

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3025
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN IN ODISHA

3025. SMT. SULATA DEO:
SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

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 Odisha;
- (b) the number of women benefitted from these schemes during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to address the shortcomings noticed in the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (National Women Fund) and improve its functioning?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) & (b) : The Government gives utmost priority to the safety, security and empowerment of women in the country including rural women. To this end, the Government has adopted multi-pronged approach to address the welfare 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. This 'Women led development' is essential for realising the goal of a developed India, or 'Viksit Bharat', by 2047.

In the past few years, a number of initiatives have been taken for holistic development and empowerment of women in the country including in the State of Odisha.

Under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), nearly 10.29 crore women are connected with around 91.75 lakh women's self-help groups that are transforming rural socio-economic landscape in in country.

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.

A number of enabling provisions for creating congenial work environment for women workers have been incorporated in Labour Codes viz. the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 and the Code on Social Security, 2020.

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, with some exceptions, in the name of the woman or jointly in the name of the husband and wife.

Construction of over 12.47 crore toilets under ‘Swachh Bharat Mission’, clean cooking gas connections to 10.33 crore women below poverty line under ‘Ujjawala Yojana’ and connecting over 15.51 crores rural household with tap drinking water connections under ‘Jal Jeevan Mission’ have transformed the lives of women by reducing their drudgery and care burden.

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.

To ensure economic independence of women through skill development and vocational training, the Government has also introduced Skill India Mission. Government has also set up the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana across the country. Emphasis has been laid on creating additional infrastructure both for training and apprenticeship for women

There are schemes like Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana and Stand-Up India, Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) which have been launched for helping women set up their own enterprises. To economically empower women, 84% of loans of sizes from rupees ten lakh to rupees one crore under ‘Stand-Up India’ have been made available to women by the Government.

In order to bring women in the mainstream of political leadership at the grass root level, Government has reserved at least 33% of the seats in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for women through the 73rd amendment to the Constitution. Today, there are more than 14.50 lakh Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) in PRIs, which is approximately 46% of the total elected representatives.

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 28th 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.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the country, for the welfare of women and children, which are clubbed into three umbrella missions viz. (1) Mission Shakti, for safety, protection and empowerment of women; (2) Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 for improving nutrition & health indicators in the country; and (3) Mission Vatsalya, for protection and welfare of children in difficult circumstances. The details of the schemes are as under:

(i) Mission Shakti: The ‘Mission Shakti’ aims at strengthening interventions for women safety, security and empowerment. It seeks to focus on proposing strategies for improving convergence across Ministries/ Departments and at different levels of governance. Mission Shakti comprises of two verticals ‘Sambal’ and ‘Samarthya’ for safety and security of women and empowerment of women respectively.

The “Sambal” vertical is for safety and security of women. It has the schemes of One Stop Centres (OSCs), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and Nari Adalat.

- a. **One Stop Centres (OSCs)-** An institution located at district level offering under one roof immediate help to women in distress such as temporary shelter, medical & police assistance, counselling and legal support.
- b. **Women Helpline (WHL)-** The Women Helpline 181 provides toll-free 24-hours telecom service to women seeking support and information. It is also integrated with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) 112 for all emergency services and its integration with all One Stop Centres is in progress.
- c. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)-** BBBP is a mindset change program helping in generating awareness for valuing the girl child through multi-sectoral interventions.
- d. **Nari Adalat-** An experimental platform providing women with an alternative Grievance Redressal Mechanism at Gram Panchayat level by negotiation, mediation, and reconciliation with mutual consent for speedy, accessible, and affordable justice. It has been piloted in 50 Gram Panchayats each of Assam and UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

The “Samarthya” vertical is for empowerment of women. It has the schemes of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Shakti Sadan, Sakhi Niwas, Palna and SANKALP : Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW).

- a. **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)-** PMMVY is a Centrally Sponsored Maternity Benefits Scheme under which cash incentive of ₹5,000/- is

provided directly to the Bank/Post Office account of the beneficiary in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode for first child. Cash incentive of ₹6,000/- is also provided under PMMVY to eligible beneficiaries for second child being a girl child.

