

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5768**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL, 2018

**WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN FARMING**

5768. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:  
SHRI CHANDU LAL SAHU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether women's participation in farming is around 33 per cent of the total work force and as many as 7.5 crore women are engaged in animal husbandry;
- (b) if so, the number of schemes/ projects being implemented by the Government to enhance the empowerment, skill and entrepreneurship in agriculture work of the women farmers;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated and spent by the Government under these schemes/projects for empowerment of women farmers in the country including Rajasthan; and
- (d) whether the Government is considering to provide identity cards to all the women farmers to ensure that the benefits of all the schemes reach them and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a): Yes, Madam. As per the Census 2011 conducted by the Registrar General of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, the extent of women participation in agriculture as cultivators (main and marginal) is to the tune of 3.60 crore as against 11.88 crore of total cultivators in the country which works out to 30.33%. Further, as per NSS Report No. 559(68/10/3) (July 2011-June 2012), among women of all ages who were not workers in the subsidiary status, about 20 percent in rural areas and about 6.9 percent in urban areas pursued one or more of the activities relating to agricultural production such as maintenance of kitchen garden, work in household poultry, dairy etc. including free collection of agricultural products for household consumption and processing of primary products for household consumption.

(b) & (c): In line with the National Policy on Farmers (2007), the Department is promoting mainstreaming of gender concerns in agriculture by ensuring involvement of at least 30 percent women under its various beneficiary oriented Schemes/components. Besides, the network of 690 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) across the country established by Indian Council of Agricultural Research are mandated with Technology Assessment and Demonstration for its Application and Capacity Development of farmers including women farmers.

The Department of Rural Development is implementing a programme 'Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), as a sub-component of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) which is aimed at achieving socio-economic and technical empowerment of women. The details of such initiatives are given at **Annexure** .

(d): As women are already recognized as Cultivators & Agricultural Labour in the Census 2011 Report with their numbers duly reflected in main & marginal category, the Government has no proposal to provide identity cards to women farmers.

**Details of initiatives aimed at enhancing women's participation in agriculture and empowering them with knowledge, skills and entrepreneurship in Agriculture**

**A. Mainstreaming efforts of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare**

The National Policy of Farmers (NPF), 2007 supports adopting gender specific interventions in agriculture & allied sectors to promote women's participation in agriculture and allied sectors. In line with the policy directives, the guidelines of various schemes of the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare including **Support to state Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (ATMA); National Food Security Mission (NFSM); National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP); National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material; Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization and Mission for Integrated Development on Horticulture (MIDH)** stipulate that states and other Implementing Agencies are required to incur at least 30% expenditure on women Farmers and provide preference to women.

B. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 684 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country mandated with Technology Assessment Demonstration for its Application and Capacity Development (TADA-CD). KVKs organize demonstrations training programmes and skill development for the benefits of farmers and farm women, rural youth, and in service extension personnel. Men and women farmers are considered equally in various extension programmes of KVKs and women are encouraged to participate in all the scheme and programmes.

C. The Department of Rural Development is implementing a programme '**Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)**', which is a sub-component of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and is aimed at meeting specific needs of women farmers – predominantly small and marginal farmers to achieve their socio-economic and technical empowerment so as to enable them to manage and sustain their activities. Funding support to the tune of 60% (90% for North Eastern and Himalayan states) for the projects is provided by the government of India and balance amount is contributed by the respective state government. Funds are released in three installments in the ratio of 25:50:25. The Ministry has so far approved 80 projects covering about 33 lakhs mahila kisans in 21 states and one union territory of the country including Rajasthan where around 60,000 mahila kisans have been benefitted. The quantum of financial assistance has been to the tune of Rs. 822 crores.

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