

Brief Questionnaire

Brief Questionnaire to be shared with State Governments (Departments of Panchayati Raj) for their recommendations on the following queries:

(Context: As per the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Advisory Committee of MoPR, GoI for Empowering Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) for making women's reservation effective and meaningful, as mandated by Article 243 of Part IX of the Constitution of India and under various State Panchayati Raj Acts, as Panchayati Raj is a State subject.)

1. What could be effective measures for eliminating 'proxy-practices' such as *Sarpanch Pati / Pradhan Pati* in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)?
2. What possible legal remedies can be explored to do away with male family members interfering in the work of Panchayats, in place of elected women leaders?
3. What are your key recommendations to empower elected women representatives of Panchayats to become independent decision makers?
4. What capacity building interventions can enable EWRs to be effective PRI leaders?
5. Which of the following main Panchayat functions are EWRs able to shoulder on their own at present?
 - Plan and prepare agenda, mobilise people's participation for conducting effective meetings of *Mahila Sabha, Bal/ Balika Sabha, Ward Sabha, Gram Sabha, Panchayat General Body, and Standing Committees*;
 - Conduct the annual *Mission Antyodaya* survey and undertake gap-analysis of development needs of the people in their Panchayats;
 - Plan, prepare and formulate the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP);
 - Plan, prepare and formulate the Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP) with the support of women SHGs;
 - Integrate and focus on localising SDGs – the 9 LSDG themes prioritised by MoPR under GPDP;
 - Bridge gender gaps in development to make the Panchayats women-friendly and gender-responsive.
6. What Information Education Communication (IEC) campaigns need to be rolled out for removing gender-based discrimination and 'proxy-practices' in PRIs?
7. What could be possible measures for empowering rural women through promoting PRI-CBO-SHG convergence?
