

**Impact of National Policy for Empowerment of Women**

1336. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the National Policy for Empowerment of Women has been able to achieve its objectives since its implementation in 2001;

(b) whether mere legislation and interventions proved to be of not much use since there is little impact on the ground; and

(c) schemes and programme drawn as a part of the 2001 scheme and targets and achievements of each of such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) The National Policy for Empowerment of Women 2001 has as its goal bringing about advancement, development and empowerment of women in all spheres of life through creation of a more responsive judicial and legal system sensitive to women and mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process. Since 2001, there have been significant changes with regard to the status and empowerment of women. As a commitment towards fulfilling the larger mandate of women's empowerment, the Ministry of Women and Child Development was set up in 2006 to implicitly bring the women's issues into the forefront. Policies and programmes in sectors like health, family planning, nutrition, education, employment, legislation and social welfare have been formulated and implemented to improve the conditions of women in India.

(b) Sustained efforts have been made to strengthen the legal judicial system and progressive legislations have been enacted to counter all forms of discrimination and violence against women in India. The important legislations include the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. A supportive environment that is gender sensitive has been created through the enactment of these legislations. Large numbers of women today are able to exercise their choices by taking recourse to the law as empowerment is all about choices.

(c) There have been significant schematic interventions across all sectors including health, education and employment. There has been a significant increase in institutional deliveries since introduction of Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) *i.e.* from 47% in 2007-08 to 74.4% 2012-13. Progress is evident in decline in the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) from 212 in 2007-09 to 167 in 2011-13. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) for

gross enrolment ratio in primary, upper primary and elementary education has been improving steadily since 2000-01. The percentage of women workers under MNRGES getting 100 days of employment in villages has steadily increased over the years much above the statutory minimum of 33%.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also administering various schemes such as Swadhar and Short Stay Homes, Working Women Hostels, Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW), Sabla and Matritva Sahyog Yojana for welfare and empowerment of women. Further, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao was launched in January 2015 to address the issue of declining child sex ratio; One Stop Centres (OSCs) and Women Helpline Schemes for women affected by violence have been introduced last year.

#### **Discontinuation of a scheme for street children**

1337. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children' has been discontinued, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government proposed to conduct a study to ascertain the number of street children and the standard of their living in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to create a secured and caring environment for the street children and their overall development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched in the year 2009-10, a comprehensive Umbrella Scheme, the 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme' (ICPS), by merging the *erstwhile* Schemes namely (i) A Programme for Juvenile Justice; (ii) An Integrated Programme for Street Children; and (iii) Scheme for Assistance to Homes [Shishu Greh] in order to provide a safe and secure environment for overall development of children in difficult circumstances including street children.

(b) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has not made any estimate about the number of street and destitute children in the country. However, a rapid assessment survey of street involved children carried out by Don Bosco National Forum in the year 2013 for the Young at Risk (YaR), New Delhi and Don Bosco Research Centre, Mumbai in 16 cities of India has come to the notice of the Government of India. As per the aforesaid survey, the number of street involved children in 16