

WOMEN DEVELOPMENT

Annual Report 2008-09

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Ministry of Women & Child Development

Women Development

2.1 As per 2001 census, women constitute 48 % of the total population. Women as an important human resource were recognized by the Constitution of India which not only accorded equality to women but also empowered the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in their favour. Drawing the strength from the constitutional commitments, the Government of India has been engaged in committed and continuous endeavors towards ensuring all round well-being, development and empowerment of women. One of the six basic principles of governance laid down in the National Common Minimum Programme is to empower women politically, educationally, economically and legally. The upgradation of Department of Women and Child Development to a Ministry

under the independent charge of Minister of State for Women and Child Development with effect from 30.01.2006 is an important mile stone in that direction. In its nodal capacity, the Ministry has been striving for the holistic empowerment of women through reviewing the laws to remove gender bias, bringing new legal measures aiming at gender justice and implementing programmes to achieve social and economic empowerment of women.

Planning Process and Women Empowerment

2.2 The planning process has evolved over the years from purely 'welfare' oriented approach



Welcoming Sri Anil Kumar, IAS, Secretary, WCD during International Women's Day Celebration on 8th March 2009 in New Delhi

to the development approach and currently to the 'empowerment' module. It was only from the Sixth Five year Plan onwards that women secured a special niche and space in the national plans and planning process primarily with thrust on health, education and employment of women. A paradigm shift occurred in the Eighth Plan where 'empowerment' of women was recognized and accepted as a distinct strategy. A further impetus for sectoral contribution to women's programmes was received with the introduction of the concept of Women's Component Plan in the Ninth Plan whereby identified ministries were required to indicate the flow of funds to the women's programmes and schemes. In the Tenth Plan, for the first time, monitorable targets were set for a few key indicators of human development, which include reduction in gender gaps in literacy, wage rates and reduction in maternal mortality rate. The Ninth Plan Document (1997- 2002) laid emphasis on the participation of people in the planning process, and the promotion of Self-Help Groups (SHG). The approach was to access women living in poverty and to guide them to help themselves. The Tenth Five Year Plan called for three pronged strategy of social empowerment, economic empowerment and providing gender justice to create an enabling environment of positive economic and social policies for women and eliminating all forms of discrimination against them and thus advance gender equality goals. During the Tenth Plan also, emphasis continued on empowerment of women through SHG movement. The Eleventh Plan seeks to reduce disparities across regions and communities by ensuring access to basic physical infrastructure as well as health and education services to all, recognises gender as a crosscutting theme across all sectors and commits to respect and promote the rights of the common person. The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Plan specifically states that 'gender

equity requires adequate provisions to be made in policies and schemes across Ministries and Departments. It also entails strict adherence to gender budgeting across the board'.

2.3 Keeping with its mandate, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has taken several initiatives for bringing about gender equality, empowerment and development of women. These initiatives are discussed below:

Swayamsidha

2.4 Swayamsidha is an integrated scheme for women's empowerment through formation of women into Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The scheme was launched in February 2001 across the States and Union Territories of the country with a total budget outlay of Rs. 116.30 Crore. The scheme was subsequently discontinued from Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh due to lack of interest among the UTs. **The scheme ended on 31st March 2008.**

2.5 The long-term objective of the programme is holistic empowerment of women through a sustained process of mobilization and convergence of all the on-going sectoral programmes by improving access of women to micro credit, economic resources etc. The programme was implemented in 650 blocks in the country covering 335 districts.

2.6 The programme was implemented in many States through ICDS infrastructure; while in some States, the scheme was implemented through State Women's Development Corporations. In addition to monitoring the scheme through normal means such as Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) and field visits, a system of Quarterly Review Meetings of State Nodal Officers has also been put in place.



Income Generating Hand Embroidery activities of Janani Swayamsiddha group ICDS Project-II, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

2.7 The most important component of the programme is the formation, implementation and monitoring of blocks specific composite project for 4-5 years incorporating the following four elements: -

- * Group formation/mobilization activities;
- * Community oriented innovative interventions;
- * Convergence with specific schemes of Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), namely Support to Training & Employment Programme (STEP), Socio Economic Programme (SEP) and Awareness Generation Programme (AGP) along with other schemes, if there is a felt need for the same; and
- * Schemes of other Ministries, whether converged under Government of India's directions or State Government initiative.

