

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1354
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013
ENCOURAGEMENT TO WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS
Rajendran Shri C.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are not many centrally sponsored schemes to encourage women entrepreneurs in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the response of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to draw up some such initiatives to encourage women entrepreneurs?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Government in the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) which proposes to cover all rural poor families in a phased manner. The programme aims at building strong and sustainable grass roots institutions of rural poor women and enabling them to access their own social networks, resources and knowledge for gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities and thereby achieve appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis. Universal social mobilization through formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs) under NRLM and federating these groups at village and higher levels will ensure at least one member of each rural poor family, preferably a woman member, is covered under SHG and is part of a large social network. NRLM proposes to ensure universal financial inclusion for them by facilitating opening of savings accounts of all SHGs, simultaneously encouraging their thrift and credit activities and facilitating access to credit and other financial services from banks. There is a provision under the programme for training and capacity building of interested members to take up micro enterprises for enhancing their incomes. In addition to self-employment, NRLM also focuses on supporting rural poor youth for accessing skilled wage employment through placement linked skill development projects. NRLM is a demand driven programme and the States formulate their own poverty reduction action plans.

Under NRLM it has also been decided to set up one Rural Self Employment Training Institute in each district of the country. Each RSETI has a target of training minimum 750 BPL candidates to take up self-employment. During the year 2012-13, 3,06,345 candidates were trained out of which 2,15,935 were women candidates.