functionaries trained under the Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan since 2022-23, including Dakshina Kannada district of the State of Karnataka, is available on the Ministry's website of Training Management Portal at <https://trainingonline.gov.in/>.

Annexure -I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5227 answered on 24.03.2026 on “Women Pradhans in Panchayati Raj Institutions”

– Details of States and Union Territories (UTs) where Panchayat elections were delayed

Sl. No	Name of State/UT	Original Due Date	Last Election Date	Remarks
1	Gujarat	Gram Panchayat: March, 2023 Block Panchayat: March, 2023 District Panchayat: March, 2023	Gram Panchayat: February, 2018 <i>(121 out of 14805)</i> Block Panchayat: February, 2018 <i>(4 out of 238)</i> District Panchayat: February, 2018 <i>(2 out of 31)</i>	Elections in the selected Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat and District Panchayat is due since 2023.
2	Himachal Pradesh	Gram Panchayat: January, 2026 Block Panchayat: January, 2026 District Panchayat: January, 2026	Gram Panchayat: January, 2021 Block Panchayat: January, 2021 District Panchayat: January, 2021	All these Panchayats belong to non-tribal areas. Elections in these Panchayats are due since January 2026.
3	Karnataka	Gram Panchayat: December, 2025 Block Panchayat: February, 2021 District Panchayat: February, 2021	Gram Panchayat: December, 2020 Block Panchayat: February, 2016 District Panchayat: February, 2016	Election in Gram Panchayatis due since December 2025. Whereas, for Block Panchayat and District Panchayat, election is due since 2021.
4	Maharashtra	Block Panchayat: January/February, 2022 District Panchayat: January/February,	Block Panchayat: January/February, 2017 District Panchayat: January/February,	Election in Block Panchayat and District Panchayat is due since 2022.

		2022	2017	
5	Manipur	Gram Panchayat: October, 2022 Block Panchayat: Not Applicable District Panchayat: October, 2022	Gram Panchayat: October, 2017 Block Panchayat: Not Applicable District Panchayat: October, 2017	Election in Gram Panchayat and District Panchayat is due since 2022. The provision of Panchayat Samiti (Block Panchayat) was inserted in the Manipur Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 vide 8th Amendment Act, 2023, notified in Gazette on 22nd February, 2023.
6	Rajasthan	Gram Panchayat: January 2025 Gram Panchayat: March, 2025 Gram Panchayat: September-October, 2025	Gram Panchayat: January, 2020 (6759 out of 11320) Gram Panchayat: March, 2020 (704 out of 11320) Gram Panchayat: Sept.-Oct., 2020 (3847 out of 11320)	Election in Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat and District Panchayat is due since 2025.
		Block Panchayat: November - December, 2025 DP: November - December, 2025	Block Panchayat: November - December, 2020 (222 out of 352) DP: November - December, 2020 (21 out of 33)	
7	Tamil Nadu	January 2025 (For all Panchayats of 28 Districts out of 37 Districts)	December, 2019	Election in all Panchayats of 28 Districts is due since January 2025. Tenure of all Panchayats of

				remaining 9 Districts is till October, 2026.
8	Telangana	Block Panchayat: July, 2024 District Panchayat: July, 2024	Block Panchayat: May, 2019 District Panchayat: May, 2019	Election in Block Panchayat and District Panchayat is due since July 2024.
Union Territories				
9	Jammu and Kashmir	Gram Panchayat: January, 2024 Block Panchayat: January, 2024 District Panchayat: February 2026	Gram Panchayat: Nov-Dec, 2018 Block Panchayat: October - November, 2019 District Panchayat: November - December, 2020	Election in Gram Panchayat and Block Panchayat is due since January 2024. Tenure of District Panchayat ended in February 2026. Panchayat – Election not held yet.
10	Ladakh	Gram Panchayat: Not Available Block Panchayat: Not Available District Panchayat: Not Available	Gram Panchayat: Not Available Block Panchayat: Not Available District Panchayat: Not Available	Election in Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat and District Panchayat is due since January 2024.
11	Lakshadweep	Gram Panchayat: December, 2022 Block Panchayat: Not Applicable District Panchayat: December, 2022	Gram Panchayat: December, 2017 Block Panchayat: Not Applicable District Panchayat: December, 2017	Election in Gram Panchayat and District Panchayat is due since December 2022.
12	Puducherry	Gram Panchayat: July, 2011 Block Panchayat: July, 2011 District Panchayat: Not Applicable	Gram Panchayat: June, 2006 Block Panchayat: June, 2006 District Panchayat: Not Applicable	Election in Gram Panchayat and Block Panchayat is due since July 2011.

Source: Data as available on the website of the States/UTs or as provided by them to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Annexure -II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5227 answered on 24.03.2026 on “Women Pradhans in Panchayati Raj Institutions”

State-wise adoption status of eGramSwaraj for the 15th Finance Commission for FY 2025-26

S.No	State Name	Total Number of Village Panchayats & Equivalent	Village Panchayat onboard	Village Panchayats & Equivalent With Online Payment	Total Number of Block Panchayats & Equivalent	Block Panchayat onboard	Block Panchayats With Online Payment	Total Number of Zila Panchayats & Equivalent	Zila Panchayat onboard	Zila Panchayats With Online Payment
1	Andhra Pradesh	13327	13320	13025	660	660	649	13	13	13
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2108	2108	1486	0	0	0	27	26	22
3	Assam	2663	2186	2075	182	182	179	30	29	27
4	Bihar	8054	8054	8047	534	534	529	38	38	38
5	Chhattisgarh	11692	11687	11313	146	146	146	33	33	27
6	Goa	191	191	116	0	0	0	2	2	2
7	Gujarat	14619	14596	13800	248	248	248	33	33	33
8	Haryana	6227	6227	6010	143	143	141	22	22	22
9	Himachal Pradesh	3615	3615	3562	92	81	81	12	12	12
10	Jharkhand	4345	4345	4252	264	264	262	24	24	24
11	Karnataka	5949	5949	5938	238	232	93	31	31	23
12	Kerala	941	941	937	152	152	152	14	14	14
13	Madhya Pradesh	23011	23011	22194	313	313	309	52	52	52
14	Maharashtra	28002	27934	26438	351	351	265	34	34	33
15	Manipur	3175	161	113	0	0	0	12	6	4
16	Meghalaya	6884	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3
17	Mizoram	855	841	817	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Nagaland	1312	984	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Odisha	6794	6794	6785	314	314	313	30	30	30
20	Punjab	13236	13233	12341	155	152	150	23	23	22
21	Rajasthan	13128	11184	10774	361	353	351	37	33	33
22	Sikkim	199	199	196	0	0	0	6	6	6
23	Tamil Nadu	12482	12482	12437	388	388	388	36	36	36
24	Telangana	12760	12674	9570	565	547	400	32	32	27
25	Tripura	1194	1194	1192	75	75	75	9	9	9
26	Uttarakhand	7817	7790	6926	95	95	94	13	13	13
27	Uttar Pradesh	57695	57693	57579	826	826	820	75	75	74
28	West Bengal	3339	3339	3337	345	345	345	22	21	21
Total		265614	25273	24126	6447	6401	5990	663	65	620
			2	0					0	

Source: e-Gramswaraj portal of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.