

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 19
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2024

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any measures to spread awareness among the masses regarding girl child abandonment through TV shows and other communication mediums;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India's achievements in pilot representation, STEM education and financial inclusion have contributed to its recognition as global Leader in gender equality;
- (d) if so, the details of specific initiatives and programmes that have been instrumental in driving India's positive trajectory in promoting women's empowerment; and
- (e) the names of the States which have earned unprecedented success under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme during last three years?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme was launched on 22nd January, 2015 as a tri-ministerial effort of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to address the issue of decline in CSR in country along with related issues of empowerment of girls and women over a life cycle continuum basis.

In the 15th finance commission period the scheme is being implemented as a component of the Sambal sub scheme of Mission Shakti. The scheme has been expanded to cover all the districts of the country through multi-sectoral interventions focused on zero-budget advertising and encouraging greater spend on activities that have on ground impact. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Minority Affairs have also been added as partner ministries with a view to undertake a special drive and awareness programme for promoting skilling among girls.

Government has been making consistent efforts under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme at all levels to generate awareness to stop sex selection at birth and encourage positive action to support education, growth, development and rights of the girl child.

Ministry of Women and Child Development collaborated with CRPF for a women bike expedition named Yashaswini wherein three teams, each comprising 25 Royal Enfield (350 cc) motorbikes and 50 bikers began the journey from Srinagar, Shillong and Kanyakumari respectively and converged at the Statue of Unity, Ekta Nagar, for the finale event on 31 October 2023 after covering a total distance of more than 10,000 km. Women Bikers displayed the BBBP logo on their uniforms and banners, endorsing the cause throughout the country. During the expedition, 22 events under BBBP were also organized across the country.

Ministry of Women and Child Development also supported Colors TV for their Show named 'Doree', which aims to generate awareness about the prevalent social evil of Girl Child Abandonment.

(c) & (d) The Central Government has taken various initiatives and programmes that have been instrumental in driving India's positive trajectory in promoting women's empowerment.

The components of Mission Shakti implemented by the Ministry have been designed in such a way that it takes care of the women's need on life cycle continuum basis. Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes - 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya'. While the "Sambal" sub-scheme is for safety and security of women, the "Samarthya" sub-scheme is for empowerment of women. The components of 'Sambal' sub-scheme consist of erstwhile schemes of One Stop Centre (OSC), Women Helpline (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) with a new component of Nari Adalats - women's collectives to promote and facilitate alternative dispute resolution and gender justice in society and within families.

Due to similar initiatives in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, there is a significant upswing in the enrolment of women pilots in India. In the year 2023, total number of commercial pilot licenses (CPL) issued are 1622 of which 294 CPLs were issued to women constituting 18 percent of total CPLs issued. There is an increase of 22 percent in number of CPLs issued to women in the year 2023 (294 CPLs) as compared to year 2022 (240 CPLs). At present, the total number of women pilots employed with various Indian scheduled and non- scheduled operators is approximated at 14 percent of the total flight crew strength.

Education falls under the concurrent list and thus, both Central and State Government take various initiatives to ensure quality higher education in the country. To promote female students to pursue higher education and research, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has introduced Pragati Scholarship and TechSaksham Program (TSP) for women. The Pragati Scholarship was started in the year 2014 to award scholarship to meritorious girl students to encourage them to pursue higher technical education. AICTE is awarding 10000 scholarships (Pragati) every year to the girls entering in the technical education. TechSaksham Program is a top-up program that uses experiential learning to develop employability skills amongst underserved female students pursuing higher technical education.

With a view to improve female enrolment in the Undergraduate Programmes in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and National Institutes of Technology (NITs), supernumerary seats were created which increased the female enrolment from 8% in 2018-19 to 20% in 2020-21.

Other Ministries/ Departments like the Department of Biotechnology, has initiated a special programme namely the Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (BioCARE) to promote and support women in science which aims at providing support to Doctoral and Post-doctoral research project grants to women scientists. The Department of Science and Technology is empowering women in STEM fields through its umbrella scheme 'Women in Science and Engineering-KIRAN (WISE-KIRAN)'. The Vigyan Jyoti programme under the WISE-KIRAN Scheme aims to encourage meritorious girls to pursue higher education and careers in STEM fields which have a lower representation of women. The Vigyan Jyoti Programme is being implemented since 2020 in 250 districts of the country and benefitted around 50000 girls of Class IX-XII. Apart from various STEM-related activities, parent-student counselling is part and parcel of the Vigyan Jyoti Programme, to sensitize parents about the importance and benefit of STEM education for girls as a better career perspective. The Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) is the implementing partner of this programme. Another programme, 'Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI)', is also playing an important role, in sensitization of higher educational institutions to adopt a more gender-sensitive approach in STEM education and career to achieve gender equality.

