

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2007

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2007

IMPLEMENTATION OF WOMEN PROGRAMME

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware the impact of various development policies, plans and programmes implemented over the last decades have not brought forth a perceptible improvement in the socio-economic status of women, particularly in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the government has conducted any study in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details of outcome of the study; and
- (e) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government for the upliftment of status of women in rural/urban areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a),(b),(c)&(d) The impact of the various developmental policies, plans and programmes implemented by the Government during the last few years has brought forth a perceptible improvement in the socio-economic status of women as manifested in the increase in expectation of life at birth

(62.79 for males and 65 years for females) and sex ratio

(927 in 1991 to 933 in 2001), decline in Maternal Mortality Rate (407 per one lakh live births in 1998 to 301 in 2001), increase in Work Force Participation Rate for women (14.2 in 1991 to 25.7 in 2001)

(e) With a view to uplift the status of women in the society through their socio-economic empowerment, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various schemes and programmes tailored for women, especially those who are poor and living in less developed regions like urban slums and rural areas. The schemes under implementation are: Swayamsidha, Swa-shakti and Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women. These programmes encourage women to form Self Help Groups and also include provision for education, vocational training, credit, marketing linkages, awareness generation regarding health, nutrition, women's legal rights etc. The Central Social Welfare Board implements the scheme of Condensed Courses of Education for Women for providing skill upgradation and vocational training to girls and women above 15 years who had to discontinue school education or could not join mainstream education system due to adverse family circumstances or other constraints. The National Commission for Women has also launched a programme viz. Chalo Gaon ki Ore with a view to empower rural women by making them aware of their rights and health issues common to women.

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh provides micro-credit in a quasi informal manner, whereby it lends to intermediate micro- credit organizations, such as NGO/voluntary organizations, Women Development Corporations, women cooperative societies etc.

Besides, the Government has also introduced gender budgeting to ensure that adequate resources, under developmental Schemes/Programmes being implemented by various Ministries/Departments, get allocated for women beneficiaries.

For providing legal support for the efforts to improve the status of women, the Government is also enacting new legislations and reviewing and amending existing legislations where necessary. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 has been enacted, inter-alia, to provide rights to women in abusive domestic relationships to live in the shared household. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act provides that at least one-third of the jobs created under the Act shall be reserved for women. The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 has been amended to give daughters equal rights as sons in ancestral property, including agricultural land.