

Scheme for promotion of women entrepreneurship

*250. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme for the promotion of women entrepreneurship in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the success achieved in the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) and (b) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has informed that they are implementing dedicated schemes for Women Entrepreneurship Development to facilitate employment opportunities for women. These schemes are —Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD) and Mahila Coir Yojana. The TREAD Scheme envisages economic empowerment exclusively for women through trade related training, information and counseling extension activities related to trades, products, services etc. Under TREAD Scheme number of women benefitted in year 2014-15 and 2015-16 are 8265 and 3560 respectively. Mahila Coir Yojana is being implemented exclusively for empowering women in the country by giving training and distribution of coir processing equipments. During the current year (upto October, 2016) 544 women have been trained and 137 rats (coir processing equipments) are distributed.

Apart from above, there are several schemes of Government of India which provide incentives and concessions to women entrepreneurs which *inter-alia* include Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) (National Credit Fund for Women) and Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) under Ministry of Women and Child Development. RMK is an apex micro-finance organization with an objective to provide micro-credit to poor women for various livelihood support and income generating activities. STEP Scheme aims to provide competencies and skill that enable women to become self-employed/entrepreneurs.

Further, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been implementing Adivasi Mahila Sashatikaran Yojana (AMSY). Under this scheme, loans at concessional rate are provided to Scheduled Tribes women for undertaking any income generation activity.

Illegal children homes

251. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any measures to check the prevalence of illegal children homes in the country, if so, the details thereof;