

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2547**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2023

**STATUS OF WOMEN IN FISHERFOLK COMMUNITIES**

2547. DR. SANTANU SEN:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- a. whether Government has evaluated the status of women in Fisherfolk communities;
- b. if so, the details of literacy rate and labor force participation rate;
- c. the details of Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate among the fisherfolk communities;
- d. whether the ministry has undertaken any initiatives to increase the well-being of women in Fisherfolk communities; and
- e. if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): Separate study to evaluate the status of women in Fisherfolk communities has not been undertaken. However, the statistical data of citizens including the Fisherfolk communities on various parameters in the country is collected through decennial census operation conducted by the Registrar General of India. The last Census was held in 2011. As per the Census 2011, the female literacy rate in the country including women in Fisherfolk communities in the age group of 7 and above is 64.63 per cent. Further, the data on employment and unemployment is collected through Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) since 2017-18. As per the available Annual PLFS Report, the Female Labour Force Participation Rate during the year 2019-20 was 30% whereas it was 32.5% for the year 2020-21.

(c): As per the report of Sample Registration System (SRS) released by Registrar General of India (RGI), Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India has reduced by 6 points from 103, per 100,000 live births in SRS 2017-19 to 97 in SRS 2018-20. Further, as per same Report, Infant Mortality Rate is 28 per 1000 Live Births in 2020 at National level.

(d) & (e): The Government has taken various steps to improve the status of women in the country and for ensuring their well-being. The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) & Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Fund (FIDF) under Fishery sector and Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS) & National

Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) under Dairying sector, for the development of Fisheries and Dairying respectively in the country. PMMSY envisages inclusive development and women beneficiaries are provided 60% Government financial assistance against 40% assistance to male beneficiaries.

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying under its flagship scheme namely “Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has approved proposals worth Rs. 1982.13 crore with Rs. 751.59 crore central share for women category benefitting 39870 women beneficiaries in the process.

Further, the National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology and Training (NIFPHATT), erstwhile Integrated Fisheries Project has launched its extensive fisherwomen training programme since 2000 in the national level on various capacities across 9 maritime states and two union territories with the effective support of different user agencies, various state fisheries departments and the administrative Ministry. These programmes have equipped fisherwomen with skills not only in fish handling, hygiene, fish processing/ preservation techniques and ready-to-eat/ cook products development but also in micro entrepreneurship, group development and marketing. Apart from providing training to them, NIFPHATT also supports fishermen co-operative societies, who play multifaceted role in the socio- economic, educational, health & mental development of fishermen communities.

Further, Seaweed Cultivation is considered as one of the priority areas for fisheries development in India, for the benefit of coastal fisher folk, especially the fisherwomen. National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB ) has sanctioned a project to Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI), Bhavnagar on Demonstration of large-scale cultivation of Gracilaria dura. In order to promote seaweed cultivation along the Ramanathapuram coast of Tamil Nadu, by using improved quality of seed material, NFDB has sanctioned a project to Department of Fisheries, Government of Tamil Nadu for sea weed cultivation of G.edulis and Kappaphycus alvarezii by women SHG groups.

Besides, benefit/ services under various schemes/ programs of central government such as Samgra Shiksha, Scholarship schemes, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Anganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyaan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Aayushman Bharat, Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), LaQshya, Monthly Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND), Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharata Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Skill India, various initiatives under Digital India Mission etc. are also available for the well-being of women belonging to Fisherfolk communities.

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