

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1933  
ANSWERED ON:26.03.2012  
STAGNATION OF FEMALE LABOUR FORCE  
Raghavan Shri M. K.

**Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether female labour force has stagnated below 35 per cent in the country during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether this is attributed to unequal wages, security access for finance and lack of proper training etc; and
- (d) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to overcome this factor and raise the female labour force in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b)&(c): The details of percentage of Female work Force participation rate on usual status as per the surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during the years 2004-05, 2005-06, 2007-08 and 2009-2010 is annexed at Annexure 'A'. There is decline in the Labour Force Participation Rate for women from 29.4 percent in 2004-05 to 23.3 percent in 2009-10. One of the major reason for the decline in LFPR is the "education effect" and other is of social inhibition.

(d): The Government has enacted the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 which provides for payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work or work of similar nature without any discrimination. A number of protective provisions have been incorporated in various labour laws for creating congenial work environment for women workers as per statement annexed at Annexure 'B'. To stimulate employment opportunities among women of various socio-economic level and ensure gainful employment, Government is providing skill training to women through a network of Women Industrial Training Institutes and 11 National Vocational Training Institutes. National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) has enhanced the percentage of reservation for women from 25% to 30% in training institutes. There are about 1409 women ITIs /ITCs and women wings, having a total of 74,124 training seats as on May, 2011. Further, Ministry of Labour & Employment is also implementing Grant-in-aid scheme under which financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)/Voluntary Organisations for taking up action oriented programmes/projects for the benefit of women labour.