

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1499
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2013
WOMEN ORIENTED PROGRAMMES
Bauri Smt. Susmita

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

- (a) whether India ranks lowest in the world in female participation in the labour force, access to resources, participation in economy, health status, administrative and managerial positions etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Govt. thereto; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) No, India does not rank the lowest in the world. As per "The Global Gender Gap Report 2013" by World Economic Forum, India ranks at 101 in respect of Global Gender Gap Index among 136 countries of the World. This index takes into account the following:

- (i) Economic Participation
- (ii) Educational Attainment
- (iii) Health and Survival
- (iv) Political Empowerment

The table below shows the rank of India during last three years:

Overall	Economic	Educational	Health	and Political
Partici-	Attainment	Survival	Empowerment	
pation				

Gender Gap Index 2013	101	124	120	135	9
(out of 136 countries)					

Gender Gap Index 2012	105	123	121	134	17
(out of 135 countries)					

Gender Gap Index 2011	113	131	121	134	19
(out of 135 countries)					

Note: Lower rank means better rank

Further, as per census, 2011, labour force participation rate for women in India is 30.02% as compared to 24.2% for North Africa and 18.4% for Middle East region having the least participation rate for women.

The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of gender disparity and undertaken a number of initiatives for socio-economic

empowerment of Women. The various Ministries under the Government of India has been implementing several schemes/ programmes through State Government/ UT Administrations in order to improve their status and to increase their participation in various fields. Details of some of the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development are as follows:

- (i) Gender Budgeting has been adopted as a tool for mainstreaming gender perspective at various stages of planning, budgeting, implementation, impact assessment and revisiting of policy/ programme objectives and allocations;
- (ii) The Government of India has also introduced a Gender Budget Statement 20, an important tool for reporting allocations made for women in the Union Budget, with effect from 2005-06;
- (iii) Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) to ensure sustainable employment and income generation for marginalized and asset-less rural and urban poor women across the country;
- (iv) RastriyaMahilaKosh (RMK) to extend micro-finance services to bring about socio-economic upliftment of poor women;
- (v) National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) has been set up with the aim to strengthen the overall processes that promote all round development of Women.
- (vi) Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls-Sabla for all-round development of adolescent girls of 11-18 years by making them self-reliant by facilitating access to learning, health and nutrition;
- (vii) Indira Gandhi MatritvaSahayogYojana (IGMSY) to contribute to better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers.