

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4466
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2014
GENDER DISPARITIES
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh;Singh Shri Uday Pratap

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the gender disparities in healthcare as stated by the Human Development Report, 2014, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (b) whether the Government has published a book/ manual to train ASHA in order to address the gender based discrimination in health sector in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has consulted various stakeholders including States/UTs and issued any guidelines in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State/UT thereon; and
- (e) the further steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a): As per Human Development Report, 2014, India ranks 132 in respect of Gender Development Index and 127 on Gender Inequality Index. The Government accords high priority to the issue of gender disparity and has undertaken a number of initiatives to reduce disparity between men and women. The details of measures taken by Ministry of Women and Child development are as follows:

(i) Gender Budgeting, aimed at translating gender commitments into budgetary commitments, 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, with an objective of influencing and effecting a change in the Ministries' policies, programmes in a way that could tackle gender imbalances, promote gender equality and development and ensure that public resources through the Ministries budgets are allocated and managed accordingly

(ii) A Gender Budget Statement 20, an important tool for reporting allocations made for women in the Union Budget, with effect from 2005-06 has also been introduced.

(iii) A scheme called Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) has been helping to ensure sustainable employment and income generation for marginalized and asset-less rural and urban poor women across the country

(iv) Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) has been extending micro-finance services to bring about socio-economic upliftment of poor women

(v) A 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 is being implemented 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 Matritva Sahayog Yojana (IGMSY) has been contributing towards better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers

(viii) Further, as a new initiative to increase the GDI, the Government recently announced a new scheme namely 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' to be implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development.

(b): A training handbook for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) under the National Health Mission titled "Mobilizing for Action on Violence against Women" has been developed by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The Handbook is intended to build awareness of the ASHAs on issues of gender based discrimination and violence and health consequences. It covers forms and contributing factors related to gender based discrimination and violence, at different stages of a woman's life cycle, social vulnerabilities of women and girls, signs and symptoms, consequences and role of ASHA in addressing

issues of violence. This module focuses on building the ASHA's knowledge and skills on health issues related to violence.

(c)&(d): The handbook for ASHAs has been developed in consultation with state nodal officers and is based on their inputs. Print ready versions of the handbook have been circulated to all states to enable them to adapt the handbook to their local contexts. Training of Trainers in modules including the Handbook on Mobilizing for Action on Violence against Women has been completed for 18 States.

(e): Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also developed modules for sensitization of the health professionals on gender disparities.