

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3394
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2022

GLOBAL GENDER GAP INDEX

3394. DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware the India ranks 135 out of 146 countries in Global Gender Gap Index by World Economic Forum;
- (b) the initiatives taken to improve economic and political empowerment and safety and security of women;
- (c) whether the rural women suffer more from political and economic divide, if so, the steps being taken to improve political and financial condition of women;
- (d) whether the Government plans to work on time-use survey reports to bridge divide between men and women, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has any plan on reducing current domestic burden on women to incentivise them to increase economic participation and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Global Gender Gap Report 2022 released by the World Economic Forum on 13th July 2022 ranks India at 135 out of 146 countries on the Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI) with a score of 0.629 out of 1. The Global Gender Gap Report 2021 ranked India at 140 out of 156 countries with a score of 0.625.

(b) Government of India has given utmost priority to economic and political empowerment and safety and security of women. The newly launched 'Mission Shakti' is an umbrella scheme for the safety, security and empowerment of women for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-26. Some major initiatives taken by Government of India are as follows:

Economic Empowerment

- **Sakhi Sadan** (Working Women's Hostel) scheme provides safe and affordable housing for working women and thereby encourages more women to seek employment.

- **Palna**, the National Crèche Scheme, ensures that women take up gainful employment through providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment to the children.
- **Hubs for Empowerment of Women (HEW)** at National, State and District level have been approved under the new Mission Shakti. The support under HEW is available for guiding, linking and hand holding women to various institutional and schematic set-up for their empowerment and development including equal access to healthcare, quality education, career and vocational counselling/training, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, backward and forward linkages, health and safety for workers, social security and digital literacy at various levels across the country.
- **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** has been initiated by Government, inter alia, for facilitation self-employment. Under PMMVY, collateral free loans upto Rs. 10 lakh are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals to enable them to setup or expand their business activities. Majority of the beneficiaries under this yojna are women.
- **Stand Up India** scheme promotes entrepreneurship amongst women, SC and ST categories, i.e., those sections of the population understood to be facing significant hurdles due to lack of advice/ mentorship as well as inadequate and delayed credit.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana** aims to enable a large number of Indian youths including women to take up industry-relevant skill training in securing a better livelihood.
- **Deen Dayal Antyodaya National Urban Livelihoods Mission** focuses on creating opportunities for women in skill development, leading to market-based employment.
- **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana** aims to provide housing under the name of woman also.
- **Sukanya Samridhi Yojna** - Girls have been economically empowered by opening their bank accounts under this scheme.
- **Skill Upgradation & Mahila Coir Yojna** is an exclusive training programme of MSME aimed at skill development of women artisans engaged in coir Industry.
- **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme** is a major credit-linked subsidy programme aimed at generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector.

Political Empowerment

- The country has just elected a woman as the Head of the State.
- In order to bring women in the mainstream of political leadership at the grass root level, Government has reserved 33% of the seats in Panchayati Raj Institutions for women. Capacity Building of Panchayat Stakeholders including Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of Ministry of Panchayati Raj is conducted with a view to empowering women to participate effectively in the governance processes.

Safety and Security

- The Government has set up **Nirbhaya Fund** for projects for safety and security of women.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** (BBBP) ensures protection, survival and education of the girl child.
- **One Stop Centres** provide services such as police, medical, legal, psychological support and temporary shelter to women affected by violence.
- **Shakti Sadan** provides shelter, food, clothing and health as well as economic and social security for the women victims of difficult circumstances and trafficking.

(c) As per the latest available report of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the share of seats held by women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions is 44.4% which indicates significant participation of rural women in the political system of the country. However, the World Economic Forum does not take into account this huge representation of women at the grass root level of democracy as 'political empowerment' in its Global Gender Gap Reports.

The rate of participation of women (women person-days out of total in percentage) in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme during the last three financial years (2019-20 to 2021-22) and current financial year 2022-23 (as on 29.07.2022) stands at 54.8%, 53.2%, 54.5% and 56.0%. Further, as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2020-21 report released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in usual status for rural women is 27.7% and for urban women it is 18.6%. These data indicate significant economic empowerment of rural women in the country.

(d) and (e) As per the Time Use Survey (TUS) (January – December 2019) conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, in both rural and urban India, about 80% females are involved in unpaid domestic services for household members devoting about 5 hours per day compared to about 20% males with about 1 hour and 30 minutes per day.

The National Policy for the Empowerment of Women inter-alia aims at changing societal attitudes and community practices by active participation and involvement of both men and women. It provides policy directions to ensure women's perspectives which are included in designing and implementing macro-economic and social policies by institutionalizing their participation in such processes. The policy aims to recognise women as producers and workers in the formal and informal sectors (including home-based workers) and appropriate policies relating to employment and her working conditions are accordingly drawn up.
