

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 451
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND December, 2025

WOMEN ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE

451. DR. GUMMA THANUJA RANI:

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

- (a) the number of women engaged in agriculture and allied sectors, including those working as unpaid family labour or without formal land ownership;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to provide minimum wages, credit, insurance and welfare benefits to women farmers without land titles;
- (c) the number of women registered under the Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) and similar Central schemes, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) the measures proposed to reduce gender wage gaps, ensure access to technology and extension services, and formally recognize women as independent farmers?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR)

(a): The Government is implementing several schemes for farmers, including women farmers, according to existing eligibility rules. The Ministry of Labour and Employment launched the eShram portal. As on 25th November, 2025, more than 16.25 crore workers from agriculture and allied sectors are registered on the portal, including over 8.04 crore women workers. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Annual Report 2023–24, 76.9% of women in rural areas and 12.3% of women in urban areas and total 64.4% population employed in agriculture sector.

(b): The Code on Wages, 2019 ensures universal minimum wage coverage for all workers, including unorganised workers such as women farmers without land titles. It authorizes both Central and State Governments to set and revise minimum wages and includes gender-neutral provisions that prohibit wage discrimination for the same or similar work.

(c): Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), a sub-scheme of DAY-NRLM, aims to empower women in agriculture by strengthening women's community institutions and promoting sustainable farming, improved livestock management, and scientific Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) cultivation/collection. Under DAY-NRLM and MKSP, 4.86 crore women farmer households have been supported in adopting agro-ecological and improved livestock management practices (placed at **Annexure**).

(d): Under DAY-NRLM, over 3 lakh Community Resource Persons from SHG members have been trained and deployed to provide support and extension services to women farmer households. Through collaboration between MoRD and MoA&FW, 70,021 Krishi Sakhi have been trained and certified as Agriculture Para Extension Workers to promote natural farming. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying recognises Pashu Sakhi as AHELP (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) to provide livestock health and extension services, enhancing women's empowerment and rural development.

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) through Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes (FMTTIs) providing training to women farmers on gender-friendly tools and equipments through customized programs and field demonstrations. Under the Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) scheme, women farmers receive 50% subsidy on agricultural machinery.

Under the ATMA programme, a part of the Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE), agricultural extension activities are carried out for all farmers, including women. The scheme operates in 734 districts across 28 States and 5 UTs, providing Grants-in-Aid to help States deliver the latest agricultural technologies and best practices. As per ATMA guidelines, at least 30% of resources are earmarked for women farmers and women extension workers.

The Government through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) promotes the adoption of new agricultural and allied technologies through technology assessment, demonstrations, and capacity building for both extension functionaries and farmers, including women farmers across the States. Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Central Institute for Women in Agriculture (ICAR-CIWA), Bhubaneswar creates awareness and conducts capacity building programmes among farm women for better access to technologies & Information, and promotes Self Help Group-led income generating activities to strengthen economic independence.

Annexure

The State-Wise Mahila Kisans covered under Agro-Ecological Practices (AEP) in Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) scheme is given below:

(in Lakh)

Sr. No.	States/UTs	Mahila Kisan under (AEP) upto October' 2025
1.	Andaman And Nicobar	0.03
2.	Andhra Pradesh	50.34
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.19
4.	Assam	32.39
5.	Bihar	48.26
6.	Chhattisgarh	13.88
7.	Goa	0.09
8.	Gujarat	20.48
9.	Haryana	0.91
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3.37
11.	Jammu And Kashmir	5.52
12.	Jharkhand	24.24
13.	Karnataka	26.98
14.	Kerala	8.88
15.	Ladakh	0.03
16.	Madhya Pradesh	22.42
17.	Maharashtra	45.41
18.	Manipur	0.24
19.	Meghalaya	2.57
20.	Mizoram	0.69
21.	Nagaland	0.95
22.	Odisha	26.66
23.	Puducherry	0.26
24.	Punjab	2.23
25.	Rajasthan	25.82
26.	Sikkim	0.40
27.	Tamil Nadu	22.39
28.	Telangana	30.86
29.	Tripura	3.33
30.	Uttar Pradesh	36.04
31.	Uttarakhand	4.02
32.	West Bengal	25.46
Total		486.34
