

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1911
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2011
GENDER INEQUALITY
Patil Shri C. R. ;Rajendran Shri C.

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) to (c): United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Global Human Development Report 2011 ranks countries on the basis of the Gender Inequality Index (GII). The GI is a composite measure that reflects gender based disadvantage in three dimensions – (i) Reproductive health measured by Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) and Adolescent Fertility Rate; (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 market participation rate. The index shows the loss in potential human development due to inequality between female and male achievements in these dimensions. India ranks 129 out of the 146 countries in the Global Human Development Report, 2011.

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.

The Constitution of India bestows equal rights on both men & women and prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex etc. At the same time, the Constitution allows the State to make affirmative discrimination in favour of women. In the light of the Constitutional mandate the Government has initiated several programmes to improve the status of women in the society.

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. Special legislations have also been put in place to tackle crime against women and eradicate social evils. These initiatives have resulted in an improvement in many development indicators related to women.

The Government had adopted the National Policy for Empowerment of Women on 20th March, 2001 with the objective to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

Given the long term nature of issues which impact on women, need was felt to strengthen the processes that promote all-round development of women by focussing on a coordinated approach for implementation of the schemes of the concerned Ministries/Departments and by creating an enabling environment conducive to social change. With this in view, the Government has set up National Mission for Empowerment of Women on 08.03.2010 which focuses on economic & social empowerment of women and elimination of violence against women, progressively. The objective of the National Mission will be to secure convergence of schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments of Government of India as well as State Governments/UT Administrations.

In order to mainstream gender issues across all sectors, gender budgeting by all Ministries/Departments has been emphasized. So far, 56 Ministries/Departments have set up Gender Budget Cells. In Budget 2011-12, 29 Ministries reflected 36 demands for grants totalling Rs 78,251.02 crore in the GB Statement.

The policies & programmes of the Government will continue to strive for socio-economic empowerment of women.