



**Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women**

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

**Consideration of reports submitted by States
parties under article 18 of the Convention**

Combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of States parties

India*

[6 July 2012]

* In accordance with the information transmitted to States parties regarding the processing of their reports, the present document was not edited.

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Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activists
AWW	Anganwadi Worker
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CMPO	Child Marriage Prohibition Officer
CSWB	Central Social Welfare Advisory Board
DoPT	Department of Personnel and Training
GBC	Gender Budgeting Cell
GER	Gross Enrolment Ratio
HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme
ICPS	Integrated Child Protection Scheme
IGMSY	Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana
IGNDPS	Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme
IGNOAPS	Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme
IGNWPS	Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Ministry of External Affairs
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MHRD	Ministry of Human Resources Development
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MWCD	Ministry of Women and Child Development
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NCERT	National Council for Educational Research and Training
NFHS	National Family Health Survey
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NIPCCD	National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development
NMDFC	National Minorities Developments and Finance Corporation
NMEW	National Mission for Empowerment of Women
NRHM	National Rural Health Mission
NSAP	National Social Assistance Programme
OBC	Other Backward Classes

PCMA	Prohibition of Child Marriage Act
PC&PNDT	Pre-conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Technique (Prohibition of Sex Selection)
PRI	Panchayat Raj Institutions
RMSA	Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan
RSBY	Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana
RTE	Right to Education
SC	Schedule Caste
ST	Schedule Tribe
SHG	Self-Help Groups
SJSRY	Swarn Jayanti Shahari Yojana
SSA	Sarva Shikshana Abhiyan
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
TOT	Training of Trainers
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UT	Union Territory
VRC	Vocational Rehabilitation Centre

I. Introduction

1. India signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter, the Convention) on 30 July 1980 and ratified it on 9 July 1993. The initial report (CEDAW/C/IND/1) was submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter, the Committee) in August 1998. The Committee reviewed it in its twenty-second session in January 2000. The combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/IND/2-3) were submitted in October 2005 and reviewed by the Committee in its thirty-seventh session in January-February 2007. The Committee sought a follow up report on the impact of the 2002 Gujarat incident on women. The follow up report (CEDAW/C/IND/SP.1) was submitted in 2009 and considered by the Committee in its forty-seventh session in October 2010.

2. India is presenting the combined fourth and fifth periodic report under Article 18 of the Convention. It covers different measures adopted by India to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and progress made during the period from 2006 to 2011. The harmonised guidelines on reporting, as contained in United Nations document HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6 dated 3 June 2009 and referred to in General Assembly resolution 64/138 of 18 December 2009, have been followed in the preparation of this report.

II. Convention-specific report

Article 1: Non-discrimination and equality

3. Provisions of the Constitution of India have been stated in the common core document. The Constitution promotes substantive equality. The interpretation of the Courts in India has also been supporting substantive equality. As stated in the earlier report the Supreme Court has interpreted equality to include differential treatment of persons who are unequal and upheld that special measures in employment and in educational and political institutions to certain groups/sections of people are not unconstitutional.

4. Some of the recent cases are: *K. Krishnamurthy (Dr.) vs. Union of India*, (2010) wherein Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of Articles 243-D and 243-T of the Constitution, that provide for reservation of posts for women in panchayats /local self governance institutions promoting substantive equality rather than formal equality pertaining to political participation at grassroots level; *Union of India vs. Rakesh Kumar*, (2010) wherein Supreme Court upheld the validity of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 and the Jharkhand Panchayat Raj Act, 2001 reserving half of the seats in panchayats located in Scheduled Areas in favour of Schedule Tribes. The court held that the legislature has adopted a standard of compensatory discrimination which goes beyond the ordinary standards of “adequate representation” and “proportionate representation”.

Article 2: Obligation to eliminate discrimination

5. As stated in earlier reports, the Government have adopted and continue to adopt various policies, programmes and legal measures for operationalizing its commitment towards eliminating discrimination. The Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 removes gender discriminatory provisions in the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 and gives the daughter the same right as the son to inherit the coparcenary property (ancestral property of the Hindu undivided family). This amendment also repeals Section 23 of the Hindu Succession Act which disentitled a female heir to ask for partition in respect of a dwelling

house, wholly occupied by a joint family, until the male heirs choose to divide their respective shares. Section 24 of the Act which denied rights of a widow to inherit her husband's property upon her re-marriage has been repealed. This Act has brought about a central amendment which is applicable to all the state governments.

