

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3725
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2015
GRAM SABHA MEETINGS
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Gram Sabha meetings are not being regularly conducted by the Gram Panchayats as stipulated under 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) to (c) Article 243 (b) of the Constitution defines Gram Sabha as a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls relating to a village comprised within the area of a Panchayat at the village level. Article 243A clarifies inter alia that the Gram Sabha may exercise such powers and perform such functions at the village level as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide. Therefore, the statutory provisions relating to minimum attendance, quorum for convening Gram Sabha or frequency of meetings of Gram Sabhas vary from State to State as provided in their respective statutes. However, on the basis of the information that became available to this Ministry, the details of provision for conducting Gram Sabha meetings in State Panchayat Acts / Rules, etc., are given at Annexure. Besides, this Ministry had in October 2009 brought to the notice of the States the need for activating Gram Sabhas, Ward Sabhas, etc., and for evolving mechanisms for conducting regular and meaningful meetings of the Gram Sabha, active participation of its members and monitoring its functioning. To make the Gram Sabha more powerful and effective, this Ministry issued an advisory to the States on 04.02.2011 for ensuring conduct of at least four meetings of the Gram Sabhas and Ward Sabhas in a year on specified dates and quorum of at least 50% presence of women in the meetings of Gram Sabha through an amendment of the related Law, Rules or Guidelines, as the case may be.