

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:209  
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2012  
WOMEN REPRESENTATIONS IN PRIs  
Ajay Kumar SHRI

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

- (a) the number of elected women representatives in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the country, State/UT-wise including Jharkhand;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study on the qualitative changes that have been brought about in the socio-economic condition of women through their increased participation in PRIs;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the further strategy chalked out by the Government to develop the socio-economic condition of the women in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Ho

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (a) TO (d) REPLY OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 209 TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2012 REGARDING WOMEN REPRESENTATIONS IN PRIs

(a): Based on the available information, the State/UT-wise details of Elected Representatives (ERs) including Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) at all the three tiers of Panchayats as on 31.03.2008 is at Annex. In Jharkhand, elections to Panchayats were held in year 2010 and as per the information provided by the Government of Jharkhand, the total number of ERs in Panchayats of Jharkhand is 53207 and EWRs in Panchayats of Jharkhand is 29,415.

(b) & (c): A nationwide study on EWRs in Panchayats commissioned by MoPR and published in April, 2008, indicated empowerment of EWRs including inter-alia, enhancement in their self-esteem, confidence and decision-making abilities. The study also indicated that the participation of women in Gram Sabhas had increased, as had attention to women related issues such as drinking water and sanitation. The study reported that EWRs had made efforts to encourage girls' enrolment in schools and mitigate domestic violence.

(d): Ministry of Panchayati Raj is giving increasing attention to issues relating to building capacities of EWRs and participation of women in Panchayats and Gram Sabha. States had been asked to conduct special Gram Sabha on nutrition in August, 2012 and special Gram Sabha in October, 2012 on issues relating to women like drinking water, health, education, livelihood and sanitation. States have been urged to facilitate holding of separate Mahila Sabha before Gram Sabha where the women can raise and discuss issues concerning them. Ministry of Panchayati Raj in collaboration with Ministry of Women & Child Development and the States, has taken up the issue of Adverse Child Sex Ratio using the fora of Panchayats, Gram Sabhas and Mahila Sabhas to raise awareness about the issue and encourage people's participation in tackling the problem.