

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1842  
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2017  
MoU on Gender Equality  
Kachhadia Shri Naranbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has accorded approval for the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the United Nations Entity of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of woman (UN-Women), and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether this MoU seeks to provide technical assistance to enhance the capacity of good governance in Panchayati Raj Institutions and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the salient points on which both the parties have agreed upon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ  
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

- (a): Yes. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) with the objective to enhance capacities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to leverage opportunities created for gender equality and women's empowerment through legislations, policies and programmes and to strengthen key capacity development institutions at the national and state level.
- (b): The purpose of this MoU is to provide technical support to the MoPR for strengthening the gender responsive design and implementation of policies and schemes of MoPR, and support evidence based advocacy and capacity building efforts on gender responsive local governance at all levels of Panchayati Raj Institutions across India.
- (c) Both the parties have agreed upon to (i) Undertake research on various aspects of gender responsive governance such as review of current laws and policies that enable women's effective participation in local governance, opportunities and challenges for women in governance and documentation of best practices on gender responsive governance in PRIs, (ii) Strengthen capacity development efforts of relevant stakeholders including training agencies such as National Institute for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDs) and Panchayati Raj Technical Institutions (PRTIs) to effectively implement legislations, policies, programmes and resource allocations for gender equality and women's rights, (iii) Organize stakeholder meetings for experience sharing to better inform the formulation and implementation of relevant national laws, policies and programmes including Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) from a gender perspective, (iv) Strengthen Panchayat resource centres at the district and sub-district level in selected states as a knowledge hub on gender responsive governance at PRIs and (v) Demonstrate 'beacons as peer learning sites on convergence' for gender responsive delivery of public services and inclusive development at the Panchayat level.

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