

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3595

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2012

SELF HELP GROUPS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) would connect at least one woman from every poor household across the country with Self Help Groups (SHGs) in five years;
- (b) if so, whether SHG programmes are meant for rural Below Poverty Line (BPL) households;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remove this restriction between the BPL and poor;
- (d) the number of poor women who became the members of SHGs till date, State-wise;
- (e) whether there is a need to create a regulatory space for micro finance institutions so that they can function efficiently without adversely impacting the functions of SHGs;
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (g) whether there is any proposal to revise the operational guidelines for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to give the flexibility to the States; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes, Sir. NRLM would ensure that at least one member from each identified rural poor household, preferably a woman, is brought under the Self Help Group (SHG) network in a time bound manner.
- (b)&(c): Generally, all members of the SHG should belong to families below the Poverty line. However, if necessary, upto a maximum of 30% of the members in a group may be taken from families marginally above the poverty line living contiguously with BPL families and if they are acceptable to the BPL members of the group.
- (d): A statement indicating the number of poor women who became the members of SHGs till date, State-wise is at Annexure-I.
- (e)&(f): The Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance is formulating the Micro Finance Institutions (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2012 to provide for the promotion, development and regulation of the Micro Finance Institutions.
- (g)&(h): A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah, Member, Planning Commission for suggesting revisions to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) Operational Guidelines. The committee has submitted its report, which has been forwarded to all States/UTs and has also been placed in public domain for comments/suggestions. Based on the feedback from various Stakeholders including State Governments, changes and modifications to the Schedule and guidelines are carried out from time to time and this is a continuous process.