

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2991
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2016
Comprehensive Development of Villages
Shetty Shri Gopal Chinayya

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of women Sarpanch/Pradhan in the country, State/UT-wise including the role of Government to increase the participation of women in Panchayat;
- (b) whether any complaints has been received from the women Sarpanch/Pradhan as harassment /non-co-operation; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

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 14.41 lakh Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) including Women Sarpanchs in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). A statement showing number of Elected Women Representatives as received from the States/UTs is at Annexure-I. Article 243D (4) of the Constitution ensures participation of women in PRIs by mandating one-third reservations for women in seats and offices of chairpersons in Panchayats. Government has been encouraging increased involvement of the 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.

(b) & (c) As 'Panchayat' is a State subject, complaints pertaining to Elected Representatives are handled by the States. Ministry has received one complaint of harassment and non-cooperation from a Woman Sarpanch of Chhattisgarh, which has been forwarded to the Government of Chhattisgarh for necessary action.