Achievements under Swayamsidha

2.8 The physical achievements under the scheme by way of number of SHGs formed, savings made, groups involved in income generation activity etc are given in **Annexure-V**. State-wise funds released during 2007-08 (As on 31.3.2008), number of districts covered, blocks allocated and SHGs formed under Swayamsidha are given in **Annexure- VI**.

Review meetings for Nodal Officers of Swayamsidha

2.9 The Ministry organized 19 exposure-cum-review meetings of Nodal Officers implementing Swayamsidha till 31.3.2008 through National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), the Lead Training

Agency of Swayamsidha. The details are given in **Annexure - VII**. The review meeting and exposure meets served as a platform to discuss the achievements made in the previous quarter with focus on training, convergence, bank linkage, income generation/micro enterprise activities and community assets created under the project. Expenditure and utilization of funds, problems and issues relating to implementation etc. were also discussed. Technical guidance was also given to the States. The Nodal Officers were taken to field to study best practices adopted in the States during exposure visits.

Evaluation of the scheme of Swayamsidha

2.10 For evaluation and outcome assessment, the Ministry commissioned national level evaluation of the Scheme through an external

agency, “The Indian Institute of Public Opinion, New Delhi” in 2005. The outcome of the evaluation has been encouraging. The evaluation report highlighted the benefits accrued to the beneficiaries specifically in terms of raising their awareness level on social issues, negotiation skills, increase in the knowledge about the legal rights, increased participation in family decision making, knowledge of banking procedures, decrease in borrowing from money lenders, capacity building etc. The Scheme has been able to provide a forum for women empowerment, collective reflection and united action. In quintessence, the evaluation showed that Swayamsidha intervention had made women come into their own i.e. a symbolic “Swayamsidha”. The evaluating agency, inter-alia, recommended that the project needs to run for another five years for stabilization, growth, sustainability and self-reliance. **It is in this context that the next phase of Swayamsidha**



Skill Development training to the Swayamsidha Members (Tailoring Training), ICDSII, Hyderabad

is under active consideration of the Ministry of women & Child Development.

Women's Empowerment and Livelihood Programme in the Mid Gangetic Plains (MGP)-PRIYADARSHINI

2.11 The objective of Women's Empowerment and Livelihood Programme in the Mid Gangetic Plains of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar or Priyadarshini Project is to empower in holistic and sustainable manner vulnerable groups of women and adolescent youth in the project area through promotion of improved livelihood opportunities through formation of women's Self help Groups. Although focus of the project would be on livelihood enhancement, the women beneficiaries will be empowered to address their social, political, legal, health and economic problems through rigorous capacity building.

2.12 The project will cover the District of Madhubani and Sitamarhi in Bihar and Shravasti, Bahraich, Rae Bareli and Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh. The project would be of 8 years duration.

2.13 The women and adolescent girls in the project area will be mobilized to form Self Help Groups. Other SHGs existing in the project area will have the option to join the project. Training will be given to the SHG members on SHG related topics, income generation and allied activities, marketing of products, social issues etc. Community Based Service Centers (CBSCs) will be established in the project blocks to reach out to the SHGs and provide all support and guidance. NGOs will be engaged for providing various inputs. Specialised agencies will be engaged to implement various components of the project such as financial institutions to address the credit needs of the

SHG members, agricultural / dairy / fishery agencies etc. to assist women beneficiaries in livelihood enhancement, marketing agencies for marketing of products, etc. Women will be provided all support required for setting up small and medium enterprises to enhance their income. The project will develop appropriate marketing strategy for marketing SHG products.

2.14 At the Central level, the Ministry of Women & Child Development is the nodal Ministry for the project. The Lead programme agency for the implementation is National Bank for Agricultural Development. The steps for operationalising the project are under finalization.

2.15 The total cost of under the project would be US \$ 32.73million out of which IFAD share would be US \$ 30 million and GOI share would be US \$ 2.73 million.

Support to Training & Employment Programme for Women (STEP)

2.16 This Scheme launched in 1986-87, seeks to provide updated skills and new knowledge to poor and assetless women in ten traditional sectors i.e. Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries, Handlooms, Handicrafts, Khadi & Village Industries, Sericulture, Social Forestry and Wasteland Development for enhancing their productivity and income generation. This would further enhance and broaden their employment opportunities, including self-employment and entrepreneurial skills. A comprehensive package of services such as health care, elementary education, crèche facility, market linkages etc. are provided besides access to credit.

