

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1395
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003
IRREGULARITIES IN ADMISSION
RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched `Swayam Siddha Programme` to empower the women;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of schemes included in the said programme; and (c) the main objectives and goals of the said programme and the extent to which the goal of empowerment of women has been achieved?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA)

(a), (b) & (c) : Yes, Sir. The Government launched the Swayamsiddha in 2000-2001 to be implemented in 650 blocks at a total cost of Rs. 116.30 crores from 2000-01 to 2005-06. Swayamsidha is an integrated Scheme for Women's empowerment based on formation of women into Self-Help Groups and aims at holistic empowerment of women through thrift, awareness generation, skill development, economic empowerment and convergence of various schemes. The main objectives of the scheme are:

Establishment of Self-reliant women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs);

Creation of confidence and awareness among members of SHGs regarding women's status, health, nutrition, education, sanitation and hygiene, legal rights, economic upliftment and other social, economic and political issues;

Strengthening and institutionalising savings habit in rural women and their control over economic resources;

Improving access of Women to micro credit;
Involvement of women in local level planning; and

Convergence of services of Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) and other Departments.

More than 21000 Women's Self-Help Groups have been formed under the scheme and are at various stages of development.