

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2995
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2013
GENDER EQUALITY
Siricilla Shri Rajaiah

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

- (a) whether many countries including Bangladesh are ahead of our country in terms of gender equality;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to correct this situation and promote gender equality in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): As per Human Development Report 2011, published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India is ranked 129th in the Gender Equality Index.

Government implements a number of schemes for empowerment of women, cross cutting various Ministries/ Departments. These include, among others, promoting education, health, skill development and employment. Legislations like the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and 73rd – 74th Amendment of the Constitution mandating 33% reservation for women in the local governance are all measures taken by the Government for promoting gender equality.