

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:39  
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2012  
PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS  
Pakkirappa Shri S.;Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

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

- (a) whether the three-tier Panchayati Raj System has been implemented effectively in all the States across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the names of the States in which such system is not functioning and Panchayat elections have not been conducted during the last three years along with the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard ;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to enhance reservation for elected women representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions to 50 per cent and plans to rotate seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other reserved categories women therein once in two terms; and
- (e) if so, the present status thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 39, TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.11.2012, REGARDING PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS

(a) & (b): As per Article 243B of the Constitution, three tier Panchayats at the Village, Intermediate and District levels are to be constituted in all States to which Part IX of the Constitution is applicable. However, Panchayats at the Intermediate level may not be constituted in a State having a population not exceeding 20 lakh. Broadly, the three tier Panchayati Raj system operating in the country has been structured according to the relevant provisions in the Constitution.

(c): Holding of elections to the Panchayats is the responsibility of the respective State Government and the State Election Commission concerned. Fourth Ordinary Elections to Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh scheduled in 2011 could not be held because the process of election was challenged before the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh on account of percentage of reservation of seats and offices for people belonging to OBCs. This Ministry had requested the State Government to limit the percentage of reservation of OBCs so that the total reservation does not exceed 50% keeping in view the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme court in WP (C) No. 356 of 1994. Elections to Panchayats were also scheduled in Puducherry in 2011, but could not be held due inter alia to non-appointment of State Election Commissioner. This Ministry had requested the State Government to appoint a State Election Commissioner and initiate the election process.

(d) & (e): The Constitution (One Hundred and Tenth Amendment), Bill 2009 proposing that the reservation for women in Panchayats in the total number of seats, offices of Chairpersons and in the seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes across three tiers, should be raised from not less than one third to not less than one half, has been introduced in Parliament. There is not proposal at present to rotate seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other reserved categories including women once in two terms.