



सत्यमेव जयते

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09



Towards a New Dawn

MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
Government of India

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INTRODUCTION

Annual Report 2008-09



Ministry of Women & Child Development

Introduction

1.1 The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India, came into existence as a separate Ministry on 30th January 2006. It is the nodal ministry for all matters pertaining to development of women and children (aged 0-18 years) in the country who constitute 71.14 % of India's population, as per 2001 census.

Vision

1.2 The vision of Ministry of Women & Child Development is "Ensuring overall survival, development, protection and participation of women and children of the country". The Ministry has evolved policies, plans of action, legislations, programmes and schemes for advancement of women and children and has been implementing these with the support of State Governments, other Government agencies and voluntary sector for achieving its mandate.

Subjects allocated to the Ministry of Women and Child Development

1.3 The list of subjects being dealt with in the Ministry of Women and Child Development is at **Annexure-I**. Vide Govt. notification dated 16.2.2006, all subjects relating to child welfare / protection like the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000, Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA), and Adoption which were earlier under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment were transferred to the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Organisation

1.4 The Ministry of Women and Child Development is headed by Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State (Independent Charge). Sh. Anil Kumar took charge as the Secretary of the Ministry with effect from 18.10.2007. A post of Additional Secretary has been created in the Ministry and has become operative with effect from 5.11.2008. The Secretary is assisted by the Additional Secretary, Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, three Joint Secretaries, an Economic Adviser and a Statistical Adviser. **The Ministry has five Bureaus** which are in-charge of the following namely (i) Child Development, (ii) Child Welfare and Protection; (iii) Women Welfare and Development; (iv) Prevention of Trafficking, Girl Child & Gender Budgeting; and (v) Plan, Research, Monitoring and Statistics.

1.5 The Ministry has four autonomous organizations viz. **National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)**, **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)**, **Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB)** and **Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)** working under its aegis. NIPCCD, RMK and CARA are societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. CSWB is a charitable company registered under section 25 of the Indian Companies Act, 1956. These organizations are fully funded by the Government of India and they assist the Ministry

in its functions including implementation of programmes / schemes. **The Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) is an attached office of Ministry. The National Commission for Women (NCW) was constituted as a national apex statutory body in 1992** for protecting and safeguarding the rights of women. As envisaged in the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act 2005, notified in the Gazette of India on 20th January, 2006 as Act No.4 of 2006, the Government set up a **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** on 5th March, 2007. The organization chart of the Ministry is at **Annexure-II**.

Development of Women

1.6 The Ministry of Women & Child Development has been implementing various

programmes and schemes aimed at improving the socio economic status of women. The important programmes are:-

- **Economic Empowerment Programmes** – Swayamsidha (ended on 31.03.2008), Support to training and employment program (STEP).
- **Social Empowerment Programmes** – Swadhar Shelter Homes, Short Stay Homes and Women Helplines. Mahila Mandals, Awareness Generation Programmes, Condensed Course of Education and Family Counselling Centre scheme are some of the other important activities aiming at overall development of women.
- **Support Services** – Working Women Hostels, Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme.



Honourable Minister of Women and Child Development, Smt. Renuka Chowdhury flanked by awardee on her left and Addl. Secretary, Smt. Vijayalakshmy K. Gupta and Joint Secretary Dr. Kiran Chadha on her right

- **Micro Credit for Women - The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)**, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Women and Child Development implements a unique credit delivery model 'RMK-NGO-SHG-Beneficiaries' and has flexible credit norms, hassle free loans, no collateral and reasonable rate of interest to help women start livelihood activities.

Development of Children

1.7 The Centrally Sponsored scheme of **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** launched in 1975 is the flagship scheme of the Ministry which aims at holistic development of children below six years and pregnant and lactating mothers by providing a package of essential services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, pre-school education, referral services, nutrition and health education.

1.8 The ICDS Scheme was introduced in 33 Blocks (Projects) in 1975. It has been gradually expanded in two phases. As on 30.6.2008, out of 6284 sanctioned projects, 6108 projects are operational. **To attain the objective of complete universalization of ICDS scheme** as enunciated in the Common Minimum Programme, to cover the hitherto uncovered habitations/settlements across the country with special focus on coverage of SC/ST and Minority population based on the requirement of States, Government of India, in October, 2008 has approved the proposals for third phase expansion with 792 additional Projects, 213286 additional Anganwadi Centres and 77102 Mini-Anganwadi Centres for third phase of Scheme. With this, the total number of sanctioned Projects has increased to 7076 with 13.80 Anganwadi Centres including Mini Anganwadi Centres. Apart from this, 20,000 Anganwadis on Demand have also been provided for. Both the calorific norm and the financial norms for Supplementary Nutrition have been increased.

