



सत्यमेव जयते

India's Report

**On the Implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in Context
of the**

**Twenty Fifth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the
Adoption of the**

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 2019

ABBREVIATIONS

ACABC	Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres
ACI	Amendment to the Constitution of India
AFHC	Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics
ANDSO	A National Database on Sexual Offenders
ATMA	Agricultural Technology Management Agency
BBBP	Beti Bachao Bet iPadhao
BJRCY	Babu Jagiven Ram Chhatrawas Yojana
BMCs	Biodiversity Management Communities
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CAMM	Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility
CBSE	Central Board of Secondary Education
CCPWC	Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children
CEP	Cooperative Education Programme
CIS	Cyber and Information Security
CTSA	Central Tibetan Schools Administration
DAYNLM	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana –National Rural Livelihoods Mission
DDMA	District Disaster Management
DDU-JKY	Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana
DLCW	District Level Centre Women
ERSS	Emergency Response Support System
EWRs	Elected Women Representatives
FSGs	Farm Women’s Food Security Groups
GPDP	Gram Panchayat Development Plan
GSSC	Guidelines on Safety and Security of Children
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
ICM	The Centre for Migration
IGNDPS	Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme
IGNOPS	Indira Gandhi National Old age Pension Scheme
IORA	Indian Ocean Rim Associations
IPC	Indian Penal Code
IPSrC	Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens
ISAM	Integrated Scheme for Agricultural
JSS	Jan Shiksha Sansthan
JSSK	Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram
JSY	Janani Suraksha Yojana
KGBV	Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya
KSY	Kishori Shakti Yojana
KVS	Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan

MAA	Mother Absolute Affections
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MHRD	Ministry of Human Resource Development
MKD	Mahila Kisan Diwas
MKSP	Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana
MNTE	Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination
MoSPI	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSK	Mahila Shakti Kendra
MSY	Mahila Samridhi Yojana
NBCFDC	National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation
NCPCR	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NCUI	National Cooperative Union of India
NCW	National Commission for Women
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NDRF	National Disaster Response Force
NDSAP	National Data Sharing & Accessibility Policy
NDSO	National Database on Sexual Offenders
NGRCA	National Gender Resource Centre in Agriculture
NHRI	National Human Rights Commission
NIF	National Indicator Framework
NMSA	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
NRDWP	National Drinking Water Programme
NSDP	National Skill Development Policy
NSFDC	National Scheduled Caste Finance Development Corporation
NSIGSE	National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education
NVS	Novodaya Vidyalaya Samiti
PDOT	Pre - Departure Orientation Training
PKVY	Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana
PMAY-G	Pardhan Mantri Awas Yojana -Grameen
PMGDISHA	Pardhan Mantri Grameen Digital Saksharta Abhiyan
PMGSY	Pardhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
PMKVY	Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
PMMVY	Pradhan Mantri Matri Vandana Yojana
PMSMA	Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan
PRIs	Panchayati Raj Institutions
PS	Pragati Scholarship
RGSA	Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan
RKSK	Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram
RMNCH+A	Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child & Adolescent Health
RSETIs	Rural Self Employment Training Institutes

RUSA	Rashtriya Uchcatar Shiksha Abhiyan
RVY	Rashtriya Vayashri Yojana
SAG	Scheme for Adolescent Girls
SAGY	Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana
SBM-G	Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDMA	State Disaster Management Authority
SHGs	Self-Help Groups
SHRC	State Human Rights Commission
SIM	Skill India Mission
SMAM	Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization
SMC	School Management Committee
SNOS	Scheme for National Overseas Scholarship
SNP	Supplementary Nutrition Programme
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SRB	Sex Ratio at Birth
SRCW	State Resource Centre for Women
SSA	Sukanya Sumriddhi Account
SSS	Samagra Shiksha Scheme
SVM	Swacch Vidyalaya Mission
UMCP	Under a Maternal Care Programme
UNCTOC	UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime
VLPELS	Vidya Lakshmi Portal Education Loan Scheme
WMHII	Women in Mental Health Institutions in India

A INTRODUCTION

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action or BPfA is a landmark document for advancing the rights of women and gender equality worldwide agreed during the 4th World Conference on women held in Beijing in 1995. The international community came to a consensus and agreed to a comprehensive blueprint of commitments supporting the full development of women and their equality with men in 12 areas of concern. Even after over 25 years later, it remains a powerful source of guidance and inspiration.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) envisioned gender equality in all dimensions of life. The 25th anniversary (in 2020) of Beijing opens new opportunities to reconnect, regenerate commitment, charge up political will and mobilize the public.

The Government of India reaffirms its commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and will actively advance its implementation nationally and internationally, and take part in the various events being organized by UN Women and others to mark this milestone.

This report reflects the continued commitment of Government of India for promoting gender equality, women's rights and the empowerment of women. Gender equality is pivotal to the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all spheres of the society. Gender equality is a pre-requisite and a driver for economic growth, prosperity and cohesion. Thus, Government of India is continuously working towards ensuring gender equality and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in all spheres of life. The Beijing Platform for Action continues to be a valuable tool in this endeavor.

This report provides an overview on the progress made so far towards the integration and implementation of agreed principles of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, along with existing gaps and challenges faced by the Government of India. The Beijing+25 national level review was undertaken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, in consultation with the line Ministries.

The information for the purpose of national review was gathered using primary and secondary sources. This was further supplemented by consultations and meetings with line Ministries/Departments, academia, etc.

The report covers the period from **April 2014 to March, 2019**. The national review report has been divided into four sections namely (a) general overview of key

achievements and challenges faced during the reporting period, (b) detailed actions taken during the period on 12 areas of Beijing Platform for Action, (c) information on national institutions and related processes and (d) key challenges.

The Beijing+25 review gives Government of India an opportunity to assess progress made so far in terms of achieving SDGs and identify the gaps in order to chalk out a roadmap to attain the 2030 agenda of Sustainable Development for achieving gender equality and ensuring empowerment of women in all walks of life.

SECTION ONE: PRIORITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND SETBACKS

1 What have been the most important achievements, challenges and set-backs in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women over the past 5 years?

India believes that inclusive and equitable development is the key towards securing a life of dignity, security, empowerment and freedom for all. For this reason, India has put in place robust set of socio-economic policies and developmental programmes/schemes to address the various basic needs of people, including health, education, housing, poverty alleviation, women empowerment, food security, providing social protection, etc.

It is a well recognized fact that women's empowerment and equality is a pre-requisite for a balanced, well-rounded growth of any economy. Ending all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls has a multiplier effect, cross-cutting all areas of development. Empowering women and promoting gender equality holds the key to sustainable development.

The Government of India attaches the highest importance to gender equality and women's empowerment. Women's empowerment in India is fast progressing from women development to women-led development. In furtherance of this, the Government of India over the last five years has undertaken a number of important steps that contribute to the progress towards gender equality and empowerment of women. The main achievements in this regard are enumerated in the succeeding paragraphs.

The Government of India is committed towards creating an inclusive society where women and adolescent girls have equal access to resources and opportunities, enabling them to participate in the social, economic, and political development of India. The Government is also determined to ensure the complete eradication of all forms of gender-based inequalities in India - a grave challenge that countries across the world are struggling with. In furtherance of this goal, the Government has undertaken several legislative and policy interventions towards ensuring India's substantive compliance with the Convention.

The role of women is critical not only across agriculture and industrial sectors but also in governance, education, health services among other sectors. India follows a holistic approach for achieving the SDGs by implementing a comprehensive array of

schemes. Current flagship policies and programmes of Government of India such as Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), POSHAN Abhiyaan and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) have substantially contributed towards promoting gender equality, clean environment, promoting girl education and affordable housing for urban poor.

Understanding the important role of sanitation in human development and for ensuring dignity of citizens especially the women, **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)** was launched on October 2, 2014, to make India open defecation free by 2019. SBM has brought in a remarkable transformation and traceable benefits to the society as a whole. During the period under the report, India has achieved the target of almost 100 per cent in terms of ODF and IHHL coverage. This mission acts as a driver for eliminating the gender disparity through the construction of gender-specific latrines in public areas such as schools, roads and parks. This Mission has indirectly made a huge positive impact on society by increasing the enrolment ratio of girls in schools and improving health standards.

Concerned with declining Child Sex Ratio and with a view to increase enrolment of girls in formal education system, **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme** was launched on 22nd January, 2015 to address the issue of decline in Child Sex Ratio and related issues of empowerment of girls and women. The success of the BBBP scheme is evidenced by the fact that since the launch of this scheme, an improving trend in (SRB) by 13 points has been seen at all India level from 918 in year 2014-15 to 931 in year 2019-20.

To combat malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes to address various aspects related to nutrition. This Government of India is implementing several schemes and programs like Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna**, **Anaemia Mukta Bharat** to improve nutritional outcomes. Taking this matter forward, and for ensuring a malnutrition free India by 2022, the Government of India has launched **POSHAN Abhiyaan**, a multi-ministerial convergence mission on 8th March, 2018. As per the last two rounds of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3 in 2005-06 and NFHS-4 in 2015-16) conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, indicates towards progress charted on key nutritional indicators.

Realizing that access to clean cooking fuel is very important to improve standards of living of women, especially poor women, who are faced with the hardship of collecting firewood; Government of India had launched **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana Scheme** in May 2016 for providing free LPG connections to 80 million households.

2 Which of the following have been the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country over the past five years through laws, policies and/or programmes?

i) Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls

To achieve the objective of 100% literacy irrespective of gender, under the Right to Education Act, 2009, the Government has notified the area of limits of neighbourhood within which a school has to be established by the appropriate Government/local authority. Accordingly, primary schools must be established within a walking distance of one kilometre of the neighbourhood and upper primary schools should be established within a walking distance of three kilometres of the neighbourhood.¹

The Government has launched a number of schemes like **SamagraShiksha [erstwhile Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)]**, **Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship**, **Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojna**, **Swacch Vidyalaya Mission**, etc to ensure that schools are girl-friendly especially for vulnerable sections of society viz Scheduled Castes (SCs)/ Scheduled Tribes (STs)/minority communities and transgenders² and have adequate facilities in place to fulfil their special requirements. Various facilities like free text books, uniforms, choice of courses to the girls including in non traditional areas like construction, IT and Electronics, Physical Education and Sports, Security, Travel and Tourism, gender-sensitive teaching materials and self- defence trainings for girls, construction and expansion of existing girl's hostel building, providing girls' toilet and safe drinking water facilities.

ii) Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security

Women in India play a significant and crucial role in agriculture including food grains production, livestock production, horticulture, post-harvest operations, agro/social forestry, fisheries, etc. In India, about 17 crore women working agriculture and allied activities, producing about 60-80 per cent of our food. However, women in agriculture are generally not able to access extension services and production assets like seed, water, credit, subsidy, etc as most of them are not recognized as farmers for want of ownership of land. To improve the present status of women in agriculture, and to enhance the opportunities for their empowerment, the **National Policy on Farmers**

2007 accorded high priority to 'Recognition and Mainstreaming of Women's role in Agriculture' and highlighted incorporation of 'Gender Issues' in the agricultural development agenda. Accordingly, the Government is promoting 'mainstreaming of gender concerns in agriculture' in a big way through incorporation of 'pro-women initiatives' in various Schemes / Programmes / Missions and earmarking of at least 30% of benefits and resources for women under all such beneficiary oriented interventions.³Government of India has launched a number of schemes like "**Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana**" (MKSP), as a sub component of the **Deendaya Antodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)** for empowering women in agriculture and allied sectors.

iii) Eliminating violence against women and girls

The right to life as enshrined in Article 21 of the Indian Constitution is a basic human right which includes the right to a dignified life free of violence. Safety of women is of utmost priority for the Government of India. It has been Government's endeavour to establish effective systems to provide a safe environment for women to work and live and fulfil their potential. Incidence of crime against women cannot be controlled unless mind-sets of people, in general, are to change. Keeping in mind the vision articulated as aforesaid, in the past few years, there has been enactment of various legislations by the Indian Parliament such as Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and Criminal Law Amendment Act 2013, etc which address the issue of gender inequality, discrimination and violence faced by women. Some of the recent legislative interventions are Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2018 which provides for even more stringent penal provisions for the offences of rape including death penalty for rape of a girl below the age of 12 years, as also swift administration of justice. The Act also inter-alia mandates completion of investigation and trials within 2 months each. Further, appeals against convictions or acquittal are to be disposed of within 6 months.

Schematic and programmatic actions undertaken by the Government of India to address violence against women and girls are guided by a set of international legal instruments such as CEDAW, BPF, ILO Conventions etc, the domestic legal framework, as well as the existing policies and strategies. The Government is working for the strict implementation of various Acts by pursuing local administration to conduct preventive activities. Trafficking of women and girls is one of the forms of violence against women that has continued to be addressed in priority in the last five years. Further, Sexual harassment and sexual violence in public spaces, educational settings and in employment have been given a great importance in the last five years. In the past five years, the efforts of the Government have resulted into consolidation of enforcement actions on ground by way of setting up ICs and LCs at various levels across the countries. The Government is also in the process

of creation of an online platform that will act as a virtual workplace for the purpose of registration of complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace by the victims and its online monitoring. With widespread proliferation of digital communication including social media and mobile apps, etc. there are some anti-social elements who are misusing these technologies for committing cybercrimes against women and children. A **central cybercrime reporting portal** (www.cybercrime.gov.in) has also been launched in 2018 which allows citizens to report online content pertaining to child pornography/child sexual abuse material or sexually explicit content and rape/gang rape content. Keeping in view the challenges in handling cybercrimes in the country and for effectively tackling cyber-crimes against women and children, the Government is implementing a scheme viz. **Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC)**.

In addition, the priority of the Government includes **setting up of One Stop Centres, Women Helpline and Mahila Police Volunteers**, providing medical care and compensation to victims of acid attack, rape and other heinous crimes, making major cities a safer place, strengthening of forensic science & DNA testing laboratories, providing self-defence training to girl students and women, to help-out the women affected by violence.

iv) Access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

The Government of India formulated National Health Policy, 2017 to attain the goal of highest possible level of health and well-being for all at all ages, through a preventive and promotive health care orientation in all developmental policies, and universal access to good quality health care services without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence. The Policy prioritizes the role of the Government in shaping health systems in all its dimensions-investments in health, organization of healthcare services, prevention of diseases and promotion of good health through cross sectoral actions, access to technologies, developing human resources, encouraging medical pluralism, building knowledge base, developing better financial protection strategies, strengthening regulation and health assurance.

In alignment with the goals under Nation Health Policy (NHP) 2017, the Government announced the ambitious and holistic **Ayushman Bharat programme** with its twin pillars of Health and Wellness Centres and the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) in September, 2018.

Further, to provide holistic post-natal care to the mother and child and promote institutional deliveries, the **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)** under the National Health Mission (NHM) has also been

implemented. Government is taking various measures to ensure accessibility of women to health care services, with a special focus on sexual and reproductive rights.

To promote maternity benefit to pregnant women and lactating mothers, Government has implemented **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** which aims to promote appropriate practice, care and institutional service utilization during pregnancy, delivery and lactation by providing cash incentives in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode to pregnant and lactating mothers.

Further, the Government launched the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) in 2014, which aims to counsel adolescent girls on matters of sexual and reproductive health at Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHC). To address the need of menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls residing primarily in rural areas, Government of India is supporting the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme for decentralized procurement of sanitary napkins packs at subsidized rates.

v) Political participation and representation

One of the most significant steps towards women empowerment and gender responsive governance was the **73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India**, which ensured active and increased participation of women in the political sphere in *PanchayatiRaj* Institutions (PRIs). This amendment significantly increased the proportion of Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) in PRIs as it provides for reservation of not less than one-third of the total seats and offices of Chairpersons for women in all elected offices in PRIs. Since the introduction of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, various notable changes have taken place in PRIs towards gender empowerment. Moreover, 20 states have introduced **50% reservation for women in PRIs**. There are about 13.75 lakh EWRs in rural local governments which constitute approximately 44.37% of the total elected representatives.⁴

In the General Elections of 2014, the gap in voter participation between men and women dropped down to 1.79 percentage points (67.09% male voters and 65.30% female voters) from 4.42 percentage points in the General Election of 2009 (60.24% male voters and 55.82% female voters). In fact, in 16 States/Union Territories, female voter turnout (in percentage) was higher than male turnout.

As for participation of women in politics, the total number of women candidates in the 2019 General Elections was 716, in comparison to a mere 45 in 1957. At present, out of the 542 Members of Parliament (MPs) in Lok Sabha, 78 are women (the highest number in history). Currently, out of a total of 239 MPs in the Rajya Sabha, 26 are women.

3. Over the past five years, have you taken specific measures to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination?

With regard to the measures taken to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women living in remote and rural areas, racial, ethnic or religious minority women, women living with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDS, younger women etc, it may be noted that the basic principles of equality and non-discrimination are enshrined in the Constitution of India. Article 15 of the Constitution of India specifically prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of work which implies non-discrimination on the ground of gender. During the past five years, Government of India has made several significant improvements to accelerate progress for women and girls, to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls so as to ensure that women are provided with a life of equality and dignity.

