

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3553
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2012
EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking any steps to launch schemes that would empower women in rural India by giving them access to credit to buy a house or start their own business;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has an assessment of the number of women that have taken advantage of such schemes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN 'ADITYA')

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Rural Development with the mandate of poverty alleviation in rural India is implementing various poverty alleviation and rural development schemes. One such scheme, the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), under implementation since April, 1999, was designed as a holistic self employment scheme aimed at providing sustainable income to rural BPL families through income generating assets / economic activities through a mix of bank credit and subsidy. Thrust under the scheme is on empowerment of the vulnerable sections of the society, i.e. 50% for SC/STs, 40% for women, 15% for minorities and 3% for disabled persons.

The SGSY has been restructured as National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) which was launched in June, 2011. Under NRLM, the thrust is also on empowerment of vulnerable section of the society. For women beneficiaries the norm has been increased from 40% in SGSY to 50%. Under NRLM emphasis will be for SHG bank linkages to meet various credit needs of the members for consumption items and livelihoods activities.

A new scheme Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) has also been initiated by the Ministry as a sub - component of the 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.

(c) & (d): The States are in the preparatory phase of implementation of NRLM., therefore, no review of the scheme has been done. However, under SGSY during 2011-12 (upto Feb 2012) 13.2 lakh the total swarozgaris have been assisted with bank credit & subsidy for taking up economic activities out of which 9.01 lakh were women swarozgaris.