1.9 **The Ministry has also enhanced the honoraria** by Rs.500 above the last honorarium drawn by Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and by Rs.250 of the last honorarium drawn by Helpers of AWCs and Workers of Mini-AWCs. A provision for two sets of uniform per year and a badge has also been made for the AWWs and AWHs.

1.10 **The Ministry has, during the year, modified the expenditure sharing pattern of ICDS between Centre and State** and also the cost norms of various components of ICDS. The sharing pattern of supplementary nutrition in respect of North-eastern States between Centre and State will be changed from 50:50 to 90:10 ratio from the Financial year 2009-2010. So far as other States and UTs are concerned, the existing sharing pattern of 50:50 for SNP will continue. However, for all other components of ICDS the ratio has been modified to 90:10 (100% Central Assistance earlier).

1.11 **The Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY) and Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG)** are schemes which target under nourished adolescent girls and are implemented through the infrastructure of ICDS.

Child Protection

1.12 The Ministry of Women and Child Development has undertaken a number of initiatives to ensure the survival and welfare of girl child. The Ministry coordinates with Ministry of Health & Family welfare for effective implementation and efficient monitoring of the Pre – Conception and **Pre – Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994.**

1.13 The Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 was repealed and the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006** has been notified on 11th January 2007.



National Child Awards presentation function on 5 February, 2009

1.14 The Ministry has launched on **3rd March 2008**, a new Pilot Scheme '**Conditional Cash Transfer for Girl Child with Insurance Cover (Dhanalakshmi)**' wherein cash transfers will be made to the family of the girl child (preferably the mother) on fulfilling certain specific conditionalities and also insurance coverage.

1.15 During the year, the Ministry formulated and got approved a new centrally sponsored scheme – '**Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)**' with a view to create an environment for comprehensive development of children in the country with the objective to contribute to the improvement in the well being of children in difficult circumstances, as well as to the reduction of vulnerabilities to situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children.

1.16 Other important schemes for welfare, development and protection of children are

- **Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers**
- **Scheme for Welfare of Working Children in need of care and protection**
- **Integrated Scheme for Street Children**
- **Scheme for Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social maladjustment (A Programme for Juvenile Justice)**
- **Shishu Greh scheme (to promote in country adoption of children).**

The **Integrated Child Protection Scheme** will bring the existing schemes for street children, juveniles and shishu greh in its fold, along with new interventions.

Prevention of Trafficking in Women and Children

1.17 The Ministry of Women and Child Development is undertaking a number of initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking. Important among these are,

1. **The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 is being amended** to provide for stringent punishment to the traffickers and other perpetrators of crime, deletion of Sections of the Act that re-victimizes the victim and providing an institutional mechanism.
2. A new Central Scheme **“Ujjawala”**—a Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking, Rescue, Rehabilitation, Re-Integration and Repatriation of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation” was launched on 4th December, 2007.

Other Schemes and initiatives

Grant-in-aid for Research, Publication and Monitoring

1.18 The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the scheme of **Grant-in-aid for Research, Publication and Monitoring** since 1986-87 with the objective to promote research studies for testing the feasibility and efficacy of existing programmes and services on emerging issues in the field of women and child development. Under the scheme, the Ministry also supports workshops / seminars on the important issues on women and children.

Media Activities

1.19 The Media Unit of the Ministry is actively engaged in generating awareness in country about issues concerning women and children by giving wide publicity to policies, programmes and developmental activities formulated and implemented by the Ministry. A scheme “Information, Mass Education and Publication” is being implemented by the Ministry.

General Grant-in-aid for Innovative work on women and children

1.20 The scheme **Grant-in aid for “Innovative work on women and children”** promotes innovative activities in the field of Women and Child Development which are not covered under other grant –in-aid schemes of the Ministry.

Gender Justice and Legal Safeguards

1.21 The National Commission for Women (NCW) is functioning with the mandate of safeguarding the interests of women covering all aspects of women’s rights. A Bill to provide for compulsory registration of marriages has been sent to the Legislative Department for consideration for enactment.

