

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2603

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2010

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a): whether the Government has initiated schemes for empowerment of women;

(b): if so, the details thereof and the financial packages provided to various State Governments including Kerala for the purpose; and

(c): the details of funds sanctioned, released and utilized by the State Governments during each of the last three years and the current year so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (c) : Yes Madam, the Ministry of Women & Child Development had launched the scheme of Swayamsidha in 650 blocks across the country in 2000-2001 with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 116.30 crores. It is an integrated scheme for women's empowerment through formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs). The Scheme has ended on 31.3.2008 after achievement of its targets. The Scheme aimed at holistic empowerment of women through a sustained process of mobilisation and convergence of all on-going sectoral programmes by improving access of woman to micro credit, economic resources etc. The programme was implemented through the State Governments.

During the last three years, GOI had released a total amount of Rs.57.36 lakhs to the State government of Kerala for implementation of Swayamsidha scheme (Rs.52.60 lakhs in 2006-07 for implementation of Swayamsidha and Rs.4.76 lakhs in 2007-08 for organising Refresher Training programme respectively).

The Ministry is administering another scheme called Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP) for women. The scheme aims to provide training for skill up gradation, development of entrepreneurial skills, asset creation and mobilization into small viable groups to enable beneficiaries to take up employment-cum-income generation activities. The programme is implemented through implementing agencies; therefore, the question of utilization of funds by the State Governments does not arise.

A Statement showing (State-wise/UT-wise) funds released and utilized under the Swayamsidha scheme, during the last years and the current financial year is attached at Annexure.