For women are in need of care and protection like widowed, destitute, victims of difficult circumstances, etc so that they could lead their life with dignity and conviction, the Government is implementing various scheme such as establishment of Swadhar Greh for providing shelter, food, medical aid, psycho-social counseling and vocational training etc. Similarly, taking cognizance of the special needs of older women and to improve the quality of life of the Senior Citizens by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities and by encouraging productive and active ageing. The Government is implementing various schemes such as Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC), Senior Citizens Homes for 50 Elderly Women, Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY), Pradhan Mantri Vyay Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), etc.

For taking care of the issues pertaining to international migration from India, the **Centre for Migration (ICM)** has been established as a research think tank. Over the past two years, it has brought out a comprehensive Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT) Manual in 6 languages, including English.⁵ Apart from the manual, it has also developed Handbook for Migrant Workers in Hindi and English, which aims to enhance soft skills of potential emigrant workers in terms of culture, language, traditions and local rules and regulations of the destination country. So far, ICM has also conducted Awareness Generation and Training of Trainers Workshops in eight states of India, in coordination with the State Government for generating awareness about safe, orderly and regular migration among relevant stakeholders and enhancing the outreach of Pre-Departure Orientation Program to the migratory labour pockets of the country. ICM has also collaborated with International Organization for Migration and UN-WOMEN and is presently undertaking technical projects such as India-EU Common Agenda on

Migration and Mobility (CMM) in collaboration with International Labour Organization (ILO).⁶

Apart from the above, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that consensual sexual acts of adults in private, is not a crime. The provisions of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 will continue to govern non-consensual sexual acts against adults, all acts of carnal intercourse against minors and acts of bestiality.

Further, the three concrete examples of measures taken by the Government to prevent discrimination and promote rights of women and girls in above context are as under :

i) Women living with Disabilities:

The Government of India enacted the **Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016**, which implores government and local authorities to take measures to ensure that women and children with disabilities enjoy their rights equally with others.⁷The Act provides various rights and entitlements for persons with disabilities and it mandates the government to take measures to ensure that women and children with disabilities enjoy their rights equally with others. The Act provides for ensuring reproductive rights of women with disabilities and it prohibits medical procedure including termination of pregnancy of women with disabilities without informed and expressed consent. It also mandates the Government to take measures to provide pre-natal, peri-natal care of mother and child. Further, Section 3 of the aforesaid Act prohibits discrimination on the ground of disability. Women with disability have also been given equal opportunity to represent in the Central Advisory Board, the highest policy recommending body in disability sector. Out of the 10 nominated members, to represent PwDs/their organizations, 5 are women. The Act mandates 4% reservation in Government jobs and 5% reservation in seats in Government and Government aided higher educational institutions for persons with benchmark disabilities which are equally applicable to women with disabilities.

ii) Women living with HIV/AIDS

The persons living with HIV/AIDS, including women, unfortunately face stigma and various forms of discrimination. In order to prevent this inequity, the Government has enacted The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017. The Act has been enacted to protect the human rights of persons affected by the said virus and syndrome.⁸ The Act expressly prohibits discrimination against HIV-Positive persons or persons who are currently, or have in the past, lived, resided or cohabited with an HIV-Positive person.⁹ Sterilisation or

abortion of an HIV positive pregnant woman without obtaining her informed consent has also been expressly prohibited under this legislation.¹⁰

iii) Racial, ethnic or religious minority women

The Ministry of Minority as the nodal agency to improve the socio-economic condition of the notified minority communities, has adopted multi-pronged strategy so as to enhance the employability of the minorities by way of implementation of various schemes which aim at their educational, empowerment, employment- oriented skill development, infrastructure support etc. In order to promote education including higher education, the Government of India earmarked minimum 30% seats for minority girls/ Women in its all educational schemes and about 50% of the total scholarships are availed by girl students. Under these schemes, between 2014 till 2018, there are 2.66 crore beneficiaries out of which 1.21 crore are girls.

4. Has the increasing number of humanitarian crises—caused by conflict, extreme weather or other events—affected the implementation of the BPfA in your country?

There have been no instances where humanitarian crises caused by internal conflicts, extreme climate conditions or other events have affected the implementation of the BPfA in India. The National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF), State Disaster Relief Force (SDRF), security forces and other government agencies remain fully equipped for rescue and relief operations in respect of persons affected by natural calamities like floods, landslides, etc.

5 Which of the following does your country consider to be the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country for the coming five years through laws, policies and programmes?

The Government attaches utmost importance to accelerating progress for women and girls. In this context, there are many more top priority areas for the coming five years through implementation of laws, policies and programmes namely: Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice, quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls, elimination of violence against women and girls, access to affordable healthcare, right to work and rights at work, women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises, gender-responsive social protection (e.g. universal health coverage, cash transfers, pensions), unpaid care and domestic work/work-family conciliation (e.g. paid maternity or parental leave, care services), basic and services and infrastructure and digital and financial inclusion for women. However the details about five top priorities areas are as follows:

i) Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

In alignment with the goals under Nation Health Policy (NHP) 2017, the Government announced the ambitious and holistic Ayushman Bharat programme with its twin pillars of Health and Wellness Centres and the Pradhan Mantri Jan ArogyaYojana (PMJAY) in September, 2018. **The objective of Pradhan Mantri Jan ArogyaYojana (PMJAY)** is to reduce financial burden on poor and vulnerable groups arising out of catastrophic hospitalization and ensure their access to quality health services. PM-JAY seeks to accelerate India's progress towards achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Sustainable Development Goal - 3 (SDG3). To ensure that nobody is left out (especially girl child, women, children and elderly), there is no cap on family size and age in the Mission. Under the scheme priority has been given to girl child, women and senior citizens. It provides free hospitalization cover of up to Rs. 5 lakh per family per year to around 10.74 crores entitled beneficiaries identified as per the defined criteria using the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) database. It offer a benefit cover of Rs. 5,00,000 per family per year (on a family floater basis). PM-JAY covers medical and hospitalization expenses for almost all secondary care and most of tertiary care procedures. The **Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)** envisage provision of comprehensive primary care that includes preventive healthcare and health promotion at the community level with continuum of care approach for all. Services at AB-HWCs are free and universal to all individuals residing in the service area. The target is to transform the 1,50,000 Sub-Health Centres and Primary Health Centres into AB-HWCs by December, 2022.¹¹As on 24.06.2019, the total number of hospital admissions under Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is 29,96,635. So far, approvals for 52,744 Ayushman Bharat - Health & Wellness Centres (HWCs) have been accorded. Out of these, as reported by the States/UTs on the HWC Portal 19,501 HWCs are operationalized till 1st July, 2019. This is likely to create an environment for increased access of health services for public and will also create large number of jobs in health sector, that is bound to increase employment for women as well.

ii) Gender responsive social protection(e.g. universal health coverage, cash transfers, pensions)

The Constitution of India, in its Directive Principles of State Policy provides that State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties.

To ensure the objective of malnutrition free India by 2022, POSHAN Abhiyaan (**National Nutrition Mission**) is a flagship programme of Ministry of Women and Child

Development which ensures convergence with various programmes i.e., Anganwadi Services. Pradhan Mantri Matru VandanaYojana (PMMVY), Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) of MWCD, Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), National Health Mission (NHM), Swachh Bharat Mission, Public Distribution System (PDS). It focuses to lay emphasis on the first 1000 days of the child, which includes the nine months of pregnancy, six months of exclusive breastfeeding and the period from 6 months to 2 years to ensure focused interventions on addressing under nutrition. Besides increasing the birth weight, it will help reduce both Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR).

iii) Basic services and infrastructure (Water, sanitation, hygiene, energy, transport, communication, etc.)

Investing in basic services and infrastructure, especially in water supply, sanitation services, energy for the Rural Households, is not only time saving but reduces women's household work load thereby increasing their participation in economic activities. Government has been taking conscious efforts in this direction.

Pradhan Mantri UjjwalaYojna was launched in 2016, with the aim to safeguard the health of women and children by providing them with clean cooking fuel - LPG connections to women who belong to BPL (Below Poverty Line) households. It is helping prevent a significant number of acute respiratory illnesses like bronchitis, burning sensation in eyes, regular coughing and acute headaches etc. caused by indoor air pollution and also given relief to rural women from wandering in unsafe areas to collect firewoods. Ensuring women's empowerment, especially in rural India, the connections are issued in the name of women of the households. As of 31 March, 2019, more than 7.189 crore LPG connections have been released under this scheme. The Government is continuing to provide this facility to cover the women of all BPL households.

Similarly, with the objective to achieve universal households electrification by providing last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all households in rural and all poor households in urban areas across the country, Government of India had launched **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana - SAUBHAGYA** in October, 2017. 2.63 crore households have been electrified since launch of this scheme¹².

Another major initiated as announced in the Union Budget 2019-20, is **Jal Jeevan Mission** to ensure HarGhar Jal (piped water supply) to all rural households by 2024. This Programme will focus on integrated demand and supply side management of water at the local level, including creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse in agriculture.

Recognising the need for urgent action to attain total sanitation, on 2nd October, 2014, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, **Swachh Bharat** (Clean India) Mission was launched to enhance the quality of life of the citizens especially the women and children who are worst affected, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation. The focus under this mission has not just been on construction of toilets but also on effecting a behavioural change in the communities. This mission acts as a driver for eliminating the gender disparity. This public movement will have indirect positive impact on society by increasing the enrolment ratio of girls in schools and improving health standards. As of June, 2019, over 9.5 crore toilets have been built all over the country and coverage of rural sanitation has risen to 98% from about 40% in 2014. The Swachh Bharat Mission is also aligned with the 2030 global sustainable development agenda and SDGs especially SDG 6.2.

iv) **Eliminating violence against women and girls**

The right to life as enshrined in Article 21 of the Indian Constitution is a basic human right which includes the right to a dignified life free of violence. Safety of women in the country is of utmost priority for the Government. It has been the Government's endeavour to put in place effective mechanisms to provide a safe environment for women both in public and private spheres of life. The interventions of the Government to address the issue of crime against women are primarily in the nature of legislative interventions or schematic interventions. The nodal legislation protecting women from violence is the **Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860** which defines various crimes and prescribe penalties for the perpetrators.

Apart from the above a number of special legislations have been put in place for the protection of women such as Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (PWDVA), Dowry Prohibition Act, The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act (2012), etc. The implementation of various provisions of the law are being ensured at ground level to minimize incidence of violence against women and girls.

To deal with cases of sexual violence in a holistic manner, the Government has initiated the setting up of "**One Stop Centres**" (OSCs) across the country with the objective of facilitating access to an integrated range of services including medical aid, police assistance, legal aid/case management, psychosocial counselling, and temporary support services to women affected by violence. Under the scheme, it has been envisaged that OSCs would be set up across the country in a phased manner.¹³ As on date, 728 OSCs have been approved, out of which 556 are functional. The scheme is integrated with the toll-free Women Helpline (WHL), accessible through a single universal number, providing 24x7 referral services to women in distress.

The '**Mahila Police Volunteer (MPV) Initiative**' envisages the engagement of Mahila Police Volunteers to act as a link between the police and the community in order to fight crime against women. The mandate of MPVs is to report incidents of violence against women to the authorities and to act as a role model for the community.

To ensure safety of women in public places, the Government of India had set up a dedicated and non-lapsable fund called **Nirbhaya Fund** in 2013, for the implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security of women in the country. Projects of various Ministries/Departments/States/UTs have been funded under this Fund. Under the Nirbhaya Fund various initiatives/ projects like Emergency Response Support System (ERSS), Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC), Safe City project for 8 metropolitan cities, Integrated Emergency Response Management System (IERMS), Project for customization, deployment and management of State-wise vehicle tracking platform, Setting up Fast Track Special Courts to dispose off cases pending trial under Rape & POCSO Act, Strengthening DNA analysis, cyber forensic & related facilities in SFSs in 13 states, Establishment of State of Art DNA Lab. at CFSL, Chandigarh etc. are being implemented which are at various stages of implementation .

v) Right to work and rights at work (e.g. gender pay gap, occupational segregation, career progression)

India already has in place the **Equal Remuneration Act, 1976** embodying the principle of 'equal pay for equal work', ensuring equality between the genders in the sphere of employment and prevents any discrimination against women in matters of employment. The Act, therefore, aims to bring about equality amongst the genders in the work sphere. Further, the Government is working on bringing a comprehensive legislation to amend and consolidate the laws relating to wages and bonus etc

National Crèche Scheme is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme through the States/UTs with effect from 01.01.2017 to provide day care facilities to children of working mothers & other deserving women. The children of age group of 6 months to 6 years of working women who are employed for a minimum period of 15 days in a month or 6 month in a year are provided this facility. The Scheme provides day care facilities including sleeping facilities, supplementary nutrition, health care inputs like immunization and basic health monitoring, early stimulation for children below 3 years, pre-school education for 03-06 years old children and emergency medicines. Facilities are provided to a maximum of 25 children per crèche.

Working Women Hostels aim at providing safe and affordable accommodation to working women, having day care facilities for children of residents too. To provide safety for working women, a provision has been made to keep security guard and to install CCTV Cameras in Working Women Hostels. To provide quality of stay for

working women, provision has been made in the Scheme guidelines to provide safe and affordable accommodation with clean and well-ventilated day care centre for the children of inmates, medical first-aid and providing washing machines and geysers/solar water heating system.

The Government is also in the process of creation of an online platform that will act as a virtual workplace for the purpose of registration of complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace by the victims and its online monitoring.

SECTION TWO: PROGRESS ACROSS THE 12 CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

I. INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT, SHARED PROSPERITY AND DECENT WORK

Critical areas of concern:

- A. Women and poverty
- F. Women and the economy
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

6 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to advance gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment?

Government has taken several initiatives to improve women's participation in the labour force. In order to encourage employment of women, a number of enabling provisions have been incorporated in various labour laws for creating congenial work environment for women workers. As per Global Findex Report 2017, World Bank Group, in India, the gender gap in account ownership had reduced from 20% in 2014 to 6% in 2017, thanks to a strong Government push to increase account ownership through bio-metric identification of customers.

i) Strengthened / enforced laws and workplace policies and practices that prohibit discrimination in the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in the public and private sectors, and equal pay legislation

Over the last five years, the Government of India took multiple actions to advance gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment with regard to the strengthening/enforcement of laws and workplace policies and practices that prohibit discrimination in the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in the public and private sectors, and equal pay legislation. The Government has amended the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 in the year 2017 which provides for increased paid maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks, pre-natal leave from 6

weeks to 8 weeks, provisions for facility of crèche in the establishments having 50 or more employees, time-off for feeding children and permitting women workers in the night shifts with adequate safety measures, etc. The Act also provides for the facility of 'work from home' under certain conditions to the woman. The Act also provides for grant of leave for Medical Termination of Pregnancy and pregnancy related complications, with full pay and also entitles the mother for an additional medical bonus.

The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for same work or work of similar nature without any discrimination. Further, under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the wages fixed by the appropriate Government are equally applicable to both male and female workers without any gender discrimination.

ii) Measures taken to prevent sexual harassment, including in the workplace

India has enacted The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 under which "aggrieved woman" includes both women at workplaces and woman "of any age who is employed in such a dwelling place or house". Since the Act covers both organized and the unorganized sector, it has an extensive scope which includes domestic workers, workers employed in shops and even the customers visiting the shops. It has put a robust redressal mechanism in place in the form of mandatory requirement of establishment of Internal Committee (IC) and Local Committee (LCs). A complaint of sexual harassment can be filed within a time limit of 3 months. This may be extended to another 3 months if the woman can prove that grave circumstances prevented her from reporting earlier.¹⁴ Further, vide notification dated 31.07.2018, the Government has also amended the Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014 and inserted a clause that provides for submission of a statement that the company has complied with the provisions relating to the constitution of ICC under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 in the Board's report of every company.¹⁵

iii) Improved financial inclusion and access to credit, including for self-employed women

For extending coverage of the financial inclusion to every household in the country, the Government has taken several concrete steps. Under the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana**, over 37 crore Bank Accounts have been opened for the poorest of the poor in the last five years. The 53.19 % (over 19 crore accounts) of Jan Dhan Account holders are women. The Government benefits and cash incentives are directly transferred to these accounts so that there is no siphoning of the funds and it reaches the intended

recipients. Going forward, the programme offers tremendous scope to employ behavioural insights.

Another major scheme in this direction is **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)**. This scheme has been initiated by Government for facilitating self-employment. Under PMMY collateral free loans upto Rs. 10 lakh, are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals to enable them to setup or expand their business activities. In the last 5 years over 19.19 crore beneficiaries have been given loans amounting to over Rs. 9.45 lakh Crore. Over 76 %of Beneficiaries of PMMY are Women.

'Stand Up India' Scheme has been launched to promote entrepreneurship at the grass root level for economic empowerment and job creation, seeking to leverage the institutional credit structure to reach out to the underserved sector of people, including women entrepreneurs. The Scheme facilitates bank loans between Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 1 Crore to at least one SC/ST borrower and at least one Woman borrower per bank branch of Scheduled Commercial Banks for setting up Greenfield enterprise in trading, manufacturing and services sector. To extend collateral free coverage, Government of India has set up the **Credit Guarantee Fund for Stand up India (CGFSI)**.As on 15.07.2019, a total of 74,885 Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and women entrepreneurs have availed loans under this scheme (82% Women beneficiaries,14% SC and 4% ST in report 2018-19).

