

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2344
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2019

WOMEN FARMER EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

2344. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:

Will the Minister of **RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

- (a) the details of targets achieved so far under the 'Women Farmer Empowerment Programme' under National Rural Livelihood Mission along with the Funds allocated and utilised under the said scheme;
- (b) the details of additional support and assistance to women farmers under any other schemes;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken adequate steps to create awareness regarding this programme and its benefits among the farming community; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), a sub component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is being implemented since 2011. The primary objective to empower women in agriculture by making systematic investments to enhance their participation and productivity, as also to create and sustain their agriculture-based livelihoods. Three broad focus programmatic areas of MKSP are (i) Sustainable Agriculture (ii) Non-Timber Forest Produces (NTFP) and (iii) Value Chain Development.

Achievement under MKSP is given below.

No. of States / UTs covered	24	
Total number of project sanctioned	84	
	Target (numbers)	Achievement (numbers)
District	273	238
Blocks	1,390	1,319
Villages / Hamlets	34,446	30,900
MahilaKisan	33,81,893	36,06,003

Fund allocation and utilized under MKSP is given below:

	<i>Amount in Crores Rupees</i>
Total Budget	1252.57
Total allocation of Central share (As per original approval)	847.48
Total releases of Central share till date based on State demand/ utilisation	579.76

(b) The Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare is providing additional support and assistance to women farmers, over and above the male farmers under the Schemes namely Agri-Clinic & Agri-Business Centre (ACABC), Integrated Schemes of Agricultural Marketing (ISAM), Sub-Mission of Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) and National Food Security Mission (NFSM), the details of which are as under :

- ‘Agri-Clinic & Agri-Business Centre’ initiative of Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension provides for credit linked back-ended subsidy on the bank loan availed by trained candidates under the Scheme. The subsidy is 44% in respect of women, SC/ST and all categories of candidates from North-Eastern and Hill States and 36% in respect of other categories.
- Under the Scheme ‘Integrated Schemes of Agricultural Marketing (ISAM)’, support for women is available to the extent of 33.33% for women against 25% assistance available for male farmers for storage infrastructure projects and other infrastructure projects.
- Under ‘Sub-Mission of Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)’, 10% additional assistance is available for women for Procurement of Agriculture Machinery/Equipment including Post Harvest equipment.
- Under the Scheme ‘National Food Security Mission (NFSM)’, 10% additional assistance is available for women for Plant Protection equipment including eco- friendly light trap and seed treatment drum as well as supply of improved farm implements.

(c) and (d): Yes, the Government has undertaken adequate steps to create awareness regarding this programme and its benefits among the farming community. Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension being implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare for the welfare of farmers by using electronic, print and social media.

The Ministry is continuously working to create awareness about the project through the State Rural Livelihoods Missions. The benefits of taking up sustainable practices in Agriculture, NTFP, and livestock are discussed in the SHG meetings. The learning from the practices adopted under MKSP is now being scaled up by the Rural Livelihoods Missions of States/UTs as a universal intervention under their DAY NRLM through its Annual Action Plans (AAPs). The IEC (Information, Education and Communication) strategies and campaigns of Deendayal

Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission cover all its sub components including MKSP and this Ministry is continuously supporting women farmer under DAY NRLM. Besides, compendium of Agro Ecological best practice document, films on MKSP and communication materials have been developed. As part of the public disclosure norms wall paintings are being done in the MKSP project areas.