

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1812
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2015
THREE-TIER PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM
Joshi Shri Chandra Prakash

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the three-tier panchayati raj system has been enforced in an effective manner in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the names of such States/ Union Territories;
- (c) whether panchayat elections have been conducted in all States/ Union Territories in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the names of such State/ Union Territories;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to increase the reservation for women representatives in panchayati raj institutions upto fifty per cent and reserve these seats for women belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other reserved categories once between the period of two terms by turn;
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the proposal; and (g) the names of those States/ Union territories, if any, where fifty per cent reservation for women in panchayats has been enforced and the other steps taken/ being taken by the Government in the direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) to (d) Where Part IX of the Constitution applies, States are required to constitute Panchayats at three tiers, i.e. Village, Intermediate and District except the States having population of less than 20 lakhs, which may not constitute a Panchayat at Intermediate level. Broadly, the Panchayati Raj system in the country has been structured as per the provisions of the Constitution. Holding elections to the Panchayats is the responsibility of the State Governments and State Election Commissions as per the Constitutional provisions. However elections have not been conducted in Puducherry. As per information received from Puducherry, the UT is in the process of complying with the orders of Honble High Court.

(e) to (g) Presently, as per provisions of the Constitution at least 1/3rd of the seats and offices in Panchayati Raj Institutions at all levels are reserved for women. The Ministry has moved a proposal to enhance the reservation for women to as nearly as may be one-half. The number of terms for which a seat is reserved is decided by States.

As per the information available with this Ministry, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal have already legislated for 50% reservation for women.