

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3354
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.03.2023

IMPLEMENTATION OF NIRBHAYA FUND SCHEMES

3354. SMT. SANGEETA YADAV.:

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

- (a) the name of States that have failed to send/done delays in sending utilisation certificates and progress reports necessary to release Nirbhaya funds in last five years;
- (b) the reasons cited for delay in sending utilization certificates and progress reports; and
- (c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Ministry thereon for ignoring the safety of women?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) : The projects/ schemes appraised by Empowered Committee (EC) under Framework for Nirbhaya Fund are demand driven and have staggered implementation schedule. While some of the appraised projects are directly implemented by Central Ministries/ Departments; majority of the projects are implemented through State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations in which Central Government releases the funds to States/ UTs as per prescribed fund-sharing pattern of respective projects/ schemes. Thereafter, implementation on ground is done by the States/ UTs in the given timeline. Further, there are schemes, which require recurring expenditure for providing services, in respect of which, further funds are released upon receipt of Utilisation Certificates (UCs) and Statement of Expenditure (SoE) from the Implementing Agency/ authority. The UCs are required to be submitted within twelve months of the closure of financial year, in which grant was released. Hence, it is possible that more funds have been actually utilised, but Utilisation Certificates (UCs) and Statement of Expenditure (SoE), as required, as per provisions of General Financial Rules (GFR) have not been submitted by the concerned States/ Implementing Agencies (IAs). The Ministry regularly follows up with the States/ Implementing agencies to submit UCs and SoEs . Various other factors such as time taken in getting required approvals from competent authorities, procedure to be followed for award of contract, disruptions due to unforeseen reasons such as the one created by the Covid 19 etc. have also affected implementation of schemes/ projects.

The Empowered Committee constituted under Nirbhaya Framework also reviews the status of implementation of projects, and expenditure on approved projects from time to time in conjunction with the concerned Ministries/ Departments/ Implementing Agencies. Further, the concerned Ministries / Departments /Implementing Agencies also monitor the progress of implementation at their levels.