- b. **Shakti Sadan-** Shakti Sadan is an Integrated Relief and Rehabilitation Home for the women in distress situations and difficult circumstances.
- c. **Sakhi Niwas-** The Sakhi Niwas Scheme (Working Women Hostel) is a demand driven centrally sponsored scheme, under which funds are released directly to the States/UTs and aims to promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women in urban, semi-urban and even rural areas where employment opportunity for women exist.
- d. **Palna-** Palna scheme through day-care crèche facilities provides safe and secure place for the children. Creche services formalise the child care facilities hitherto considered as part of domestic work and uses Aanganwadi infrastructure for ensuring delivery of care facilities till the last mile
- e. **SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW)-** The SANKALP: HEW serves as a vehicle to bridge the information and knowledge gap regarding schemes and facilities available for women. It also serves as a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) for all components under Mission Shakti.

(ii) Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0): Under this programme, Anganwadi Services Scheme, POSHAN Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent Girls has been reorganized into 3 primary verticals: (i) Nutrition Support for children below the age of 6 years, Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls (14 -18 years); (ii) Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years] and (iii) Anganwadi Infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadi.

(iii) Mission Vatsalya: Mission Vatsalya (erstwhile Child Protection Services Scheme (ICPS)) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) which is implemented through States/Union Territories (UTs) to deliver services for better outreach and protection for Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) which include Institutional Care and Non-Institutional Care in a mission mode with the objective to: (i) Support and sustain Children in difficult circumstances (ii) Develop context-based solutions for holistic development of children from varied backgrounds (iii) Provide scope for green field projects for encouraging innovative solutions (iv) Cement convergent action by gap funding, if required.

The scheme also provides for emergency outreach services (24x7) for children in difficult circumstances through Child Helpline (1098).

These initiatives are transformative schemes designed to address critical social issues about women & children and bring about lasting social change in the country. They target key areas of welfare & development of women and children aiming to create a more inclusive, equitable, just and supportive society.

The number of women assisted/ benefited under various schemes of 'Mission Shakti' during the last three years and current year are at **Annexure**.

(c) : Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) is a society, registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and an apex micro-finance organization established in 1993 under the aegis of Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) to meet the credit needs of poor and asset less women in the informal sector for various livelihood support and income generating activities at concessional terms in a client-friendly procedure to bring about their socio-economic upliftment of the women.

Over a period of time, substantial alternative credit facility mechanisms have become available to women entrepreneurs through various Government initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojna and Stand up India. The activities performed by RMK are being performed by Banks who have provided linkage to Self Help Groups (SHGs). Nearly 10.29 crore households are connected with over 91.75 Lakh Women SHGs under Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) that are transforming rural socio-economic landscape in several innovative and socially and ecologically responsible way.

Based on the report on 'rationalisation of autonomous bodies', by the Department of Expenditure, a proposal of Ministry to close down 'Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)' was approved by Union Cabinet and the closure of the organisation has been notified in the Gazette of India(extraordinary) vide notification dated 12.03.2024.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (A) & (B) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 3025 FOR ANSWER ON 26.03.2025 REGARDING 'ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN IN ODISHA'

Number of women assisted/ benefited under various schemes of 'Mission Shakti' during the last three years and current year as on date:

| Year | PMMVY | SANKALP: HEW* | Palna* | Sakhi Niwas | Shakti Sadan | OSC | WHL |
|-------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| 2021-22 | 44,55,028 | 0 | 0 | 45,183 | 32,549 | 1,47,123 | 9,30,542 |
| 2022-23 | 72,88,250, | 1,91,396 | 56,666 | 46,996 | 32,113 | 1,65,674 | 12,34,372 |
| 2023-24 | 24,67,844 | 8,98,267 | 55,393 | 48,209 | 24,753 | 1,83,227 | 10,17,229 |
| 2024-25 | 74,29,324 | 14,66,580 | 52,671 | 39,072 | 27,676 | 1,90,684 | 10,13,412 |

**The schemes commenced from 01.04.2022.*