Further **Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY)** has been launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment for incentivising employers for promoting employment generation. Under this scheme, Government is paying entire employer's contribution (12% or as admissible) towards Employee Provident Fund (EPF) and Employee Pension Scheme (EPS) for all eligible new employees for all sectors for 3 years. The scheme has crossed the landmark of 1 crore beneficiaries in January, 2019.

Further, in order to enhance the employability of female workers, the Government is providing training to them through a network of Women Industrial Training institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes.

7 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and promote work-family conciliation?

i) Expended Childcare services or made existing services more affordable

The Government is sensitive to the need of family and the social policies are aimed at reconciling work and family obligations. The Government has amended the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 in the year 2017 which inter-alia provides for provisions for facility of **crèche in the establishments having 50 or more employees, time-off for feeding children** and permitting women workers in the night shifts with adequate safety measures, etc.¹⁶ The Act also provides for grant of leave for Medical Termination of Pregnancy and pregnancy related complications, with full pay and also entitles the mother for an additional medical bonus. The **National Crèche Scheme** provides support to working women in their care-giving responsibilities and seeks to provide day-care facilities to children of working mothers and other deserving women. The scheme focuses on children of 6 months to 6 years of working women in rural and urban areas who are employed for a minimum period of 15 days in a month, or six months in a year.

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ii) Invested in time- and labour-saving infrastructure, such as public transport, electricity, water and sanitation, to reduce the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women

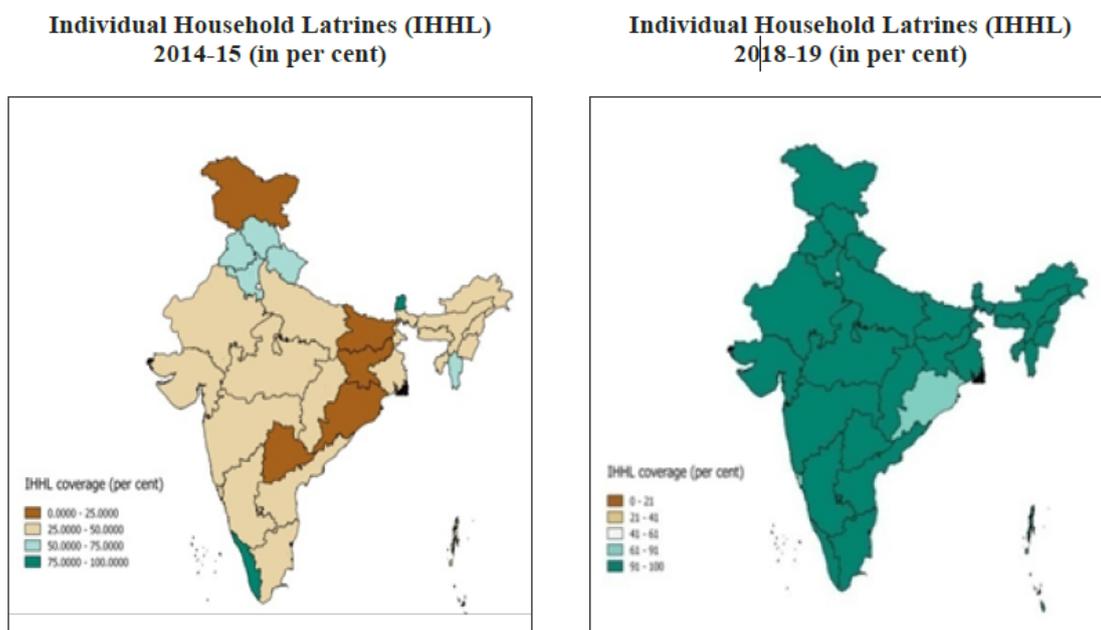
Investing in infrastructure, especially in water supply, sanitation services, etc., are also time saving and reduce women's household workload. Government has been taking conscious efforts to make available clean cooking fuel to all the households. In this direction, **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna** was launched in 2016, with the aim to safeguard the health of women and children by providing them with clean cooking fuel - LPG connections to women who belong to BPL (Below Poverty Line) households. Ensuring women's empowerment, especially in rural India, the connections are issued in the name of women of the households. As of 31 March, 2019, more than 7.189 crore LPG connections have been released under this scheme. The Government is continuing to provide this facility to cover the women of all BPL households.

Government of India launched **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana - SAUBHAGYA** in October, 2017 with the objective to achieve universal household's electrification by providing last mile connectivity and electricity connections to all households in rural and all poor households in urban areas across the country. As of 31st March, 2019, approximately 2.63 crore households have been electrified since launch of Saubhagya including those in rural and tribal areas¹⁸.

The **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)** was launched on 2nd October, 2014 as a multi-pronged approach to enhance the level of sanitation in the country. Though the focus under this mission is on achieving total sanitation, special attention has been paid for construction of toilets, which is more essential for women and girls from not only the hygiene but also safety point of view. This was also envisaged that providing separate toilet facility for girls in schools will result in attracting more girls to be a part of formal

education system and also reduce the dropout rate of the girls. Therefore, focus was not given only on construction of toilets but also on effecting a behavioural change in the communities. As a result of the efforts of the Government, 98.9 per cent of India has been covered under SBM. Since October 2014, over 9.5 crore toilets have been built all over the country till March, 2019 and 564,658 villages have been declared ODF. Most of the states showed significantly greater access to Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) in 2018-19 as compared to 2014-15 (Figure 2). Most of the states have achieved the status of 100 per cent IHHL coverage and only few states are yet to achieve their targets (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Individual Household Latrines in 2014-15 and 2018-19 (in per cent)



Source: Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

The Mission is also aligned with the 2030 global sustainable development agenda and SDGs especially the SDG 6.2. India is committed to achieve this SDG goal much ahead of the target.

The **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** was launched in 2000 to provide single all-weather connectivity to unconnected habitations with a population of 500 persons and above in plain areas and 250 persons and above in Special category (Hilly and Difficult terrain) states. The scheme has especially helped women in accessing health facilities, and in increasing their participation in social and political life¹⁹. Out of 1, 78, 184 habitations as per Census, 2001 identified for coverage under the PMGSY, 1,66,234 habitations have been connected through all-weather roads.

iii) Expanded support for frail elderly persons and others needing intense forms of care

The Government is cognizant of the special needs of older women, and has taken various measures to ensure their welfare. The Government is implementing Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC) which aims is to improve the quality of life of the Senior Citizens by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities and by encouraging productive and active ageing. Under the scheme grants-in-aid are given for running and maintaining Senior Citizen Homes (Old Age Homes)/Continuous Care Homes, Mobile Medicare Units etc. to the implementing agencies such as State Government/ UT Administrations (through Registered Societies)/PRIs/Local bodies; NGO/Voluntary organizations. While the budget of the scheme is gender neutral, there is a specific programme in the scheme viz. **“Senior Citizens Homes for 50 Elderly Women”** in which grant-in-aid is given to the implementing agencies for maintenance of such Homes, where the residents are provided food, shelter, care and recreation facilities etc., free of cost.²⁰

Under another scheme **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)**, living devices are provided free of cost to senior citizens belonging to BPL category who suffer from age related disabilities such as low vision, hearing impairment, loss of teeth and loco-motor disabilities. The aids and assistive devices viz. walking sticks, elbow crutches, walkers/crutches, tripods/quadpods, hearing aids, wheelchairs, artificial dentures and spectacles are provided to eligible beneficiaries. The budget of the scheme is gender neutral. However, the scheme includes the provision that in any State/UT, 30% of the total beneficiaries shall be women.²¹

The **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)** provides assistance to persons of 60 years of age or above and those who belong to a Below Poverty Line (BPL) family. Central assistance of INR 200 per month is provided to a person in the age group of 60-79 years and INR 500 per month to persons of 80 years or above. A total of 121.81 lakh beneficiaries were covered under the scheme in the FY 2018-19, accounting for 54.43% of the total beneficiaries.²²

Government launched the **Pradhan Mantri Vyay Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)** to protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to the uncertain market condition, as also to provide social security in old age. It provides an assured return of 8 per cent per annum payable monthly upto 15 Lakh for 10 years.

8 Has your country introduced austerity/fiscal consolidation measures, such as cuts in public expenditure or public sector downsizing, over the past five years?

Gender Budget Statement was first introduced in Budget 2005-06. In order to make further refinement to the Statement, every year the Ministries/Departments are requested through the Annual Budget Circular to highlight the quantum of public expenditure earmarked in budget for women. On the basis of the information furnished by the Ministries/Departments, the Gender Budget Statement is prepared. This Statement indicates, in two parts, the budget provisions for schemes that are substantially meant for the benefit of women. Part A reflects schemes in which 100% provision is for women, Part B reflects schemes where the allocations for women constitute at least 30% of the provision. The rationale of Gender Budgeting arises from the recognition of the fact that the national budget impacts various sections of the society differently, through the pattern of resource allocation and priority accorded to competing sectors. The statement shows 25.55% increase for 100% women specific programmes. Similarly, there is an increase of 43% in respect of women specific programmes. Overall, taking parts A and B together, there is an increase of 39.68% from Rs. 98029.84 Crore in BE 2014-15 to 136934.10 Crore in BE 2019-20.

Over the years, the budgetary allocation under Gender Budget Statement has not been affected. The Gender Budget Statement only captures those schemes for women that have allocation of at least 30%. Hence, the total allocation is much more than that is captured under Gender Budget Statement.

POVERTY ERADICATION, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN:

- A. Women and poverty
- B. Education and training of women
- C. Women and health
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

9 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls?

i) Promoted poor women's access to decent work through active labour market policies (e.g. job training, skills, employment subsidies, etc.) and targeted measures

The government has launched various financial support schemes to enable women entrepreneurship, such as the '**Stand Up India**' scheme which aims to promote entrepreneurship at the grass root level for economic empowerment and job creation, seeking to leverage the institutional credit structure to reach out to the underserved

sector of people, including women entrepreneurs. 74,885 Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and women entrepreneurs have availed loans under Stand Up India scheme as on 15.07.2019. ²³

Another major scheme in this direction is **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)**. This scheme has been initiated by Government for facilitating self-employment. Under PMMY collateral free loans upto Rs. 10 lakh, are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals to enable them to setup or expand their business activities. In the last 5 years over 19.19 crore beneficiaries have been given loans amounting to over Rs. 9.45 Lakh Crore. Over 76 % of Beneficiaries of PMMY are Women. ²⁴

For the economic advancement of women, the **“Mahila e-Haat” Portal** has been launched by the Government, which is a unique direct online digital marketing platform to support women entrepreneurs, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and NGOs. Women from far-flung and remote areas have also been able to showcase their products through this portal, making them economically independent. ²⁵

“NaiRoshni”- is a scheme for imparting short duration training for economic empowerment to the willing women so that they could get sustainable economic livelihood opportunities through suitable wage employment or self-employment/micro enterprises. In the last 5 years 2.97 lakh minority women have been given training. ²⁶**“Seekho aur Kamao (Learn and Earn)”**, is a skill development initiative for minorities and aims to upgrade the skills of minority youth in various modern/traditional skills depending upon their qualification, present economic trends and market potential, which can earn them suitable employment or make them suitably skilled to go for self-employment. Minimum 33% seats will be reserved for minority girl/ women. During last five years, Rs. 818.11 crore was spent and 2,82, 115 beneficiaries were trained. ²⁷

ii) Introduced or strengthened social protection programmes for women and girls (e.g. cash transfers for women with children, public works/employment guarantee schemes for women of working-age, pensions for older women)

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) seeks to ensure employment in rural households, mandating that at least one third of the jobs generated should be given to women. ²⁸The MGNREGA Guidelines have also made special provisions to encourage the participation of women, including giving preference to women (especially single women) and older persons for work on worksites nearer to their residences, child care facilities at the worksite in case more

than five children under 6 years of age are present; adequate representation of women in the MGNREGS staff; ensuring that widows, deserted women and destitute women are provided 100 days of work; awareness and outreach activities to ensure that all wage seekers (including women) are able to handle bank procedures; treating pregnant and lactating mothers as a special category and provision of suitable work for them etc. The employment generated for were reported as 54.55% of total employment generated under this programme²⁹

In the absence of a country wide social security system, ageing population, improving life expectancy and social change on account of breakdown of traditional family support, the Government of India has **National Pension Scheme (NPS)** with a view to provide old age income security in the country. NPS was extended to all citizens including the unorganized sector workers on a voluntary basis w.e.f. 01.05.2009. All citizens of India aged between 18-65 years may join NPS on voluntary basis under the All Citizens Model of the NPS. This scheme is a pan India schemes and is available to women as well.

Further, **Pradhan MantriShram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM)** has been launched to ensure old age protection for Unorganised Workers who are not covered by any other pension scheme. The unorganised workers including women, most of them engaged as home based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers, washer men, rickshaw pullers, landless labourers, agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audio- visual workers and similar other occupations whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less and belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years.

iv) Broadened access to land, housing, finance, technology and/or agricultural extension services-

Given the critical role that women in the informal sector play in the entire sanitation and waste management value chain, the SBM-Urban, as part of its implementation strategy, has been actively promoting integration of this sector into the formal sanitation and waste management value chain through its convergence with the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana -National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)**. This convergence has been able to promote livelihoods options for women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs), informal workers, and other marginalised communities. A noteworthy example here is the Ambikapur Model of Waste Management which has been able to provide a dignified source of livelihood to over 9000 women today known across the country as 'Swachhata Didis'.

Similarly, the waste management model in Pune through the waste co-operative society SWachh has led to the integration of several women waste workers into the formal system with an average earning of INR. 12,000-15,000 per annum.³⁰ The Mission also abounds with examples of entrepreneurship undertaken by women in the area of sanitation and solid waste management which is being recognized and felicitated by the Ministry, wherever possible. For example, Daily Dump, a Bengaluru based home composting solution founded by Poonam BirKasturi has been felicitated by the Prime Minister of India during the Swachh Survekshan Award Ceremony in June 2018. Similarly businesswomen like Venkatalakshmi, a desludging operator in Narsapur, Andhra Pradesh has been working closely with the Municipal Corporation of Narsapur for the implementation of sustainable sanitation in the region. **Mahila Samridhi Yojana** is an exclusive Micro-Credit Scheme for women beneficiaries during 2003-04 to provide loans up to Rs. 25,000 per unit at an interest rate of 4% per annum (rebate of 1%). It was raised up to Rs. 1.00 lakh in 2017-18 to enable the women beneficiaries to take up income generating activities with higher investment.³¹

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban & Rural) helps in providing all weather pucca houses with basic civic infrastructure like water, sanitation, sewerage, road, electricity etc. to all eligible households of the country, to achieve the goal of Housing for All by 2022. In order to promote access to housing for women, with the objective of women empowerment, the mandate of the mission provide for ownership of the house constructed under the scheme to be in the name of female head of the household or in joint name with the male head. Over 96 lakh houses have already been sanctioned under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Grameen) (PMAY-G)**, out of which 27 lakh houses have been sanctioned in the name of women³². Similarly, under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U)** houses are allotted jointly in the name of the husband and the wife, except in the case of widow/unmarried/separated person. So far over 85 lakh houses have been sanctioned under **PMAY-U**.

10 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve access to social protection for women and girls?

The Government of India, has implemented several social protection programmes for Skill development, Minimum Wages, pension schemes, health insurance, social welfare, housing for poor, Maternity Leave, health protection at work etc. In addition, the State Governments also provide social protection through various schemes and programmes.

Employment generation and improving employability of the youth is key priority for the Government. Government has taken various steps for generating employment in the country like fast tracking various infrastructure projects involving substantial

investment and increasing public expenditure on rail, road and aviation projects, and rural infrastructure through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA). The schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) run by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises provide financial assistance for self employment in MSME sector. Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen KaushalyaYojana (DDU-GKY) scheme run by Ministry of Rural Development and Deendayal AntyodayaYojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) run by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs is playing a key role in providing skill training to the rural youth and self help groups (SHGs) to promote their employability and self employment.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has been initiated by Government inter alia, for facilitating self-employment. Under PMMY collateral free loans upto Rs. 10 lakh, are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals to enable them to setup or expand their business activities. Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) has been launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment for incentivising employers for promoting employment generation. Under this scheme, Government is paying entire employer's contribution (12% or as admissible) towards Employee Provident Fund (EPF) and Employee Pension Scheme (EPS) for all eligible new employees for all sectors for initial 3 years for employment.

Besides these initiatives, flagship programmes of the Government such as Make in India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat Mission, Smart City Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, have the potential to generate productive employment opportunities. Ministries/ Departments/ States run skill development schemes across various sectors to improve the employability of youth and also facilitate placements. Schemes such as the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) wherein Government reimburses 25 percent of the stipend payable to apprentices also enhances employability of the youth to access employment.

Government of India launched the Make in India initiative in 2014 with the objective of facilitating investment, fostering innovation, building best in class manufacturing infrastructure, making it easy to do business and enhancing skill development. Activities under Make in India initiative are being implemented by several Central Government Ministries/Departments and the State Governments.

