

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:398
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2014
NABARD SCHEME FOR WOMEN
Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is implementing schemes/ programmes for the welfare of women in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the number of women benefited along with the total fund allocated under such programmes/ schemes during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by NABARD to provide assistance to women especially those in backward/ tribal areas?

Answer

(MINISTER OF FINANCE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE) (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a)to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.398 for answer on 19th December, 2014 tabled by Shri Raju Shetti regarding 'NABARD Scheme for Women'

(a)to (d) : Yes, madam. Government of India is implementing the following Schemes/ Programmes through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for the welfare of women in rural areas (including backward and tribal areas) :-

(i) Promotion of Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) : Government of India is implementing this scheme through NABARD in 150 backward (including tribal areas) and left wing extremism affected districts of the country. During 2011-12, Government of India has set up "Women Self Help Group Development Fund" in NABARD. The fund is being utilised for extending grant / assistance to the anchor agencies for formation and nurturing of WSHGs, supporting livelihood development programmes and empowering the poor women socio- economically through such initiatives. So far, Government of India has contributed a sum of Rs.184.18 crore towards this fund. Details of State-wise promotion of WSHGs, savings and credit linkage for the years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 (up to 30th Sept. 2014) are given in Annexure I. Since the WSHG programme commenced on 30th March, 2012 only, there is no data for 2011-12.

(ii) Women's Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme: NABARD is implementing this Special Programme in seven districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar since 2009 which is supported by International fund for agriculture development. The programme is based on the Self Help Group (SHG) concept but has an additional thrust of livelihood promotion in respect of matured SHGs. The goal of the programme is holistic empowerment of rural poor women and adolescent girls supported by sustainable and improved livelihood opportunities. The details of promotion of SHGs, savings and credit linked under Priyadarshini programme are given in Annexure II.

(iii) National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM): This Programme is being implemented by Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). Government of India has identified Canara Bank and NABARD as nodal agencies to release Interest Subvention/ Interest Incentive for Women SHGs for Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks & Cooperative Banks, respectively.

NABARD has been continuously supporting empowerment of women through SHGs and extends policy support & advocacy, and also collaborates with other Government and Developmental agencies to facilitate convergence with NRLM for empowerment of women.

NABARD gives grant and other support to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other Self Help Promoting Institutions for promotion and nurturing of SHGs formed of rural poor women. Besides, training and capacity building of different stakeholders of SHG Bank Linkage programme such as bankers, NGOs, government officials, SHG members and trainers is also done by NABARD. Cumulatively, over 32.20 lakh stake holders have been trained with support from NABARD as on 31st March, 2014.