

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1507
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12thDecember, 2023

WOMEN AGRI ENTREPRENEURS

1507. SHRI RODMAL NAGAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to promote women farmers/agriculture entrepreneurs in various States including Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the details of steps being taken by the Government to provide training/subsidy/loans to women agriculture entrepreneurs for setting up of Custom Hiring Centres for agriculture equipment and drone devices etc.?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a): The Government is implementing various schemes and programmes for the farmers and agripreneurs including women farmers and agripreneurs as per the eligibility and conditions existing in the scheme guidelines in the States including Uttar Pradesh. The guidelines of the various beneficiary oriented schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare provide that States and other implementing agencies should incur expenditure on women farmers. These schemes include Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (ATMA), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseed & Oil Palm (NMOOP), Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

The Central Sector Scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is being implemented by DA&FW with the aim of providing financial assistance to landholding farmer families including women farmers across the country, subject to certain exclusion criteria.

Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is implementing Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) with the aim to empower women by making systematic investments to enhance their participation and productivity, as also to create sustainable livelihoods of rural women. It is a demand driven programme implemented in project mode through the State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) as Project Implementing Agencies. The mission has also taken up several measures to encourage women to take up agricultural enterprises for enhancing their income across the country including the states of Uttar Pradesh. The large size producer enterprises and producer groups are being promoted to provide encouragement to women entrepreneurs for value addition of agriculture commodities.

The Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (CIWA), Bhubaneswar under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi is working with the mandate to undertake research on gender issues in agriculture and allied fields, through its All India Coordinated Research Project Centers (AICRP) in India.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country including 89 in Uttar Pradesh with mandate of Technology Assessment and Demonstration for its Application and Capacity Building. KVKs organize training programs for the benefit of farmers and farm women, rural youth and extension personnel and organize women specific activities on various topics.

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing “Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development” programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from 2018-19 with an objective to promote innovation and agripreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing the incubation ecosystem in the country including the States of Uttar Pradesh. The Ministry has appointed five Knowledge Partners (KPs) as Centres of Excellence and twenty four RKVY-RAFTAAR Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) from across the country for implementation of this programme. Potential women startups/entrepreneurs can avail benefit from the programme.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund is a scheme launched in 2020 for providing medium to long term loan to eligible beneficiaries including women farmers for eligible projects. The scheme envisages provision of Rs. 1 Lakh Crore by banks and financial institutions as loans with interest subvention (IS) of 3% per annum and credit guarantee coverage under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) for loans up to Rs. 2 Crores.

(b): Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) implemented under the umbrella of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) aims at 'reaching the unreached' by bringing to the small and marginal farmers including women farmers in the core and giving the benefits of farm mechanization, by Promoting 'Custom Hiring Centers (CHC)', creating hubs for hi-tech & high value farm equipments, distribution of various agricultural equipments, creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities, and ensuring performance testing and certification at designated testing centers located all over the country.

The Government has established four numbers of Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes (FMTTI) at Budni (Madhya Pradesh), Hisar (Haryana), Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh) and Biswanath Chariali (Assam) under the administrative control of Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. These institutes are imparting training to Farmers including Women Farmers/Technicians/Engineers/Unemployed Youths/Machinery Manufacturers, etc. under various training programmes on latest technology of farm mechanization.

For establishment of Custom Hiring Center (CHC) of various agricultural machinery and equipments including Drone, financial assistance @ 40% of the project cost is provided to Rural Entrepreneurs (Rural youth and farmer as an entrepreneur including women farmer), Cooperative Societies of farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Panchayats. The project cost of CHCs can be up to Rs. 60 lakhs and that of Hi-tech hubs can be up to Rs. 250 lakhs. Financial assistance @ 80% to Cooperative Societies, FPOs, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Panchayats is also provided to set up Farm Machinery Banks of project cost up to Rs. 10 lakhs in identified villages in low mechanized States.
