

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2246
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2011
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN PANCHAYAT
Dashmuni Deepa ;Rani Killi Krupa

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has noticed interference of relatives/male members related to women sarpanches in the working of panchayats in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of companies received in this regard alongwith the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Union Government has formulated any guidelines to curb such practice;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government imparts training and knowledge for the empowerment of Elected Women Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions so as to ensure effective discharge of duties by them; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof including the scheme being implemented in this regard alongwith the funds allocated and released thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ(SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO)

(a) to (d): There have been representations at various forums that sometimes, when a lady member becomes an office bearer in a Panchayati Raj Institution, her husband, father or brother tries to run the Institution and often comes and sits in the office next to the Chairperson/Office bearer transacting official business. Empowerment of women implies that women discharge the responsibility of their office and do not abdicate them in favour of their close relatives. Since the Panchayati Raj Institutions are governed by the provisions of Panchayat Acts/ Rules of the respective States/UTs and primarily they have to deal with such complaints, a communication was sent by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on 19.01.2010 to all States/UTs that a conduct violating this principle would be treated as misconduct under the relevant PRI Act and the disciplinary authority accordingly would take action against the lady office bearers who allow their relatives to interfere in office administration. Besides, on 16.02.2010, it was conveyed to the all States/UTs that it is also the responsibility of the Panchayat officers/Secretaries not to allow the relatives to attend Panchayat meetings by proxy. Officers/Secretaries who allow relatives to attend instead of office bearers are also equally guilty of allowing such interference and such defaulting Officers/ Secretaries should be proceeded against departmentally.

(e): The Government takes steps for training and capacity building of Elected Representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions so that they can perform the function devolved upon them. Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana is an important scheme implemented by this Ministry for this purpose.

(f): The amount released under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana (RGSY) scheme during the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are as follows:-

Year Rs. crores

2008-09	48.35
2009-10	44.23
2010-11	72.70

The number of Women Elected Representatives trained during 2010-11 is 380995 for all States/UTs under RGSY.

The study on Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions commissioned by MoPR and released in 2008 shows that training received after election by EWRs has a significantly positive correlation with their performance. The report also shows that 54.1% of EWRs and 81.8% of women Pradhans had received training after being elected.