

Chapter-33

Ministry of Industries

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Industrialization is an important prerequisite for rapid socio-economic development, attaining high growth, employment generation and ensuring people's standard of living. To meet this end, Ministry of Industries has been providing necessary facilities and assistance in formulating policies and strategies in country's industrial sector. In order to accelerate industrial development appropriate Industrial Policy has been formulated. The contribution of this sector in economy (GDP) is increasing gradually. In FY 1980-81 industrial sector contributed 17.31 percent to the economy. This contribution increased to 32.42 percent in FY 2016-17. It stood at 33.71 percent in FY 2017-18.

1.2 Constitutional and Ethical obligations of Ministry's activities

The vision of the Ministry is to elevate Bangladesh into middle income country through industrialization by 2021. To implement this vision, Ministry of Industries is formulating appropriate industrial policy, reconstructing and reforming state-owned industrial enterprises, development of small, medium and cottage industries, providing policy support to large industries, protecting products' standard and preserving intellectual property etc. In this regard, it has already enacted National Industrial Policy, 2016, Trademarks Act, 2009, Industrial Plots Allotment Policy, 2010, Salt Policy-2011, The Ship Breaking Recycling Rules 2011, Geographical Indication Act, 2013, Guidelines for the Industrial Development Award 2013. In addition, the CIP (Industrial) Selection Policy, 2014, National Motor Cycle Industry Development Policy, 2017, SME Policy and Handy Craft and Cotton Industry Policy have been formulated.

2.0 Major Functions of the Ministry:

- ❖ Upgradation of industrial policies and ensuring environment-friendly industrialization with priorities on mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
- ❖ Increase in investment and safety through international capital investment treaty;
- ❖ Enhancing labour skill and labour productivity through entrepreneurship and industrial management training;
- ❖ Strengthening patent, design and trademarks activities and ensuring protection of intellectual property;

- ❖ Promotion of small, medium and cottage industries, production of fertilizer, sugar and salt under state management;
- ❖ Ensuring local standardisation and justification of goods and services with international standard;
- ❖ Ensuring policy support in making ship and ship re-processing industry and
- ❖ Rendering research activities to make state-owned industries/enterprises profitable.

3.0 Strategic Objectives of the Ministry and their Relevance with Women's Advancement and Rights

- ❖ **Sustainable and climate sensitive industrial growth and development:** A healthy and safe working environment will be created by updating industrial policy and legal framework and that will ensure safety and security to working women. As a result, participation of women as worker as well as entrepreneur in industrial production will be ensured, and thus expedite pace of women advancement and empowerment.
- ❖ **Upgrading the quality of products to international standard:** Quality improvement of local products will extend its market. As half of the population are women this will encourage women to engage in income generating industrial sector.
- ❖ **Environment-friendly sustainable industrial development:** Environment-friendly industrialization will reduce health risks of women workers. Thus, it will ensure good health for mothers and their family members.
- ❖ **Development of high priority Industrial sectors:** Women are engaged directly in agriculture. Development of agricultural sector through industrialization will have a positive impact on women. As a result, women employment would be increased.
- ❖ **Develop entrepreneurs and skilled labour force:** By ensuring women's participation in various training schemes and proportional allocations of industrial plots to women entrepreneurs will improve economic and social status of women.
- ❖ **Ensuring profitable and climate sensitive state-owned industries:** Investment opportunities will be widened by making state-owned enterprises profitable. This will further improve working environment of women.