Gender Budgeting and Gender Disaggregated Database

1.22 Gender Budgeting and Gender disaggregated database have been emphasized as the major monitoring tools to examine that the benefits of policies and programmes are reaching those for whom these are intended. Ministry of Women and Child Development has been identified as the Nodal Ministry for Gender Budgeting.

1.23 The Ministry has prepared Gender Development Index and Gender Empowerment Measure for India and States/UTs under the GOI - UNDP Project of 'Promoting Gender Equality'. The other important initiative is development of SAARC Gender Infobase. SAARC Gender Infobase, which is a unique regional webbased information system for SAARC countries, focuses on the three themes – Feminization of Poverty, Health Issues (including HIV) and Violence against Women (especially trafficking). For India, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal agency for the SAARC Gender Infobase.

Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

1.24 India signed the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on 30th July 1980 and ratified it on 9th July 1993 with one reservation and two declaratory statements. An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been constituted, under the chairpersonship of the Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development. India is the second country in the world to have such a Committee for implementation of CEDAW. Regional Conference on UN Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) for the Southern Zone was held at Hyderabad on 15-16 May 2008. Regional Conference for the Eastern Zone was held at New Delhi on 21-22 October 2008.

Beijing Platform for Action

1.25 The Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995 was a landmark event that set the pace for women's empowerment when a Declaration and Platform for Action (BFPA)

were adopted. India adopted both without any reservations and identified 12 critical areas of concerns which include Poverty, Education & Training, Health, Violence Against Women, Women in Armed Conflict, Economy, Power & Decision Making, Institutional Mechanism for advancement of Women, Media, Environment, Human Rights of women and girl child. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) reviews the progress made by the member countries in these areas. The 53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held from 2 -13th March 2009, on the following themes:

- i. Key policy initiatives and innovative approaches to promote the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS; and
- ii. Capacity building for mainstreaming a gender perspective into national policies and programmes to support the equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS.

Evaluation of Schemes/ Programmes of Ministry

1.26 A statement showing the details of evaluation studies of important programmes of the Ministry is given below in brief :

- **Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS)** - The Scheme was evaluated in 1992 by National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD); by National Council of Applied Economic Research in 1998 and the latest by NIPCCD in 2005-06. The evaluation report "Three Decades of ICDS – An Appraisal" 2005-06 has since been published.

- **Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY)** – Evaluation by National Institute of Medical Statistics (NIMS), ICMR, New Delhi; draft report submitted and the report is under examination.
- **Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls(NPAG)** – The Nutrition Foundation of India has completed the evaluation of the scheme in December 2006 and report placed on Ministry’s website.
- **Swayamsidha:** The scheme was evaluated by an external agency i.e. ‘Indian Institute of Public Opinion Private Limited’, New Delhi in 2005. The Report has been accepted.
- **Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)** – The mechanism of concurrent evaluation is built into the scheme. An independent agency i.e. Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), New Delhi has evaluated the scheme and submitted its report in June 2007. The report has been accepted and there is a proposal to revise the norms of the scheme.
- **Swadhar, Short Stay Homes and Women Helplines** – The evaluation was conducted by Centre for Market Research & Social Development, New Delhi and report submitted in February 2008. The report has been accepted and action is being taken to merge the two schemes of Swadhar and Short Stay Homes.
- **Working Women Hostel** – An evaluation study on pilot basis was conducted by NIPCCD in 2005 and report has since been submitted. The schematic norms are being revised to make it more amenable for implementation
- **Pilot Project to Combat Trafficking of Women and Children** - Evaluation study was done by NIPCCD and report submitted in July, 2007. The scheme has been replaced by Ujjawala, the comprehensive scheme for preventing trafficking of Women & Children.
- **Integrated Programme for Street Children** – Evaluation of the scheme was conducted by NIPCCD and report submitted in 2007.
- **Scheme of Assistance to home for children (Shishu Greh) to promote in country adoption** – Evaluation of the scheme was done by NIPCCD and report submitted in 2007.
- **Scheme for Welfare of Working Children in need of care and protection**– Evaluation of the scheme has been assigned to NIPCCD in 2008. The evaluation is in progress.

Evaluation of scheme/programme of CSWB

- **Awareness Generation Projects** – Recently, evaluation of the scheme was conducted by the following organizations:-
 - Delhi School of Social Work (University of Delhi, Delhi)
 - Chetna, Gujarat
 - Gandhigram Rural Institute, Chennai, Tamilnadu
 - Vidya Sagar School of Social Work, West Bengal
 - E & S Division of CSWB, Delhi and Rajasthan.

