

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2485  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2013  
GENDER RESPONSIVENESS IN PANCHAYATS  
Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Tandon Annu

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to conduct a nation-wide study to understand and map the gender responsiveness in Panchayats;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to facilitate women panchayat members to discharge their roles and responsibilities effectively?

**Answer**

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

- (a): A nationwide study on Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) was got conducted by Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR). The report of this study was released in April 2008. There is no proposal to conduct a new study.
- (b): The above mentioned study 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.
- (c): In order to facilitate women Panchayat members to discharge their roles and responsibilities effectively, MoPR has supported Capacity Building of Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) under its various schemes through various means. MoPR has advised States to promote Mahila Sabhas to tackle issues related to women. MoPR has also advised the States to have separate quorum for women in Gram Sabha meetings to increase their Participation.