The Government of India is concerned about the old age income security of working poor and is focussed on encouraging and enabling them to save for their retirement. To address the longevity risks among the workers in unorganised sector and to encourage the workers in unorganized sector to voluntarily save for their retirement. The Government of India launched a scheme called **Atal Pension Yojana** (APY) in May,

2015. The APY is focussed on all citizens in the unorganized sector. Indian Citizens between the age group of 18 to 40 years are eligible to join APY through their savings bank account or post office savings bank account. Accordingly, MUDRA beneficiaries, Self help group members and Anganwadi workers etc. who are citizen of India and fall between 18-40 years of age are eligible to join APY. Depending upon the pension plan selected, each subscriber under APY shall receive a guaranteed minimum pension of Rs. 1000 per month to Rs. 5000 per month, after the age of 60 years until his/her death. For ensuring financial protection to the family in case of death of the insured, the scheme provides for financial assistance to the family members. As on 2nd November, 2018, subscriber base under APY has crossed 1.24 crore mark.³³

Further, **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM)** has been launched to ensure old age protection for Unorganised Workers who are not covered by any other pension scheme. The unorganised workers including women, most of them engaged as home based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers, washer men, rickshaw pullers, landless labourers, agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audio- visual workers and similar other occupations whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less and belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years.

The **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme**, **Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme** and the **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme** are other relevant schemes of the Government in this regard aiming to provide security to poor and vulnerable women³⁴.

11 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve health outcomes for women and girls in your country?

The Constitution of India, in its Directive Principles of State Policy calls for the state to raise the level of nutrition and makes the improvement of public health as one of the state's primary duties. In this light, Government of India, through various centrally-sponsored schemes and interventions is taking appropriate action to address major health problems such as high maternal and child mortality, anemia, polio, tuberculosis, leprosy, HIV/AIDS, malaria, etc.

The **National Health Policy, 2017** envisages as its goal the attainment of the highest possible level of health and wellbeing for all at all ages, through a preventive and promotive health care orientation in all developmental policies, and universal access to good quality health care services without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence. The Policy envisages raising the public health expenditure

to 2.5% of GDP in a time bound manner by 2025, of which, two third is envisaged to be allocated for the primary healthcare.

In alignment with the goals under NHP 2017, the Government announced the ambitious and holistic **Ayushman Bharat programme** with its twin pillars of Health and Wellness Centres and the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)**. The Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) envisage provision of comprehensive primary care that includes preventive healthcare and health promotion at the community level with continuum of care approach for all. Services at AB-HWCs are free and universal to all individuals residing in the service area. The target is to transform the 150,000 Sub-Health Centres and Primary Health Centres into AB-HWCs by December, 2022. The AB-HWCs aims to provide an expanded range of services to include care for non-communicable diseases, palliative and rehabilitative care, Oral, Eye and ENT care, mental health and first level care for emergencies and trauma as well as Health promotion and wellness activities like Yoga apart from services already being provided for Maternal and Child Health including immunization and communicable diseases. The Sub-centre level AB-HWCs are to have Community Health Officers. All the AB-HWCs are expected to have the telemedicine facility, provision of essential drugs and diagnostics free of cost, robust IT backbone to facilitate continuum of care, and performance linked payment systems.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) has been launched to reduce the financial burden on poor and vulnerable groups arising out of catastrophic hospitalization and ensure their access to quality health services. PM-JAY seeks to accelerate India's progress towards achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Sustainable Development Goal - 3 (SDG3). To ensure that nobody is left out (especially girl child, women, children and elderly), there is no cap on family size and age in the Mission. Under the scheme priority has been given to girl child, women and senior citizens. It provides free hospitalization cover of up to Rs. 5 lakh per family per year to around 10.74 crores entitled beneficiaries identified as per the defined criteria using the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) database. It offer a benefit cover of Rs. 5,00,000 per family per year (on a family floater basis). PM-JAY covers medical and hospitalization expenses for almost all secondary care and most of tertiary care procedures.

Under Free Drugs & Diagnostics Service Initiatives of NHM, financial support is provided to States / UTs for provision of free essential medicines & diagnostics in public health facilities based on the requirements posed by them in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs). Under the **National Health Mission**, financial support is provided to the States inter-alia, to set up primary health care facilities as per the population norms and also to strengthen existing primary health care facilities to Indian

Public Health Standards (IPHS) in terms of infrastructure, human resources, equipment, drugs and consumables etc, based on proposals received from the States.

Making quality medicines available at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, through exclusive outlets “**Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras**” were established so as to reduce out of pocket expenses in healthcare. The objective is to bring down the healthcare budget of every citizen of India through providing Quality generic Medicines at Affordable Prices. A total of 900 drugs and 154 surgical and consumables are currently included in the product basket of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). As on 10.06.2019, a total of 5,312 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) are functional in the country.

To provide holistic post-natal care to the mother and child and promote institutional deliveries, the **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)** under the National Health Mission (NHM) has been implemented. JSY is a demand promotion and conditional cash transfer scheme which promotes institutional deliveries among poor women by reducing financial hardships during delivery.³⁵ Under JSSK, pregnant women are entitled to free and no expense delivery in public health facilities. The percentage of institutional deliveries has risen to 78.9% in 2015-16.³⁶

The **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** is another initiative of the Government of India, which provides for a special antenatal checkup on the 9th of every month, provided by specialists to detect and manage high risk pregnancies, including cases of anemia³⁷.

The Government launched the **Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK)**, which aims to counsel adolescent girls on matters of sexual and reproductive health at Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHC). As of now, in the 7495 established AFHCs across the country, more than 1600 counselors are placed, supporting adolescent clients³⁸.

Under-nutrition amongst women is a major challenge that the Government aims to tackle. Pursuant to this objective, the **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** is a flagship maternity benefit programme of the government to promote appropriate practice, care and institutional service utilization during pregnancy, delivery and lactation by providing cash incentives in DBT mode to pregnant and lactating mothers. Under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), maternity benefit of Rs.5,000/- is provided in three installments to eligible Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) during the period of pregnancy and lactation for the first living child. The eligible beneficiaries also receive cash incentive as per

approved norms towards maternity benefit under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), administered by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare after institutional delivery so that on an average, a woman gets Rs.6,000/-. Additionally, PW&LM are also entitled for Supplementary Nutrition under Anganwadi Services, which is Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. Both the PMMVY and Anganwadi Services Schemes are being implemented across the country.

The **Anganwadi Services under Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme** is a universal scheme under which all children below 6 years of age, pregnant women and lactating mothers are eligible for the services including the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) provided under the scheme. As on 1st April, 2019, 876 lakh beneficiaries have availed the Supplementary Nutrition services at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs).³⁹

On 8th March, 2018, Hon'ble Prime Minister launched, POSHAN Abhiyaan which is a multi-ministerial convergence mission with the vision to ensure attainment of malnutrition free India by 2022. The goal of POSHAN Abhiyaan is to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time bound manner which includes reducing stunting, under nutrition, anemia in children and women and low birth weight.

Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has launched a scheme 'Sanitease' under its social development activity '**Swachhagraha**' to create awareness and provide logistics for women, especially in rural areas.

12 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls?

- ✓ **Taken measures to increase girls' access to, retention in and completion of education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and skills development programmes**

To ensure economic independence of women through skill development and vocational training, the Government has also introduced Skill India Mission. The National Skill Development Policy focuses on inclusive skill development, with the objective of increased women participation for better economic productivity.⁴⁰ The Government of India created the 'Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship' (MSDE) in 2014. Since its inception, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has undertaken several initiatives to achieve women empowerment through skill development. Under the scheme, training is provided in various vocational streams through the training partners. Government has also set up the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikash Kendras** across the country. Emphasis has been laid on creating additional infrastructure both for training and apprenticeship for women; flexible training delivery mechanisms such as mobile training units, flexible afternoon batches along with on local need-based training to accommodate women; and ensuring safe and gender sensitive training environment, employment of women trainers, equity in remuneration, and complaint redressal mechanism. Besides these, the women candidates are provided conveyance allowance for non-residential trainings, in accordance with the Common Norms, to enable effective training of the candidate. Approx 50% of the candidates enrolled and trained under PMKVY are women; out of the total 56 lakh candidates who have benefited from the scheme.⁴¹

In addition to the actions outlined in the response to point 2 of this report, The Government of India has launched the '**Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta**

Abhiyan' (PMGDISHA) in February, 2017 to usher in digital literacy in rural India by covering 6 Crore rural households (one person per household). The Scheme aims to bridge the digital divide, specifically targeting the rural population including marginalized sections of society like SC/ST, minorities, persons falling below poverty line, women and differently abled.⁴² As on 20th June, 2019, a total of 2.11 crore candidates have been trained under PMGDISHA scheme, out of which more than 1.33 crore candidates have been certified.

Under the **Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi Karyakram**, Vidya Lakshmi Portal (VLP) has been launched by the Government on August 15, 2015 to ensure that students avail education loans easily through single window system of banks. All Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have been on-boarded on the Portal.

Economic Empowerment of women cannot be achieved unless they are provided a safe and secure environment. In this direction, **Self Defence training** for girls is an activity under Samagra Shiksha. Self defence training is imparted to girls of class VI to XII belonging to Government Schools. Under Samagra Shiksha, 134,835 Elementary Schools and 76,581 Secondary Schools have provided self defence training during the year 2018-19.

✓ **Ensured access to safe water and sanitation services and facilitated menstrual hygiene management especially in schools and other education/training settings**

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, mandate to provide school infrastructure **including safe and adequate drinking water facility and separate toilets for girls in school**. All schools established before the commencement of the Act has to fulfil these norms and standards within three years of the date of commencement. If any school fails to fulfil these norms and standards, then the competent authority shall withdraw recognition granted to such a school.

Under the **Swacch Vidyalaya Mission**, it was ensured that all schools have at least one functional toilet for girls by August, 2015. Under this mission, 1,90,887 girls' toilets were constructed/made functional.

Additionally, **Integrated Scheme for School Education –Samagra Shiksha** has been initiated which subsumes the erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE). Samagra Shiksha effective from 1st April, 2018 supports States and UTs for strengthening of existing government schools, and for creation and augmentation of infrastructure facilities including drinking water facility, based on the

gaps determined from Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) and proposals received from respective State/UT. Under the scheme, 5,21,165 toilets for girls and 2,45,542 drinking water facilities have been constructed. As of now, 98.07% of the Government schools have a girls' toilet, and 96.96% of them have drinking water facilities.⁴³

- ✓ **Increased access to skills and training in new and emerging fields especially STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and digital fluency and literacy**

Recognizing the crucial role of technology and innovation in economic development, India's policy makers have taken several initiatives to promote science, technology and innovation. Various schemes have been launched to attract, nurture and retain young researchers and women scientists in the field of scientific research.

To encourage more women to take up STEM subjects, 'Udaan' is a project launched by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) under the guidance of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to enable disadvantaged girl students to transit from school to post-school professional education, especially in science and mathematics.⁴⁴

FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE, STIGMA AND STEREOTYPES

CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN:

- D. Violence against women
- I. Human rights of women
- J. Women and the media
- L. The girl child

13 In the last five years, which forms of violence against women and girls, and in which specific contexts or settings, have you prioritized for action?

The issue of crime against women transcends geography, class, culture, age, race and religion. In India, the violence committed upon women has many manifestations such as domestic and sexual violence including rape, sexual harassment, child sexual abuse, trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, harmful practices such as dowry harassment, related crimes, acid attacks, witch-hunting, child marriage, sex selective abortion etc. According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, a total of 378,277 incidents of crime against women (both under IPC and SLL) were reported in the country during the year 2018 as compared to 339,457 in the year 2014. This shows an increase in the reporting of the incidences of crimes committed against women by 9.96% between 2014 and 2018.

However, the increase in number does not necessarily reflect increase in crime rate but is also a result of increased public awareness because of interventions by the Government and the society against such crimes, which has resulted into reporting/ registering of such crimes.

The right to life as enshrined in Article 21 of the Indian Constitution is a basic human right which includes the right to a dignified life free of violence. Safety of women is of utmost priority for the Government of India. It has been Government's endeavour to establish effective systems to provide a safe environment for women to work and live and fulfil their potential. Incidence of crime against women cannot be controlled unless mind-sets of people, in general, are to change. Keeping in mind the vision articulated as aforesaid, in the past few years, there has been enactment of various legislations by the Indian Parliament which addresses the issue of gender inequality, discrimination and violence faced by women. Some of these include the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and Criminal Law Amendment Act 2013 and 2018 which broadens the definition of rape and include new offences such as acid attack, stalking, sexual harassment, voyeurism and disrobing within the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and also increased penalties for such offences.

Actions undertaken by the Government of India to address violence against women and girls are guided by a set of international legal instruments, the domestic legal framework, as well as the existing policies and strategies such as CEDAW, BPFA, ILO Conventions etc. Government of India has been working to combat different forms of violence against women and girls. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 is already in place in order to prohibit the solemnization of child marriages. The Act punishes those who promote, perform and abet child marriage. The Government is working for the strict implementation of the Act by pursuing local administration to conduct preventive activities. Trafficking of women and girls is one of the forms of violence against women that has continued to be addressed in priority in the last five years.

✓ **Sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and in employment**

Sexual harassment and sexual violence in public spaces, educational settings and in employment have been given a great importance in the last five years. India has enacted The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 under which "aggrieved woman" includes both women at workplaces and woman "of any age who is employed in such a dwelling place or house". It has put a robust redressal mechanism in place in the form of mandatory requirement of establishment of Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) and Local Complaint Committee (LCCs). A complaint of sexual harassment can be filed within a time limit of 3

months. This may be extended to another 3 months if the woman can prove that grave circumstances prevented her from reporting earlier.⁴⁵

In the past five years, the efforts of the Government have resulted into consolidation of enforcement actions on ground by way of setting up ICs and LCs at various levels across the countries. The Government is also in the process of creation of an online platform that will act as a virtual workplace for the purpose of registration of complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace by the victims and its online monitoring.

Further, vide notification dated 31.07.2018, the Government has also amended the Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014 and inserted a clause that provides for submission of a statement that the company has complied with the provisions relating to the constitution of ICC under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 in the Board's report of every company.⁴⁶

✓ **Violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (e.g. cyber-violence, online stalking)**

With widespread proliferation of digital communication including social media and mobile apps, etc. there are some anti-social elements who are misusing these technologies for committing cybercrimes against women and children. A **central cybercrime reporting portal** (www.cybercrime.gov.in) has also been launched in 2018 which allows citizens to report online content pertaining to child pornography/child sexual abuse material or sexually explicit content and rape/gang rape content. Keeping in view the challenges in handling cybercrimes in the country and for effectively tackling cyber-crimes against women and children, the Government is implementing a scheme viz. **Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC)** with a total estimated outlay of 223.198 crores during 2017-2020 for effectively tackling this issue. Presently, besides other issues, matters related to Child Pornography, Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) or sexually explicit content and Rape and Gang Rape contents have been taken up. This is being popularised by using various media to encourage people to report such crimes so that appropriate action for removal of contents, identification of culprits and penal action against the offenders can be taken effectively.

The Government launched an online analytical tool for police called "Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences" to monitor and track time-bound investigation in sexual assault cases. The Ministry of Home Affairs of Government of India has also launched the "National Database on Sexual Offenders" (NDSO) on 20th September 2018

to facilitate investigation and tracking of sexual offenders across the country by law enforcement agencies. Further, cyber crime forensic labs have been/ are being set up in several states, and training of over 7,500 personnel in identifying, detecting and resolving cyber-crimes against women and children has been imparted. 3,221 Officers have already been trained in collection, handling and transportation of forensic evidence. Further 3,120 sexual assault evidence collection kits have been distributed to States/UTs as orientation kit as part of training.

✓ **Trafficking in women and girls**

In India, we have adequate legal provisions to counter trafficking. Article 23 of the Constitution of India envisages prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour. Article 24 prohibits employment of children below 14 years of age in factories, mines or other hazardous employment. The Directive Principles of State Policy are also significant in this regard, particularly article 39, which categorically states that men and women should have the right to an adequate means of livelihood and equal pay for equal work; that men, women and children should not be forced by economic necessity to enter unsuitable avocations; and that children and the youth should be protected against exploitation.

The prevailing legal framework to deal with the problem is being made more stringent and effective through amendment to the existing legislation, as well as by accession to international/regional conventions. A multi-pronged strategy to tackle the problem is also being adopted through coordination of various agencies at the central, State and district levels, and with the involvement of the civil society groups.

However, to strengthen law enforcement response against trafficking, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 substituted Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code with a modified Section 370, which provides a comprehensive definition and punishment for an act involving human trafficking. The modified Section 370 widened the ambit of exploitation and includes various aspects/forms of such exploitation. Section 370 A provides for specific term of punishment to be awarded to the offenders for sexual exploitation of a trafficked person.⁴⁷

The Ministry of Home Affairs has an Anti-Trafficking Cell to deal with matters relating to law enforcement response to victims of trafficking. It also acts as an interface with other ministries and state governments to address the issue of human trafficking. The MHA has provided financial assistance to states to set up Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in various districts of the States.⁴⁸ Ministry of Home Affairs holds meetings with Nodal Officers of AHTUs and other concerned Ministries/agencies from time to time and provides them guidance to handle cases of trafficking effectively.⁴⁹

The Government of India is working towards rehabilitation of victims of trafficking and to keep watch on fraudulent placement agencies in states which dupe unscrupulous victims in the garb of providing employment. The concerned agencies have also been advised to alert the security staff to keep a close vigil on any suspicious activity of women and children being transported through railways for the purpose of trafficking. Financial assistance is provided to State Governments to hold Judicial Colloquiums on Human Trafficking which aims at sensitizing the judicial officers to focus on procedures for speedy disposal of trafficking cases and taking stringent action against traffickers and exercise discretion as provided under the law.

