

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5152

ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Badal Harsimrat Kaur;Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh;Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay;Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao ;Jindal Shri Naveen;Punia Shri P.L. ;Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Rajee

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the status of women farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of women farmers, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to initiate programmes for empowerment and upliftment of women farmers and to support them by way of self-help groups;
- (d) so, the details thereof alongwith the proposals received from the State Governments for their empowerment; and
- (e) the action being taken by the Government in this direction?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The National Gender Resource Centre for Women in Agriculture of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has got few studies conducted in the area of 'Women in Agriculture' . The important findings of these studies are as under:-

# Most important strategy for dissemination of information to women farmers is through Self Help Groups (SHGs).

# Use of Agriculture Machinery and Micro Irrigation scheme has reduced the drudgery of women farmers and improved the work efficiency.

# Horticulture schemes have made women more self reliant by creating self-employment.

# Women learn best through exposure visits and demonstrations.

# Land owned by women is utilized for cultivation of food crops thereby ensuring food security for the household.

The state wise details of female cultivators and agricultural labour is placed at Annexure-I.

(c): Yes, Madam.

(d): 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.

Interventions under different programmes of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation are given in Annexure II.

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.

The organization mobilization of women in agriculture into groups (SHGs / Federations / Women Farmers Organizations) is an important element under MKSP. Ministry of Rural Development provides funding support of 75% (90% for North-East Hill states) to the project submitted by the State Governments / PIAs under MKSP. Balance is contributed by the respective state government or any other Donor agencies, national and International in the form of grants to the Project Implementing Agencies. Since 2010-11, 105 projects have been received.

(e): The proposal / project submitted under MKSP have been appraised comprehensively and 33 out of the 105 project have been sanctioned.