

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 59
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2024

SCHEMES FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN TRIBAL AREAS

†59. SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA:

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

- (a) the initiatives taken by the Government for empowerment of women of the country who are still backward and live in the villages;
- (b) the initiatives taken by the Government for the tribal women living in forest villages and the areas mentioned in the Fifth and Sixth Schedule, State-wise and district-wise; and
- (d) whether special attention is being given by the Government to the women of North Eastern States, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Government gives utmost priority to the safety, security and empowerment of women across the country including tribal areas. The Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to address all issues relating to 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.

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.

Through the 73rd amendment to the Constitution of 1/3rd seats in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been reserved for women. However, 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.

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 wage-loss and promotion of health seeking behaviour among pregnant women and lactating mothers, Government has implemented the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) which provides 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 more than 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.

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 '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 counselling/ 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.

In addition, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs through National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) extends concessional loans to the eligible Scheduled Tribe persons across the country for undertaking income generation activities/ self-employment through its implementing agencies. NSTFDC formulated an exclusive scheme for women titled “Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana” (AMSY) for economic empowerment through providing concessional finance for undertaking any income generation activity. The State-wise details of the loans disbursed and number of beneficiaries under this scheme till 2022-23 is as under:

Sl. No.	States/ UTs	AMSY	
		Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of beneficiaries
1	Andhra Pradesh	1090.92	5484
2	Chhattisgarh	830.96	1590
3	Goa	0.45	1
4	Gujarat	10593.95	51747
5	Himachal Pradesh	122.00	320
6	Jammu & Kashmir	500.40	545
7	Jharkhand	93.10	504
8	Karnataka	911.30	1259
9	Kerala	594.12	830
10	Madhya Pradesh	593.49	1326
11	Maharashtra	1486.55	3718
12	Meghalaya	11.34	29
13	Mizoram	62.10	138
14	Odisha	107.30	520
15	Rajasthan	1620.65	2763
16	Sikkim	146.97	316
17	Tripura	121.30	224
18	Uttarakhand	3.80	9
19	West Bengal	3832.86	37842
	TOTAL	22723.56	109165
