

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3515

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2012

INDIA S RANK IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT INDEX

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

- (a) whether India has been ranked very low on women empowerment scale by an international consulting and management firm Booz and Company;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve this situation?

**Answer**

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

(a): India has been ranked at 115th position among 128 countries in terms of Third Billion Index Ranking published by Booz and Company.

(b) to (c): Government of India has taken several measures comprising policy initiatives and schematic intervention to secure gender equality 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 centres for children, Swadhar, Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and National Rural Livelihood Mission 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.

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 disparity and discrimination against women by their political empowerment.