4.0 Roles and Responsibilities of the Ministry for Women's Advancement and Rights

- 4.1 To achieve the Vision 2021, under the project "Extension of BITAC activities for self employment and poverty alleviation through hands-on technical training highlighting the women" a total of 3376 women got technical training from 2013-14 to 2015-16. Of them a total of 1255 women got employment. The remaining women became self reliant by establishing small and cottage industries. In 2016-17 BITAC has trained 120 women in the field of machines shop, welding and electrical trades with the help of SEIP project. Seventy percent of trained women is employed in different industries. Apart from this, around 200 female students from engineering universities, technical and vocational institutions had undergone attachment training in 2016-17. As instructed from Hon'ble Prime Minister during her last visit in the Ministry three female hostels construction project is initiated in Chottagram, Khulna and Bogura.
- 4.2 Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) has disbursed 2,347 loans amounting BDT. 2539.48 lakhs with 9% interest among women entrepreneurs under the BSCIC 'BINIT' Loan Program by December, 2018.
- 4.3 It provides necessary information on women entrepreneurs to BSCIC, SME Foundation and other financial institutions for simplifying credit processing. BITAC supports trained women entrepreneurs to marketing their products by communicating with various related organizations.
- 4.4 The project entitled "Poverty Reduction through Inclusive and Sustainable Markets (PRISM) Bangladesh" organizes various seminars/symposiums to create awareness among women entrepreneurs regarding legal issues.
- 4.5 It is mandatory to operate Boilers by the certified Boiler Operator according to Boiler Act, 1923. In this context, women are being encouraged to operate the Boiler. Moreover, by ensuring safe operation of boilers installed in different industries workplace safety for women is increasing and that is reducing the risk of accident. This safety measure will accelerate women development and their empowerment.
- 4.6 In order to accelerate rapid industrialization and generating new employment, the NPO (National productivity Organization) will conduct 55 training courses for productivity development in FY 2019-20. In this training course 15% women participation will be ensured. At the same time about 175 women will be given training on productivity development to increase their skill.

5.0 Priority Spending Areas and Benefits for Women's Advancement

Serial No.	Priority Spending Area/Programs	Benefits for Women's Advancement (Direct and Indirect)
1	2	3
1.	Reviving the defunct state-owned enterprises and establishment of new ones according to demand and prospect	It is a necessary to reopen the defunct factories and make them profitable through Balancing Modernization Replacement and Expansion (BMRE) program. On the other hand, employment generation and productivity are possible by establishing ship building industry, plastic industry and printing industry, bee-keeping industry and other industries. By harnessing these opportunities employment generation and productivity are possible. This will create congenial work environment, which will increase the safety and reduce risk of women in the workplace. As a result, participation in women as entrepreneurs and workers in industrial production will be ensured, which will accelerate the pace of women's development and empowerment of women.
2.	Strengthening and expanding the BSCIC industrial Estate/ Economic Zone programmes	With the expansion of the Industrial City establishment program, the industrial development is accelerating due to the creation of industrial infrastructure and other facilities in economically backward areas. Women are given priority in these programs. Increasing women's empowerment Increasing women's empowerment will ensure social security, including improving the quality of life of women's women.
3.	Attaining self-sufficiency in fertilizer production for the security of agriculture.	To attain self-sufficiency in fertilizer production new fertilizer plant will be set-up. In this factory, women workers alongside the men worker will get employment.
4.	Ensuring Pollution free industrialization	It is necessary to shift tanneries, garment and pharmaceutical industries out of Dhaka ensuing infrastructure facilities to reduce pollution in Dhaka city. This will create a work environment which will increase the safety of women. In turn, this will increase women's participation in entrepreneurial activities and industrial production which will accelerate women's development and empowerment.
5.	Training and provide assistance to industrial entrepreneurs	Women entrepreneurs are provided training through SCITI of BSCIC, which will create new entrepreneurs and increase productivity. Ensuring women participation in various training programs and ensuring women entrepreneurship and workers can be achieved by given priority in allocation

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		of plots among women entrepreneurship in BSCIC industrial parks.

6.0 Women's Share in Ministry's Total Expenditure

(Taka in Crore)

Description	Budget 2019-20			Revised 2018-19			Budget 2018-19			Actual 2017-18		
	Budget	Women Share		Revised	Women Share		Budget	Women Share		Actual	Women Share	
		Women	percent		Women	percent		Women	percent		Women	percent
Total Budget	523190	161247	30.82	442541	136036	30.74	464573	136938	29.48	321861	88441	27.48
Ministry Budget	1556	357	22.92	1575	1246	79.14	1352	740	54.79	1306	236	18.04
Development	1218	72	5.92	1087	909	83.61	1059	706	66.74	831	146	17.54
Operating	338	285	84.12	488	337	69.18	293	34	11.61	474	90	18.92

Source: RCGP database

7.0 Success in Promoting Women's Advancement

Development would not be sustainable without women empowerment. For this reason, Ministry of Industries has taken initiatives to engage women in mainstream economy.

