

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1044

ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS

Badal Harsimrat Kaur

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any schemes for development and creation of employment for women in rural areas in the country, particularly for the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the funds allocated and released by the Union Government and utilised by the State Governments, State-wise and scheme-wise; and

(d) the targets fixed and achievements made regarding generation of employment opportunities for women in rural areas in the country particularly in the State of Punjab during Eleventh Five Year Plan.

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN 'ADITYA')

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Rural Development is not implementing any scheme exclusively for women including in the State of Punjab. However, the Ministry is implementing two employment generation programmes i.e. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Development Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) having special provisions for coverage of rural women in the country including Punjab.

MGNREGA is a demand driven wage-employment guarantee programme which seeks to provide supplementary means of livelihood for the rural people while simultaneously aiming at creating durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor. Adult members of any rural household may apply for employment under the Act subject to a maximum of 100 days of employment in a financial year per household irrespective of their gender. However, in Para 6 of Schedule-II of the MGNREG Act, it has been provided that priority shall be given to women in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work under the Act. Para 34 of Schedule II of the Act also provides that in case of every employment under the scheme, there shall be no discrimination solely on the ground of gender and the provisions of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 shall be complied with. There are no predetermined targets and allocation of funds under the Act.

SGSY is a self-employment programme under which rural poor are organized into Self Help Groups (SHGs), given training for their capacity building and are provided assistance in the form of subsidy and bank credit in order to set up economic activities. Under SGSY, women will account for at least 40 per cent of the total Swarozgaris. The State wise break-up of the funds allocated, released and utilized including Punjab during the 11th Five Year Plan is given in Annexure I & II.