The Government of India remains committed towards its obligation under United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children ⁵⁰ and the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution.

Government is also considering, bringing out a new legislation to comprehensively address various aspect of human trafficking including prevention of trafficking, protection and rehabilitation of victims.

14 What actions has your country prioritized in the last five years to address violence against women and girls?

The right to life as enshrined in Article 21 of the Indian Constitution is a basic human right which includes the right to a dignified life free of violence. Safety of women in the country is of utmost priority for the Government. It has been the Government's endeavour to put in place effective mechanisms to provide a safe environment for women both in public and private spheres of life. The interventions of the Government to address the issue of crime against women are primarily in the nature of legislative interventions or schematic interventions. A number of legislations have been put in place for the protection of women. The nodal legislation protecting women from violence is the **Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860** which defines various crimes and prescribe penalties for the perpetrators.

✓ Introduced or strengthened violence against women laws, and their enforcement and implementation

The **Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013**, has broadened the definition of rape to include non-penetrative sex and made the criminal provisions relating to rape and sexual violence more stringent. New offences such as acid attack, stalking, sexual harassment, voyeurism and disrobing have also been included. Duty has been cast on all hospitals to provide free medical treatment to victims of acid attack and rape. Similarly, it is mandatory for all police officers to lodge FIR of all offence punishable under section

326A-B, 354-B, 370-A, 376, 376A-E, 509 IPC; failure to do the same will attract penal provisions against the officer concerned. To strengthen law enforcement response against trafficking, Section 370 has been modified. The modified Section 370 widened the ambit of exploitation and includes various aspects/forms of such exploitation. Section 370A provides for specific term of punishment to be awarded to the offenders for sexual exploitation of a trafficked person.⁵¹

Further, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018 has been enacted providing more stringent penal provisions for rape in certain specified cases and for timely administration of justice. It strengthened the relevant provisions of Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.PC), Evidence Act and Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) and provided for stringent punishment for rape of children and women.

Certain changes have also been introduced in the **Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872**. The changes entail the recording of the statement of the victim of rape and sexual assault by a woman police officer and provisions to ensure that victims below the age of 18 years are not confronted by the accused at the time of trial.

To address the gaps in responding to the needs of survivors of sexual violence at various levels, in 2016, the Government of India introduced the Guidelines and Protocols on '**Medico Legal Care for Survivors/Victims of Sexual Violence**' in order to set up standardized protocols for care, treatment and rehabilitative services for survivors of all forms of sexual violence.

With utmost concern towards the victims of acid attacks, the Government has taken measures towards strengthening the legal and administrative framework to check acid attacks. In order to regulate the sale of acid, the Model Poison Rules have been drafted and circulated by the Central Government to all States/UTs for notifying the same in the respective State/UT. A comprehensive advisory on expediting cases of acid attack and to provide treatment and compensation to victims was also issued by the Central Government in 2015. States and UTs were advised to take appropriate action for the effective implementation of Section 166B of the Indian Penal Code, which deals with punishment for failure to treat victims.

- ✓ **Introduced or strengthened measures to increase women's access to justice (e.g. establishment of specialist courts, training for the judiciary and police, protection orders, redress and reparations, including for feticide cases)**

The Government of India is very serious about elimination/reduction of cases of heinous crimes like rape and crime against children. Specific-natured cases viz. heinous crimes and crimes pertaining to women etc. are being tried in 708 Fast Track Courts across the country. More so, for conciliation of family related matters and to secure speedy settlement of family disputes, Family Courts are being set up across the country.

The Government of India is implementing an umbrella scheme of "Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF)" since 27.09.2017 for improving police infrastructure. Under the scheme special provision has been for internal security, law and order, women security, availability of modern weapons, mobility of police forces, logistics support, hiring of helicopters, up gradation of police wireless, National Satellite Network, CCTNS project, E-prison project etc. A part of police reform is intrinsically linked to legal/judicial reform, which would result in efficient criminal justice dispensation

In furtherance to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, the Government of India is working towards setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious disposal of cases related to rape and Prevention of Children against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Accordingly, States/UTs Government have been communicated for setting up of FTSCs for quick disposal of case of heinous crimes under rape and POCSO Act.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has an Anti-Trafficking Cell to deal with matters relating to law enforcement response to victims of trafficking. It also acts as an interface with other ministries and state governments to address the issue of human trafficking. The MHA has provided financial assistance to states to set up Anti Human Trafficking Units in various districts of the states.

To provide access to justice to the citizens at their door steps, the Central Government has enacted the **Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008**. It provides for establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at intermediate panchayat level. 213 Gram Nyayalayas are operational in 9 States at present. Further, the Government of India has launched the three programmes i.e. (i) **Tele-Law Programme** (ii) **Nyaya Bandhu Programme (Pro Bono Legal Services)** and (iii) **Nyaya Mitra Programme in 2017** under the Mission Mode project- National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms. In April, 2017, the Government had launched **Tele-law scheme** to provide free legal advice through Common Service Centres (CSC) in 1,800 gram panchayats in 11 States of the country. The scheme aims to provide legal advice to persons of marginalized sections of the society as mentioned in Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 by panel lawyers provided by State Legal Services Authorities and CSC-e-Governance India Limited, through video conferencing and telephone. As on 13.07.2018, 24,855 persons have registered for seeking advice in the Tele-law portal, and legal advice has been provided in 21,731 cases out of 24,855 registered. Out of 21,731 cases 7026 case were belonging to women⁵². These cases pertain to civil matters, criminal matters, family, matrimonial and succession matters, land acquisition/property disputes.

The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) programme aims to provide free legal aid through an online database of advocates and eligible litigants. This programme is an attempt to institutionalize dispensation of pro bono legal services across the

country by facilitation connection between lawyers and eligible litigants. The Nyaya Bandhu Mobile Application (App) allows marginalized person (referred to as “Applicant”) seeking free legal services, to easily connect with registered Pro Bono advocates. The App is available in Hindi and English. The service under this programme is available all across the country. So far, 561 lawyers have registered to provide pro bono services and 444 cases have been registered on the web application for this purpose.

Nyaya Mitra programme was launched in 227 selected districts of 16 states to facilitate district judiciary in reduction of old pending cases, conducting critical analysis of pending cases, identify the cases in Pre-Lokadalats to be referred to the Lokadalats on priority basis etc.

Further, Legal Services Authorities have Para Legal Volunteers who are from the communities and act as a bridge between vulnerable and marginalized sections of society and legal services authorities and other service providers. Around 25,000 women have been enrolled as para legal volunteers, thus empowering women through them only. They are contributing immensely in legal empowerment of women. Apart from the above around 23,000 legal aid clinics are operational across the country. These legal aid clinics are accessible to villagers and those living in far-flung areas. Women being eligible for legal aid can report any breach of their right in such clinics. Legal aid and assistance is provided to needy through these clinics.

✓ **Introduced or strengthened services for survivors of violence**

During the review period, the Government of India continued to provide support services for survivors of violence. The Government has initiated setting up of “One Stop Centers” (OSCs) across the country with the objective of facilitating access to an integrated range of services including medical aid, police assistance, legal aid/case management, psychosocial counselling, and temporary support services to women affected by violence. Under the scheme, it has been envisaged that OSCs would be set up across the country in a phased manner. As on date, 31st March, 2018, 728 OSCs have been approved, out of which 556 are already operational.

The scheme of universalisation of Women Helpline is exclusively designed to support women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces, including in the family, community, workplace etc. The Women Helpline (Helpline) will provide 24 hour emergency response to all women affected by violence both in public and private sphere.

For women are in need of care and protection like widowed, destitute, victims of difficult circumstances etc, so that they could lead their life with dignity and conviction

the Ministry of Women and Child Development has a scheme for establishment of Swadhar Greh in which they are provided with shelter, food, medical aid, phy-social counselling and vocational training. The scheme focuses on establishing one Swadhar Greh in each district. The total number of Swadhar Grehs currently operational in the country is 551.⁵³

The Government introduced a scheme called 'Ujjawala' for the prevention of trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation and re-integration of victims of trafficking for commercial exploitation. The Scheme takes a multi-sectoral approach to tackling the issue of trafficking, especially for the most vulnerable in this regard. The scheme was formulated to prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation through social mobilization and involvement of local communities, awareness generation programmes, etc. It also aims to facilitate the rescue, rehabilitation (both immediate and long-term) and reintegration of victims from the place of their exploitation and to place them in safe custody (including through repatriation, where required).⁵⁴

The 'Mahila Police Volunteer (MPV) Initiative' envisages the engagement of Mahila Police Volunteers to act as a link between the police and the community in order to fight crime against women. The mandate of MPVs is to report incidents of violence against women to the authorities and to act as a role model for the community.

An advisory has been issued to all States to increase the representation of women in the police force up to 33% with many states reserving 33% of the police posts for women⁵⁵. States have also been advised to strengthen welfare measures such as provision of housing and medical facilities and necessary facilities for women police personnel in Police Stations. Not only this is beneficial in promoting women's role in policing, but it will also make the police forces more women-friendly and easily approachable as a result.

The Government has also set up the Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF) with a one-time grant of INR 200 Crores, to support and supplement the existing Victim Compensation Schemes notified by States/UT Administrations, in order to provide financial support to victims of various crimes like sexual offences including rape, acid attacks, crime against children etc.⁵⁶ Moreover, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 has also mandated all hospitals (whether public or private) to provide free medical treatment to all victims of rape and acid attack.

15 What strategies has your country used in the last five years to prevent violence against women and girls?

Safety of women in the country is of utmost priority for the Government. It has been the Government's endeavour to put in place effective mechanisms to provide a safe environment for women both in public and private spheres of life. The interventions of the Government to

address the issue of crime against women are primarily in the nature of legislative interventions or schematic interventions. Violence against women and girls is rooted in gender-based discrimination and social norms and gender stereotypes that perpetuate such violence. The incidence of crime against women cannot be controlled unless the mindset of people is changed. Therefore, Government emphasizes strongly on mindset change through training, sensitization, awareness raising and community mobilization on ground.

✓ **Public awareness raising and changing of attitudes and behaviors**

For raising awareness about violence against women and domestic violence, numerous network trainings have been carried out for various stakeholders who come into contact with victims (e.g. police officers, prosecutors, judges, social workers, victim support and child protection workers, medical staff, teachers, etc.).

Various awareness programmes are being held across the country whereby awareness is raised about women related laws such as Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, sexual offenses under IPC and Prevention of sexual violence against Children Act, Maintenance law, Property rights of women, law prohibiting child marriages, Prevention of sexual Harassment at workplace. Print and Electronic media is also being leveraged for spreading awareness. Legal awareness is also been spread through nukkad natakas, rallies, distributing user friendly booklets, pamphlets of various women related laws. Men are also sensitized in the programmes about the importance of creating safe environment for women and to stop violence against them. During the period of report, the following legal awareness programmes conducted across the country⁵⁷:

Year	Awareness Programmes conducted
2014-2015	1,10,580
2015-2016	1,12,689
2016-2017	1,21,126
2017-2018	1,65,124
2018-2019	1,76,546

Various Legal Empowerment Camps were organised with the broad objectives of bridging the gaps of information and access to citizen’s rightful entitlements. In these Camps, efforts were made to identify the poor, weak and marginalised people which included women and to make them aware of their entitlements available under the law and welfare

schemes. Further, school Legal Literacy Clubs set up in all High Schools under the State Legal Services Authorities in order to create legal awareness, obedience to law and spread the philosophy of rule of law amongst the younger generation. The objective behind these clubs is to make youth legally empowered and sensitive towards the social-legal issues. Girl students are also sensitized about the importance of reporting any incident(s) of sexual exploitation so that violence and exploitation is contained and perpetrator is dealt in accordance with law. Girl students are made aware of the judicial and administrative structure. Boys are also sensitized about the need to eradicate violence against females.

Further, the National Commission for Women (NCW), a statutory body of Government of India has been conducting gender sensitization workshops and programmes for the police, administration and judicial officials across the country. The programme includes a session on cyber security to effectively sensitize police officers to handle complaints relating to cyber crimes. Legal Awareness Programmes are also organized in partnership with State Commissions for Women and civil society organizations for disseminating information about women rights.⁵⁸ With a view to disseminate information about the Constitutional and Legal provisions, the National Commission for Women launched nationwide competition in colleges/universities during the period under report, for generating awareness about the legal rights of women to ensure that all sections of society are fully conversant with the law and contribute effectively for their successful implementation.

Under the Access to Justice scheme in the nine North Eastern States and Jammu & Kashmir, various activities to create Capacity building and legal awareness of grassroots functionaries like Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs), Preraks of Sakshar Bharat Mission, College/school students, elected representatives has been undertaken by in collaboration with Institutions including the Women Commission, National Literacy Mission Authority – State Resource Centers, State Institute of Rural Development, State Legal Services Authority, Department of Law, Universities etc.

Having multiple visually descriptive posters in every corridor of workplaces and public places regarding what constitutes sexual harassment at workplace can reinforce the norm of it not being acceptable. Similarly, regular TV advertisements to reinforce the positive norm of gender equality are being run regularly.

Further, the Government simplify procedures to make it easier for women to, inter alia, report incidences of harassment and discrimination, to open bank accounts, to get government documents such as passports, visas etc.

✓ **Work in primary and secondary education, including comprehensive sexuality education**

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 prioritizes gender as an important guiding principle in all curricular areas and stipulates that gender be an

integral part of all disciplines offered to children at school stage. Gender concerns have been integrated in the curriculum and textbooks drawn up by the National Council of Education Research & Training (NCERT) which is widely used by the schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and also in several State Governments. The State Councils of Education Research & Training (SCERT) which prescribe textbooks for State Government schools have also redesigned school textbooks to make this gender positive.

Following the National Curriculum Framework 2005 guidelines, States have consciously taken a decision to establish gender as a critical marker of transformation through increasing visual representation of girls and women and facilitating role reversal, creating a suitable atmosphere for girls in schools, rapport with female teachers for discussing gender awareness etc. Trainings of teachers on gender issues are organized in states specifically for orientation on gender issues facing adolescent girls in particular. The revision of in-service teacher training designs to incorporate gender sensitization for all elementary school teachers, to create a supportive and enabling environment for girls is a continuous exercise of the Government.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has a scheme of School Based Examination in classes IX-X. The values highlighted under the scheme emphasize upon removing the practices derogatory to the dignity of women and respecting opposite gender. The Board has also been implementing the Adolescence Education Programme for the past seven years and the Manuals being used for these training programmes include activities related to Gender Sensitization. The Board has introduced an elective course 'Human Rights and Gender Studies' for classes XI and XII from session 2014-15 onwards.

India has achieved high enrolment rates for girls at primary and upper primary levels of schooling. However, at the secondary level girls' enrolment remains lower. While in upper primary the representation of girls in the total enrolment is 48.66%, the percentage in secondary is 47.29%. Girls comprise half the population of school age children, and therefore, it is important to understand the multiple vulnerabilities they face in different areas in order to plan and prioritise inclusive interventions.⁵⁹

In order to plan and execute educational interventions, Digital Gender Atlas has been developed to identify the low performing geographic pockets for girls, particularly from marginalised groups such as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and minorities, on specific gender related education indicators. It is the vulnerability status of an area based on composite index of three parameters such as rural female literacy and percentage of boys and girls with disabilities particularly girls. The performance status of individual indicators can be visualised at the state and district level, differentiated by colour coding. The Atlas provides comparative analysis of individual gender related indicators over three years and that enables a visual assessment of the change and an understanding of whether some intervention introduced in a geography at a particular

point in time has worked or not. It is constructed on an open source platform with an inbuilt scope of updating data by authorized persons to retain its dynamic character.

The National Commission for Women in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has launched a pilot for running Gender Sensitization and Legal Awareness Programme with the target group of students of class XI and XII of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi Region with the belief that introducing Gender Sensitization and Legal Awareness Programme at school level would facilitate inculcating values of equality, inclusivity and diversity, which are essential for building a healthy society among the adolescent boys and girls.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has issued Guidelines for engagement of Gender Champions by schools and colleges across the country. The broad mandate of Gender Champions is to provide an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to understanding the social and cultural constructs of gender that shape the experiences of women and men in society. The aim is to make young boys and girls gender sensitive and create positive social norms that value the girls and their rights.⁶⁰

✓ **Shifting the representation of women and girls in the media**

Policy formulations and changes related to women development are given utmost importance while undertaking national and state level information dissemination. The media is briefed regularly regarding the policy changes being introduced to promote well being of women. The outcomes of these briefings have been very positive and media has successfully partnered with PIB in taking these policy changes further.⁶¹

Media has contributed in a big way to promote key women centric initiatives and to make them a success like BBBP, panic buttons in mobile phones, maternity leave for women, efforts to help women in bad NRI marriages, sexual harassment of women at workplace etc.⁶²

The Government, through Doordarshan News has been regularly organising discussions on women safety issues, their rights at the work place and at homes. It has done specific programmes on domestic violence and legal reforms and legal rights of women. 130 programmes with a total broadcast time of 3300 minutes were devoted by AIR field stations to the issue of sexual offences against women and related legal provisions; 51 programmes with a total broadcast time of 1530 minutes were devoted to the National Mission for Safety of Women; and 63 programmes and 1890 minutes were dedicated to the BBBP scheme of the Government.⁶³

16 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (online sexual harassment, online stalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images)?

