



# Standing Committee Report Summary

## The Constitution (One Hundred and Tenth Amendment) Bill, 2009

- The Standing Committee on Rural Development (Chairperson: Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan) tabled its 14<sup>th</sup> Report on 'The Constitution (One Hundred and Tenth Amendment) Bill, 2009' on July 28, 2010. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on November 26, 2009.
- Article 243D of the Constitution provides that a minimum of one-third of the total number of seats filled by direct elections in the Panchayats shall be reserved for women. The seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat. The Bill seeks to amend the article to enhance the quantum of reservation for women from one-third to one-half of the total seats in the Panchayats. Similar reservation shall be provided among the total number of offices of Chairpersons.
- The Committee noted that the modalities of rotation of seats have been left to the states. Therefore, there is no uniformity. It recommended that there should be uniformity in the rules regarding rotation among states.
- The Committee recommended that the total number of seats reserved for the post of the Chairperson should be based on the total rural population of SC/STs.
- The Committee recommended that immediate steps need to be taken to effective implementation of all capacity building plans.
- The Committee suggested that the Panchayats may be advised to provide for honorarium and sitting fee for elected representatives out of the 'un-tied' Basic and Performance Grants recommended by the Thirteenth Finance Commission.
- The Committee proposed that the state governments should take effective steps to prevent proxy attendance in the meetings of panchayats. The government officer who allows relatives to stand in should be proceeded against.

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