

MARGINAL RISE IN WOMEN CANDIDATES, SAYS ADR

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The increase in number of women candidates in the last three Lok Sabha polls remained nominal. Of the 51,143 candidates who contested various elections across the country, only 4,173 were women, says the Association for Democratic Reforms.

The maximum number of 150 women MPs and MLAs belong to the BJP, followed by 91 MPs and MLAs from the Congress.

The ADR analysed the affidavits of 51,143 male and female candidates, which included 4,865 sitting parliamentarians and MLAs. Among the 4,173 women candidates, 546 (13%) had declared criminal cases against them. In all, 4,173 (25%) are crorepatis.

“Among the State assemblies, none of the States had more than 10% of women candidates in the elections. States such as Jharkhand, West Bengal, Sikkim and Chhattisgarh had the highest percentage of women candidates in their respective Assembly elections,” said the report. Of the 4,865 sitting MPs and MLAs, only 440 (9%) are women, 94 of them have declared criminal antecedents and 310 (70%) are crorepatis. The Lok Sabha has 66 (12%) and the Rajya Sabha has 25 (11%) women parliamentarians.

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