

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1301**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2018

**GENDER GAP**

1301. SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY

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

- (a) the schemes formulated by the Government to bridge gender gap between men and women in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has taken cognizance of low ranking of India in the Gender Gap Index of World Economic Forum Report;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for low ranking of India.
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the further steps taken by the Government to bridge the gender gap to ensure better health and education of women?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR)

- (a) to (e) The Global Gender Gap Report 2017 was published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), which is a Switzerland based nonprofit organization. This report provides the scores on Global Gender Gap Index (GGI), which examines the gap between men and women in four fundamental categories namely, Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival and Political Empowerment. On economic participation index, India is ranked at 139, on Educational attainment 112, Health and Survival 141 & political empowerment at 15. The report expressed widening of gender gap in political empowerment, health and basic literacy as the reason for India's decline in rank of the Global Gender Gap.

The Government of India implements various schemes/programmes to reduce gender gap in all aspects of social, economic and political life. The schemes being implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development for welfare of women are i) Beti Bacho Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme to improve the Child Sex Ratio (CSR), in the age group of 0-6 years and enabling girl child education, ii) Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls "SABLA" aims at girls in the age group 11-18, to empower and improve their social status through better nutrition, life and home skills and vocational training, iii) Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), for extending micro-finance services for social and economic upliftment of poor women, iv) Mahila e-Haat, a unique marketing

online platform for women entrepreneurs/ SHGs/ NGOs that provides direct link with customer through the digital platform v) Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra, which will empower rural women through community participation to create an environment in which they realise their full potential.

The Government also runs various employment generation schemes for beneficiaries including women like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) implemented by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) scheme run by Ministry of Rural Development, and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) implemented by Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation. To enhance skilling programmes of youth including women, a new Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has been established to coordinate the skill activities across Ministries. The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an advisory to all State Governments to increase representation of women in police to 33% of the total strength.

Ministry of Human Resource Development has taken several steps to reduce the gender gap in education. They are namely National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005, the flagship programme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the subsequent Right to Education Act (RTE). Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) have been opened in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) where the female rural literacy is below the national average to provide for residential upper primary schools for girls. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan(RMSA), to enhance the enrolment for classes IX-X by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, improving quality of education imparted at secondary level.

For improving the political participation, 33% reservation for women in panchayats has been mandated by law in all States. Also, it may be mentioned that the political participation in terms of voting share of women across the country has increased over the years.

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