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Title: Need to formulate and implement welfare measures and schemes for women under Corporate Social Responsibility Fund Programme of Central PSUs.

DR. RATNA DE (HOOGHLY): Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives should be accorded specific emphasis by every institution by way of spending 2% of their average net profits. Here, I would request the Government to ensure that special emphasis may be given for the welfare of women by taking up implementation of various CSR activities.

Clause 135 of the Companies Bill, 2011, *inter alia*, provides for the specified companies to spend at least 2% of the average net profits of last 3 years in pursuance of the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy. An expert body should overlook specified companies which come under the ambit of the above Clause of the Companies Bill, 2011. There should be a clear cut definition of companies which come under the domain of the CSR. Would the Government provide details of Central PSUs which have spent at least 2% of their net profit towards CSR obligations? What is the percentage of funds spent by Central PSUs on CSR in the last 3 years?

Considerable emphasis and importance should be according to the skill development/skill upgradation programmes for women and girls; vocational and handicraft training for women should be given all the thrust. I am of the firm opinion that these skills and programmes would undoubtedly bring a decisive and discernible change in the scenario of upliftment and empowerment of women in the country.

I would now stress on implementing various welfare schemes aimed at improving the standard of life of women in the country. More and more Central PSUs should come forward to fulfil their obligation by spending 2% of their average net profits for various schemes and programmes to uplift women folk. I hope and trust the Government would seriously look into the aspect of CSR spending on the welfare measures, schemes and programmes aimed at women.