

- Management of malnutrition and common neonatal and childhood illnesses at community and facility level by training service providers in IMNCI (Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses) training.

#### Gender development index

3935. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- whether Government's attention has been drawn to UN's annual human development report released in third week of July, 2014;
- whether the Gender Development Index (GDI) shows that India ranks lower than that of its neighbours in respect of gender development; if so, the details thereof; and
- the steps proposed to increase the level of GD Index, with details?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Based on the Human Development Report, 2014, India ranks 132 in respect of Gender Development Index (GDI) with GDI 0.828, which is lower than GDI of some of its neighboring countries. The details are as follows:

Sl.No.	Country	Gender Development Index*	Rank
1.	Afghanistan	0.602	148
2.	Bangladesh	0.908	107
3.	Bhutan	Not Available	
4.	China	0.939	88
5.	Maldives	0.936	90
6.	Myanmar	Not Available	
7.	Nepal	0.912	102
8.	Pakistan	0.750	145
9.	Sri Lanka	0.961	66

\* Gender Development Index, measures disparities in Human Development Index (HDI) by gender. The closer the ratio is to 1, the smaller the gap between women and men, *i.e.* the lower is the disparity between men and women in respect of various socio-economic indicators.

- The Government has already accorded high priority to the issue of gender disparity and undertaken a number of initiatives for socio-economic empowerment of

Women to reduce disparity between men and women. The various Ministries under the Government of India have been implementing several schemes/programmes through State Governments/UT Administrations in order to improve socio-economic status of women and to increase their participation in various fields. Details of some of the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development are as follows:

- (i) Gender Budgeting, which aims at translating gender commitments into budgetary commitments, 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, with an objective of influencing and effecting a change in the Ministries' policies, programmes in a way that could tackle gender imbalances, promote gender equality and development and ensure that public resources through the Ministries budgets are allocated and managed accordingly;
- (ii) The Government of India has also introduced a Gender Budget Statement 20, an important tool for reporting allocations made for women in the Union Budget, with effect from 2005-06;
- (iii) A scheme called Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) has been helping to ensure sustainable employment and income generation for marginalized and asset-less rural and urban poor women across the country;
- (iv) Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) has been extending micro-finance services to bring about socio-economic upliftment of poor women;
- (v) National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) has been set up with the aim to strengthen the overall processes that promote all round development of women.
- (vi) Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls-Sabla is being implemented for all-round development of adolescent girls of 11-18 years by making them self-reliant by facilitating access to learning, health and nutrition;
- (vii) Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahayog Yojana (IGMSY) has been contributing towards better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers.

Further, as a new initiative to increase the GDI, the Government recently announced a new scheme namely 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' to be implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development.