2.17 During the 9th plan period, about 255635 women beneficiaries were covered under 66 projects implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal

Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal. During the 10th Plan period, about 231133 women beneficiaries have been provided training under the Scheme. So far, women in dairying sector have been receiving maximum support, keeping in view the nature of demands. The achievement of scheme during the 10th Plan period with 2007-08 and 2008-09 is as under:-

Year	Target (No. of Beneficiaries)	Achievement (No. of Beneficiaries)
2002-03	35000	133131
2003-04	40000	16350
2004-05	40000	15900
2005-06	35000	34575
2006-07	35000	31177
2007-08	40000	39055
2008-09	70000	31865

2.18 During the year 2007-08, 14 new projects have been sanctioned and 39055 women have benefited under the scheme. During the year 2008-09, 20 new projects have been sanctioned and 31865 beneficiaries have benefited from the scheme. The State-wise release of funds during the last two years and organization-wise details of fund released in 2008-09 is given at **Annexure - VIII and Annexure - IX** respectively.

Hostels for Working Women with day care center for children

2.19 The **Scheme of assistance for construction or expansion of hostel buildings for working women with day care center for children** is in implementation since 1972-73. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided

to non-governmental organizations engaged in the field of women's welfare or women's education, women's development corporations, local bodies, universities etc. for construction of building for working women's hostel. This scheme envisages provision of safe and affordable hostel accommodation to working women (single working women, women working at places away from their home-towns, working but husband out of town, widows, divorcees, separated women etc.) women being trained for employment and girl students studying in post-school professional courses. Trainees are permitted to stay for a period of one year and girl students for a period of five years, but with the condition that first preference would be given to working women who are being trained for employment and girl students should not exceed 30% of the capacity of the hostel.

2.20 So far 876 hostels have been sanctioned throughout the country. Since the demand for working women hostels is on the increase due to increasing number of women in employment, a committee has been set up to revamp the Scheme. The Scheme is proposed to be revamped in the XIth Five year plan to achieve a higher satisfaction rate for the demand for such hostel accommodation. Expenditure Finance Committee(EFC) in its meeting dated 26/11/08 recommended the continuation of the scheme with revised norms. The recommendation of EFC is pending approval of Ministry of Finance.

2.21 During the year 2008-09 (as on 31.03.2009), **11 new hostels** have been sanctioned to benefit **933 working women**. State-wise funds released under the scheme during the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in **Annexure - X** and funds released to different organisations during 2008-09 are given in **Annexure- XI** and State-wise distribution of Working Women's Hostel with Day Care Centres (DCC) for children as on 31.3.2009 is given in **Annexure - XII**.

Swadhar – A scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances

2.22 Swadhar scheme was launched by the Ministry during the year 2001-02 for the benefit of women in difficult circumstances with the following objectives :

- To provide primary need of shelter, food, clothing and care to the marginalized women / girls living in difficult circumstances who are without any social and economic support;
- To provide emotional support and counseling to such women;
- To rehabilitate them socially and economically through education, awareness, skill upgradation and personality development through behavioral training etc.
- To arrange specific clinical, legal and other support for women / girls in need of interventions by linking and networking with other organization in both government and Non-Government Sectors on case basis;
- To provide Help-line (24 hour telephone facility) or other facilities to such women in distress; and
- To provide such other services as will be required for support and rehabilitation of such women in distress.

Target group / Beneficiaries

- Widows deserted by their families and relatives and left uncared at religious places where they are victims of exploitation;
- Women prisoners released from jail and without family support;

- Women survivors of natural disaster, who have been rendered homeless and are without any social and economic support;
- Trafficked women / girls rescued or runaway from brothels or other places or women / girls victims of sexual crimes, who are disowned by family or who do not want to go back to respective family for various reasons;
- Women victims of terrorist / extremist violence who are without any family support and without any economic means for survival;
- Mentally challenged women (except for the Psychotic categories) who are without any support of family or relatives;
- Women with HIV / AIDS deserted by their family or women who have lost their husband due to HIV/AIDS and are without any social and economic support;
- Similarly women placed in difficult circumstances.

Implementing Agencies

2.23 The implementing agencies can be the Social Welfare / Women and Child Welfare Department of State Governments / Women's Development Corporations / Urban Local Bodies and reputed Public / Private Trust or Voluntary Organisations, who are willing to take up the responsibility of rehabilitating such women. The organizations must have adequate experience / expertise for taking up such work of rehabilitation.

