

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2091  
ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023**

**Mahila Biotech KISAN fellowships**

2091 **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

Will the Minister of *Science and Technology* be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise and region-wise number of women who have received Mahila Biotech KISAN fellowships in the last five years;
- (b) the details of digital barriers faced by women farmers, both in rural and urban settings, when applying for and utilizing these fellowships;
- (c) whether any measures and strategies have been implemented to ensure equitable distribution of Mahila Biotech-KISAN fellowships, particularly for marginalized and rural women; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) The State-wise and region-wise number of women who have received Mahila Biotech KISAN fellowships in the last five years is given in the following table:

<b>Region</b>	<b>States / UTs</b>	<b>Number of Mahila Biotech KISAN Fellowships provided in the last five years</b>
Northern Region	Uttar Pradesh	61
	Uttarakhand	04
	Rajasthan	06
North-Eastern Region	Arunachal Pradesh	20
	Assam	50
	Meghalaya	17
	Mizoram	09
	Tripura	18
	Sikkim	21
Eastern Region	Jharkhand	17
	Odisha	21
	West Bengal	2916
	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	155

Central Region	Chhattisgarh	34
	Madhya Pradesh	10
Western Region	Gujarat	07
	Maharashtra	44
Southern Region	Andhra Pradesh	19
	Kerala	02

- (b) The fellowship amount was provided by the Department of Biotechnology to the implementing agencies under their respective Biotech-KISAN Hub projects, which was further distributed to the beneficiary farmers by the implementing agencies. Any digital barriers faced by woman farmers, when applying for and utilizing these fellowships, have been taken care by the implementing agencies themselves.
- (c) & (d) The Biotech-KISAN scheme provides provision for financial assistance to the Biotech-KISAN Hubs at the rate of Rs. 6.0 lakhs/annum to support fellowship for a minimum five farmers including Mahila Biotech-KISAN fellowships to promote them as lead farmers and grass-root trainers. The measures and strategies have been laid down by the implementing agencies to ensure equitable distribution of Mahila Biotech-KISAN fellowships, particularly for marginalized and rural women. In order to enlarge the coverage and impact of the projects, some of the implementing agencies modified the criteria of financial assistance depending upon the availability of funds and eligible farmers.

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