

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1922
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2011
GENDER INEQUALITY
Das Shri Khagen

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Report 2011 India ranks 129 out of 146 countries on the Gender Inequality Index;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to address the issues during the remaining period of 11th Plan period and the ensuing Twelfth Plan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b): As per United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Report 2011, India ranks 129 out of 146 countries on the Gender Inequality Index (GII). GI is a composite measure reflecting inequality in achievements between women and men in three dimensions: i) Reproductive Health measured by Maternal Mortality Ratio and Adolescent Fertility, ii) Empowerment measured by share of Parliamentary seats held by each sex and attainment at secondary and higher education and iii) labour market measured by labour force participation rate.

The standard and reasonableness of data used in arriving at the GI may vary from country to country and, therefore, it is not possible to comment on India's relative position in their Report.

(c) & (d): The vision of the Government is that every woman in the country should be able to develop to her full potential and share the benefits of economic growth and prosperity. In this direction the Government has been implementing a number of programmes and schemes for their socio-economic empowerment and for providing reproductive health services, ensuring higher level of education, labour welfare measures etc. Special legislations have also been put in place to tackle crime against women, eradicate social evils, labour welfare etc.

With the objective to secure convergence of schemes / programmes run for the development of women by different Ministries / Departments of Government of India as well as State Governments /UT Administrations, the Government has set up National Mission for Empowerment of Women in March 2010.