Performance during 2008-09

2.24 The budget allocated for Swadhar Scheme for the year 2008-09 was Rs. 20.00 crores but Revised Estimates was reduced to

Rs. 15.00 crores. Out of this, Rs. 14.94 crores was released during 2008-09. During 2008-09, 100 new Swadhar Shelter Homes / Women Helplines have been sanctioned. Funds were also released to 146 ongoing cases (Swadhar Shelter Homes and Helpline) during 2008-09.

2.25 At present, about 287 Swadhar Shelter Homes and 210 Women Helplines are functional across the country. Statewise funds sanctioned/ released during 2007-08 and 2008-09 is given in **Annexure – XIII** and funds released to different organizations during 2008-09 are given in **Annexure - XIV**

Prevention of Trafficking of Women and Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation

2.26 Trafficking in human beings is an organized crime violating basic human rights. India has emerged as a source, transit and destination country. It is estimated that there are 3 million sex workers in India, of which 40 percent constitute children, as young as 10 years old. Most often these victims are trafficked through means like duping, luring, fake marriages, abducting, kidnapping and manipulating social and economic vulnerabilities and sold to brothels where they are continuously subjected to abuse, violence and exploitation by perpetrators of crime.

2.27 Article 23 of the Constitution of India prohibits trafficking in human beings and begar. The principal legislation “Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956” lays down provisions for providing stringent punishment to the perpetrators of crime. In addition, the Indian Penal Code also provides provisions for crimes related to trafficking. India is also signatory to various International and regional Conventions such as UN convention against Transnational Organized Crime with its protocol to prevent, suppress and

punish trafficking in persons especially women and children, SAARC convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking of Women and Children in Prostitution, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and Convention on the Rights of the Child.

2.28 The growing incidence of trafficking in the country is a major concern to the Government of India and the Ministry of Women and Child Development has undertaken a number of initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking.

2.29 The MWCD has adopted a multi-pronged approach to prevent and combat trafficking and includes:

- Legislative measures
- Enforcement
- Prevention of Trafficking
- Rescue and Rehabilitation
- Re-integration
- Repatriation of Cross-border trafficking victims

The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956

2.30 The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 [ITPA] is the apex legislation for prevention of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. Certain amendments have been proposed to Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 to widen its scope, focus on traffickers, prevent re-victimization of victims and to make its implementation more effective. The proposed amendments can be categorized broadly into those, which protect the victim, and those, which punish the perpetrators. Amendments proposed to protect the victims include: -

- Increase in the age of the child from sixteen years to eighteen years.

- Deletion of existing Sections under which commercial sex workers were generally booked and further re- victimized them.
- In-Camera proceedings in Courts to safeguard privacy of victims.

The second category of amendments proposed refer to enhanced punishment for traffickers, brothel keepers, pimps etc.; and punishment extending to life if the trafficked victim is a child. A new section provides for punishment for persons who visit brothels for sexual exploitation. This is a very significant provision, as it will tend to curb the demand for trafficking.

2.31 The definition of ‘trafficking’ has been adopted from the UN Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish Trafficking in persons, especially women and children. The amendment also proposes setting-up of Centre and State Nodal Authorities in the States for preventing and combating offence of trafficking through coordination, investigation, rescue and rehabilitation, judicial support, research and training.

2.32 The Cabinet examined the proposed amendments on 13th Sept. 2007 and referred it to a Group of Ministers, which gave its decision after examining each of the amendments. The amendments so approved by the Group of Ministers was considered by the Cabinet on 23 February, 2009 and the discussion on the item was deferred.

Integrated Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking with special focus on Children and Women

2.33 The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has formulated a

National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children in 1998, with the objective to mainstream and re-integrate women and child victims of commercial sexual exploitation in the community.

2.34 To formulate a more holistic policy and programme for trafficking in persons which will incorporate all forms of trafficking (such as sexual exploitation, child labour, bonded labour, organ trade etc) and enable an integrated approach to tackle the problem, the MWCD in collaboration with Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Labour, National Human Rights Commission and National Commission for Women is developing an “Integrated Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking with special focus on children and women”. Three regional and a National Consultation was organized to get suggestion and feedback from various stakeholders such as the State government representatives, prominent NGOs and experts in the field. The National consultation was convened in August 2007 and the Integrated Plan of Action has been formulated. The draft Plan of Action has been finalized and would soon be adopted.

Scheme for Combating Trafficking-Ujjawala

2.35 The MWCD is implementing the Scheme of “Ujjawala” launched on 4 December, 2007”. This is a Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-Integration of Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation”. The scheme comprises of five components: -

1. Prevention, which consists of formation of community vigilance groups/adolescents groups, awareness and sensitization

of important functionaries like police, community leaders and preparation of IEC material, holding workshops, etc.

