

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2177  
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012  
WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN PRIS  
Semmalai Shri S.

**Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that Dalit and Women Presidents in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are not been able to act independently in a few States because of caste and gender prejudices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Union Government proposes to bring a law or advise the States/UTs to reserve the post of Vice- President to the Dalits; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO)

- (a) & (b): A Study on Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) commissioned by this Ministry and published in April, 2008 has indicated in its findings that political participation of women in Panchayats has empowered them and resulted in enhancement of their self confidence. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) provides assistance to States for the Capacity Building and Training of EWRs to enable them to be effective. MoPR has written to all States/UTs that officers/secretaries of Panchayats who allow relatives to attend Panchayat meetings instead of office bearers should be proceeded against departmentally.
- (c) & (d): The Constitution mandates reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women in seats and offices of chairperson of Panchayats. Specific legislations regarding Panchayats are enacted by States. The Union government has no proposal to bring any law for reservation of the posts of Vice – Presidents of Panchayats.