

(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)

in children (0-6 years) and Low Birth Weight @ 2% per annum and reduce anaemia among young children (6-59 months), women and adolescent girls @ 3% per annum across the country.

(b) Under the Abhiyaan, all districts of the 36 States/UTs, including Andhra Pradesh, have been covered for implementation in a phased manner.

(c) and (d) The programme has been rolled out in a phased manner to meet these targets in a defined timeframe and the Abhiyaan is monitored at various levels at the National, State, District and Block level. Technology through ICDS-Common Application Software (CAS) is used to strengthen service delivery at ground level. A National Council on India's Nutritional Challenges has been set up under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog for policy direction, review, effective coordination and convergence between Ministries which have a sectoral responsibility for the challenge of nutrition. An Executive Committee has also been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development to provide policy support and guidance to States/UTs under POSHAN Abhiyaan from time to time. The challenges/difficulties faced by the States/UTs in implementing the scheme are addressed through review with States/UTs, video conference, regular meetings and conferences, etc. This is an ongoing process.

Implementation of 'Swadhar Greh' Scheme

1565. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is facing difficulties in implementing Swadhar Greh Scheme due to lack of financial support in acquiring land for this purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to acquire land from its own funds for construction of buildings under the scheme;

(d) if so, the detail thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) to (e) Swadhar Greh caters to the primary need of shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment and care of the women in distress and who are without any