

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:249
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011
WOMEN SELF HELP GROUPS
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise number of women self-help groups engaged under the women empowerment schemes particularly in Maharashtra;
- (b) the details of the achievements of these groups during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (c) the number of women benefited under these schemes so far, scheme-wise and State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (c): Ministry of Human Resource Development does not have any scheme for Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Ministry of Women & Child Development has intimated that under a Scheme, namely Swayamsidha Scheme, which ended on 31st March, 2008, total 69,803 women SHGs were formed covering 10,02,279 beneficiaries. Under this scheme total 3,922 women SHGs were formed covering 49,002 beneficiaries in Maharashtra till 31st March, 2008. Another Scheme called Priyadarshini Scheme (i.e. Women Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme in Mid Gangetic Plains) assisted by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as a pilot project aiming at empowerment of poor women and adolescent girls of five districts of Uttar Pradesh, covering nine developmental blocks and two districts of Bihar, covering four developmental blocks, has been launched from the current financial year and so far 773 SHGs have been formed.

Under the Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) Scheme, the poor, asset-less and marginalized women of rural area are empowered through skill up-gradation in various traditional sectors. A total of 200, 375 and 2,900 beneficiaries for the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively, have been covered in the State of Maharashtra. Similarly, Ministry of Rural Development has informed that it is implementing the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), a major self employment programme which involves the participation of Self Help Groups (SHGs). SGSY focuses on organization of the poor into SHGs and training of the SHGs. The SHGs are assisted in accessing credit from banks, and subsidy from the programme is linked to bank credit, to enable the beneficiaries to take up income generating micro enterprises of their choice, where they possess the requisite skills and for which backward and forward linkages are available in their area. State-wise lists are enclosed at Annexure-I, II and III.