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Title : Need to release funds for the construction of Homes for Women under "Swadhar" Scheme in Maharashtra.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI): The Government of Maharashtra has started implementing the Central Government sponsored Scheme "Swadhar". Under this scheme it is constructing a home at Deonar, for girls and women victims rescued from human trafficking. According to the scheme, 75% cost of construction is to be borne by the Government of India and the rest 25% of the cost is to be borne by the Government of Maharashtra. The total cost of the construction for the same is Rs. 475 lakhs. Accordingly, the share of the Government of India is Rs. 356.25 lakhs, out of which a sum of Rs. 100 lakhs has already been released till date. Government of Maharashtra has also released a sum of Rs. 31.48 lakhs for the said project.

For the phase I and Phase II of the project work was taken up and the Phase I construction is in the last stage. However to start with Phase II, funds are required urgently and due to lack of funds, the progress of the work is being hampered. The Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government vide their letter dated 30th May, 2007 and 16th June, 2008 for the release of the remaining sanctioned amount at the earliest. In this regard, I would draw the attention of Government towards the Hon'ble High Court of Mumbai's direction in criminal writ petition 1694/2003, according to which the said work was supposed to be completed by 4 May, 2009. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to release the remaining amount of Rs. 256.25 lakhs, so that the Maharashtra Government is able to complete the project at the earliest.