

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5034**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.03.2017

**WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR COUNCIL**

5034 SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government intends to set up a Women Entrepreneurship Council;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status thereof;
- (c) the issues that the said council will deal with; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure economic development of women?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Yes Madam, the Government intends to set up National Women Entrepreneurship Council (NWEC).
- (b) & (c) National Women Entrepreneurship Council (NWEC) will promote entrepreneurship as it would be the umbrella organization for socio-economic gender parity, financial inclusion and economic empowerment of women in India. However, no final decision has been taken as yet.
- (d) The existing online e-marketing portal, Mahila E-haat aims at tapping the potential of the women population as also for providing better avenue to markets for selling their products/services, thereby accelerating growth, providing opportunities and expanding India's reach domestically and also internationally. In addition to above, the Ministry of Women & Child Development is implementing following schemes to ensure economic development of women in the country:
  - i. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) to ensure sustainable employment and income generation for marginalized and assets-less rural and urban poor women across the country;
  - ii. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) to extend micro-finance services to bring about socio-economic upliftment of poor women;
  - iii. National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) to strengthen the overall processes that promote all round development of Women;

- iv. Scheme for Adolescent Girls-Sabla for all-round development of adolescent girl of 11-18 years by making them self-reliant by facilitating access to learning, health and nutrition;
- v. Working Women Hostels for ensuring safe accommodation for women working away from their place of residence;
- vi. Maternity Benefit Programme has been contributing towards better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers;
- vii. 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;

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