2. Rescue, safe withdrawal of the victim from the place of exploitation.
3. Rehabilitation, which includes providing safe shelter for victims with basic inputs of food, clothing, counseling medical care, legal aid, vocational training and income generation activities etc.
4. Reintegration, which includes restoring the victim into the family/community (if she so desires) and the accompanying costs.
5. Repatriation, to provide support to cross-border victims for their safe repatriation to their country of origin.

2.36 An outlay of Rs 10.00 crores was provided in Annual Plan 2008-09. The Revised Estimates for the Scheme was Rs 6.00 crores and the expenditure was Rs 4.2 crores. So far 79 projects have been sanctioned under the Ujjawala Scheme. State-wise funds released during 2008-09 is given in **Annexure – XV** and funds sanctioned / released to different organizations during 2008-09 are given in **Annexure - XVI**.

Training and Capacity Building of Stake Holders

2.37 The Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development (NIPCCD) organizes series of workshops for stakeholders on issues relating to trafficking of children for commercial sexual exploitation. The MWCD in collaboration with NIPCCD organized training courses for international delegations from SAARC countries on various aspects of trafficking.

Combating Cross - Border Trafficking

2.38 In order to ensure safe and humane repatriation of victims of cross border trafficking especially of young children and women trafficked for prostitution, a draft Roadmap and Joint Plan of Action has been developed in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs and Bangladesh Counterparts with technical support from UNICEF. These documents are at present being vetted for finalization.

Public Private Partnerships

2.39 The need for involving corporate sector and civil society organizations to work in collaboration with other stakeholders such as Government, International Organizations to tackle trafficking led to the formation of a Think-Tank on Public Private Partnership to Prevent and Combat Trafficking of Women and Children under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development. The “Think Tank” constitutes of relevant Ministries such as Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Employment and Ministry of Commerce, business houses such as CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. Apparel Export Promotion Council, representatives from apparel and garment industries, PATA and UNODC are special representatives to the Think Tank.

2.40 In the first meeting of the Think Tank held on 23 July, 2008, it was strongly opined by the participants that there is need to undertake a massive awareness campaign; map supply chains, vulnerable areas and industries available in the area; conduct feasibility study on employability, skill availability and education level of the vulnerable population.

2.41 As a follow-up, a Core Group on the Apparel and Garment Industry was set up where Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) and brands such as Gap. Inc, Impulse, Matrix Clothing etc agreed to provide skill-upgradation to women (especially those who have been mobilized into Self-Help Groups) in areas vulnerable to trafficking so that they can receive sustainable employment and income.

2.42 As the follow-up to the Think Tank Meetings, two projects have been initiated:

1. **Vocational Training and Skill Upgradation for Adolescent Boys and Girls of Vulnerable Groups by Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)**— AEPC in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) and Sarhana Education Society, New Delhi (the NGO that is implementing the project) is providing vocational training and skill-upgradation to the above target groups who are in the vulnerable zone of trafficking. On successful completion, such projects will also be undertaken in other states/vulnerable areas.
2. **Vocational Training and Skill Upgradation for Women Self-Help Groups from Vulnerable Communities in Mewat Region, Haryana by Impulse and Gap. Inc**— Impulse International Pvt. Ltd. and Gap. Inc in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Society for the Promotion of Youth and Masses (SPYM) [an NGO working with women's Self Help Groups in the region] is providing vocational training and skill-upgradation leading to sustainable employment for women from vulnerable communities in the region.

2.43 In addition, MWCD in collaboration with NIPCCD and Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka organized a one day workshop on Public Private Partnership to Prevent and Combat Trafficking wherein a number of corporates from Karnataka, International Organisations such as UNODC and International Organisation for migration and NGOs participated.

Central Advisory Committee to Combat Child Prostitution

2.44 The Ministry constituted a Central Advisory Committee (CAC) under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. Members of the CAC constitute Central Ministries such as Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Information Technology, Ministry of Law and Justice, State Governments, NCW, NHRC, NCPCR, CSWB, NIPCCD, Law enforcement agencies including BSF, NCRB, IB, CBI, NGOs, international organizations such as UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNODC. The CAC meetings are held every quarter.