✓ **Introduced or strengthened legislation and regulatory provisions**

With widespread proliferation of digital communication including social media and mobile apps, etc. there are some anti-social elements who are misusing these technologies for committing cybercrimes against women and children. The Information Technology Act, 2000 together with the Indian Penal Code 1860, provides the legal framework for countering pornographic content. Sections 67, 67A and 67B of the IT Act provide for stringent punishment and fine for publishing or transmission of pornography in electronic form as well as hosting on website any information which is lascivious, or contains sexually explicit act or conduct, or depicts children engaged in sexually explicit act. The said Act terms certain offences as publishing of obscene materials on the internet, tampering the data and hacking as punishable offences.

The National Crime Records Bureau has been notified as an agency of the Government of India to issue notices to intermediaries under the IT Act for removal of child pornography, rape and gang rape content.⁶⁴

✓ **Worked with technology providers to set and adhere to good business practices**

A **central cybercrime reporting portal** (www.cybercrime.gov.in) has also been launched in 2018 which allows citizens to report online content pertaining to child pornography/child sexual abuse material or sexually explicit content and rape/gang rape content. Over 12,000 complaints have been received so far, 34 FIRs lodged and 76 obscene contents have been taken down.⁶⁵

Keeping in view the challenges in handling cybercrimes in the country and for effectively tackling cyber-crimes against women and children, the Government is implementing a scheme viz. **Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC)** with a total estimated outlay of 223.198 crores during 2017-2020 for effectively tackling this issue. Presently, issues related to Child Pornography, Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) or sexually explicit content and Rape and Gang Rape contents have been taken up.

The National Commission for Women has taken initiative to promote digital literacy for women including the precautions that can be taken; raising awareness about cyber crimes; and advising users about the resources available to women; to prevent the problems and also how to handle such crimes. The programme was launched as'

Digital Shakti' Campaign at Punjab University, Chandigarh on 18th June 2018. A total of 138 workshops were conducted with the total of 60,484 attendees under Digital Literacy Programme in the states of Delhi NCR, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Manipur and Meghalaya during the period 2018-19.

- ✓ **Implemented awareness raising initiatives targeting the general public and young women and men in educational settings**

The Government also prepared 3 and 5 days **training programmes for law enforcement agencies, public prosecutors and judges** to improve the conviction rate in cybercrime cases. More than 4,000 persons have been imparted training by States/UTs. Four workshops were conducted for **capacity building of law enforcement agencies** and officials of MWCD under the CCPWC scheme. MHA has provided grants of 82.8 crores in FY 2017-18 under the CCPCW scheme to all the state sand UTs to set up **cyber forensic cum training laboratories**. 5 states have commissioned these labs.

A **twitter handle** by the name of “@CyberDost” and **radio campaign** across the country has been launched for spreading awareness against cybercrimes. This twitter handle has more than 54,000 followers.⁶⁶

Upon receiving complaints by women of being subjected to crime through the misuse of personal information uploaded on matrimonial websites, WCD has taken up the matter with MeitY, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and matrimonial service providers to look into the issue and to put in place a regulatory framework in order to check this misuse. Based on extensive stakeholders consultation initiated by WCD Ministry, an advisory on functioning of Matrimonial website was issued by MEITY on 6th June, 2016 under Information Technology Act, 2000 and Rules made there under directing the matrimonial websites to adopt safeguards to ensure that people using these websites are not deceived through the means of fake profiles or misuse/wrong information posted on the website.

A new division “**Cyber and Information Security (CIS)**” has been created in the Ministry of Home Affairs to meet growing demands of cyber security and cyber crimes across the country. After several women journalists complained of being trolled/threatened grievously on social media, **#HelpMeWCDMinistry** was created for women journalists to express their grievances, which was later extended to all women across the country.⁶⁷ **Petitions from change-oriented portals** like Change.org have been acted upon seriously by the government.⁶⁸

17 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to address the portrayal of women and girls, discrimination and/or gender bias in the media?

The Government of India recognizes that gender equality and women empowerment cannot be successfully achieved until gender stereotypes and myths are not addressed adequately and the mindset of the society is made to change. In furtherance of this goal, from time to time, through media campaigns on various platforms including radio, television, print, street plays and songs, advertisements in cinema theatres and on social media, the Government of India targets sexist attitudes, patriarchal mindsets and sex role stereotyping to bring about perceptible change in the society

Various provisions / Acts/ Guidelines and Self-Regulation mechanism have been in place for ensuring, inter-alia, accuracy; impartiality, neutrality & fairness; and decency. Government of India enacted the Indecent Representation of Women Act, 1986 with the specific objective of prohibiting the indecent representation of women. It prohibits such representation in any form in any advertisement, publication, writing, painting or in any other manner and also prohibits selling, distribution, circulation of any books, pamphlets, and such other material containing indecent representation of women.

The electronic media (private satellite TV channels), Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed there under regulate telecast of various programmes by satellite / cable networks in the country. The Act provides that all programmes, including news-based programmes, must be in accordance with the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994. The Programme Code lays down a whole range of principles that need to be observed by the satellite/cable television networks while telecasting any programme.

Government of India has set up an Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to monitor the content telecast on Private satellite/cable television channels with a view to recording any violations. There is also Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), which is a private self-regulatory body of the advertising industry. Whenever any violation of these Codes is noticed by the Government, appropriate action is taken as per the above mentioned Act and Rules framed there under, keeping in view the nature of violation.

All India Radio (AIR) has been consistently mounting programmes on the issue of positive portrayal of women in the media. Programmes in different format shows, talks, discussions, interviews, phone-ins, address the issue on a regular basis. During the last 5 years, 8,474 such programmes with the magnitude of 1, 03,985 minute programmes have been aired through AIR platforms.⁶⁹

Nari Shakti Puruskar awardees are given an opportunity to interact with the media and share their success stories, which are carried widely by the national and regional print media year after year. ⁷⁰Web Wonder Women campaign was organised in collaboration with Twitter India and Breakthrough India, which aimed to recognise the fortitude of Indian women stalwarts from across the globe that have used the power of social media to run positive campaigns to steer a change in society.⁷¹ 100 Women Achievers contest was organised in partnership with Facebook which was reported globally.⁷² 112 ‘First Ladies’ who broke the glass ceiling and became the first in any field were felicitated, and the event received wide coverage by the media.

Government of India has been conducting awareness generation and publicity campaigns on various issues relating women including their rights, their positive portrayal in media through its various media platforms.

Doordarshan News has launched one women-specific programme called “Tejasvini” in November, 2014. It is a special half-an-hour programme on women achievers in interview format. It delves into the lives and journeys, challenges and successes of inspirational Indian women. Over the past four and a half years, DD News has done rigorous research and highlighted some unknown/lesser known and unsung women achievers, who have contributed immensely in shaping our society. The basic purpose of the programme is to showcase success stories of women achievers to inspire the new generation and to instil faith in them by a strong and positive portrayal free of discrimination and gender bias. “Tejasvini” has now completed around 200 episodes.

The Government is committed to safeguard freedom of speech and expression and privacy of its citizens as enshrined in the Constitution of India.

18 Has your country taken any action in the last five years specifically tailored to address violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination?

Yes. Considering the fact that women and girls with different ethnic background may face specific forms of violence, several legislative changes have been adopted during recent years. The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 has been passed which declares pronouncement of instantaneous and irrevocable triple talaq by a Muslim husband as void and illegal. It has been declared as a penal offence with imprisonment of up to three years and fine. The Act also provides for subsistence allowance and custody of the minor children to married Muslim women. With this Act equality between the spouses has been ensured and rights of married Muslim women have been protected.

The Government of India enacted the Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2016, which implores government and local authorities to take measures to ensure that women and children with disabilities enjoy their rights equally with others. Section 6 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provides for protection of persons with disabilities including women with disabilities from cruelty and inhuman treatment. The Act empowers any person or registered organization or any police officer to give information to the concerned Executive Magistrate regarding violence against person with disability who in turn is required to take immediate steps to stop or prevent its occurrence and to pass appropriate order for rescue of the victim of such act and provides protection/rehabilitation of such persons. Violation of the provisions of the Act is punishable.

Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that consensual sexual acts of adults in private, is not a crime. The provisions of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 will continue to govern non-consensual sexual acts against adults, all acts of carnal intercourse against minors and acts of bestiality.

The persons living with HIV/AIDS, including women, unfortunately face stigma and various forms of discrimination. In order to prevent this inequity, the Government has enacted The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017. The Act expressly prohibits discrimination against HIV-Positive persons or persons who are currently, or have in the past, lived, resided or cohabited with an HIV-Positive person. Sterilisation or abortion of an HIV positive pregnant woman without obtaining her informed consent has also been expressly prohibited under this legislation.⁷³

PARTICIPATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE INSTITUTIONS

Critical areas of concern:

- G. Women in power and decision-making
- H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
- I. Human rights of women
- J. Women and the media
- L. The girl child

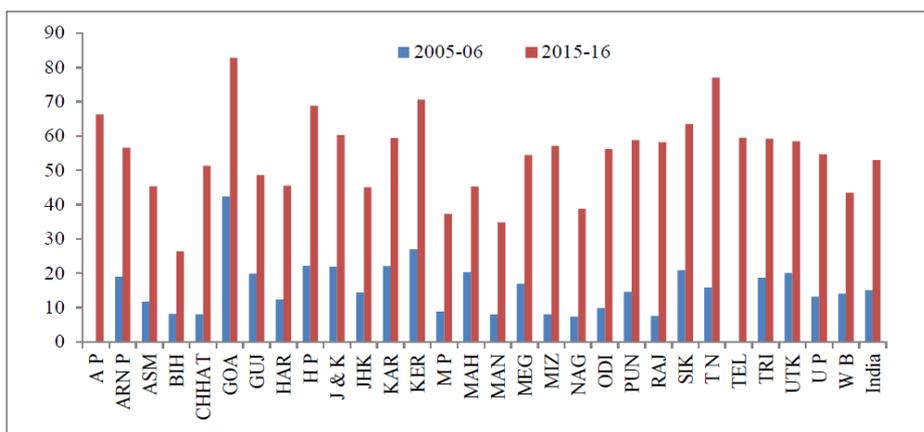
19 What actions and measures has your country taken in the last five years to promote women's participation in public life and decision-making?

The Government of India recognizes that women in decision-making positions and gender mainstreaming are important crosscutting issues.

Further, financial inclusion of women is considered as an essential tool for empowerment of women as it enhances their self-confidence and enables financial decision-making to a certain extent. As far as financial inclusion in India is concerned, significant progress has been made during the last decade (Figure 4). At all India level, the proportion of women having a bank or saving account that they themselves use have increased from 15.5 per cent in 2005-06 to 53 per cent in 2015-16.

As far as women’s participation in household decision making is concerned, it has also improved significantly. As per NFHS-4, participation of currently married women in household decision making has increased from 76.5 per cent in 2005-06 to 84 per cent in 2015-16 at all India level. States like Chhattisgarh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal and North Eastern States are front runners in terms of women’s participation in household decision making compared to other States (Figure 5).

Figure 5 : Percentage of Currently Married Women (15-59 years) involved in Household Decision Making- State wise



Source: NFHS 4 (2015-16) (latest available).

Note: Data for newly created states Andhra Pradesh & Telangana have not been reported for 2005-06.

The **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** aims to mobilize women from poor households and help them come together into SHGs, facilitate discussion of issues of poverty and deprivation, undertake saving and inter-lending regularly, access bank credit and provide technical support to improve livelihoods and quality of life. Over 5.93 crore rural women have been organized in about 52.1 lakh SHGs so far. DAY-NRLM mobilizes marginalized women in general and undertakes special mobilization efforts for reaching women in exploitative situations/occupations in particular (like single women, divorced women, separated women, survivors of violence, trafficked women, devadasis, HIV positive women etc. The Mission has been able to bring about remarkable changes in building institutions,

enhancing access to credit and bank linkages, improving on articulation of women, mobility to spaces extremely restricted to women, decision making, engaging in planning, enhanced exposure, marketing skills and acumen for business development, utilization of credit etc.⁷⁴

NRLM aims to mobilize at least one woman member from all poor households in the country into the Self Help Group (SHG) network fold over the next ten years. It provides capacity building/training in repeated doses on various issues such as group dynamics, leadership, bookkeeping, decision-making in the group, planning, resource utilization, etc. Within their households, the women become a source of financial and livelihood resources, thereby making them active contributors to the household income. This in turn increases women's participation in deciding how the household income would be utilized.

The leaders of the SHGs and federations are encouraged to participate in the local self-government (Panchayats and others) to raise their issues and have a greater say in the political sphere. Every level of the institutions of the poor are encouraged to have links with the corresponding level in the PRI structure. NRLM plans to build the capacities of SHG members on issues such as food security, natural resource management, health, reproductive rights, domestic violence and access to entitlements. One of the key outcomes of the SHG-federation network is the generation of a large pool of social capital - including institutions of poor, their members, leaders, community service providers and Community Resource Persons (CRPs) or 'community heroes'. The social capital, especially the CRPs are pivotal in accelerating the mobilization, institution building and institution strengthening activities. The community cadres are trained and nurtured to develop the requisite skills (management, facilitation, training and participation skills) to support the institutions. These cadres would form an internal support structure for institutions of poor, thus empowering the poor to take charge of their livelihoods and other dimensions of their lives.

The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1992) to the Constitution of India have provided for reservation of one-third seats in the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision making at the local levels. Due to this initiative, out of the 2.8 million elected members in Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), around one million are women. The average women representation in Panchayats across the country is 36.94%. The Central Government has proposed to increase the percentage of reservation of seats for women in PRIs from one-third to one-half with a view to empowering women and making Panchayats more inclusive institutions. However, several states such as Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Tripura have already amended their respective Acts to provide 50% reservation for women. In Sikkim, reservation for women is 40%. The Panchayat (Extension of the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) has extended the

scope of the Panchayat Raj legislation to cover tribal areas, which has thus provided for decentralisation in these areas too. The Government is committed to provide reservation in State legislatures and the Parliament. The Constitution (108th Amendment) Bill, 2008 seeks reservation of one third seats for women in the Parliament and the State Legislatures was passed by the Rajya Sabha (Upper House).

Comprehensive Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) is a local planning system and process for transforming rural India and strengthening Gram Panchayats to drive economic development and social justice. A new set of restructured model guidelines have been developed for preparation of a comprehensive GPDP which, inter alia, includes gender responsive GPDP, use of the tools of gender analysis, gender mainstreaming, gender sensitive PRA techniques and situational analysis, gender budgeting and gender sensitive MIS and monitoring indicators. The new Guidelines for GPDP 2018, not only have a dedicated section on Gender Responsive GPDP, but also incorporates gender as a cross cutting issue across the sections and themes. The sections on Social Accountability, SDGs, Child Rights, Social Justice, Malnourishment, PRI-SHG Convergence, Capacity Building and Convergence with flagship schemes etc. further increase the need and operationalization of gender responsive governance and gender mainstreaming.⁷⁵

20 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase women's access to expression and participation in decision-making in the media, including through information and communication technologies (ICT)?

The right to freedom of speech and expression is one of the most widely celebrated fundamental rights enshrined under the Constitution of India. Article 19(1)(a) secures to every citizen the freedom of speech and expression.

Involving women at all levels of decision making for ensuring their participation in formulation and implementation of housing policies and programmes. In collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad, the National Commission for Women (NCW) had initiated a pilot programme for capacity building of elected women representatives (EWRs) of PRIs.⁷⁶ The project prepares a pool of master trainers for providing onsite training to EWRs and their handholding.⁷⁷ The Programme envisages imparting knowledge to the EWRs about the role of PRIs at different levels including intense linkages between PRIs at village, block and district levels, details about developmental schemes and programmes, availability of resources, participatory planning and asset creation and public works.⁷⁸ It also imparts Information Communication Technology and leadership skills to the EWRs.⁷⁹

The Government of India has also taken up the training of EWRs in Panchayats to empower them to govern their villages effectively and to develop into grass root change

makers.⁸⁰ The programme aims to improve the leadership qualities and management skills of EWRs for better implementation of various schemes, impart knowledge on important legislations and monitor asset creation and public works.⁸¹ So far, a total of 33,518 EWRs have been trained. Under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) Scheme also, States have been impressed upon to give capacity building and training to stakeholders of Panchayats, including women, give priority for construction of toilets for women in the Panchayat buildings and provided funds for barrier free access.⁸²

Advisories have been issued to states and UTs to ensure safety of EWRs and women Sarpanch, particularly of those belonging to the weaker sections to ensure free and safe participation in the decision making process at PRIs. It was also advised that any cases of discrimination should be expeditiously resolved. Advisories have also been issued to states to allocate a specific proportion of funds of the panchayats in identified schemes exclusively for women centric activities and women development in the panchayat with particular focus on women from marginalized communities.⁸³

Advisories have also been issued to the effect that the matters relating to women and children be taken up by Mahila Sabhas, and the meetings of Mahila Sabhas be held prior to the Gram Sabha meeting and the recommendations of Mahila Sabha be mandatorily communicated to the Gram Sabha, for prompt consideration of the same.⁸⁴

Guidelines have been prepared for preparation of comprehensive Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) which is a gender-responsive planning system and process for transforming rural India and strengthening Gram Panchayats to drive economic development and social justice. The Guidelines would use the tools of gender analysis, gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting and gender sensitive monitoring indicators.⁸⁵ The guidelines have a dedicated section on Gender Responsive GPDP, and it also informs other sections of the guidelines. The guidelines also address the issues of multi-dimensional poverty, exclusion and vulnerabilities faced by women from marginalized social groups.⁸⁶

Women are also actively participating in formal and informal governance forums at the local level. The abovementioned facts are a testament to India's rapid strides in the creation of an enabling environment for women to participate in democratic processes, including elections.

