

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:67

ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012

CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN TO AGRICULTURE

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether States have been directed to ensure flow of funds to the tune of 30% for the benefit of women farmers under all the beneficiary oriented schemes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has recently conducted any study on women participation and contribution to agriculture in the country;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the follow up action taken by the Government on the findings of the study?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 67 DUE FOR REPLY ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2012.

(a) & (b): Schemes of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, under which States have been directed to ensure that at least 30% of the beneficiaries and/or 30% of the budget is utilised for the benefit of women, include Support to States Extension Programme for Extension Reforms, Macro Management of Agriculture, National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training Testing and Demonstration, Post-Harvest Technology and Management, National Mission on Micro Irrigation and National Bamboo Mission.

(c) to (e): A Study on 'Mainstreaming Gender Concerns in Agriculture' was conducted to identify:

- (i) Critical gaps in addressing gender concern in term of policies,
- (ii) Gender impact assessment of selected programmes/ schemes and
- (iii) Recommendation for bridging these gaps through gender mainstreaming strategies and revision in MIS formats to ensure better monitoring of projects through flow of gender disaggregated data.

The major findings & recommendations of the Study are as under:-

- (i) Gender mainstreaming needs to be clearly addressed in the Programme Documents.
- (ii) Joint Pattas should be promoted.
- (iii) Agriculture programmes have to be especially designed to arm women with skills to enhance production and productivity.
- (iv) Promotion of women's cooperatives and groups.
- (v) Gender sensitization of implementing partners.
- (vi) Publicity of schemes.
- (vii) Revision in reporting formats for the schemes so as to have gender disaggregated data for conducting effective analysis and facilitating policy decisions.
- (viii) Formation of women SHGs.

(ix) Gender monitoring of Schemes & Programmes.

Follow up action taken on the findings of the Study has been summarised in Annexure-I.

Annexure-I

ACTION ALREADY TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN RESPECT OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY ON MAINSTREAMING GENDER CONCERNS IN AGRICULTURE

Gender mainstreaming has already been addressed in different programmes and schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation by earmarking certain percentage of budgetary allocation for women beneficiaries, by stipulating that prescribed percentage of beneficiaries are women, giving priority to women farmers and providing higher financial assistance.

National Policy for Farmers, 2007 recommends issue of Joint Pattas to women for both homestead and agricultural land for empowering them to access credit and other inputs & services.

Mahila Kisan Shashakitan Pariyojana (MKSP) envisages that women farmers will be made members of Self Help Groups under National Rural Livelihood Mission. MKSP also targets to provide end to end solution to the needs of women farmers, improve market access and ensure remunerative prices. Skill development and gender friendly tools are also being promoted under MKSP.

The Constitution (Ninety Seventh Amendment) Act, 2011 provides for reservation of two seats for women on the board for every cooperative society. Cooperatives, including women cooperatives, are being promoted under various schemes of the Government. National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) is running 4 Women Development Projects located at Shimoga (Karnataka), Behrampur (Odisha), Imphal (Manipur) and Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).

Gender Sensitisation modules have been developed and are being implemented with the help of National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) and State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institutes (SAMETIs) to sensitise programme implementers at senior, middle and cutting edge level.

Focused Publicity Campaign is carried out to create awareness about the schemes of the government and assistance available thereunder through telecast/broadcast on Doordarshan, All India Radio (AIR) and Private Channels.

Print Advertisements are issued in National and Regional News Papers. # Reporting formats of beneficiary oriented schemes are being restructured to generate gender disaggregated data.

Gender monitoring of schemes and programmes is being carried out by the National Gender Resource Centre for Women in Agriculture.