

## RAJYA SABHA

*Tuesday, the 5th April, 1966/the  
15th Chaitra, 1888 {Saka}*

The House met at eleven of the clock,  
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

### MEMBERS SWORN

1. Shri N. Ramakrishna Iyer (Madras).
2. Shri N. R. M. Swamy (Madras).
3. Shri M. V. Bhadram (Andhra Pradesh).
4. Shri V. T. Nagpure (Maharashtra).
5. Shri Arjun Arora (Uttar Pradesh).

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### RURAL WOMEN'S LISTENING CLUB

\*900. SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gram Laxmis, Gram Sevikas, Mukhya Sevikas are actively organising rural Women's Listening Clubs; and

(b) if so, the extent to which the Extension Officers for Women Welfare are helping the organisation of such Clubs in the villages?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY): (a) According to the information available with the Government, Gram Laxmis, Gram Sevikas etc. are generally taking keen interest in organising rural Women's Listening Clubs.

(b) The Extension Officers for Women Welfare are provided with a job chart in which the formation of Women's Listening Clubs has been included.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: May I know from the Minister whether the number of rural Women's Listening Clubs has increased since the time the programme changed from evening to afternoon which is more convenient to the village women?

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SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY: The number is constantly increasing. Now the number of rural Listening Clubs is 1856 and of urban Clubs is 2,038.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: Who are these Gram Laxmis?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY: They are officers in the Community Development Projects.

DR. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA: What are the facilities given by the Government to these Clubs?

SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY: There are radios in these Clubs where the women listen to the radios and the questions they put are answered by the radio people and others who are concerned with this.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: How many of these Clubs have been established in the various villages of this country and how long will it take to establish such Clubs in the five lakh villages in the country?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: The number has been given.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the Government has cared to find out how many of the receiving sets with these Clubs are in order and whether these Gram Laxmis have also been trained to repair the radio sets?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Occasionally, any radio set will go out of order but I am aware of the complaint that the lack of availability of dry batteries is one of the main problems which sometimes makes these go out of order. We are making special efforts to overcome this difficulty. So far as the training of Gram Laxmis is concerned for the repairing of these radio sets, all of them may not come up to that.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: May I know why is it that while the second and third category officers are known as Gram Sevikas and Mukhya Sevikas, the first category is known as Gram Laxmis? Do they bring in wealth in any way?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: They are supposed to increase the wealth of the country?

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN): Which are the States in which