

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2778  
ANSWERED ON:30.03.2012  
WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT-2012  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether as per the World Development Report-2012 has pointed towards an alarming gap between men and women in regard to economic opportunities in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the gender equality in South Asia including India is lowest in the developing world;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the said Report has also suggested some measures to remove this gender disparity; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): According to the World Development Report-2012, there are gender gaps in South Asia with regard to aspects like labour force participation rate, unpaid family workers, wages, household decision making like how earnings are used, control in large purchases, belonging to a political party, school enrolment, maternal mortality, access to institutional credit etc..

South Asia is not ranked the lowest amongst the regional groupings followed in the Report.

(d) & (e): The Report suggests measures for greater gender equality such as increasing access to education among disadvantaged groups, improving public health by increasing access to clean water, sanitation, waste removal and vector control, increasing access to specialized maternal services, strengthening support for prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, increasing access to child care and early childhood development, investing in rural women, increasing women's access to the justice system, shifting norms regarding violence against women, investing in adolescent girls and boys, generating new information and facilitating knowledge sharing and learning.

Government of India has taken several measures comprising policy initiatives and schematic interventions to secure gender equality in 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 centres for children, Swadhar, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana, The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Sakshar Bharat for economic and social empowerment of women. 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. Further, 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.