

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4136
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2015
Women Participation
Devi Smt. Rama;S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the percentage of women participation has increased after the implementation of Panchayati Raj System in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any steps to increase the women participation in this system; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

(a) & (b) Article 243D (4) of the Constitution ensures participation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by mandating one-third reservation for women in seats and offices of chairpersons in Panchayats. There are 12.70 lakh elected women representatives in Panchayats which constitute 43.56% of total elected representatives (ERs) 16 States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal have introduced 50% reservation for women in PRIs.

(c) & (d) Ministry of Panchayati Raj had introduced a Bill to amend Article 243D of the constitution to enhance the reservation of seats and offices of chairpersons for women in the Panchayats to as near as one half. However, the Bill had lapsed with the dissolution of Fifteenth Lok Sabha. Ministry of Panchayati Raj has taken action to reintroduce a Bill to amend the Constitution to raise the reservation for Women in seats and offices of chairpersons in Panchayats to one half.