On the basis of the recommendations of these evaluation reports, the scheme is being revised.

- **Condensed Courses of Education for Women** – the scheme has been evaluated from time to time and, based on the recommendations, the scheme is being revised.
- **Family Counselling Centre** – the scheme was evaluated in 2004-05 by Tata Institute of Social Sciences and revised financial norms adopted w.e.f June 2006.
- **Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers-** There is inbuilt mechanism for monitoring of crèches through independent monitoring agencies, identified in consultation with the concerned State Government. The scheme was evaluated and revised financial norms adopted w.e.f. 1.1.2006

Important Events

Colloquium on Obesity

1.27 In order to bring a focus on the effect of obesity in children, a Colloquium on ‘Obesity in Children and Adolescents: Emerging Issues and Challenges’ was organized on **24th April, 2008** in New Delhi. This was chaired by Hon’ble Minister of State for Women and Child Development (Independent Charge).

Consultation on Surrogacy

1.28 Considering the complex ethical, moral and legal issues involved in surrogacy and the effects it can have on the child, the surrogate mother and her family, commissioning parents and all other stakeholders, the Ministry convened a consultation on 25th June, 2008, wherein the issues relating to surrogacy were discussed. The meeting was held in the presence of Hon’ble Minister of State (IC) (WCD).

Round Table on Men’s Role in Empowerment of Women

1.29 A Round table on men’s role in furthering women empowerment and gender equality was also held on 25th June 2008

3rd Executive committee meeting of National Nutrition Mission

1.30 3rd Executive committee meeting of National Nutrition Mission was held on **8th July 2008** under the Chairpersonship of Hon’ble Minister of State (IC) WCD to discuss issues regarding mal-nutrition, fortification of food with micro nutrients and expansion of food and nutrition board upto district level.

World Breast Feeding Week

1.31 The World breast feeding week was observed from **1st to 7th August 2008** on the global theme of “Mother’s support: Going to the Gold” by all the Central Food and Nutrition Extension Units throughout the country.

Launching of Media Campaign of Ministry

1.32 Media Campaign of Ministry launched by Hon’ble Minister of WCD on 20th **Aug 2008**; focus issues were nutrition, girl child, also awareness on domestic violence. After declaration of 24th January as the National Girl Child Day, the Ministry held a press conference at the India Islamic Cultural Centre on 19th January and launched the second phase of the media campaign of the Ministry.

Regional Conference on UN Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

1.33 Regional Conference on UN Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) for the Southern Zone was held at Hyderabad on 15 – 16 May, 2008. Regional Conference for the Eastern Zone was held at New Delhi on 21 – 22 October, 2008.

Second Conference on ‘Micro-Finance and Women Economic Empowerment in SAARC Region’.

1.34 Rashtriya Mahila Kosh organized the Second Conference on ‘Micro-Finance and

Women Economic Empowerment in SAARC Region’ in collaboration with the SAARC Division of the Ministry of External Affairs on **16 May 2008**. Apart from India, delegates from Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended the conference.

Celebration of National Nutrition Week

1.35 National Nutrition Week was celebrated during 1-7 Sep 2008 in the lawns of India Gate, New Delhi. A historic exhibition on nutrition was organized on the theme” Invest in Child Nutrition” in the lawns of India Gate during 5-7 Sep 2008 at New Delhi. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Hon’ble speaker of Lok Sabha Sh. Somnath Chattejee in the presence of Hon’ble Minister of State (IC) WCD



Honourable Minister of Women and Child Development releasing Nutrition Calender on the eve of ‘Stree Shakti Puraskar’

2nd Indo-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum

1.36 2nd Indo-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting was held in New Delhi on October, 13 – 14, 2008. The meeting was attended by Ministers, Government officials and civil society participants.

Visit of Foreign Delegations

1.37 During the year 2008-09, delegations from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt and China were received. These delegations evinced keen interest in programs and schemes run by MWCD for women development and empowerment and desired to continue with sharing of experience,

particularly in Micro credit and ICDS programs.