With these and other measures, there has been consistent improvement in the enrolment of female students in STEM Courses. As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), the number of Female students enrolled in STEM Courses has increased from 35.14 Lakh in 2014-15 to 41.93 Lakh in 2021-22 (Provisional), which is a significant increase of 19.3%.

The Government is implementing Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY – NRLM) across the country in a mission mode with the objective of organizing the rural poor women into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and continuously nurturing and supporting them till they attain appreciable increase in incomes over a period of time and improve their quality of life and come out of abject poverty. The Mission aims to reach out to 10 crore women from rural households by Financial Year 2023-24. It is being implemented in all the States and Union Territories, except Delhi and Chandigarh.

Under DAY-NRLM, SHGs and their federations are empowered economically by providing them funding support in the form of Revolving Fund and Community Investment Fund. This helps them in creating a corpus, from which the SHG members can avail loans for various purposes including for promotion of livelihoods. In addition, the SHGs are also being facilitated for Bank linkage for accessing credit at subsidized rates of interest.

In addition, the Mission has launched BC Sakhi model wherein SHG members are trained, certified and deployed as Business Correspondent Agents (BCAs). The BC Sakhi provides last mile delivery of financial services including deposit, credit, remittance, disbursement of pensions & scholarships, payment of MGNREGA wages and enrolment under insurance and pension schemes.

Ministry of Rural Development is also implementing Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), a sub-scheme under the DAY-NRLM with the objective to help

the SHG households to set-up enterprises at the village level in non-agricultural sectors. The Mahila Kisans are also being supported for promotion of Agro Ecological Practices (AEP) under the Mission. Further, the SHGs/SHG members are also being supported through value chain interventions for better return on SHG produce.

DAY-NRLM aims to organize rural poor women into self-help groups (SHGs) and build their capacities to take charge of their own development and to empower rural communities through following activities -

Awareness among SHG members on various development aspects viz., health, nutrition, sanitation, existing government schemes, gender issues, citizen rights & entitlements and building the women's capacities in planning, decision making, problem solving and conflict resolution skills.

The mission has also developed various institutional mechanisms for echoing women's opinions, viz., Village organisations, Gender forums, Village coordination committees, etc. and providing hand-holding and nurturing support to SHG federations in developing convergence with various line departments and agencies.

Government has taken various steps for promoting women empowerment through its financial inclusion interventions, which inter-alia includes following social security and credit schemes.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched as the National Mission for Financial Inclusion on 28.8.2014. It aimed to ensure comprehensive financial inclusion of all households in the country by providing universal access to banking facilities with at least one basic bank account to every household, financial literacy, and social security cover.

Progress under PMJDY (as on 17.01.2024):

- PMJDY Accounts: 51.55 crore
- Deposit in accounts: Rs 2,17,620 crore
- Women accounts: 28.60 crore (55.5%)

The Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) is a one-year personal accident insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering coverage for death/disability due to an accident and is available to people in the age group of 18 to 70 years having a bank account who give their consent to join and enable auto-debit.

Progress under PMSBY (as on 17.01.2024):

- Cumulative enrolment: 42.45 crore (Approx 50% women enrolment)

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) is a one-year life insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering coverage of Rs. Two lacs for death due to any reason and is available to people in the age group of 18 to 50 years having a bank account. Progress under PMJJBY (as on 17.01.2024):

- Cumulative enrolment: 19.18 crore (Approx 50% women enrolment)

The Hon'ble Prime Minister launched Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) on 08.04.2015 with an objective of providing access to institutional collateral free credit to micro enterprises up to Rs.10 lakh.