2.45 In the recent CAC meetings it was agreed to focus on crucial issues such as Inter-state rescue protocol, health, prevention, rehabilitation of victims of trafficking, legal issues, MIS and data base systems and draw up guidelines for implementation and use by all stakeholders. Details are as follows: -

- a. Protocol on Inter-State Rescue and Post-rescue Activities relating to Trafficked Persons — provides guidelines to the State Governments on the Inter-State Rescue Operations, the modalities involved, precautions to be undertaken and

- responsibility of various stakeholders in providing services to the rescued victim.
- b. Prevention — provides for various steps to be undertaken to prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation and includes formation of Adolescent groups and Community Vigilance groups, Anti-Trafficking Regional Networks, Appropriate interventions should be taken up in brothel areas to prevent second-generation prostitution, to undertake special measures targeting those communities traditionally involved in Commercial Sex work and rehabilitation of women who have become old to carry on the profession and are in need of care and protection.
 - c. Rehabilitation—provides for action points related to area of rehabilitation such as Care and Support programmes, Community based rehabilitation, custody of victims, education and skill building of victims and their ultimate rehabilitation in the society.
 - d. Health—highlights the special medical care, both physical and psychological, that is required by the victims of trafficking, the long-term impacts and the steps to be undertaken to provide holistic health services to the victims of trafficking.
 - e. Legal Measures related to Trafficking—The Blue Print of Action calls for a composite Legislation addressing trafficking for all purposes such as begging, organ trade, labour, drug-peddling etc.
 - f. Management Information System (MIS)—The MIS system provides format for enforcement agencies for collecting data on trafficked victims and traffickers.

National Plan of Action for implementing the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women

2.46 The Government adopted the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women on 20.03.2001. The main objective of this Policy is to bring about the advancement, development and empowerment of women and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to ensure their active participation in all spheres of public life and activities.

2.47 To ensure that the policy prescriptions get implemented, the Ministry is in the process of drafting a Plan of Action (POA). A Core Group has been set up to redraft the POA in the light of the observations made by the Cabinet Secretariat. Under the Policy's operational strategy, the Action Plan has to be drawn up with goals achievable by the year 2010. The POA will also identify commitment of resources and responsibilities for implementation and strengthen institutional mechanisms and structures for monitoring. The operational strategy also mentions the need to develop Gender Development Index as a method of gender auditing and stresses the importance of collecting gender-disaggregated data, which will be useful for planning, implementation and monitoring.

Scheme for Relief to and rehabilitation of Victims of Rape

2.48 The Supreme Court, in a judgment dated 19.10.94, directed the Government to evolve a scheme to mitigate the sufferings of victims of rape and to constitute Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to pay them compensation. A meeting of the Committee of Secretaries (COS) was held on 4.3.2005 to discuss the

implementation of the Supreme Court judgement. In pursuance to the decision taken in the COS meeting, the National Commission for Women (NCW) has formulated a scheme titled 'Scheme for Relief and Rehabilitation of Victims of Rape, 2005' providing for constitution of (i) Criminal Injuries Relief and Rehabilitation Board at each and every district to award compensation to rape victims; and (ii) District Monitoring Committees to provide shelter, protection, legal and medical aid and other rehabilitative measures for the victims. The Scheme has been included in the XI Plan.

Laws on Women

2.49 The Ministry of Women and Child Development has set up a Committee to review laws so as to remove gender disparities, if any, in these laws. The Committee reviews the progress of action taken by the concerned Ministries in this respect. Present status of reviews of laws affecting women is given in **Annexure - XVII**. The Ministry is concerned with the legislative aspects of the following Acts:

The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.

2.50 A proposal to amend the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 in order to widen its scope and to make its implementation more effective was considered by the Cabinet which directed wider consultations to be held for the amendment of the Act. The National Commission for Women is taking further action in this respect.

The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

2.51 The National Commission for Women (NCW) has recommended amendments to the

Act and amendment of section 304 B of Indian Penal Code in order to strengthen the anti-dowry laws. The recommendations are under examination in the Ministry.

The National Commission for Women Act, 1990

2.52 Amendments to the Act have been recommended by the National Commission for Women in order to give more powers to the Commission. These are under examination in the Ministry.

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

2.53 The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 was notified in the Gazette of India on 14.9.2005. The said Act is a comprehensive legislation to protect women from all forms of domestic violence. The Act also covers women who have been/are in a relationship with the abuser and are subject to violence of any kind - physical, sexual, mental, verbal or emotional. The Act has been brought into force with effect from 26.10.2006.

