

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2329
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013
SKILL DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN FARMERS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched several schemes to facilitate the women farmers in the development of the agriculture sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated and utilised for the purpose during the last two years;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to impart training to the women farmers to acquaint them with the latest farm techniques in agricultural operations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken to increase the participation of women farmers in the agriculture sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is not implementing any specific schemes for women farmers. However, as per the directives of Planning Commission, the States have been directed since 2007-08 onwards to ensure flow of funds to the tune of 30% for the benefit of women farmers under all beneficiary oriented Schemes. The Scheme Guidelines under which 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.

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. An amount of Rs. 100 crores was allocated for MKSP projects during 2010-11 out of which Rs.90 crores were utilized. In the financial year 2011-12, a budgetary provision of Rs. 200 crores was made out of which Rs. 75.43 crores were utilized.

(c) to (e) The Schemes of the Government of India under which training is given to the women farmers to acquaint them with the latest farm techniques in agricultural operations and the steps taken to increase participation of women farmers in the agriculture sector is placed at Annexure I.

Annexure I

Schemes of the Government of India for imparting training to farmers (including women farmers) and to increase women's participation in the agriculture sector includes:

1. Support to States Extension Programme for Extension Reforms: This Scheme is being implemented in 614 districts of 28 States and 3 UTs. The latest agricultural technologies are imparted to farmers including women farmers through exposure visits, demonstration, Kisan Melas, mobilization of farmers groups and setting up of farm schools. 30% beneficiaries have to be women farmers. In order to ensure participation of women farmers as well as beneficiaries from north eastern and hilly states, the beneficiary contribution has been reduced from 10% to 5%.

2. Under the Central Sector Schemes, Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing and Demonstrations and Post Harvest Technology & Management, training is provided to the farmers including Women Farmers through State Government and Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes.

3. Cooperative Education & Training and Assistance to NCDC for Development of Cooperative Programme: NCUI is running four exclusive women's development projects located at Shimoga (Karnataka), Berhampur (Orissa), Imphal (Manipur) and Bhopal (MP). Under these projects, women are organized into Self-Help Groups to help them to develop thrift habits. Women are also provided training to equip them to undertake income-generating activities with the help of their own resources or by borrowing from cooperatives and also marketing the produce in local market and by organizing fair and exhibitions.

4. National Horticulture Mission: Women are being organized into Self Help Groups and farm inputs and technological & extension support are being provided to make women self-reliant.

5. National Food Security Mission (NFSM): At least 33% of allocation of funds is to be made for small, marginal and women farmers.

6. Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds: Implementing Agencies/States have been requested to allocate sufficient funds and also ensure participation of women in Seed Village programme. For effective transfer of seed technology, training programme for the farmers including women farmers are organized on field to upgrade the quality of farmer saved seeds.

7. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA): Women living in the watershed area are mobilized into Self Help Groups and User Groups of Women. The Guidelines have been revised in favour of women so as to ensure all the perspectives and interests of women are adequately reflected in the watershed action plan.

8. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has trained around 4.03 lakh farm women during the year.

9. The Ministry of Women & Child Development launched a Central Sector scheme named Support to Training & Employment Programme for women (STEP) in the year 1986-87 with an objective of extending training for up-gradation of skills and sustainable employment for women through a variety of action oriented projects which employ women in large numbers. The scheme was revised in the year 2009-10 and covers 10 traditional sectors of employment besides the option of supporting the locally appropriate sectors. Agriculture is also a selected sector in this scheme.