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Title: Regarding problems faced by women engaged in agriculture.

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise an important issue regarding women engaged in agriculture across the country. As per census 2011, 9,80,00,000 women are engaged in agriculture, out of which 63 per cent are agricultural labourers and 37 per cent are farm cultivators. The percentage of agricultural land owned by women is very low. For example, in Uttar Pradesh, it is just 3 per cent and the highest is in Kerala which is 14 per cent.

In this connection I would like to submit that there is a need to expand our efforts for skill development, training and recognition of women farmers. The Government is having only scheme for women agriculturists, namely *Mahila Kisan Surakshikaran Parivarna Yojana*. Under this scheme only 24,00,000 beneficiaries are covered out of 9,80,000 women farmers. Recently, the NDA Government has cut down the Budgetary allocation for agriculture. I would like to request the Ministry of Agriculture to address these specific gender based issues in land ownership, credit and skill and to monitor the progress of women agriculture beneficiaries across various schemes.