- ❖ Small, Micro and Cottage Industry Foundation (SMCIF) of BSCIC through its head office and 64 district offices working on entrepreneurship development, poverty alleviation, increase of investment and production and loan financing to women since 2015 by the following ways:
 - Selection of women entrepreneurs and provisioning of Entrepreneurship Development training have been provided by SMCIF. It provides upto BDT 3.00 lakhs as loan to women working in small, micro and cottage industry. It disbursed total BDT 73.60 crore loan to different stakeholders. A half of the disbursed loan receivers were women and
 - It plays important role in poverty reduction and employment generation of disadvantaged women. SMCIF has created employment for 6,269 women. In addition, SMCIF has been playing an important role in reducing women's oppression and ensuring equal rights of women by making women financially self-reliant.
- ❖ SME Foundation has been implementing various programs aimed at building women as entrepreneurs, creating women-friendly business and generating employment:

- SME Foundation financed as loan to 600 women entrepreneurs in 35 districts of the country. They are amounting to 35% of the total SME funded entrepreneurs;
- It has been providing training on women-friendly businesses, such as, handicrafts, fashion design, beauty parlor, food and catering, food processing, artificial flower and jewellery making, day-care center etc. Apart from these, management training in accounting, negotiation, marketing etc. are also provided to the women to increase the skills and abilities. These trainings are organized by the Foundation by itself and with the help of other women entrepreneurs' organizations;
- Organizing national and regional SME products fair for marketing of products produced by women, arranging buyer-seller match-making, increasing product quality, preparing women entrepreneurs for the participating overseas fair in association with Export Promotion Bureau (EPB);
- Initiating and implementing loan programs for women entrepreneurs through various banks and financial institutions to ensure loan at 9% interest rate without mortgage. Currently, it is providing loans at 9% interest to women entrepreneurs engaged in production and benevolent business through Mutual Trust Bank, Trust Bank and Bank Asia;
- Gender sensitization and financial literacy programs were implemented in various districts (in collaboration with Bangladesh Bank) to create awareness about providing loans to women entrepreneurs and to make bankers sensitized. Besides, the loan matchmaking program was implemented with the bankers to create loan opportunities for women entrepreneurs and
- It makes the women entrepreneurs ready for getting loan. Besides, it provides training those who got loan to increase the efficiency and capacity with the help of banks. Over the past year, around 500 women entrepreneurs have been trained through IDLC and Eastern Bank in different districts of the country.

8.0 Recommendations for Future Activities:

- ❖ Special emphasis will be given on providing adequate safe housing facilities for single women, women dominant family, working and professional women and trainees. In addition, necessary special measures will be taken to provide transportation, housing facilities, rest house, separate living room and day care centers for women, where large number of women are working.

- ❖ Technical training will be given to the women entrepreneurs through different government institutions to increase their skill. New and alternative economic and social opportunities will be created through organizing training among the poor labor force working in industry. Special emphasis will be put on hands-on training program to improve the efficiency of women and thus, alleviate their poverty.
- ❖ Incentives and financial assistance will be put on forth to women entrepreneurs in small, medium and cottage industries for establishing their businesses.
- ❖ To provide skill development training to women entrepreneurs in 13 trades in FY 2018-19 under the initiative of BSCIC Design Center.
- ❖ To train hill districts women entrepreneurs on priority basis in different trades.
- ❖ Providing management development training to women entrepreneurs in the Small and Cottage Industry Training Institute (SCITI).
- ❖ Providing management development training to women entrepreneurs at existing 64 industrial estates at BSCIC and providing skill development training to women entrepreneurs in 15 skill development training centers at BSCIC.
- ❖ The newly established BSCIC industrial park will accommodate 10% of the plot for women entrepreneurs. In bee-keeping industry 50% women will be taken into training. According to the program rules, women entrepreneurs lend money on priority basis.