

**Ranking of India in Global Gender Gap Report**

3344. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India ranks 87 out of 144 countries globally, on parameters such as economic participation and opportunities, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment, as per the recent Global Gender Gap Report for 2016 released by the World Economic Forum; and

(b) if so, what steps Government has taken or proposes to take in order to improve country's ranking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) The Global Gender Gap Report 2016 released by the World Economic Forum has ranked India at 87th position out of 144 countries of the world. However, it has improved its ranking moving from 108th position in 2015 to 87th position in 2016. The improvement in ranking has been driven largely by major improvements in education. On educational attainment India has moved up from 125th rank in 2015 to 113th in 2016. On economic participation and opportunity too, India has moved up to 136th rank in 2016, from 139th in 2015. On health and survival, it has moved up by one rank over last year to rank 142nd. India ranks 9th on political empowerment in the world, which is a major achievement.

(b) The Government of India has taken several steps/measures, interventions and strengthened institutional mechanism towards empowerment of women and for elimination of gender gap and inequality. The schemes/programmes implemented by the Government of India in this regard are as under:—

- (i) The *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* has been launched to address the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio on a life cycle continuum basis;
- (ii) ICDS is being implemented to address the nutritional needs of children and pregnant and lactating women;
- (iii) Matritva Sahyog Yojana for pregnant and lactating women is being implemented to improve their health and nutrition status;
- (iv) Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), implemented with the objective of reducing Maternal and Infant Mortality;
- (v) Scheme for Adolescent Girls (earlier named as Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for

Adolescent Girls-Sabla) aims at the empowerment of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-14 years through nutrition, health care and life skill education;

- (vi) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhayamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) schemes are being implemented to universalize elementary and secondary education respectively, having a strong focus on improving enrolment and retention of girls;
- (vii) Support to Training & Employment programme for Women (STEP) scheme aims to ensure sustainable employment and income generation for marginalized and asset-less rural and urban women;
- (viii) Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) aims to extend micro-finance services to bring about socio-economic upliftment of poor women;
- (ix) The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) helps in economic and social empowerment of women; and
- (x) Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 has been passed by the Parliament recently which is going to raise maternity leave to 26 weeks, protecting the employment of women during the time of her maternity.

#### **Pre-primary and play schools for children**

3345. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to start pre-primary schools, play schools and day care centres for the welfare of children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken note that the fee levied in such schools/centres are exorbitant;
- (d) if so, the corrective action taken by Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether Government proposes to improve the standard of Anganwadis in the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) to (e) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a unique early childhood development programme aimed at addressing health, nutrition and developmental needs of children under the age of six