

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4258

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011

WOMEN FARMERS

Khairi Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking any steps to initiate programmes to empower women in the agriculture sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is not implementing any specific programmes for women farmers. However, as per the directives of Planning Commission, 2007-08 onwards, under all the beneficiary oriented schemes, the states have been directed to ensure flow of funds to the tune of 30% for the benefit of women farmers.

The Department of Rural Development is implementing a programme Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojna (MKSP), which was announced in the budget of 2010- 11 as a sub - component of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) to meet the specific needs of women farmers and achieve socio-economic and technical empowerment of the rural women farmers, predominantly small and marginal farmers. The primary objective of the MKSP is to empower women in agriculture by making systematic investments to enhance their participation and productivity, as also create and sustain agriculture based livelihoods of rural women. Total 33 projects from six states have been sanctioned during 2010-11. These projects will benefit a total of 22,38,700 beneficiaries. This Ministry has received a total of 32 projects during 2011-12 which are being processed.

Interventions under different programs of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation are as under:-

1. Under the National Horticulture Mission, women are being organized into Self Help Groups and input, technological and extension support etc. is being provided to make them self reliant.
2. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Support to States Extension Programme for Extension Reforms' which is being implemented in 603 districts of 28 States and 3 UTs, the latest agricultural technologies are imparted to the farmers including women farmers through exposure visits, demonstration, Kisan melas, mobilization of farmer groups and setting up of Farm Schools. 30% beneficiaries have to be women farmers.
3. Under the Central Sector Scheme "Establishment of Agri-Clinic & Agri- Business" (ACABC), women graduates in agriculture and allied areas are being provided credit linked subsidy @44% for setting-up of agri-ventures in agriculture and allied areas.
4. Under the Revised Scheme 'Macro Management for Agriculture' (MMA) at least 33% of the allocation has to be made for small, marginal and women farmers.
5. Under the 'National Programme for Organic Farming' (NPOF), 25 % seats have been reserved for training of women farmers in organic farming.
6. Under the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR), Women living in the watershed area are mobilized into Self Help Groups and User Groups of Women to ensure all the perspectives and interests of women are adequately reflected in the watershed action plan.
7. Under Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton and Mini Mission-II of Jute Technology, components like seeds, agricultural inputs are being provided to women farmers who own land, whereas, training is being provided to women farmers including landless women farmers.
8. Under National Food Security Mission, assistance is being provided to farmers including women farmers for purchasing equipment
9. Under the Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Renovation of Rural Godowns, women farmers are provided subsidy @ 33.33% of the capital cost of the project.

10. Under the Central Sector Scheme 'Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training Testing and Demonstration' training is being provided to women farmers and gender friendly equipments are also being distributed.

11. Under the scheme "Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India", subsidy on total cost of equipments to the tune of 50% is being provided to women organizations for opening mass production units of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides and purchase of laboratory equipments for setting up bio-control laboratories.