

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 273
ANSWERED ON 21/07/2026

**CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN ELECTED
REPRESENTATIVES**

273. SMT. SMITA UDAY WAGH:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and the total number of training, leadership development and governance capacity-building programmes for Women Elected Representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions during the last five years, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the prevalence of proxy representation in Panchayati Raj Institutions and its impact on the effective participation of women representatives, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government maintains data on Gram Panchayats and Panchayat-level digital governance systems in Maharashtra, including Jalgaon that have adopted Theme-9 (Women Friendly Village) under the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) and operationalised Mahila Sabhas, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to establish Panchayat Leadership and Governance Resource Centres for women representatives in Maharashtra, particularly in Jalgaon, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH)

(a) Panchayat, being “Local Self Government”, is a State subject. However, the Ministry has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) w.e.f. the financial year 2022-23 with the major objective of Capacity Building & Training (CB&T) of Elected Representatives, Functionaries and other stakeholders of Panchayats across all States/UTs for improving Panchayat Governance. Under the scheme of RGSA, the Ministry provides support for Capacity Building & Training of elected representatives, functionaries, and other stakeholders of Panchayats in different categories, viz. basic orientation and refresher training, thematic training, specialized training, panchayat development plan training, and leadership training, etc. A total of 34,14,342 Women Elected

Representatives were trained from FY 2022-23 to FY 2026-27 (as on 10th July 2026) under the scheme, including the State of Maharashtra. The State-wise details is at **Annexure-I**.

In addition, on 11th March 2025, the Ministry launched a comprehensive specialised training module as part of “Sashakta Panchayat Netri Abhiyan” for building the capacity of Women Elected Representatives (WERs) of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to develop their leadership, communication, managerial & decision-making skills for effective women-led governance. A total of 1,53,616 WERs have been trained on this module as on 10.07.2026. The state-wise detail is at **Annexure-II**.

(b) Yes, Sir. 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 representation. The Committee 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, 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. Owing to the importance of this matter and its impact on women's leadership in PRIs, this Ministry has also constituted a Task Force on 17th April 2025 to provide an implementation roadmap for the States/UTs to practically execute the recommendations put forth by the Advisory Committee on the issues of Women Pradhans.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has conceptualized the localization of sustainable development goals (LSDGs) through a thematic approach to comprehend global goals into local actions through planning. Out of 9 themes of LSDGs, Theme 9: Women-Friendly Panchayat aims to focus on gender equality and women's empowerment. Panchayats are mandated to prepare a plan for economic development and social justice. During the preparation of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan, Panchayats are advised to take a Sankalp on 1-2 Themes of LSDGs to provide targeted interventions in various sectors of the Sankalp theme. As reported by the State of Maharashtra, the number of Gram Panchayats that have adopted the Sankalp on the 'Women Friendly Panchayat' (Theme 9) during the plan period from 2022–23 to 2025–26 in the State of Maharashtra and Jalgaon District is given below:

Plan Year	Maharashtra	Jalgaon
2022-23	-	-
2023-24	255	2
2024-25	1364	62
2025-26	1557	47
2026-27 (As on 10.07.2026)	222	0

In addition, under special initiatives of the Ministry, 744 Panchayats in the country, tentatively one in each district, have been selected for developing them as Model Women Friendly Gram Panchayats. Out of this, **34** Gram Panchayats have been selected in Maharashtra, including **1** in Jalgaon District.

Furthermore, the State has also informed that the Gram Panchayat Act of Maharashtra makes a mandatory provision for Gram Panchayats to hold four Gram Sabhas annually and to conduct a Mahila Sabha prior to each of the Gram Sabhas. Accordingly, Mahila Sabhas are conducted before the Gram Sabhas.

(d) No such Panchayat Leadership and Governance Resource Centres for women representatives have been established in the State of Maharashtra, including Jalgaon, till date. However, under “Sashakta Panchayat Netri Abhiyan”, a total of **10,966** Women Elected Representatives (WERs) have been trained in a specialized module in Maharashtra, including 248 Women Elected Representatives (WERs) in Jalgaon District so far.

