

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:764

ANSWERED ON:12.11.2010

GENDER DISPARITY

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

- (a) whether the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has reported on prevailing of gender disparities in India;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government for the removal of gender-disparities completely?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) : As per the Gender Inequality Index released by United Nations Development Programme on November 4, 2010, India ranks 122 (out of 138 countries) with a value of 0.748.

(b) & (c): Government of India has taken several measures comprising policy initiatives as well as schematic intervention to secure gender parity in all aspects of social, economic and political life. There are various programmes, such as Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women, Hostel for Working Women with day care center for children, Swadhar, Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana, The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Livelihood Mission etc. for economic and social empowerment of women. To address the health, nutrition and educational needs of women, there are the National Rural Health Mission, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Education for All).

Government in the Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the National Mission for empowerment of Women for better implementation of the gender specific programmes by facilitating convergence between the schemes and programmes of various ministries and Departments. Ministry of Women and Child Development has also launched in 2010 Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls "SABLA" in 200 districts across the country aiming at girls in the age group 11-18 to empower and improve their social status through nutrition, life skills, home skills and vocational training.

To bring women in the mainstream of political leadership at the grassroots level, Government has reserved 33% of the seats in Panchayati Raj Institutions for women.

The Women Reservation Bill which seeks reservation of one-third seats for women in Parliament and the State Legislative Assemblies was passed by the Rajya Sabha in March 2010. The Bill aims at eliminating gender disparity and discrimination against women by their political empowerment.