

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4069
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2015
Functioning of Gram Sabha
Chavan Shri Harishchandra Deoram

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government or non-Governmental agencies have done any survey over the functioning of Gram Sabha during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, whether such surveys have revealed about voiceless participation of women members of the panchayats and their husbands/in-laws were having solemn voice in panchayats' decision making; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to increase the awareness and education among the women panchayat members to have 'own say' in the decision making?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) to (c) No specific survey was undertaken by the Union Government on its own or through any non-Governmental agencies regarding the functioning of Gram Sabha. However, the functioning of Gram Sabha has been discussed with States from time to time. The Union Government has supported State Governments in building the capacity of Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) for active participation in the decision making process of the Gram Panchayats including training on the functioning of Gram Panchayats, computer literacy, leadership etc. The Union Government has urged States to ensure the conduct of Mahila Sabha meetings besides Gram Sabha meetings and to impress upon Panchayats to ensure safety of EWRs, particularly those belonging to the weaker sections.

The Union Government has also incentivized best performing Gram Panchayats by conferring annually Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Award for conducting Gram Sabha / Mahila Sabha meetings, transparency etc.
