

**Explanation regarding utilisation of Nirbhaya Fund**

†1562. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has issued an explanation regarding utilization of Nirbhaya Fund after publication of information of under-utilization of this fund on various occasions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether other States and Ministries were requested to send innovative proposals regarding enhancement of safety and security of women and reminders for the same were also sent but no such proposal was received in the Ministry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is the nodal Ministry to appraise/recommend proposals and schemes to be funded under Nirbhaya Fund. MWCD also reviews and monitors the progress of sanctioned projects/schemes in conjunction with the line Ministries/Departments. Accordingly, the Empowered Committee set up under the Framework for Nirbhaya Fund reviews the physical and financial progress of the approved projects/schemes including utilization of funds released to the implementing agencies by the concerned Ministries.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has requested all States/UTs *vide* letter dated 25.04.2019 to send innovative proposals for enhancing the safety and security of women under Nirbhaya Fund. In the past also, the States/UTs and Ministries/Departments were requested by the Ministry to send innovative proposals. All the proposals received are considered by the Empowered Committee as per the provisions of Framework for Nirbhaya Fund.

**Beneficiaries of STEP**

1563. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP) has been discontinued;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.