

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3188
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.08.2025

IMPORTANCE OF EMPOWERING WOMEN

3188 SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM:

Will the Minister of *women and child development* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government recognizes the importance of empowering women as a strong foundation for building a Viksit Bharat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any scheme to enhance women's participation in nation-building;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government is taking steps to identify and recognize women at the grassroots level for their contributions to social and economic development;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by Government to empower women?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) to (g) : The Government gives utmost priority to the safety, security and empowerment of women in the country. To this end, the Government has adopted multi-pronged approach to address the issue of welfare of women on a life-cycle continuum basis for their educational, social, economic and political empowerment so that they become equal partners in the process of national development. This 'women led development' is essential for realising the goal of a developed India, or 'Viksit Bharat', by 2047.

In the past few years, a number of initiatives have been taken for holistic development and empowerment of women. The Government of India implements various schemes / programmes for welfare of women/ girls in which community participation plays an important role.

Under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), nearly 10.29 crore women are connected with around 91.75 lakh women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) that are transforming rural socio-economic landscape in several innovative and

socially and ecologically responsible ways, also availing governmental support including through collateral free loans.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) mandates that at least one third of the jobs generated under the scheme (MGNREGS) should be given to women.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) Scheme focuses on woman ownership of houses and it has been decided that the allotment of house shall be made in the name of the woman or jointly in the name of the husband and wife, except in the case of a widower/ unmarried/ separated person/ transgender.

National Agriculture Market or e-NAM, an online trading platform for agricultural commodities is helping women overcome or compensate the barriers they face in accessing markets. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is playing a significant role to uplift women cooperatives as large number of women are engaged and involved in cooperatives dealing with activities related to food grain processing, plantation crops, oilseeds processing, fisheries, dairy & livestock, spinning mills, handloom and power loom weaving, Integrated Cooperative Development Projects, etc. Other schemes include Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), Samagra Shiksha, Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojna, Swachh Vidyalaya Mission, Swachhh Bharat Mission, etc. In order to enhance the employability of female workers, the Government is providing training to them through a network of Women Industrial Training institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes. To ensure economic independence of women through skill development and vocational training, the Government has also introduced Skill India Mission.

Through the 73rd amendment to the Constitution of India 1/3rd seats in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been reserved for women. However, today there are more than 14.50 lakh Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) in PRIs, which is approximately 46% of the total elected representatives. The Government is providing training to the EWRs from time to time to build on their capacity.

The greatest leap forward for women empowerment and representation of women in the highest political offices in the country has been the notification by Government of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 (Constitution One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 on 28 September, 2023, for reservation of one-third of seats for women in the House of People (Lok Sabha) and in the State Legislative Assemblies including Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the country, for the welfare of women and children, which are clubbed into three umbrella missions viz. (1) Mission Shakti, for safety, protection and empowerment of women; (2) Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 for improving nutrition & health indicators in the country; and (3) Mission Vatsalya, for protection and welfare of children/girls in difficult circumstances. The details of the schemes are as under:

(i) Mission Shakti: The ‘Mission Shakti’ aims at strengthening interventions for women safety, security and empowerment. It seeks to focus on proposing strategies for improving convergence across Ministries/ Departments and at different levels of governance. Mission Shakti comprises of two verticals ‘Sambal’ and ‘Samarthya’ for safety and security of women and empowerment of women respectively.

The “Sambal” vertical is for safety and security of women. It has the schemes of One Stop Centres (OSCs), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and Nari Adalat.

- a. **One Stop Centres (OSCs)-** An institution located at district level offering under one roof immediate help to women in distress such as temporary shelter, medical & police assistance, counselling and legal support.
- b. **Women Helpline (WHL)-** The Women Helpline 181 provides toll-free 24-hours telecom service to women seeking support and information. It is also integrated with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) 112 for all emergency services and its integration with all One Stop Centres is in progress.
- c. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)-** BBBP is a mindset change program helping in generating awareness for valuing the girl child through multi-sectoral interventions.
- d. **Nari Adalat-** An experimental platform providing women with an alternative Grievance Redressal Mechanism at Gram Panchayat level by negotiation, mediation, and reconciliation with mutual consent for speedy, accessible, and affordable justice.

The “Samarthya” vertical is for empowerment of women. It has the schemes of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Shakti Sadan, Sakhi Niwas, Palna and SANKALP : Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW).

- a. **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)-** PMMVY is a Centrally Sponsored Maternity Benefits Scheme under which cash incentive of ₹5,000/- is provided directly to the Bank/ Post Office account of the beneficiary in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode for first child. Cash incentive of ₹6,000/- is also provided under PMMVY to eligible beneficiaries for second child being a girl child.
- b. **Shakti Sadan-** Shakti Sadan is an Integrated Relief and Rehabilitation Home for the women in distress situations and difficult circumstances.
- c. **Sakhi Niwas-** The Sakhi Niwas Scheme (Working Women Hostel) is a demand driven centrally sponsored scheme, under which funds are released directly to the States/UTs and aims to promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women in urban, semi-urban and even rural areas where employment opportunity for women exist.
- d. **Palna-** Palna scheme through day-care crèche facilities provides safe and secure place for the children. Creche services formalise the child care facilities hitherto considered as part of domestic work and uses Aanganwadi infrastructure for ensuring delivery of care facilities till the last mile.

- e. **SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW)**- The SANKALP: HEW serves as a vehicle to bridge the information and knowledge gap regarding schemes and facilities available for women. It also serves as a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) for all components under Mission Shakti.

(ii) Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0): Under this programme, Anganwadi Services Scheme, POSHAN Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent Girls has been reorganized into 3 primary verticals: (i) Nutrition Support for children below the age of 6 years, Pregnant Women, Lactating Mothers and Adolescent Girls (14 -18 years); (ii) Early Childhood Care and Education [3-6 years] and (iii) Anganwadi Infrastructure including modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadi.

In the 15th Finance Commission, these components have been reorganised under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 for effective implementation of the scheme and for better nutritional delivery to end beneficiaries. Directions have been issued to States/UTs to co-locate Anganwadi Centres, which are running on rent without sufficient infrastructure, at nearby Primary Schools, where space is available.

Regular monitoring of growth parameters is essential for identifying children who may be malnourished and making timely interventions. Therefore, Anganwadi centres have been equipped with Growth Monitoring devices like infantometer, stadiometer, weighing scale- infant, weighing scale – Mother & Child.

(iii) Mission Vatsalya: Mission Vatsalya (erstwhile Child Protection Services Scheme (ICPS)) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) which is implemented through States/Union Territories (UTs) to deliver services for better outreach and protection for Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) which include Institutional Care and Non-Institutional Care in a mission mode with the objective to: (i) Support and sustain Children in difficult circumstances (ii) Develop context-based solutions for holistic development of children from varied backgrounds (iii) Provide scope for green field projects for encouraging innovative solutions (iv) Cement convergent action by gap funding, if required.

The scheme also provides for emergency outreach services (24x7) for children in difficult circumstances through Child Helpline (1098).

These initiatives are transformative schemes designed to address critical social issues about women & children and bring about lasting social change in the country. They target key areas of welfare & development of women and children aiming to create a more inclusive, equitable, just and supportive society.
