

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 923**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2020

**GLOBAL GENDER GAP INDEX**

923: SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:  
SHRI N. REDDEPPA:  
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH:

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

- (a) whether India has slipped to the 112<sup>th</sup> rank from its 108<sup>th</sup> position in 2018 on the Gender Gap Index published by World Economic Forum and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that women have access equal rights, opportunities and access to resources ;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of low participation of women in terms of labour force, educational attainment and political empowerment across the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government is planning to bring amendments in the policies to scale up efforts that have been initiated to encourage and increase women participation in different spheres; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) Global Gender Gap Index, published by the World Economic Forum in 2018 ranks 149 countries on their status of gender equality through various parameters. On this index, India ranked 108<sup>th</sup> on its performance on gender equality. In the Global Gender Gap Index 2020, the number of countries increased to 153 (an increase of 4 countries since the previous year), in which India's ranking was 112<sup>th</sup>. India's score has moved from 0.665 in 2018 to 0.668 in 2020.

(b) to (e) Government of India has given utmost priority to end the gender based inequities, reducing disparity between men and women, improving socio-economic status of women and increasing their participation in various fields. Some of the major initiatives taken by Government of India to ensure that women gain equal rights, opportunities and access to resources can be seen as below :

- (i) **Constitutional Provisions** – Articles such as Article 14, Article 15 (3), Article 39A, and Article 42 make special provisions for rights of women to ensure gender equality.
- (ii) **Legislative Provisions** – Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961; Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostics Act (PCPNDT), 1994; Sexual Harassment of Women and Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal ) Act, 2013; Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (Amended in 2017) aimed at mandating women's rights.

### (iii) Schemes/Programmes –

**Economic Participation & Opportunity:** Various programmes/Schemes that are intended towards women development and empowerment are:

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) ensures the protection, survival and education of the girl child.
- Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) aims to empower rural women with opportunities for skill development and employment.
- Working Women Hostel (WWH) ensures the safety and security for working women.
- Mahila Police Volunteers(MPV) envisages engagement of Mahila Police Volunteers in States/UTs who act as a link between police and community and facilitates women in distress.
- Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) is an apex micro-finance organization that provides micro-credit at concessional terms to poor women for various livelihood and income generating activities.
- The National Crèche Scheme ensures that women take up gainful employment through providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment to the children.
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandna Yojna aims to provide maternity benefit to pregnant and lactating mothers.
- Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana aims to provide housing under the name of the woman also.
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) focuses on creating opportunities for women in skill development, leading to market based employment.
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana empowers women and protects their health by providing LPG cylinder free of cost.
- Pradhan Mantri Sukanya Samridhi Yojna- Under this scheme girls have been economically empowered by opening their bank accounts.
- Female Entrepreneurship: To promote female entrepreneurship, the Government has initiated schemes like Stand Up India and Mahila e-Haat (online marketing platform to support women entrepreneurs/ SHGs/NGOs). Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) provides access to institutional finance to micro/small business.

### **Educational Attainment:**

Several steps and initiatives have also been taken up in school education system such as National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 and flagship programme like Samagra Shiksha and the subsequent Right to Education Act (RTE). Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) have been opened in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs). Gender Sensitisation is also done which includes Gender sensitization Module- part of In-service training, Construction of toilets for girls, construction of residential quarters for female teachers and curriculum reforms.

### **Political Participation:**

Also, 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. Capacity Building of Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) programme by Ministry of Women and Child is conducted with a view to empower women to participate effectively in the governance processes.