

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4648  
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2014  
EMPLOYMENT TO WOMEN  
Nagar Shri Surendra Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has prepared or proposes to prepare any programme to provide education and employment opportunities to the poor, widows and destitute women in the country for their welfare;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the centres where these programmes are being run, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the details of women benefited from these programmes during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (e) the reasons for slow pace of implementation of these programmes during the said period;and
- (f) the details of funds allocated during the current Five Year Plan along with the amount utilised by each State out of the said funds?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): Ministries /Departments of Human Resource Development, Rural Development, Tribal Welfare, Urban Development, Science and Technology and others have women specific programmes to provide education and employment opportunities. This Ministry is implementing a scheme called "Support to Training and Employment Programme(STEP)" to ensure sustainable employment and income generation for marginalized and asset-less rural and urban poor women across the country. The beneficiaries under the project are poor or asset-less marginalized women with special focus on SC/ ST households, women headed households and families below the poverty line. The State/ UT-wise details of women covered under the Scheme during the last 3 years and the current year is at Annex-I.

Ministry has also set up a Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) as a society in 1993 to extend collateral free microcredit for livelihood support and asset creation to women in the unorganized sector. It channelizes microfinance through Intermediary Micro-finance Organisations (IMOs) working in different parts of the country. The State/ UT-wise details of women covered under the Scheme during the last 3 years and the current year is at Annex-II.

(e) & (f): Since STEP is a demand driven programme, proposals under this scheme are submitted by eligible organisation after recommendation of State Government and Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) after due scrutiny approves/ rejects the proposals. The State/ UT-wise details of fund allocation to the implementing agencies during the current Five Year Plan is at Annex-III. The State/ UT-wise details of loan sanctioned by the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh during the current Five Year Plan is at Annex-IV.