

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 423
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2019

SUPPORT TO WOMEN FARMERS UNDER MKSP

*423. DR. HEENA GAVIT:
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of programmes undertaken to support women farmers under the Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) in the country;
- (b) the salient features of the MKSP along with its present status and the quantum of funds allocated under the said scheme;
- (c) the details of the targets set and achievements made there under so far;
- (d) whether the Government has failed to create awareness among women regarding the Pariyojana; and
- (e) if so, whether the Government proposes to create proper awareness regarding the Pariyojana so that women farmers could be benefited and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

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

STATEMENT (a) to (e) REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *423 TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2019.

(a): Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), launched in 2011 as a sub component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), aims at meeting the specific needs of women farmers to enable them to achieve socio economic empowerment. 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 their agriculture-based livelihoods. The scheme also supports development of a pool of community resource persons to enable the community institutions to manage their activities.

(b) & (c): Three broad focus programmatic areas of MKSP are (i) Sustainable Agriculture (ii) Non-Timber Forest Produces (NTFP) and (iii) Value Chain Development. Livestock interventions are integrated with both Sustainable Agriculture and NTFP projects. The key interventions promoted under the components are as follows:

Sustainable Agriculture

- To improve the skills and capabilities of women in agriculture to support farm and non-farm-based activities;
- To ensure food and nutrition security at the household and the community level;
- To enable women to have better access to inputs and services of the government and other agencies;
- To enhance the managerial capacities of women in agriculture for better management of bio-diversity;

Non-Timber Forest Produce

- To promote regeneration of NTFP species to improve the bio diversity and enhanced productivity;
- To build the capacity of the community in sustainable harvesting and post harvesting techniques to increase their income;
- To promote local value addition of NTFP and market linkages to ensure higher returns;
- To enable women to have better access to their entitlements and services of the government and other agencies;
- To promote the use of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) to improve the livelihoods opportunities of the NTFP collectors.

Value Chain Development

- To ensure higher price realization for the agriculture, dairying and NTFP produce for the small and marginal women farmers;
- To ensure increased bargaining power of small and marginal producers by achieving

- economy of scale and therefore negotiate better prices;
- To develop robust business models at scale for the commodities produced by small and marginal women farmers;
 - To develop scalable and sustainable Producers' Enterprises to implement the value chain development interventions;
 - To take up Capacity building of the community for value addition of commodities, better post-harvest handling, knowledge of quality parameters, etc.;
 - To promote the use of ICT for accounting, inventory management, payment to producers and market information dissemination.

A total number of 84 MKSP projects have so far been sanctioned for implementation in 24 States with a target of coverage of 33.81 lakhs mahila kisans. As on 31.03.2019, a total of 35,97,743 mahila kisans have been covered in 30,807 villages. A total Central allocation of Rs. 847.48 crore has been made towards implementation of the approved projects, out of which an amount of 570.26 crore has already been released.

(d) & (e): No Sir. The Ministry is continuously working to create awareness about the project through the State Rural Livelihoods Missions. The benefits of taking up sustainable practices in Agriculture, NTFP, and livestock are discussed in the SHG meetings. The learning from the practices adopted under MKSP are now being scaled up by the Rural Livelihoods Missions of States/UTs as a universal intervention under their DAY NRLM Annual Action Plans (AAPs). The AAPs of 29 States have been approved which *inter alia* include coverage of around 34 lakhs SHG members for interventions around Agro Ecological Practices, NTFP and livestock practices, over and above the MKSP targets.

The IEC (Information, Education and Communication) strategies and campaigns of DAY-NRLM cover all its sub components including MKSP.