21 Do you track the proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?

Gender Budgeting has been adopted as a powerful tool for gender mainstreaming and putting a gender lens on various stages of planning, budgeting, implementation, impact assessment and revisiting of policy/programme objectives and allocations. The Ministry

of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) as the Nodal agency has adopted the mission strategy of 'Budgeting for Gender Equity' to ensure that government budgets are planned according to the differential needs of women and men and accordingly prioritized. Gender Budgeting is concerned with gender-sensitive formulation of legislation, policies, plans, programmes and schemes; allocation and collection of resources; implementation and execution; monitoring, review, audit and impact assessment of programmes and schemes; and follow-up corrective action to address gender disparities. It is undertaken through several institutional mechanisms such as Gender Budget Statement, Gender Budget Cells, as well as various schemes/programmes for women and girls.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development as the nodal agency for Gender Budgeting has been undertaking several initiatives for taking it forward at the National and State levels. The Ministry has been following a strategy to pursue the process of Gender Budgeting in the country, for empowerment of women.

The Government has introduced a Gender Budget Statement as part of the Union Budget, which has emerged as an important tool for reporting allocations for women and provides an indication of the funds flowing to them. The number of Ministries/Departments reflecting their schemes and programmes in the Gender Budget Statement has increased from 9 in 2005-06 to 30 in 2019-20 and the magnitude of gender budget has also increased from 2.79% to 5.46% during the same period. The statement shows 25.55% increase for 100% women specific programmes, having gone up from Rs. 21887.61 Crore in BE 2014-15 to Rs. 27419.97 Crore in BE 2019-20. Similarly, increase for 43% women specific programmes having gone up from 76142.23 Crore in BE 2014-15 to Rs. 109514.13 crore in BE 2019-20. Overall, taking parts A and B together, there is an increase of 39.68% from Rs. 98029.84 Crore in BE 2014-15 to 136934.10 Crore in BE 2019-20.

To institutionalise Gender Budgeting in India, the setting up of Gender Budgeting Cells (GBCs) in all Ministries / Departments was mandated and a Gender Budget Charter was issued. The Charter laid down guidelines for composition and functions of the Gender Budgeting Cells. At the Central level, there are 57 Ministries/Departments which have Gender Budget Cells and 30 Ministries/Departments are reporting on the Gender Budget Statement, i.e., Statement 13. At the State level, there are 14 States/UTs who have adopted Gender Budget Cells and 20 States/UTs are reporting on the Gender Budget Statement, i.e., Statement 13. Capacity building efforts have been undertaken in 21 States for conducting training programmes/workshops. MWCD sanctions grants-in-aid every year for training and capacity building of key government officials and stakeholders at National, State and District level. During the last 3 financial years, over 4500 Government officials have been trained under the GB Scheme

Any new scheme across all Ministries needs to go through a process of evaluation by the Expenditure Finance Committee. The revised EFC (Expenditure Finance Committee) format has a mandatory column on Gender Analysis of the proposal wherein specific objective of proposal relating to women and the percentage of total expenditure on the gender components need to be mentioned.

22 As a donor country, does your country track the proportion of official development assistance (ODA) that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?

Not applicable

23 Does your country have a valid national strategy or action plan for gender equality?

Yes. Empowerment of women is a socio-political ideal envisioned in relation to the wider framework of women's rights. The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution's Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution of India not only grants liberty and equality to its citizens but also empowers the State to adopt measures for the upliftment of weaker sections. The principle of equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles.⁸⁷ These constitutional provisions form the framework to introduce and uphold measures to eliminate discrimination along various intersectional axes. Apart from the Constitutional mandate of equality and non-discrimination, a number of legislations are already in place to address gender-based discrimination.¹

The National Policy for Empowerment of Women lays down a comprehensive framework for the advancement, development and empowerment of women. Implementation of the Policy has been envisaged through preparation of an Inter-Ministerial Action Plan adopted at the Central as well as State level through a participatory strategy with targets, timelines and outcomes.

In the light of Constitutional and legal framework, the Government has taken a series of measures through schemes, policies and programmes like

¹ Legislations include "The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961", "The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 (IRWA)"; "The Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PCPNDT Act)"; "The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005"; the "Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006"; "The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013 (SH Act)" etc.

- i) Continue to support Beti Bachao Beti Padhao for increasing SRB and enable her education
- ii) Continue support to One Stop Centre and Women Helpline Scheme to provide support and assistance to women affected by violence
- iii) New schemes such as One Stop Centres, Women Helpline, Sukanya SamriddhiYojana, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal VikasYojana (PMKVY), MahilaVikas Nidhi, MUDRA Yojana, Stand Up India, Working Women's Hostels, Mahila-E-Haat, Mahila Shakti Kendra, etc., have been initiated to empower women.

24 Does your country have an action plan and timeline for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (if a State party), or of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review or other United Nations human rights mechanisms that address gender inequality/discrimination against women?

Yes. The Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UPR) Mechanism was implemented by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). MEA is aiming at the implementation of the recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights (UNSCR), Final Observations the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), as well as the recommendations of the committees of UN conventions on human rights. This platform serves as a monitoring mechanism to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of international obligations and to enable the government to adopt the necessary policies and legal framework on the on-going implementation of the recommendations. The Human Rights Platform also serves as a tool for meeting international obligations on reporting on the implementation of the recommendations, within the framework of the human rights conventions, focusing on the recommendations of UPR and CEDAW.

25 Is there a national human rights institution in your country?

YES. India has a robust and institutionalized framework for protection of human rights, in the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** and the **State Human Rights Commissions (SHRC)**, deeply embedded in the democratic polity and inclusive traditions of this country. The NHRC and SHRCs work in close collaboration with the civil society, including NGOs and individuals working for the protection of human rights. The human rights framework is further strengthened by a vibrant and independent judiciary which works to uphold human rights.⁸⁸

PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Critical areas of concern:

- E. Women and armed conflict
- I. Human rights of women
- L. The girl child

26 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to build and sustain peace, promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and implement the women, peace and security agenda?

In India there is no 'armed conflict'. However, there are certain instances of Anti-Social, Anti-National elements trying to disturb the internal peace in some part of the country. The Government is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard India's security and territorial integrity.

27 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase the leadership, representation and participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, peace building, humanitarian action and crisis response, at decision-making levels in situations of armed and other conflicts, and in fragile or crisis settings?

As stated in reply to question No. 26, there is no armed conflict within the territory of India, so the question does not arise. However, as stated, the Government of India resorts to police action against Anti-social and Anti National elements at times. The police personnel deployed in such duties have been sensitised to be more humane, and sensitive towards women and children while on duty.

28 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to enhance judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed and other conflicts or humanitarian action and crisis response?

As stated in reply to question No. 26, there is no armed conflict within the territory of India, so the question does not arise. However, the Government supports the States by providing Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and helping States to build their capacities to tackle activities of terrorists/extremists groups. In India, we have adequate legal provisions to counter trafficking. Article 23 of the Constitution of India envisages prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour. Further, the Government of India remains committed

towards its obligation under United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children⁸⁹ and the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution.

29 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to eliminate discrimination against and violations of the rights of the girl child?

The Government of India and the States/UTs have been continuously working to promote and achieve gender equality and empowerment of women. On one hand, there are constitutional provisions which provide not only equality in terms of gender but also allow the State to formulate positive discrimination in favour of women. Simultaneously, there are legislative measures to prevent discrimination against women and protect them. Additionally, Programmes and schematic interventions have been introduced for women in need of such schemes.

✓ Taken measures to combat negative social norms and practices and increased awareness of the needs and potential of girl children

The **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme**, as discussed previously, aims to prevent gender-based sex selective elimination, ensure the survival and protection of the girl child, and to ensure her education, with an overall aim of increasing the child sex ratio. Through various other schemes as have been detailed under this Report, the Government is promoting the participation of girls in society, and tackling negative and harmful gender stereotypes. As mentioned earlier, the **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** programme is working to ensure the education of girls and reduce dropouts, thus delaying their marriage. A significant part of the BBBP advocacy campaign is focussed on creating awareness and discouraging the practice of child marriage.

India already has in place the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006** to prohibit the solemnization of child marriages. The Act punishes those who promote, perform and abet child marriage. The Government is working for the strict implementation of the Act by pursuing local administration to conduct preventive activities. On deciding on a conflict between the Indian Penal Code and The Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act 2012, the Supreme Court held that all sexual relations within a child marriage would constitute sexual assault, thereby criminalizing sexual intercourse between a man and his minor wife.

- ✓ **Tackled disadvantages in health outcomes due to malnutrition, early childbearing (e.g. anemia) and exposure to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases**

The **Anganwadi Services under Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme** is a universal scheme under which all children below 6 years of age, pregnant women and lactating mothers are eligible for the services including the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) provided under the scheme.⁹⁰ As on 1st April, 2019, 876 lakh beneficiaries have availed the Supplementary Nutrition service at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs).⁹¹

The Government is implementing the Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG), (erstwhile Rajeev Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls), a centrally sponsored scheme that aims at improving the nutrition and health status of out-of-school adolescent girls between the ages of 11 to 14 years and to motivate them to join school system or skill training.⁹² The scheme was extended in a phased manner to cover all the districts of the country and has gone Pan-India, with effect from 01st April, 2018.⁹³ In 2017-18, a total of 96,19,430 beneficiaries were covered under the nutrition component of the scheme, including 7,73,140 out-of-school adolescent girls of age 11-14 years.⁹⁴

To ensure the objective of malnutrition free India by 2022, POSHAN Abhiyaan (**National Nutrition Mission**) is a flagship programme of Ministry of Women and Child Development which ensures convergence with various programmes i.e., Anganwadi Services, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) of MWCD, Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), National Health Mission (NHM), Swachh Bharat Mission, Public Distribution System (PDS). It focuses to lay emphasis on the first 1000 days of the child, which includes the nine months of pregnancy, six months of exclusive breastfeeding and the period from 6 months to 2 years to ensure focused interventions on addressing under nutrition. Besides increasing the birth weight, it will help reduce both Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR).

The persons living with HIV/AIDS, including women, unfortunately face stigma and various forms of discrimination. In order to prevent this inequity, the Government has enacted **The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017**. The Act has been enacted to protect the human rights of persons affected by the said virus and syndrome.⁹⁵ The Act expressly prohibits discrimination against HIV-Positive persons or persons who are currently, or have in the past, lived, resided or cohabited with an HIV-Positive

person.⁹⁶ Sterilization or abortion of an HIV positive pregnant woman without obtaining her informed consent has also been expressly prohibited under this legislation

- ✓ **Implemented policies and programmes to eradicate child labour and excessive levels of unpaid care and domestic work undertaken by girl children**

For elimination of child labour, the Central Government has enacted the **Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016** which came into force w.e.f. 1.9.2016. The Amended Act inter-alia provides for complete prohibition of work or employment of children below 14 years in any occupation and process and prohibition of adolescents in the age group of 14 to 18 years in hazardous occupations and processes. The Amended Act also provides strict punishment for employers for violation of the Act and has made the offence cognizable.

The Government is also implementing the **National Child Labour Project (NCLP)** Scheme for rehabilitation of child labour. Under the NCLP Scheme, children in the age group of 9-14 years are rescued / withdrawn from work and enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend, health care, etc. before they are mainstreamed into formal education system.

VI Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation

Critical areas of concern:

- I. Human rights of women
- K. Women and the environment
- L. The girl child

30 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies?

- ✓ **Increased women's access to and control over land, water, energy, and other natural resources**

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Grameen) {PMAY(G)} Mission helps in providing all weather pucca houses with basic civic infrastructure like water, sanitation, sewerage, road, electricity etc. to all eligible urban households of the country, to achieve the goal of Housing for All by 2022. In order to promote access to housing for women, with the objective of women empowerment, the Mission guidelines mandates that the

ownership of the house constructed under PMAY (G) Mission should be in the name of female head of the household or in joint name with the male head. Over 96 lakh houses have already been sanctioned by the Government. So far, over 27 lakh houses have been sanctioned in the name of women⁹⁷. Similarly, under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) houses are allotted jointly in the name of the husband and the wife, except in the case of widow/unmarried/separated person. So far over 85 lakh houses have been sanctioned under the Scheme.

Indoor air pollution predominantly due to using fuel wood for cooking has also been addressed under the scheme, wherein minimum size of the house has been increased, with a hygienic cooking space. Towards ensuring clean energy, houses constructed under PMAY-G get LPG connection in convergence with the Ujjwala scheme. In convergence with the Swachh Bharat Mission, toilets are also constructed in such houses. Almost 98 % of the country has already have toilets in the households and as such these areas have already become open defecation free (ODF) contributing immensely to the protection of environment.

✓ **Enhanced women's access to sustainable time- and labour-saving infrastructure (e.g. access to clean water and energy) and climate-smart agricultural technology**

Refer to response to Question No. 7 (Invested in time- and labour-saving infrastructure, such as public transport, electricity, water and sanitation, to reduce the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women) and Question No. 6 (Improved access to modern technologies (incl. climate-smart technologies), infrastructure and services (incl. agricultural extension))

The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) aims to address the challenges of infrastructure deficit in cities, prioritizing water supply and sewerage management. So far, 58.66 lakh household water tap connections and 37.49 lakh sewer connections have been provided under AMRUT. This effort and investment made under Water and Sanitation has helped the beneficiary households, especially women to lead safe, productive and healthy lives, enhancing women's access to clean water and safe sanitation, thereby positively impacting public health and environment.

✓ **Taken measures to protect and preserve the knowledge and practices of women in indigenous and local communities related to traditional medicines, biodiversity and conservation techniques**

The **Biological Diversity Act, 2002** provides for setting up of Biodiversity Management Communities (BMCs) by every local body for the purpose of promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biodiversity. The Biological

Diversity Rules, 2004 explicitly provide that at least one third of the members of the BMC should be women. At present, there are 1.44 lakh BMCs in the country.

31 What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation?

India with its continuous efforts has brought about a change in the approach to disaster management from a relief-centric to a holistic and integrated approach covering the entire gamut of disaster management encompassing prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation. The approach is based on the conviction that development cannot be sustainable unless disaster mitigation is built in the developmental processes.

The Disaster Management Act 2005 articulates the need for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into development planning. The National Policy on Disaster Management 2009 seeks to build a safe and disaster resilient India. As per provisions of the Act, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), National Institute of Disaster Management created in 2006 at national level. At State level, State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) created in all States and District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) created in more than 680 districts. In the domain of disaster risk management, the Sendai Framework emphasizes the need for enhancing the technical, financial, and administrative capabilities of institutions, governments, and communities to deal with the identified risks at different levels. The framework calls for reinforcing the capacity to implement, and enforce risk reduction measures. Capacity development commonly refers to a process that is driven from the inside and starts from existing capacity assets. The framework underlines the need for capacity development of women in disaster management and building their ability to participate effectively in managing disaster risk.

As per the Disaster Management Act, 2005 there shall be no discrimination on the ground of gender, caste and community in providing compensation and relief. Disaster Management Act-2005 mandates NDMA for preparation of Guidelines on Minimum Standards of Relief, which has, however, following special provisions for women and children:

- a) Minimum standards in respect of shelter in relief camps: Special care shall be taken for safety and privacy of inmates, especially for women, widows and children.
- b) Minimum standards in respect of food in relief camps: Men and Women are to be supplied food with minimum calories of 2400 Kcal per day.

- c) Minimum standards in respect of Sanitation in relief camps: Separate toilet and bath area be catered for women and children.
- d) Dignity kits for women shall be provided with sanitary napkins and disposable paper bags with proper labeling.
- e) Minimum standards in respect of medical cover in relief camps: For pregnant women, necessary basic arrangements shall be made by local administration for safe delivery.
- f) Minimum standards of Relief for widows and orphans cover: In each camp, a separate register shall be maintained for entering the details of women who are widowed and for children who are orphaned due to the disaster.

In National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) 2016 provisions have been made to ascertain special social support to single women and young children to survive the impact of disasters. Rehabilitation of the Elderly, Women and Children are also taken care since they are more vulnerable after a major disaster including organizing counselling to strengthen the mental health of women and children and initiating training programmes to make the women economically self-sufficient.

Reducing Risk Enhancing Resilience the Hazard wise matrix put special emphasis on empowering women under capacity development section and emphasis on the need for capacity development of women in disaster management section and building their ability to participate effectively in managing disaster risk. Integration of gender perspective into the several guidelines issued by NDMA (2014-19) has been done for example in the National Guidelines on Temporary Shelters for Disaster (2019) it has been emphasised under the theme safety and protection to effectively coordinate for safety of the affected community particularly women.

