

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6149
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2013
STATE OF THE GIRL CHILD IN INDIA
Pradhan Shri Nityananda

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

- (a) whether a report titled "The State of the Girl Child in India" has painted a very dismal picture about the state of girls in our country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon; and
- (c) the appropriate steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the overall development of girl child in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Plan India has brought out a report titled "State of The Girl Child In India, 2011," which reveals inequalities that still exist between boys and girls.

(c): The Government has taken a number of initiatives to benefit girl child in the country. Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA) was brought into force from 1st November, 2007.

SABLA, a Scheme for empowering adolescent girls, has been launched in 200 districts of the country with an objective of empowering girls (11-18 years) by improving their nutritional and health status. The Scheme upgrades various skills like home skills, life skills and vocational skills etc. and generates awareness on various issues among these girls. The girls are also sensitized towards the importance marriage at the right age.

The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) provides care and protection to children in difficult circumstances and children who are in conflict with law.

The Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) is a flag ship programme of Government of India. It provides a package of services comprising of supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, nutrition & health education, immunization, health check-up and referral services. The Scheme, inter alia, aims to improve the nutritional and health status of pregnant and lactating mothers and children below 6 years of age.

'Dhanalakshmi', a scheme for incentivizing birth and survival of the Girl Child is being implemented in 11 Blocks across seven States on pilot basis.

The Government has declared January 24 as 'National Girl Child Day'. This promotes value of girl child and generates awareness for their safety.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Scheme aims at education for all which includes girl child also.