

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1276
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2024

UNDER-UTILISATION OF FUNDS

1276. SHRI M.V.V. SATYANARAYANA:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the gap between allocation and actual spending by the Government on the empowerment and protection of women has been rising for the last six years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to bridge this gap?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (c) : The Government gives utmost priority to the safety, security and empowerment of women in the country. The Government has adopted multi-pronged approach to address the issue of women on a life-cycle continuum basis for their educational, social, economic and political empowerment so that they become equal partners in fast paced and sustainable national development.

Ministry of Women and Child Development being the nodal Ministry for the advancement of women and children, formulates plans, policies and programmes; enacts/ amends legislation, guides and coordinates the efforts of various stakeholders. In the past few years, a number of initiatives have been taken for holistic development and empowerment of women.

The Ministry implements the Umbrella Scheme named as 'Mission Shakti' during the 15th Finance Commission period with effect from the financial year 2022-23, which is aimed at strengthening interventions for women safety, security and empowerment. It seeks to realise the Government's commitment for "women-led development" by addressing issues affecting women on a life-cycle continuum basis and by making them equal partners in nation-building through convergence and citizen-ownership. It seeks to focus on proposing strategies for improving convergence across Ministries/ Departments and at different levels of governance. It also seeks to promote greater participation and support of Panchayats and other local level governance bodies, apart from strengthening digital infrastructure support, last mile tracking and Jan Sahabhagita.

Prior to 'Mission Shakti', the Ministry was implementing various sub-schemes under Mission for Protection and Empowerment of Women (MPEW) viz., Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK), Swadhar Greh, Ujjawala, Working Women Hostel (WWH), Gender Budgeting, Research, Publication & Monitoring, Information and Mass Communication (Media), One Stop Centre (OSC), Universalisation of Women Helplines (WHL), Mahila Police Volunteers (MPV), etc. that aimed at protection and empowerment of women. There were, however, issues in implementation of these sub-schemes, and the full potential of sub-schemes remained largely underutilized. The problems in implementation includes various organs working in silos with inadequate linkage with prevailing legal framework or local facilities available in districts; unevenly placed institutional mechanisms with lack of standardisation; lack of adequately trained staff, appropriate monitoring and convergence mechanisms, etc.

Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes -'Sambal' and 'Samarthya'. In the "Sambal" sub-scheme, which is for safety and security of women, the pre-existing scheme of One Stop Centre (OSC), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) have been included with modifications and a new component of 'Nari Adalat - women collectives for alternative dispute resolution' has been added.

In the 'Samarthya' sub scheme, which is for empowerment of women, pre-existing schemes of Ujjwala, Swadhar Greh and Working Women Hostel (WWH) have been included with modifications- 'Ujjwala and Swadhar Greh homes have been merged and named 'Shati Sadan', while the WWH are named and 'Sakhi Niwas'. In addition, the earlier existing National Creche Scheme has been reformulated and launched as 'Palna'. Both 'Palna' and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) have now been included in Samarthya. A new component for Economic Empowerment i.e. Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) has been added in the Samarthya Scheme with the aim to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women at the Central, State/ UT and District levels for creating an environment in which women are able to realize their full potential. The support under the HEW provides for guiding, linking and hand holding women to various institutional and schematic set ups for their empowerment and development including access to healthcare, quality education, career and vocational counselling/ training, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, backward and forward linkages, health and safety for workers, social security and digital literacy at districts/ Blocks/ Gram Panchayats level across the country.

Year-wise release of funds under the schemes for empowerment and protection of women during the last six years is at **Annexure**.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in the reply to part (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Un-starred Question No. 1276 for answer on 09.02.2024 regarding "Under-utilisation of Fund'

Year-wise release of funds on the basis of demand and utilization of fund by States/ UTs under the schemes for empowerment and protection of women during the last six years are as under:

Financial Year	Amount Released (Rs. in crore)
2018-19	1724.48
2019-20	2689.50
2020-21	1441.11

*Prior to Mission Shakti, for various components i.e. Mahila Shakti Kendra, Swadhar Greh, Beti Bacho Beti Padhao, One Stop Centre, Women Helpline, Working Women Hostel, Ujjawala, PMMVY, Creche etc. for empowerment and protection of women.

Financial Year	Amount Released (Rs. in crore)
2021-22	1912.38
2022-23	2340.15
2023-24	800.91 (till 30.01.2024)

*For various components under Mission Shakti.