Vatsalya Mela

1.38 In connection with this year's Children's Day celebrations, the Ministry had set up a Pavilion in the India International Trade Fair during **14-27th November 2008**. The Food and Nutrition Board of Ministry put up an impressive and informative exhibition at the Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. A number of Self Help Groups set up stalls in the Ministry's pavilion showcasing a wide array of products. An innovative laser show and cultural programmes organised by the Song & Drama Division of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting enthralled visitors to the fair every evening.



Honourable Minister Smt. Renuka Chowdhury viewing a stall in 'Vatsalya Mela'

National Girl Child Day – 24th January

Release of LOGO of National Girl Child Day

1.39 In order to bring to centre stage the different problems faced by the girl child and spread gender sensitisation amongst the various sections of society, January, 24 of every year has been proposed as the National Girl Child Day and dedicated to the girl child. The Logo for the National Girl Child Day has been released by the Minister of Women and Child Development on 19.1.2009.

Felicitation of recipients of the National Child Bravery Awards, 2008

1.40 The Hon'ble Minister of State for Women and Child Development (Independent Charge) felicitated the recipients of the National Bravery Awards, 2008 in a function held on 19.1.2009 in New Delhi.

Release of Anganwartha Hyderabad Edition

1.41 The Anganwartha Hyderabad edition was released by Hon'ble Minister WCD on 04.02.2009 at Hyderabad.

National Awards for Child Welfare

1.42 The Ministry of Women and Child Development organized a function on **5.2.2009** for presentation of the following Awards:

1. National Child Awards for Exceptional Achievement (2007 & 2008) (to 40 children)

2. National Awards for Child Welfare (2007-2008) (to 10 institutions and 3 individuals), and
3. Rajiv Gandhi Manav Sewa Awards (2008) (to 3 individuals)

The awards were given away by Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, UPA. Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State (IC) WCD, Shri A. Raja, Minister for Communications and IT, and other dignitaries were also present. The function was also attended by 800 children. In addition **a special postage stamp was also released** on the occasion to commemorate the National Girl Child Day.

Stree Shakti Puraskar

1.43 The Puraskar is given in the names of Jhansi Ki Rani Lakshmi Bai, Kannagi, Rani Gaidenlieu, Devi Ahilya Bai, and Mata Jija Bai. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 3.00 Lakh and a citation. Another sub-category of Stree Shakti Puraskar, which is named after Rani Rudramma Devi has been added for 2007. The Stree Shakti Puraskar for 2007 was given **on 28.02.2009** in a function organised at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

Conference of State Ministers and Secretaries of Women and Child Development, Release of book titled "Ananya" and awards for anganwadi workers

1.44 In order to discuss and deliberate upon the issues related to women and children and review the implementation of the schemes of the Ministry, a Conference of State Ministers and Secretaries in charge of Women and Child



Honourable MOS (IC) Women and Child Development Smt. Renuka Chowdhury talking to press; on her left Additional Secretary and on the right is Secretary, Women and Child Development

Development and other senior officers of the States and Union Territories was held on 28th Feb 2009 in New Delhi. This also served as a forum for the State Governments to bring out their concerns related to the implementation of various schemes and discuss the solutions. On that day the Hon'ble Minister of State (IC) WCD launched the concept and cover of a commemorative book "Ananya", designed by the National Institute of Design. The book, conceptualised as a dialogue between a mother and her unborn daughter, aims to highlight various aspects of womanhood. Awards for Anganwadi workers were also given away on that day.

International Women's Day

1.45 The Ministry of Women and Child Development organized a number of functions on International Women's Day. Celebrated on

08.03.2009, International Women's Day is the global day connecting all women around the world and inspiring them to achieve their full potential.

The United Nation's theme for 2009 is: "Investing in Women and Girls".

The theme for the Ministry of Women and Child Development is

"Survival to Success Celebrate her life"

1.46 During the function held on 8th March 2009, the **Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Development released the provisional summary report titled - "Gendering Human Development Indices: Recasting the Gender Development Index (GDI) and Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) for India"**. The report is available on the website of the Ministry www.wcd.nic.in. The detailed report is under preparation

Website of Ministry of Women and Child Development

1.47 The Ministry of Women and Child Development has a website which is maintained by the NIC and updated periodically. The website address is www.wcd.nic.in

Reservation for Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes

1.48 Reservation Policy of the Government of India in the services is being followed in the Ministry and the organizations under its control. As a cadre authority, the Ministry has duly reported the reserved vacancies to Department of Personnel & Training. The attached office i.e, Food and Nutrition Board and all the autonomous bodies under Ministry

of Women and Child Development were duly requested to fill up the vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes by making special efforts; i.e., if a suitable officer is not available in the first attempt of recruitment, second attempt is also to be made within the same recruitment year or as early as possible.

Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programmes for the Welfare of Minorities

1.49 A Joint Secretary has been nominated as the nodal officer for the purpose. Food and Nutrition Board and other affiliated organisations under the Ministry have been requested to take action by organizing campaign to disseminate information on affirmative action on recruitment



Sri Anil Kumar, Secretary, WCD presenting the GDI-GEM summary report for India to the audience on International Women's Day

of minorities in the Government and PSUs/ autonomous bodies.

Public and Staff Grievances

1.50 The Public Grievances received in the Ministry are attended on priority. Deputy Secretary (Admn) has been nominated as the Public Grievances officer of Ministry of Women and Child Development while Junior Technical Adviser, Food and Nutrition Board has been made Public Grievances Officer in Food and Nutrition Board.

Information Facilitation Center (IFC)

1.51 Information Facilitation Center (IFC) has been started as a single window for public relations. The Center provides information on different programs and schemes of the Ministry. It also provides copies of news magazines and other information literature from different organizations under the Ministry, such as FNB, CSWB, NCW, NIPCCD, NCPCR, CARA and RMK. It assists voluntary organizations to track the status of their application and help familiarize them with online applications tracking system. It also functions as Right to Information (RTI) Cell i.e. nodal unit for receiving RTI applications.

Right to Information Act

1.52 In pursuance of the provisions contained in sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Right to Information Act, 2005, the Ministry has designated subject-wise Public Information Officers at the level of Deputy Secretary/ Director and Assistant Public Information Officers at the level of Under Secretary for receipt and disposal of applications received under the Act. In addition, officers at the level of Joint Secretary have been designated as appellate authorities in terms of sub-section (1) of section 19 of the

Right to Information Act, 2005 for considering appeals against the decisions of the PIOs. The details of the Appellate Authorities and PIOs / APIOs have been posted on the official web site of the Ministry.

Parliamentary Standing Committee

1.53 A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development for Demand for Grants was held on 28.3.2008 under the chairmanship of Sh. Janardan Dwivedi in Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi. The composition of this Committee is at **Annexure- III** The Committee interalia examined the implementation of various Welfare Schemes of the Ministry namely ICDS, Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers, Child Budgeting, ICPS, Integrated Scheme for Street Children, Programme for Juvenile Justice, Shishu Greh, Short Stay Homes, Swadhar and organisations such as central Social Welfare Board (CSWB), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), National Commission for Women (NCW) etc.

1.54 After the formation of Ministry of Women & Child Development in 2006, Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament attached to Ministry of Women & Child Development was constituted under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Renuka Choudhury, Minister of State (Independent Charge) on 20th September, 2006. The Committee held 7 meetings on various subjects concerning Ministry of Women & Child Development during its tenure from 2006 to 2009. The composition of the Committee is in **Annexure- IV**.

Use of Hindi in official work

1.55 Hindi Section has been mandated to implement the Official Language policy of

the Central Government in the Ministry. In pursuance of this policy, efforts were made during the period under report to maximize the use of Hindi in the Ministry. The officers and employees have acquired working knowledge of Hindi. Entries in the service books were continued to be made in Hindi. Letters received in Hindi were replied to in Hindi. Article 3 (3) of the Official Language Act, 1963 is being complied with in the Ministry. Hindi fortnight was celebrated from 12th to 26th Sept. 2008. To review the progressive use of Hindi in the Ministry, meetings of the Departmental Official Language Implementation Committee were held in the Ministry and remedial measures to overcome the shortcomings were suggested. Meetings of the Hindi Advisory Committee under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister

of State (IC) were held regularly. Two Hindi workshops were also arranged to propagate the use of Hindi in official work.

Annual Plan of Ministry of Women and Child Development

1.56 The budget estimate (BE) Plan and Non Plan for 2008-09 are Rs 7200.00 Crores and Rs. 62.00 Crores respectively. The revised (RE) Plan and Non – Plan Outlays for 2008-09 are Rs.6850.00 Crores and Rs. 69.00 Crores respectively.

Detailed progress made under specific interventions/measures undertaken by the Ministry for all-round development of women and children in the country may be seen in the ensuing chapters.

