

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2574
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2023

UNDER-UTILISATION OF FUNDS

2574: SHRI S. VENKATESAN

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

- (a) Whether the Government has taken note of the report of Standing Committee on Women and Children (2022) that has pointed out under-utilisation of funds indicated either poor financial planning or gaps in planning, implementation and monitoring of schemes therefor;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken to overcome the issues pointed out by the Committee in its report?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): Yes, Sir. The 338th Report of Parliament Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports on Demands for Grants 2022-23 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, which was presented to both the Houses of Parliament on 16th March, 2022 observed funds remaining underutilized under schemes or there are gaps in proper planning, implementation and monitoring. The Committee recommends to make endeavour to utilize the allocated funds optimally and judiciously.

(c): In its 338th report, Parliament Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports on Demands for Grants 2022-23 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, appreciates that for the past two years, the pandemic and the related restriction of activities has had a severe effect on the implementation of the Schemes. During the financial year 2021-22, fund utilization was 91.74 percent of Budget allocation as per Revised Estimate (RE).

It is pertinent to mention that all the schemes of this Ministry are Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and are thus implemented by the States/Union Territories (UTs). The budget allocations for these schemes are finalised based on inputs received from the States/UTs regarding their requirements and the trend of expenditure over the previous years. Further, under CSS, States/UTs require to contribute their corresponding share of funds and also need to incur a minimum of 75% expenditure of total available funds, submit the Statement of Expenditure (SoE)/ Utilization Certificates to enable the Ministry to release the central share of funds. Wherever the above conditions are not met, releases of the central share get affected/delayed resulting in unspent balances at the fag end of the financial year.

But all out efforts were made for utilization of funds allocated to the Ministry by taking up the matters with the States/UTs relating to timely furnishing the Utilization Certificates, compliance of new guidelines of Ministry of Finance regarding release of funds and monitoring thereof, utilization of State share as per the schemes norms through review meetings etc. Consequently, during the next financial year i.e. 2022-23, fund utilisation enhanced to 98.32 percent of Budget Allocation as per RE.
