

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5337
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011
EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of women engaged in agriculture and agro-related business/ activities in the country, State-wise; and
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide priority sector agricredit and support to ensure empowerment of women in rural areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a): The number of female cultivators and female agricultural labourers as per census 2001 has been depicted in Annexure – I. Number of women engaged in agro- related business / activities in the country under Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres (ACABC) Scheme and projects under National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) has been given at Annexure-II. In addition to this, women are also engaged in agro related business on their own.

(b): The Department is not implementing any specific scheme to provide agricultural credit to women farmers. However, several measures have been taken for improving agricultural credit flow and bringing down the rate of interest on farm loans. List of important initiatives taken by the Government in the recent years is placed at Annexure-III.

There has now been a shift in Department's approach from executing 'stand alone programmes' to gender mainstreaming by subsuming women related initiatives in various schemes. As per the directives of Planning Commission, funds to the tune of 30% are allocated for Women Component Plan (WCP) under the Beneficiary Oriented Schemes of the Ministry and the States have been directed to ensure flow of benefits to women farmers. Support provided under main beneficiary oriented schemes having specific provision for women farmers have been summarized at Annexure-IV.