

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4685  
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2010  
WOMENS PARTICIPATION  
Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether increased participation of women in the labour market is considered in order to boost Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof?
- (c) the steps to be taken to encourage the women in the programmes; and
- (d) the views of the States in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA )

(a)&(b): Inclusive growth strategy being adopted by the Government includes provision of equal access to opportunities for women in all walks of life including labour markets. While increased participation of women in labour markets may also positively affect the value of final goods and services produced in the country and resultantly, the Gross Domestic Product, it will assist in their socio-economic empowerment which is a desirable goal in itself.

(c) : The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) scheme under which skill upgradation training and employment opportunities are provided to the asset less and marginalized women in the ten traditional sectors like handloom, handicrafts, agriculture, animal husbandry etc. During the last four years, around one lakh twenty three thousand women beneficiaries have been provided training and employment opportunities.

(d) : The States have been availing facilities under the STEP scheme for the benefit of the targeted group of women, which shows that the States are interested in this programme.