

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;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details thereof, including the number of beneficiaries under the scheme since 2014, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) In 2017, the Expenditure Finance Committee recommended for dropping of STEP Scheme as the objective of the scheme was similar to Skilling and training programme imparted under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship which has sufficient budget to meet needs of different categories of people including women and therefore, overlapping of schemes and duplication of cost need to be avoided. It was extended upto 31st March, 2019 to clear past/committed liabilities and thereafter STEP is discontinued.

(c) Details of beneficiaries covered under STEP scheme during the years 2014-15 to 2016-17 are as under:-

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Beneficiaries Covered	30953	15133	18239

Objectives of POSHAN Abhiyaan

1564. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of POSHAN Abhiyaan;

(b) whether it is a fact that some districts in Andhra Pradesh have been identified under the above Abhiyaan;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of deficiencies identified; and

(d) the steps the Ministry has taken/proposes to take to address those deficiencies, including stunting?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to reduce malnutrition from the country in a phased manner, through a life cycle concept, by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach. The Abhiyaan ensures mechanisms for timely service delivery and a robust monitoring as well as intervention infrastructure. The target of the Abhiyaan is to reduce stunting in children (0-6 years), under-nutrition (underweight prevalence)