2.54 The Ministry has also notified the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Rules, 2006 laying down the rules for implementation of the Act. The copies of the Act and the Rules have been circulated to all State Chief Secretaries with the request to appoint Protection Officers, register service providers and to give wide publicity to the Act for creating awareness of its provisions among the public. A proforma has been devised and circulated to the State Governments with the request to send quarterly reports on various aspects of implementation of the Act indicated in it.

2.55 The Salient features of the Act are :

- It covers those women who are or have been in a relationship with the abuser where both parties have lived together in a shared household and are related by consanguinity, marriage, a relationship in the nature of marriage, or adoption. In addition, relationships with family members living together as a joint family are also included. Even those women who are sisters, widows, mothers, single women, or living with the abuser are entitled to the protection under the proposed legislation. However, whereas the Act enables the wife or the female living in a relationship in the nature of marriage to file a complaint against any relative of the husband or the male partner, it does not enable any female relative of the husband or the male partner to file a complaint against the wife or the female partner.
- It defines “domestic violence” to include actual abuse or the threat of abuse that is physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or economic. Harassment by way of unlawful dowry demands to the woman or her relatives would also be covered under this definition.
- It confers on the aggrieved woman the right to reside in a shared household, whether or not she has any title or rights in the same. In fact, a respondent, not being a female, can be directed under the Act to remove himself from the shared household or to secure for the aggrieved woman the same level of alternate accommodation as enjoyed by her in the shared household or to pay rent for the same.

- The orders for reliefs, the aggrieved woman is entitled to, under the Act include protection orders, residence orders, monetary relief, custody orders and compensation orders.
- It empowers the Magistrate to pass protection order in favour of the abused to prevent the abuser from aiding or committing an act of domestic violence or any other specified act, entering a workplace or any other place frequented by the abused, attempting to communicate with the abused, isolating any assets used by both the parties and causing violence to the abused, her relatives or others who provide her assistance against the domestic violence.
- It provides for appointment of Protection Officers and recognizes and involves non-governmental organisations as service providers for providing assistance to the abused with respect to her medical examination, obtaining legal aid, safe shelter etc.

2.56 On completion of one year, in October, 2007, a national conference was organized in collaboration with the Lawyer’s Collective to review the implementation of the Act. This is the first time that implementation of an Act has been reviewed on completion of one year and it was found that though setting up of necessary infrastructure to implement the Act as prescribed therein is lacking in many states, as many as 7913 cases have been registered under the Act in one year. The Act has again been reviewed on completion of second year and the findings are under examination.

The Protection Against Sexual Harassment of Women Bill, 2005

2.57 A Bill seeking to confer upon women the right to protection against sexual harassment at workplace has been drafted in consultation with the National Commission for Women and eminent women organisations working in the area having requisite expertise. The proposed new legislation would cover women working in organised, unorganised and informal sectors and would have clear provisions about the employers' obligations to prevent and redress complaints of sexual harassment at workplace. The Bill is under examination in the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Law.

National Commission for Women

2.58 The National Commission for Women (NCW) was constituted on 31.1.1992 as an apex statutory body under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. The main task of the Commission is to study and monitor all matters relating to the Constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women and to review the existing legislations and suggest amendments, wherever necessary. NCW is also mandated to look into the complaints and take suo moto notice of the cases involving deprivation of the rights of women in order to provide support, legal or otherwise, to helpless and needy women. Ensuring custodial justice is another important function. The NCW is empowered to monitor the proper implementation of all the legislations made to protect the rights of women so as to enable them to achieve equality in all spheres of life and equal participation in the development of the nation.

2.59 The Ministry laid the Annual Reports of NCW for the year 2004-05, 2005-06 & 2006-07 on the Table of Lok Sabha during the year 2008-09. The annual Reports of NCW for the year 2004-05 & 2005-06 were also laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha. The process to lay the Annual Report of the Commission for the year 2006-07 on the Table of Rajya Sabha during the year is under active consideration.

UN Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

2.60 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

2.61 The 53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held in New York from March 2 to 13, 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.



IBSA Women's Forum Meeting

IBSA Women's Forum

2.62 The IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) Women's Forum was launched by the Heads of States of India, Brazil and South Africa during the 2nd IBSA Summit in October, 2007 in South Africa with the aim of promoting gender equality, women's empowerment and accelerating poverty eradication. The Second IBSA Women's Forum meeting was held in New Delhi on 13 – 14 October 2008 and the report was submitted on 15th October 2008 during the 3rd IBSA Summit. The meeting was attended by Ministers, Government officials and civil society participants. A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Women Development and Gender Equality Programme was signed by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Minister of Government of the Republic of India, Ms. Nilcea Freire, Hon'ble Minister

of Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Ms. Manto Tshabalala Msimang, Hon'ble Minister of the Government of the Republic of South Africa in the presence of the Prime Minister of India and the Presidents of Brazil and South Africa. The Prime Minister of India commended the report of IBSA Women's Forum.