- ✓ **Strengthened evidence and/or raised awareness about gender-specific environmental and health hazards (e.g. consumer products, technologies, industrial pollution)**

The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has written to all the States and UTs vide letter dated 01.09.2017 regarding the National Disaster Management Guidelines on School Safety. It was emphasized that the guidelines on School Safety Policy, 2016 prepared by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) are statutory in nature and are required to be complied without any deviation. The NDMA guidelines provide for conducting quarterly safety audits by the School Management Committee (SMC) in schools including fire safety and food safety. The guidelines are in public domain and hosted on www.mhrd.gov.in. The Manual on Safety and Security of Children in Schools developed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has also identified

authorities at different levels such as School Management Committee, Parent Teacher Association and School Management, authorities at Block, District, State and National levels to monitor the implementation of the manual. The details are in public domain and hosted on www.ncpcr.gov.in. All schools under Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and Central Tibetan Schools Administration (CTSA) conduct mock-drills, training, and use of certain gadgets like fire extinguishers for the benefit of students.

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 developed by National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) emphasizes on providing space for the awareness and management of natural and human generated disasters in school curriculum across the subject areas at all the stages in its syllabi and textbooks. Disaster Management and natural calamities are not taught as separate subjects in schools; instead their references are integrated across the disciplines viz Social Science and Science at upper primary, secondary and senior secondary levels. As education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, majority of the schools are under the jurisdiction of respective States/UTs.

✓ **Increased women's access to and control over land, water, energy, and other natural resources**

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such these areas have already become open defecation free (ODF) contributing immensely to the protection of environment.

- ✓ **Enhanced women's access to sustainable time- and labour - saving infrastructure (e.g. access to clean water and energy) and climate-smart agricultural technology**

Refer to response to Question No. 7 (Invested in time- and labour-saving infrastructure, such as public transport, electricity, water and sanitation, to reduce the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women) and Question No. 6 (Improved access to modern technologies (incl. climate-smart technologies), infrastructure and services (incl. agricultural extension))

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SECTION THREE: NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES

32 What is India's current national machinery for gender equality and the empowerment of women? Please name it and describe its location within Government

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is the Nodal Ministry of the Government of India on all matters relating to women and children. The Ministry was constituted with the prime intention of addressing gaps in State action for women and children for promoting inter-Ministerial and inter-sectoral convergence to create gender equitable and child-centred legislation, policies and programmes. The Ministry is working towards making a society where empowered women living with dignity and contributing as equal partners in development in an environment free from violence and discrimination and well nurtured children with full opportunities for growth and development in a safe and protective environment. The Ministry is headed by a Cabinet Minister and assisted by Minister of State as political executive and Secretary to the Government of India being the bureaucratic head of the Ministry. The Ministry is located in Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. In addition, Gender Budgeting Cells (GBCs) have been put in place in 57 Ministries/Departments of Government of India to institutionalize Gender Budgeting. Further, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog is the premier

policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs on all matters including women affairs and SDGs.

The Government of India has also set a Statutory Body namely National Commission for Women at New Delhi whose mandate is to review the Constitutional and Legal safeguards for women, recommend remedial legislative measures, facilitate redressal of grievances and advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women. In keeping with its mandate, the Commission has initiated various steps to improve the status of women and worked for their economic empowerment. Further, there are also State Commission for Women set up in almost all States/ UTs.

33 Is the head of the national machinery a member of the institutional process for SDG implementation (e.g. inter-ministerial coordinating office, commission or committees)?

Yes. As a nodal Ministry for the advancement of Women and children, the Ministry of Women and Child Development coordinates with other Ministries and provides a convergence platform to them to formulate and implement various policies, programmes, and legislations for the empowerment and holistic development of women.

34 Are there formal mechanisms in place for different stakeholders to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

Yes. All UN member States are committed to achieve SDGs Agenda 2030 consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets, spanning the three dimensions of economic, social and environmental development. Under this framework, each national government as well as other stakeholders, including local governments, business and the civil society is expected to identify, implement and report on specific actions that lead to their achievement. The national government has to translate these goals and targets into the national policies, to resource and implement these policies and to measure their implementation. On the other hand, civil society organizations are expected to play an important role in popularizing SDGs as well as take on role for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs. The national multi-stakeholders' consultation on SDGs to strategize a common accountability framework for Civil Society on 8th & 9th November 2016 from the prism of the most marginalized communities to achieve the agenda of 'Leave No one Behind' and 'A Life of Dignity for All'.

a) Which of the following stakeholders participate formally in national coordination mechanisms established to contribute to the implementation of

the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

Beijing Declaration and Pfa

- ✓ Civil society organizations
- ✓ Women's rights organizations
- ✓ Academia and think tanks
- € Faith-based organizations
- ✓ Parliaments/parliamentary committees
- ✓ Private sector
- ✓ United Nations system
- ✓ Other actors, please specify...
Federal States

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- ✓ Civil society organizations
- ✓ Women's rights organizations
- ✓ Academia and think tanks
- € Faith-based organizations
- ✓ Parliaments/parliamentary committees
- ✓ Private sector
- ✓ United Nations system
- ✓ Other actors please specify... Federal States

b) Do you have mechanisms in place to ensure that women and girls from marginalized groups can participate and that their concerns are reflected in these processes?

Yes.

c) Please describe how stakeholders have contributed to the preparation of the present national report.

This national report was prepared through an inclusive process led by the Government of India. Inter-Ministerial Meetings were held with all concerned Ministries/Departments such as Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Rural Development and all stakeholders were actively invited to offer opinions and provided inputs and feedback. Technical support was provided by the UN Women for reviewing the prepared draft report.

35Is gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls included as a key priority in the national plan/strategy for SDG implementation?

Yes. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has prepared National Indicator Framework (NIF) consisting of 306 indicators for monitoring the progress of SDGs. It includes 143 Gender Specific Indicators relating to Women Empowerment, Social Protection System, Health, Social Justice, Rural Empowerment and Gender sensitive development strategies.

Apart from the above, NITI Aayog's 15-year vision document proposes key reforms to enable and encourage women's workforce participation across sectors in India. This is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5, Gender Equality), whose adoption into policy-making is being steered by NITI Aayog.

SECTION FOUR: DATA AND STATISTICS

36. What are the top three areas in which your country has made most progress over the past five years when it comes to gender statistics at the national level?

Statistics disaggregated by gender play an important role in developing and monitoring policies in the economy on various developmental aspects for achieving gender and economic equality, inclusive development and social well-being in the society. Gender based statistics in areas like, health, education, participation in labour market and prevalence of various types of violence against women provide vital inputs for policy makers for evolving appropriate interventions to minimize the gaps.

MoSPI has evolved the National Indicator Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in collaboration with the line Ministries. Several steps are being taken to align the data flow systems for regular monitoring of SDGs. SDG Goal 5 relates to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. This report not only contains information on SDG Goal 5 indicators but also has additional gender based indicators to monitor the progress in other fronts like the G20 commitment to promote initiatives aimed at ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls and gender-based violence.

The Government has come out with National Data Sharing & Accessibility Policy (NDSAP) which is available at: <https://www.meity.gov.in/open-data>. Further details and data from various sources that can be freely used by interested stakeholders are available at <https://data.gov.in>.

37 Out of the following which are your country's top three priorities for strengthening national gender statistics over the next five years?

The top three priorities of the Government of India for strengthening national gender statistics over the next five years are: (i) Establishment of an inter-agency coordination mechanism on gender statistics (e.g., technical working group, inter-agency committee) (ii) Use more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects (iii) Re-processing of existing data (e.g., censuses and surveys) to produce more disaggregated and/or new gender statistics;

38 Have you defined a national set of indicators for monitoring progress on the SDGs?

Yes. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has prepared a National Indicator Framework (NIF) consisting of 306 indicators for monitoring the progress of SDGs. It includes 41 Gender Specific Indicators related to the Ministry of Women and Child Development. However, NIF includes a total of 102 Gender Specific Indicators which are related to other Ministries such as health, social justice and rural development etc.⁹⁹.

NIF has been prepared considering the needs and specific nature of the country. The NIF and the global indicators are not exactly the same and only a few indicators in both Global and BIF are exactly the same. Many additional indicators have also been included in NIF. Further, Global Indicators contain only 232 indicators, whereas NIF contains 306 indicators.¹⁰⁰

NITI Aayog and UN in India have access to SDG dashboard which monitors the progress and programme implementation. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an ambitious commitment by world leaders which set out a universal and an unprecedented agenda which embraces economic, environmental and social aspects of the wellbeing of societies. India played a prominent role in the formulation of SDGs and much of the country's National Development Agenda is mirrored in the SDGs.

39 Has data collection and compilation on SDG 5 indicators and on gender-specific indicators under other SDGs begun?

Yes, the data is available in the report "National Indicator Framework Baseline Report 2015-16", prepared by MoSPI in 2016-17. MoSPI is working towards collecting data for all indicators. However, data is not available for 21 gender specific indicators of NIF.¹⁰¹

40 Which of the following disaggregation is routinely provided by major surveys in your country?

- ✓ Geographic location

- ✓ Income
- ✓ sex
- ✓ Age
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Marital status
- ✓ Race/ethnicity
- ✓ Migratory status
- ✓ Disability
- ✓ Other characteristics relevant in national contexts

* * *

- ¹ Inputs received from Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development vide O.M. No. F. 13-3/2018-IS-11 (Pt-I) dated 06.12.2018
- ² Press release by Ministry of Human Resource Development dated 26.07.2018 (available at <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181084>) (Last accessed on 06.05.2019)
- ³ Farm Women Friendly Hand Book by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, available at http://agricoop.nic.in/sites/default/files/ext_rpt_1.pdf (Last accessed at 11.04.2019)
- ⁴ Inputs received from Ministry of Panchayati Raj vide O.M. No. M-11015/85/2019-CB dated 03.04.2019
- ⁵ Inputs received from Ministry of External Affairs vide O.M. No. UI/3530/04/2015 dated 28.12.2018
- ⁶ Inputs received from Ministry of External Affairs vide O.M. No. UI/3530/04/2015 dated 28.12.2018
- ⁷ Section 4, The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016
- ⁸ Preamble to the The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017
- ⁹ Section 3, The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017
- ¹⁰ Section 18(3), The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017
- ¹¹ PIB Release from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare dated 11th January, 2019, available at : <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1559536> (Last accessed on 4.05.2019)
- ¹² Economic Survey, 2018-19
- ¹³ Revised Scheme of One Stop Center, p. 1, available at: https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/OSC_S.pdf (Last accessed on 03.05.2019)
- ¹⁴ The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.
- ¹⁵ Inputs received from Ministry of Corporate Affairs, vide O.M. No. 9/14/2019-IC dated 14.05.2019. [Rule 8(5)(x), Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014]
- ¹⁶ Inputs received from Child and Women Labour Division, Ministry of Labour and Employment vide O.M. No. A-42011/08/2018-C&WL-II dated 13.05.2019.
- ¹⁷ Inputs received from Ministry of Women and Child Development vide O.M. No. CRE 23/29/2015-creche dated 17.10.2018.
- ¹⁸ Economic Survey, 2018-19
- ¹⁹ Inputs received from Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development vide O.M. No. P16017/04/2012P&P Ptl (342197) dated 03.06.2019
- ²⁰ Inputs received from Plan Division, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment vide O.M. No. F. No. 2-11/2019-PD dated 03.04.2019.
- ²¹ Inputs received from Plan Division, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment vide O.M. No. F. No. 2-11/2019-PD dated 03.04.2019.
- ²² Inputs received from Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development vide O.M. No. P16017/04/2012P&P Ptl (342197) dated 03.06.2019
- ²³ Available at: <https://www.standupmitra.in/Home/AboutUs> (Last accessed on 06.05.2019).
- ²⁴ Available at: <https://www.mudra.org.in/> (Last accessed on 06.05.2019).
- ²⁵ Inputs received from Ministry of Women and Child Development vide O.M. No. F.No.-RMK-12/2/2018-O/o RMK dated 27.09.2018.
- ²⁶ Inputs received from Ministry of Minority Affairs vide O.M. No 11-8/2018- Coord dated 27th September 2019
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- ²⁸ Inputs received from the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development vide O.M. No. P16017/04/2012-P&P(PtII) (344079) dated 16.10.2018.
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- ³¹ Inputs received from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment vide OM F.No. 2-11/2019- Plan, dated 11.10.2019
- ³² Inputs received from Ministry of Rural Development vide OM P16017/04/2012 P& P dated 3rd June, 2019
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- ⁴⁰Press Release by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship dated 08.03.2019, available at: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189350> (Last accessed on 04.05.2019).
- ⁴¹Press Release by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship dated 08.03.2019, available at: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189350> (Last accessed on 04.05.2019)
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- ⁴³Inputs received from Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development vide O.M. No. F. 13-3/2018-IS-11 (Pt-I) dated 06.12.2018
- ⁴⁴ Press Release dated 11.09.2014 available at: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=109585> (Last accessed on 04.05.2019).
- ⁴⁵The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.
- ⁴⁶Inputs received from Ministry of Corporate Affairs, vide O.M. No. 9/14/2019-IC dated 14.05.2019. [Rule 8(5)(x), Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014]
- ⁴⁷Inputs received from Women Safety Division, Ministry of Home Affairs vide O.M. No. 15011/55/2019-SC/ST-W dated 17.05.2019
- ⁴⁸Inputs received from Women Safety Division, Ministry of Home Affairs vide O.M. No. 15011/55/2019-SC/ST-W dated 17.05.2019
- ⁴⁹Inputs received from Women Safety Division, Ministry of Home Affairs vide O.M. No. 15011/55/2019-SC/ST-W dated 17.05.2019
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- ⁵² Inputs received from Ministry OF Home Affairs, vide OM No 15011/55/2019-SC/ST-W dated 7th October, 2019.
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- ⁵⁴Ujjawala Scheme, available at: <https://wcd.nic.in/sites/default/files/Ujjawala%20New%20Scheme.pdf> (Last accessed on 04.05.2019).
- ⁵⁵ Press Release by Ministry of Women and Child Development dated 06.06.2018, available at: (Last accessed on 04.05.2019).
- ⁵⁶ Press Release by Ministry of Home Affairs dated 10.08.2016, available at: (Last accessed on 03.05.2019).
- ⁵⁷ Inputs received from National Legal Services Authority dated 30.09.2019
- ⁵⁸Inputs received from National Commission for Women vide letter F. No. 23-34/5/2018-NCW (Coordination) dated 12.10.2018.
- ⁵⁹ PIB Release by Ministry of Human Resource Development dated 09.03.2019 , available at <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=116595>
- ⁶⁰ PIB Released by Ministry of Women and Child Development dated 28th July, 2019.
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- ⁶³Inputs received from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vide O.M. No. K-13011/3/2019-IP&MC dated 30.05.2019
- ⁶⁴Inputs received from Women Safety Division, Ministry of Home Affairs vide O.M. No. 15011/55/2019-SC/ST-W dated 17.05.2019
- ⁶⁵Inputs received from Women Safety Division, Ministry of Home Affairs vide O.M. No. 15011/55/2019-SC/ST-W dated 17.05.2019
- ⁶⁶Inputs received from Women Safety Division, Ministry of Home Affairs vide O.M. No. 15011/55/2019-SC/ST-W dated 17.05.2019
- ⁶⁷Inputs received from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vide O.M. No. K-13011/3/2019-IP&MC dated 30.05.2019
- ⁶⁸Inputs received from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vide O.M. No. K-13011/3/2019-IP&MC dated 30.05.2019
- ⁶⁹Inputs received from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vide O.M. No. K-13011/3/2019-IP&MC dated 30.05.2019
- ⁷⁰Inputs received from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vide O.M. No. K-13011/3/2019-IP&MC dated 30.05.2019
- ⁷¹Inputs received from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vide O.M. No. K-13011/3/2019-IP&MC dated 30.05.2019
- ⁷²Inputs received from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vide O.M. No. K-13011/3/2019-IP&MC dated 30.05.2019

- ⁷³Section 3, The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017
- ⁷⁴Inputs received from Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development vide O.M. No. P16017/04/2012P&P Ptl (342197) dated 03.06.2019
- ⁷⁵Inputs received from Ministry of Panchayati Raj vide O.M. No. M-11015/85/2019-CB dated 03.04.2019
- ⁷⁶Inputs received from National Commission for Women vide letter F. No. 23-34/5/2018-NCW (Coordination) dated 12.10.2018
- ⁷⁷Inputs received from National Commission for Women vide letter F. No. 23-34/5/2018-NCW (Coordination) dated 12.10.2018
- ⁷⁸Inputs received from National Commission for Women vide letter F. No. 23-34/5/2018-NCW (Coordination) dated 12.10.2018
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- ⁸⁰Press Release by Ministry of Women and Child Development dated 17.01.2019, available at: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=187560> (Last accessed on 04.05.2019).
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- ⁸⁵Inputs received from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj vide O.M. No. M-11015/267/2018-CB dated 30.11.2018
- ⁸⁶Inputs received from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj vide O.M. No. M-11015/267/2018-CB dated 30.11.2018
- ⁸⁷Inputs received from Plan Division, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment vide O.M. No. F. No. 2-11/2019-PD dated 03.04.2019.
- ⁸⁸Inputs received from WS Division, Ministry of Home Affairs vide O.M. No. 15011/146/2018-SC/ST-W dated 22.11.2018
- ⁸⁹Inputs received from Ministry of Home Affairs via email dated 12.10.2018.
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- ⁹⁵Preamble to the The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017
- ⁹⁶Section 3, The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017
- ⁹⁷Inputs received from Ministry of Rural Development vide OM P16017/04/2012 P& P dated 3rd June, 2019
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