Progress under MUDRA (as on 19.01.2024 since launch of scheme)

- Total accounts sanctioned: 46.03 crore
- Women accounts: 31.2 crore (68%)

The Stand-Up India Scheme launched on 5th April 2016 aims to promote entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe and Women by facilitating bank loans of value between Rs.10 lakh and Rs.1 crore to at least

one SC/ ST borrower and one-woman borrower per bank branch of Scheduled Commercial Banks for setting up Greenfield enterprises in trading, manufacturing, services sectors & activities allied to agriculture. Progress under Stand-Up India (as on 25.01.2024 since launch of scheme)

- Accounts sanctioned: 2.16 lakh
- Women accounts: 1.82 lakh (84%)

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) To encourage the workers in unorganized sector to voluntarily save for their retirement, the Government launched the Atal Pension Yojana (APY), which provides a defined pension, depending on the contribution, and its period. Under the APY, the subscribers would receive the fixed minimum pension of Rs. 1000 per month, Rs. 2000 per month, Rs. 3000 per month, Rs. 4000 per month, Rs. 5000 per month, at the age of 60 years, depending on their contributions, which itself would be based on the age of joining the APY. The minimum age of joining APY is 18 years and maximum age is 40 years. Therefore, minimum period of contribution by any subscriber under APY would be 20 years or more.

Progress under Atal Pension Yojana (as on 29.01.2024)

- Total subscribers: 6.20 crore
- Women accounts: 2.87 crore.

The Government has taken a number of steps to support MSMEs, including women owned enterprises in the country and for increasing participation by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises such as:

Special drives for registration of women owned MSMEs under Udyam Registration Portal have been undertaken.

To benefit women entrepreneurs, the Public Procurement Policy was amended in 2018 mandating Central Ministries/Departments/ Undertakings to procure at least 3% of their annual procurement from women entrepreneurs.

To support Women Entrepreneurs under Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro & Small Enterprises, two provisions have been introduced for women entrepreneurs w.e.f. 01.12.2022. These are:

- 10% concession in annual Guarantee fees; and
- 10 % additional Guarantee coverage of up to 85%, as against the
- 75% for other entrepreneurs.

To encourage entrepreneurship among women, Ministry of MSME implements 'Skill Upgradation & Mahila Coir Yojana' under Coir Vikas Yojana, which is an exclusive training program aimed at skill development of women artisans engaged in the Coir sector.

Ministry of MSME also implements Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), which is a major credit-linked subsidy programme aimed at generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of microenterprises in the non-farm sector by helping traditional artisans and rural/urban unemployed youth.

Participation of women entrepreneurs in trade fairs under Procurement & Marketing Support Scheme is subsidized 100% vis-a-vis 80% for other entrepreneurs.

"SAMARTH" initiative has been launched to support women-owned MSMEs with the objective of providing Skill Development and Market Development Assistance to women and to train more than 7,500 women candidates from rural and sub-urban areas in the FY 2022-23. Under SAMARTH, aspiring and existing women entrepreneurs have been provisioned with 20% Seats in free Skill Development Programs organized under Skill Development Schemes of the Ministry; 20% of MSME Business Delegations for domestic & international exhibitions under the schemes for Marketing Assistance implemented by Ministry; and 20% discount on annual processing fee on National Small Industries Corporation's Commercial Schemes.

e) Sex Ratio at Birth has been set as a monitoring parameter for the progress of BBBP Scheme. As per the latest available report of Health Management Information System (HMIS) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, an improving trend of 15 points at National level from 918 (2014-15) to 933 (2022- 23) has been observed. State/UT wise SRB for last three years is at **Annexure**.

Annexure

Statement referred to in reply to Part (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 19 for 02.02.2024 regarding Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

S No.	State/ UT wise Sex Ratio at Birth during last three years			
	Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	A & N Islands	961	963	962
2	Andhra Pradesh	952	950	945
3	Arunachal Pradesh	933	946	932
4	Assam	944	941	955
5	Bihar	915	898	894
6	Chandigarh	941	892	902
7	Chhattisgarh	961	960	958
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	883	889	914
9	Daman & Diu			
10	Delhi	927	924	915
11	Goa	949	953	956
12	Gujarat	918	927	928
13	Haryana	927	920	918
14	Himachal Pradesh	944	941	932
15	Jammu & Kashmir	933	940	950
16	Jharkhand	935	935	934
17	Karnataka	949	940	947
18	Kerala	958	968	965
19	Lakshadweep	948	939	954
20	Madhya Pradesh	939	929	932
21	Maharashtra	940	933	932
22	Manipur	954	945	949
23	Meghalaya	943	947	965
24	Mizoram	962	994	934
25	Nagaland	897	924	915
26	Odisha	936	938	936
27	Puducherry	985	957	947
28	Punjab	926	928	927
29	Rajasthan	946	946	946
30	Sikkim	929	981	966
31	Tamil Nadu	948	947	946
32	Telangana	933	938	935
33	Tripura	944	950	949
34	Uttar Pradesh	932	934	932
35	Uttarakhand	940	939	938
36	West Bengal	949	943	944
