

India's Rank in Condition of Women

†1842. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the survey of Newsweek Magazine, India ranks 141 with regard to the condition of women in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any policy for further empowerment of women in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH) : (a) and (b) As per the information available on the website www.thedailybeast.com, the Daily Beast analysed dozens of data points for 165 countries to determine which countries offer women the most expansive rights and the best quality of rights. According to their analysis, India stands at 141 position in terms of women's expansive rights and the best quality of life. In the Report, Justice, Health, Education, Economics and Politics are said to have been taken as parameters to determine the quality of life of women. The standard and reasonableness of data used in arriving at the ranks of the countries may vary from country to country and, therefore, it is not possible to comment on India's relative position in their Report.

(c) and (d) The Constitution of India bestows equal rights on both men and women and prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex etc. At the same time, the constitution allows the State to make affirmative discrimination in favour of women. In the light of the Constitution mandate the Government has initiated several programmes to improve the status of women in the society.

The vision of the Government is that every woman in the country should be able to develop to her full potential and share the benefits of economic growth and prosperity. In this direction the Government has been implementing a number of programmes and schemes for their socio-economic empowerment. Special legislations have also been put in place to tackle crime against women and eradicate social evils. These initiatives have resulted in an improvement in many development indicators related to women.

The Government had adopted the National Policy for Empowerment of Women on 20th March, 2001 with the objective to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Given the long term nature of issues which impact on women, need was felt to strengthen the processes that promote all-round development of women by focussing on a coordinated approach for implementation of the schemes of the concerned Ministries/Departments and by creating an enabling environment conducive to social change. With this in view, the Government has set up National Mission for Empowerment of Women on 08.03.2010 which focuses on economic & social empowerment of women and elimination of violence against women, progressively. The objective of the National Mission is securing convergence of schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments of Government of India as well as State Governments/UT Administrations.

In order to mainstream gender issues across all sectors, gender budgeting by all Ministries/Departments has been emphasized. So far, 56 Ministries/Departments have set up Gender Budget Cells. In Budget 2011-12, 29 Ministries reflected 36 demands for grants totalling Rs. 78,251.02 crore in the GB Statement.

The policies and programmes of the Government will continue to strive for socio-economic empowerment of women.

Rehabilitation Programme under Swadhar Scheme

1843. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA : Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether efforts have been undertaken to increase the timely implementation of rehabilitation programs offered under the Swadhar scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these efforts have had or are expected to have a significant impact on the quality of victims' care offered under the scheme;
- (d) whether these efforts have impacted on the cost of care per head; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH) : (a) to (c) Under the revised scheme of Swadhar Greh, to facilitate rehabilitation, arrangements have been made for providing vocational training to the women beneficiaries through Vocational training Institute recognized by Directorate General of Employment and Training under the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Through this vocational training, the women beneficiaries will be able to get self reliant within the considerable time frame.

(d) and (e) On successful completion of training, the actual training and examination fee would be reimbursed to the implementing agency on submission of the certificate issued by the vocational training institute.