Annexure-I

Annex refer to in reply to Part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 273 to be answered on 21/07/2026 regarding Capacity Building Programmes for Women Elected Representatives

The State-wise details of Women Elected Representatives Trained under Revamped RGSA from 2022-23 to 2026-27(As on 10.07.2026)

s.no	States/UT	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 (As on 10.07.2026)	Total WER Trained in the last 5 Years
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	217	9	270	721	-	1,217
2	Andhra Pradesh	1,060	15,303	30,947	76,806	782	1,24,898
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,002	507	975	3,668	-	6,152
4	Assam	25,277	7,932	997	47,189	752	82,147
5	Bihar	1,91,234	32,751	1,25,252	37,728	4,166	3,91,131
6	Chhattisgarh	53,423	36,934	13,025	90,762	7,673	2,01,817
7	Goa	600	1,173	1,448	525	118	3,864
8	Gujarat	86	4	8,133	1,943	541	10,707
9	Haryana	1,691	2,324	84	39,649	351	44,099
10	Himachal Pradesh	718	14,376	17,544	1,148	-	33,786
11	Jammu And Kashmir	1,07,089	68,072	7	-	-	1,75,168
12	Jharkhand	1,700	23,802	19,786	43,325	-	88,613
13	Karnataka	58,233	50,894	31,857	30,156	-	1,71,140
14	Kerala	33,749	13,437	11,467	14,160	-	72,813
15	Ladakh	-	-	-	27	-	27
16	Madhya Pradesh	27,684	13,478	39,489	1,11,555	5,048	1,97,254
17	Maharashtra	1,81,689	1,80,760	71,831	39,291	11,313	4,84,884
18	Manipur	1	233	12	844	18	1,108
19	Meghalaya	2,727	25,820	25,359	46,241	-	1,00,147
20	Mizoram	335	2,146	1,749	4,268	2,169	10,667
21	Nagaland	38	275	1,064	610	86	2,073
22	Odisha	39,865	29,072	53,501	15,274	3,945	1,41,657
23	Puducherry	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Punjab	11,492	3,543	19,914	51,370	4,370	90,689
25	Rajasthan	113	26,009	5,015	7,414	-	38,551
26	Sikkim	1,324	1,542	1,445	1,344	300	5,955
27	Tamil Nadu	42,160	64,765	27,737	12,298	2,440	1,49,400
28	Telangana	564	12	7	42,629	6,206	49,418
29	The Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	215	357	225	1,454	306	2,557
30	Tripura	1,840	22,146	18,373	28,768	5,159	76,286

31	Uttar Pradesh	12,459	29,952	17,626	86,982	-	1,47,019
32	Uttarakhand	1,33,173	41,182	8,333	38,021	-	2,20,709
33	West Bengal	39,483	98,104	80,630	66,004	3,080	2,87,301
	Center	453	74	206	295	60	1,088
	TOTAL	9,71,694	8,06,988	6,34,308	9,42,469	58,883	34,14,342

Source: Training Management Portal

Annexure-II

Annex refer to in reply to Part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 273 to be answered on 21/07/2026 regarding Capacity Building Programmes for Women Elected Representatives

The State-wise details of the Women Elected Representatives Trained under the Specialised module since 2025-26-2026-27(As on 10.07.2026)

FY 2025-26 & 2026-27 (as of 10 July 26)					
S.No.	State/UT Name	SLMT Trained	Total Participants Trained in ToT of the Master Trainer	WER Trained	Total Participants Trained
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	1	67	218	286
2	Andhra Pradesh	9	4,927	587	5,523
3	Arunachal Pradesh	9	-	79	88
4	Assam	17	-	3,329	3,346
5	Bihar	13	143	2,907	3,063
6	Chhattisgarh	7	70	2,163	2,240
7	Goa	2	-	29	31
8	Gujarat	5	71	-	76
9	Haryana	7	65	3,622	3,694
10	Himachal Pradesh	5	78	-	83
11	Jammu And Kashmir	5	-	-	5
12	Jharkhand	7	141	25,783	25,931
13	Karnataka	10	-	21,281	21,291
14	Kerala	6	552	404	962
15	Ladakh	2	-	-	2
16	Madhya Pradesh	14	622	28,054	28,690
17	Maharashtra	12	46	10,908	10,966
18	Manipur	4	66	783	853
19	Meghalaya	4	65	4,622	4,691
20	Mizoram	3	22	122	147
21	Nagaland	6	39	36	81
22	Odisha	5	163	3,662	3,830
23	Puducherry	-	-	-	-
24	Punjab	8	65	4,981	5,054
25	Rajasthan	10	11,718	871	12,599
26	Sikkim	-	36	303	339
27	Tamil Nadu	21	623	9,035	9,679
28	Telangana	11	-	-	11
29	DNHDD	-	-	-	-
30	Tripura	4	98	634	736
31	Uttar Pradesh	26	1,038	5,058	6,122

32	Uttarakhand	4	244	-	248
33	West Bengal	11	47	2,887	2,945
	Center	4	-	-	4
	Total	252	21,006	132,358	153,616

Source: Training Management Portal
