

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 404**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2020

**EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

**404. DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:**

Will the Minister of **RURAL DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to empower women who stay at home in rural areas supporting their husbands in farming and other activities;
- (b) whether the Government has undertaken any scheme to ensure holistic development of working and non-working women; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**  
**MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)**

(a) to (c): More than 70% of the rural poor are dependent on agriculture either as cultivators or as agriculture labour and women play a significant role in agriculture. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) understands that the poor have multiple livelihoods and a large percentage of women SHG members are also actively participating in agriculture activities including livestock rearing. Recognizing the role of women in agriculture, DAY NRLM has a specific program to empower women farmers named Mahila Kisan Shasaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), as a sub-component of DAY-NRLM. MKSP is strongly focused on capacity building of women SHG members towards sustainable agro ecological practices, improved livestock practices and sustainable Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) collection. Drudgery reduction of women farmers is an essential element of MKSP and the women SHG members are now operating Custom Hiring Centre and also implementing tool banks comprising of several tools and implements. This initiative to empower women in agriculture has now being successfully

scaled up by all the State Rural Livelihoods Missions across the country through their Annual Action Plans (AAP).

Some of the major intervention areas under MKSP are to build capacities of women farmers in:

- Seed: seed selection, treatment with non-chemical preparation
- Soil: Maintaining the soil and plant health. Preparation of ghanajeevamruth, farm yard manure, green manuring, improved composting, azolla cultivation etc.
- Water management: the major focus is on in-situ moisture conservation through mulching, land preparation (ridge and furrow), bunding, corner pits, 5% models etc.
- Pest management: Preparation and usage of bio-pesticides such as Agnayastram, Neemastram and Brahmastram, pot manure, pheromone trap, sticky trap etc.
- Agronomic practices: other agronomic practice like method of cultivation, sowing techniques, land preparation etc. are being promoted.
- Improved livestock management practices – deworming, vaccination, feed and fodder management etc.