

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2557
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2023

WORLD BANK REPORT ON CONDITIONS FOR WORKING WOMEN

2557: SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR

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

- a. whether Government is aware that the World Bank's 2023 report on Women, Business and the Law places Indian women's position quite low at 74.4 in the index of life cycle of working women, while Nepal scores higher and better;
- b. whether Government proposes to examine the observations made in the World Bank report; and
- c. whether it plans to implement the recommendations that advocates laws to ensure parity in pay, pension, inheritance and property rights for working women?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Government of India is aware of the World Bank's 2023 report on Women, Business and the Law (WBL). The WBL report of 2023 indicates no change in score with respect to India as compared to WBL report of 2022. However, the Government does not endorse the observations made in the report and not validate the methodology or the sources of information used in the report by the World Bank. One incongruity is that the World Bank report has not properly analysed the Indian Laws pertaining to parity in pay between men and women. In India, 'the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976' that has subsequently been subsumed under 'Code on Wages, 2019' provides for the payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work or work of similar nature.

In the past few years, several measures have been taken in this direction that includes increase in paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks through 'the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017'. It also mandates facility of crèche in every establishment having fifty or more employees along with common facilities and allow four visits a day to the crèche by the woman. Several steps have been undertaken for promoting women's entrepreneurship. Under Skill India Mission, PM Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan, Stand Up India and Start Up India, majority of the beneficiaries are women. Under MUDRA Yojana, 68% of the beneficiaries are women. The Government is providing all necessary support to women Self Help Groups for promoting economic empowerment under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).

Further, review of laws, policies and programmes is a continuous process and the Government takes appropriate measures, from time to time, based on the experience gathered during the implementation and feedback received from stakeholders. The Government of India is fully committed to promote gender equality in all domains and remove all forms of discrimination and barriers that hinder the holistic development and empowerment of women.
