

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 639**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2024

**MAHILA SHAKTI KENDRA SCHEME**

639 SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:

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

- (a) the details of funds granted under the Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme, years wise;
- (b) whether any Mahila Shakti Kendras have been setup under the Scheme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken to the development of Rural women during the last five years?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d): The Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) Scheme was approved in November, 2017 as a centrally sponsored scheme to empower rural women through community participation. A third party evaluation study of MSK scheme was conducted by NITI Aayog in 2020. Taking into account the findings of the evaluation and in consultation with States/ UTs and stakeholders, the scheme has been discontinued with effect from 01.04.2022. "Mission Shakti", an umbrella scheme for safety, security and empowerment of women launched by the Government with effect from 01.04.2022 for implementation during the Fifteenth Finance Commission period.

The umbrella scheme 'Mission Shakti' has two sub-schemes namely 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya' for greater efficiency, effectiveness and financial prudence. Benefiting from the learning from implementation of earlier scheme, a new component has been incorporated under 'Samarthya' sub- scheme i.e. Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), at National, State and District levels. HEW aims to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women at the Central (NHEW), State/ UT (SHEW) and District (DHEW) levels with the mandate to create an environment in which women realize their full potential. The support under HEW provides for information dissemination, 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 counselling/ training, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, backward and forward linkages, health and safety for workers, social security and digital literacy etc. at districts/ Blocks/ Gram Panchayats level across the country. Under the Scheme, cost sharing between Centre and States is 60:40, except

in respect of North Eastern and Special Category States, where the cost sharing ratio is 90:10 and for UTs without Legislature, it is 100% central funding.

(e) : The Government gives utmost priority to the safety, security and empowerment of women from rural as well as urban areas across the country. The Government has adopted multi-pronged approach to address the issue of women on a life-cycle continuum basis for their educational, social, economic and political empowerment so that they become equal partners in fast paced and sustainable national development.

In the past few years, a number of initiatives have been taken for holistic development and empowerment of women. The Government of India implements various schemes / programmes for welfare of women/ girls in which community participation plays an important role. Under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), nearly 9.98 crore women are connected with around 90 lakh women's self-help groups that are transforming rural socio-economic landscape in several innovative and socially and ecologically responsible ways, also availing governmental support including through collateral free loans.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) mandates that at least one third of the jobs generated under the scheme (MGNREGS) should be given to women.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) Scheme focuses on woman ownership of houses and it has been decided that the allotment of house shall be made in the name of the woman or jointly in the name of the husband and wife, except in the case of a widower/ unmarried/ separated person/ transgender.

National Agriculture Market or e-NAM, an online trading platform for agricultural commodities is helping women overcome or compensate the barriers they face in accessing markets. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) 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. Other schemes include Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), Samagra Shiksha, Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojna, Swachh Vidyalaya Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission, etc. In order to enhance the employability of female workers, the Government is providing training to them through a network of Women Industrial Training institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes. To ensure economic independence of women through skill development and vocational training, the Government has also introduced Skill India Mission.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development implements 'Mission Shakti', an Integrated Women Empowerment Programme, as Umbrella Scheme for the Safety, Security and Empowerment of Women.

The Anganwadi Services under Mission Poshan 2.0 is a universal scheme under which pregnant women and lactating mothers are eligible for the services including the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP). For partial compensation of wages and for promoting health seeking behaviour among pregnant women and lactating mothers,

Government has implemented Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) which aims to promote appropriate practice, care and institutional service utilization during pregnancy, delivery and lactation by providing cash incentives in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode to pregnant and lactating mothers. Benefits have been extended to around 3.29 crore women through this scheme.

Construction of over 11.60 crore toilets under 'Swachh Bharat Mission', clean cooking gas connections to 10.14 crore women below poverty line under 'Ujjawala Yojana' and connecting over 14.21 crores out of 19.26 crores rural household with tap drinking water connections under 'Jal Jeevan Mission' have transformed the lives of women by reducing the drudgery and care burden. Prime Minister's Rural Digital Literacy Campaign under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) that seeks to make 6 crore persons digitally literate, by covering one member from every eligible household.

Through the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment to the Constitution of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> seats in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been reserved for women. However, today there are more than 14.50 lakh Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) in PRIs, which is approximately 46% of the total elected representatives. The Government is providing training to the EWRs from time to time to build on their capacity.

The greatest leap forward for women empowerment and representation of women in the highest political offices in the country has been the notification by Government of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 (Constitution One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 on 28 September, 2023, for reservation of one-third of seats for women in the House of People (Lok Sabha) and in the State Legislative Assemblies including Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi.

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