Visit by Foreign Delegations

2.63 During the year 2008-09, delegations from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt and China were received. These delegations evinced keen interest in the programmes and schemes being run by the Ministry for development and empowerment of women and desired to have sharing of experience in the various schemes particularly Micro Credit Programme and ICDS Programme.

Stree Shakti Puraskar

2.64 Indian Women have taken on different roles before and after Independence and excelled in many fields. The fact that in most cases, success has been achieved in the face of adversity and difficulties and with the strength of courage, initiative and determination makes them precious.

2.65 It is important that such success stories are publicly recognized so that such women become role models for the future generations of Indian women. As a measure of recognition of achievements of individual women in the field of social development, the Government of India has instituted five national awards titled 'Stree Shakti Puraskar'.

2.66 The Puraskar is given in the names of Jhansi Ki Rani Lakshmi Bai, Kannagi, Rani Gaidenlieu, Devi Ahilya Bai, Mata Jija Bai. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 3.00 lakh and a citation. Another sub-category of Stree Shakti Puraskar 2007 which is named after Rani Rudramma Devi, has been added from the year 2007. This award will be given to men or women for their outstanding administrative skill, leadership quality and courage and who have worked towards empowerment of women.

2.67 In a award ceremony held at New Delhi on 28th February, 2009, Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Women and Child Development conferred Stree Shakti Puruskar, 2007 on the following:-



Honourable MOS(IC), MWCD presenting Stree Shakti Puraskar, 2007

Name of the Puraskar	Name of the Recipient
Kannagi	Smt. Aruna Tara, Andhra Pradesh
Jhansi Ki Rani Lakshmbai	Smt. Rani Devi, Haryana
Rani Gaidinlui Zeliang	Smt. Buangi Sailo, Mizoram
Devi Ahilaya Bai	Ms. Vaishnavi Jayakumar, Tamil Nadu
Mata Jijabai	Ms. V. Vijaya, Andhra Pradesh

International Women's Day

2.68 8th March is celebrated as International Women's Day the world over connecting all women around the world and inspiring them to achieve their full potential. To mark the occasion,

Shri Anil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development presided over a special function organized by Ministry of Women and Child Development on 8th March, 2009 at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi. Health checkups for women were also organized on that day. Secretary,



Secretary, WCD presenting the certificate to a successful Trainee of Paramedical Course on International Women's Day, 8th March 2009



Free Medical Checkup on International Women's Day, on 8th March 2009

Ministry of Women and Child Development released the summary report titled “Gendering Human Development Indices: Recasting Gender Development Index and Gender Empowerment Measure for India-2009”.

SAARC Gender Information Base

2.69 The Ministry of Women and Child Development is the nodal agency for SAARC Gender Info Base in India and is actively participating in its development. SAARC Gender Info Base is a unique web site containing statistical data as well as important information

related to gender issues which was launched during 6th South Asia Ministerial Conference commemorating ‘Beijing Declaration’ held in New Delhi on 17.01.2008 by His Excellency the SAARC Secretary General. The three themes for SAARC Gender Info Base are Feminization of Poverty, Violence against women (especially trafficking) and Health Issues (including HIV). Under the three themes, there are components and under each component prioritized indicators are identified. The indicators are quantitative and qualitative in nature and the process of collecting data / information is currently going on.



Sri Anil Kumar, Secretary, WCD releasing the provisional summary report “Gendering Human Development Indices : Recasting GDI and GEM for India” on 8th March, 2009

Compilation of Gender Development Index / Gender Empowerment Measure

2.70 The Ministry of Women and Child Development had undertaken the activity of compilation of Gender Development Index and Gender Empowerment Index for India and States / UTs under GOI – UNDP project of ‘Promoting Gender Equality’. The Indian Institute of

Public Administration is the collaborating National Institution for this project. The provisional summary report titled ‘Gendering Human Development Indices: Recasting the Gender Development Index (GDI) and Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) for India’ was released on 8th March 2009 on International Women’s Day. The indices have been calculated for the two periods 1996 & 2006. The detailed report is under preparation.