

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3342**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.03.2023

**ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN**

3342# SMT. KANTA KARDAM:

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

- (a) the details of the ongoing schemes for the economic empowerment of rural women in the country especially in the State of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the details of women benefited from these schemes during each of the last four years and the current year; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to address the shortcomings noticed in the National Women Fund and to improve its functioning?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): The Government has taken a number of initiatives to encourage self-employment of women including rural women across the country including the State of Uttar Pradesh. Some of the initiatives are as under:

- i. The Government of India is providing training to women through a network of Women Industrial Training Institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- ii. To economically empower women, 81% of loans of sizes from Rs.10 Lakhs to Rs. 1 crore under 'Stand-Up India' have been made available to women.
- iii. Under 'MUDRA' (or Prime Minister's Micro-Units Development & Refinance Agency) Yojana, 68% loans sized up to Rs. 10 Lakhs have been sanctioned to women-owned and operated enterprises.
- iv. Under National Rural Livelihoods Mission, over 8.5 crore women are connected with around 82 lakh women's self-help groups that are transforming the rural socio-economic landscape in several innovative and socially and ecologically responsible ways, also availing governmental support including through collateral free loans.

- v. With special attention towards entrepreneurship, under the Start-up India Initiative, a large number of loans have been disbursed to women-led enterprises.
- vi. National Agriculture Market or e-NAM, an online trading platform for agricultural commodities, "Kisan Call Centres" answering farmers' queries on a telephone call in their own dialect, mobile applications like Kisan Suvidha are helping women overcome or compensate the barriers they face in accessing markets and extension services.
- vii. National Cooperative Development Corporation is playing a significant role to uplift women cooperatives as large number of women are engaged and involved in cooperatives dealing with activities related to food grain processing, plantation crops, oilseeds processing, fisheries, dairy & livestock, spinning mills, handloom and power loom weaving, Integrated Cooperative Development Projects, etc.
- viii. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture imparting training for skills development to women, provide more subsidy/ assistance to women farmers, beneficiaries as compared to general category farmers. Under Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure component, women are eligible for subsidy at higher rates to procure agricultural machinery, implements and equipment under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization.
- ix. To provide Government-to-Citizen (G2C) e-Services within the reach of the citizen, over 5.4 lakh Common Service Centres have been set up, thus creating the physical service delivery ICT infrastructure. These centres are spread across the country and provide a range of digital services in the rural areas, creating rural digital entrepreneurs of whom over 67,000 are women entrepreneurs.
- x. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) has been launched to ensure old age protection for unorganised Workers who are not covered by any other pension scheme. The unorganised workers including women, mostly engaged as home based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers, washer men, rickshaw pullers, landless labourers, agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audio-visual workers and similar other occupations whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less and belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years.

Further, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has taken a number of initiatives to empower women through the schemes and programmes implemented in the country. During the 15th Finance Commission period, the Ministry implements 'Mission Shakti', an Integrated Women Empowerment Programme, as Umbrella Scheme for the Safety, Security and Empowerment of Women. It aims to strengthen interventions for safety, security and empowerment of women in a mission mode through institutional and convergence mechanism for greater efficiency, effectiveness and financial prudence.

The Umbrella Scheme of 'Mission Shakti' has two sub-schemes namely "Sambal" for safety and security of women and "Samarthya" for empowerment of women. Under 'Samarthya' sub- scheme, a new component i.e. Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) has been included with the aim to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women at the Central, State/ UT and District levels for creating an environment in which women are able to realize their full potential. The support under the HEW provides for guiding, linking and hand holding women to various institutional and schematic set ups for their empowerment and development including access to healthcare, quality education, career and vocational counseling/ training, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, backward and forward linkages, health and safety for workers, social security and digital literacy at districts/ Blocks/ Gram Panchayats level across the country including the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(c): The Government has not set up any fund named 'National Women Fund'.

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