

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:800
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011
RESERVATION FOR WOMEN IN PANCHAYATS
Rani Killi Krupa

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some States have formulated legislation to give 50 per cent reservation to women in Panchayats;
- (b) if so, the efforts made by the Union Government to persuade all States to provide 50 per cent reservation to women in Panchayats;
- (c) whether the Union Government has also introduced an amendment bill to enhance reservation of women in Panchayats from the present one third to 50 per cent;
- (d) if so, the details and present status thereof;
- (e) whether the elected women representatives are mere proxy for male relatives or are really empowered;
- (f) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam. The States which have provided for 50% reservation for women in Panchayats are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tripura and Uttarakhand.

(b) to (d): In order to enhance the reservation for women in Panchayats from existing one third to not less than one half, a Constitution Amendment Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha in November 2009. This Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development by Hon'ble Speaker. The Report of the Standing Committee was considered by the Government and keeping in view their recommendations, an Official Amendment has been formulated to the Original Amendment Bill, to make the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes proportionate to their rural population.

(e) to (g): The Constitution has provided for reservation of not less than one third seats and offices of Chairpersons of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for women. As such, the Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) are not mere proxy for male relatives but statutorily empowered to hold seats and offices in PRIs. Though no survey has been got conducted in this regard by this Ministry, instructions have been issued to all States that it is the responsibility of the Panchayat Officers/Secretaries not to allow the relatives to attend Panchayat meetings by proxy. It has also been conveyed to them that Officers/Secretaries who allow relatives to attend instead of office bearers are also equally guilty of allowing such interference and the defaulting Officers/Secretaries should be proceeded against departmentally.