

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5230

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2010

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT-2010

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

(a) whether India is ranked below other countries of the region in the areas of child development and gender inequality as per the Human Development Report-2010 published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the steps taken by the Government for improving child development and gender equality in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The Human Development Report-2010 published by United Nations Development Programme has ranked India at 122nd position amongst 169 countries in terms of Gender Inequality Index. The Report does not rank countries in the area of child development.

(c): Government of India has taken several measures comprising policy initiatives as well as schematic interventions for improving child development and to secure gender equality in all aspects of social, economic and political life. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme of the Ministry of Women & Child Development aims at holistic development of children below six years and pregnant and lactating mothers by providing a package of essential services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health checkup, pre-school education, referral services and nutrition & health education.

To secure gender equality and for economic and social empowerment of women, various programmes, such as support to Training and Employment Programme for Women, Hostel for working women with day care centres for children, Swadhar, Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana, The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Shakshar Bharat are being implemented.

The National Mission for Empowerment of Women has been set up 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 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 grass root 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 inequality and discrimination against women by their political empowerment.