

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2652

ANSWERED ON:16.03.2007

RURAL WOMEN TECHNOLOGY PARKS

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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up task force for Women in the field of Science and Technology to ensure that the interests of women practitioners in science are protected;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has set up Rural Women Technology Parks to provide training for income generation activities based on local resources;
- (c) if so, the names of the States where such rural women technology parks have been established;
- (d) the benefits accrued therefrom by the rural women;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to set up such parks in all the States; and
- (f) if so, the time by which these are likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c)&(d) : Women Technology Parks exclusively for rural women have been set up in different agro-climatic regions of the country such as Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Pondicherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and West Bengal to provide training programmes for income generation activities based on local resources in both farm and non-farm sectors. Main objective of the women technology park is to serve as a common platform to document, develop and transfer proven technologies as per the needs of women in the region. Women technology parks facilitate increased participation of women technology innovators and allow women to use resources appropriately to develop them as individual/group entrepreneurs. Some technology areas in which training has been given to women are post harvest technology, bio-mass utilization, women's health and sanitation, animal husbandry & fodder management, S&T based livelihood generation etc.

(e)&(f): The intention is to set up at least one such women technology park in each of the agro-climatic regions of the country as a model. However, efforts are being made to set up such parks in all states in future.