(BRGF), have been supporting States/UTs in developing and empowering their Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Under RGPSA, financial assistance has been provided to States for engaging administrative and technical staff, construction of Gram Panchayat Bhawans, creation of training infrastructure and training and capacity building for Elected Representatives and functionaries of Panchayats to discharge their duties effectively. During the financial year 2015-16 activities for capacitization of Panchayats *viz.* training and capacity building, institutional infrastructure for training, human resources for training infrastructures and e-governance and Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996(PESA) activities have been supported. Under the BRGF scheme, which has been delinked from budgetary support of the Central government *w.e.f.* 2015-16, funds had been provided for capacity building of Elected Representatives and functionaries and creation of training infrastructure.

(b) The support systems that have been made available to State Governments for supporting PRIs under RGPSA include:

(i) Administrative and technical support at Gram Panchayat level

(ii) e-governance Support Group

(iii) State and District Resource Centers for Panchayati Raj

(iv) PESA Mobilizers and field Coordinators

(v) Budgeting and accounting manuals under National Plan for Technical Action developed and customized to State requirement.

(vi) Web based applications such as PRIA SOFT for accounting, Plan Plus for e-governance support have been developed.

(c) As Panchayats is a State subject, funds for running and maintaining Panchayat offices are provided by State Governments and through funds raised by Panchayats through taxes etc. The Central Government does not provide funds for these activities.

Reservation in PRIS

1828. KUMARI SELJA:
SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to bring a legislation to enhance the reservation of women to fifty per cent in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and if so, the details and the present status thereof;

(b) the details of States which have introduced fifty per cent reservation for women in PRIs;

(c) whether the Government proposes to double the tenure of wards reserved for women in Panchayats and if so, the details and the present status thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has assessed the performance of PRIs vis-a-vis objectives set and if so, the outcome thereof, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND): (a) and (c) Proposals in this regard are under consideration of the Government.

(b) As per the information available with the Ministry, 19 States namely, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telanagana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand and West Bengal have made 50% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

(d) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), in collaboration with State Governments, has framed parameters to identify best performing of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The assessment is undertaken by States. Incentive awards are given to the selected best performing Panchayats on the basis of such evaluation.

Complaints of women sarpanchs

1829. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) how many women Sarpanchs are there in the country as on 31st January, 2016;

(b) whether any complaint of harassment or non cooperation has been received from women Sarpanchs; and

(c) if so, how many such complaints have been received and what action has been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND): (a) There are 13.54 lakh Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) including Women Sarpanchs in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) who constitute 45.22% of total Elected Representatives (ERs).