

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4426
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009
WOMEN S PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government provides grants to the State Governments for women`s participation in the agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, the salient features of scheme;
- (c) the details of the grants provided to the States under the scheme during each of the last three years, State-wise including Kerala; and
- (d) the number of women benefited, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture has been addressing gender issues in agriculture through 'Women specific Training and Extension Programmes' and has facilitated formulation of over 28,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and imparted training to approximately 13.88 lakh women farmers of 143 districts in 21 states of the country upto 2004 - 2005. As per National Agriculture Policy, 2000, there has now been a shift in Department's approach from executing 'stand alone programmes' to gender mainstreaming. The programmes for women in Agriculture have been subsumed under the Scheme "Support to States Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms".

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is, therefore, not implementing any programme specifically for women. However, as per the directives of Planning Commission, 2007-08 onwards funds to the tune of 30% are allocated for Women Component Plan (WCP) under all the Beneficiary Oriented Schemes of the Ministry and the States have been directed to ensure flow of benefits to women farmers. The salient features of the scheme are placed at Annexure-I.

(c): The details of the grants provided to the States under Beneficiary Oriented Schemes during each of the last three years is placed at Annexure II.

(d): The number of farmers including women who have been benefited under the various schemes is placed at Annexure III.