

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 71
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

PROPOSAL TO OPEN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRES

*71. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NITI Aayog is proposing to open Women Entrepreneurship Centres to assist women in their projects;
- (b) whether it is a fact that NITI Aayog has earmarked ₹ 10,000 crore for the sole purpose of offering support to women entrepreneurs;
- (c) whether NITI Aayog has selected Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh for setting up of a Regional Centre;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps that will be taken to assist women entrepreneurs in Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh through financial support and mentorship?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a). to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (E) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *71 FOR 02.12.2024 REGARDING PROPOSAL TO OPEN
WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRES BY SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:**

- (a): The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is a public-private partnership platform that was incubated at NITI Aayog aimed at creating an enabling ecosystem for women entrepreneurs in India. In its next phase of growth trajectory and to reach out to the last mile, WEP aims to replicate its unique model at state-levels by establishing state chapters and grow the network through a hub & spoke framework. The first State chapter of WEP has been established in the State of Telangana. There is no specific budget allocation for WEP from the Government of India.
- (b): No, Sir.
- (c): No, Sir.
- (d): Does not arise.
- (e): There is no specific programme/scheme by NITI Aayog for the State of Andhra Pradesh to assist, women entrepreneurship. However, Under the Startup India Initiative of the Department for promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government is implementing various schemes/programmes to promote women entrepreneurship across States and UTs including the State of Andhra Pradesh. These include Women Capacity Development Programme (WING); Fund of Funds for Startups Scheme operated by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) where 10% of the fund is reserved for women-led startups; SuperStree Podcast; etc.