6. The Personal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2010 has amended the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 and the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956. Under sub-section (b) section 19 of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, the mother was not included as guardian along with the father, but with this amendment the mother is included. The provisions of the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act, 1956 which incapacitated a married woman from taking in adoption on the basis of her marital status stands amended as it was discriminatory. The Plantations Labour Act, 1951 has been amended with effect from 7th June 2010 making definition of family gender neutral so as to remove the distinction between the family of the male and female worker for availing dependents' benefits.

7. The courts have always closely observed and corrected the provisions of various legislations. For example in case of *Anuj Garg vs. Hotel Association of India* (2008), the Supreme Court confirmed the Delhi High Court judgment and held that Section 30 of the Punjab Excise Act, 1914 that prohibit employment of "any woman" in any part of such premises in which liquor or intoxicating drug was served was discriminatory. It further observed that instead of prohibiting women employment in the bars altogether the State should focus on factoring in ways through which unequal consequences of sex differences can be eliminated. It is the State's duty to ensure circumstances of safety which inspire confidence in women to discharge the duty freely in accordance to the requirements of the profession they choose to follow. In case of *Arun Kumar Agrawal vs. National Insurance Company Limited*, while determining the criteria for payment of compensation to the dependents of a woman who dies in a road accident but does not have a regular income, CEDAW and the Committee's general recommendation 17 were relied upon. Section 66 of the Factories Act banned women from working in a factory in the night shift between 7 pm to 6 am. This provision was challenged before various High Courts and the courts have struck down this provision holding it as discriminatory.

8. The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Act, 2008, which came into effect on 31st December, 2009 strengthens the procedural safeguards for victims of rape and other crimes against women. In a significant change from the existing law, a victim of rape has been statutorily empowered, with the permission of the court, to engage an advocate of her own choice to assist the prosecution initiated by the state and at the same time, ensure that her interests are protected. The Amendment Act also provides for safeguards relating to recording of statements of women victims, in camera trials and protection of her identity. Trial for offence of rape and aggravated rape is required to be conducted as far as practicable by women judges. The Act of 2008 also mandates a three-month time limit for the completion of investigation of cases of rape and child sexual abuse. A new section 357 A has been inserted in the Criminal Procedure Code through the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2008, which provides for compensation to victims of crime.

9. The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2008 provides for more time to mothers for the care and protection of infants by regulating maternity benefits available to women in factories, mines, circuses, plantations and shops or establishments employing 10 or more persons.

10. Right to Education has been ensured through the 86th Amendment to the Constitution. It has made free and compulsory education to children of 6-14 years age group a Fundamental Right. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 came into in April 2010 with the aim to provide free and compulsory education for children aged between 6-14 years till the completion of elementary education. Some States have made reservation for HIV/AIDS-affected children mandatory. The Act has special provisions for girl child education, including out of school girl children. It further mandates

the private schools to ensure at least 25% of its seats are available for marginalised households.

11. Section 4(4) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 provides that right conferred under this Act shall be registered jointly in the name of both the spouses in case of married persons. Section 3(1) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, 2007 provides that the Forest Rights Committee at the Gram Panchayat level shall have not less than one third female members. Till 31st October 2011 31,49,269 claims have been received and 28,08,494 claims have been disposed/settled. 12,30,665 titles have been distributed and 13216 titles are ready for distribution. Titles for approximately 4 million acres of land have been distributed.

12. The Senior Citizens (Maintenance, Protection and Welfare) Act, 2007 has made mandatory that every person should maintain his/her parents and failure will result in punishment. This ensures that children are obliged to take care of their aged parents.

13. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) launched in 1995, aims at ensuring minimum national standard for social assistance for the poor. NSAP is a centrally sponsored programme and comprises of five schemes namely: Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Annapurna. With the exception of the IGNWPS which covered around 3.4 million women in 2010-11, these schemes cover both women and men.

Article 3: Guarantee of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms

14. It has been stated in earlier reports that the Government has been taking all appropriate measures in various fields, particularly in the political, social, economic and cultural fields including enactment of legislation to ensure full development and advancement of women. Such measures are being pursued with renewed vigour and the same are also dealt in the common core document and other relevant articles in the Convention-specific document of this report. Government launched the National Mission for Empowerment of Women (2010-15) on 8 March 2010, with a view to empowering women socially, economically and educationally. The mission aims to achieve empowerment of women on all these fronts by securing convergence of schemes/programmes of different Ministries and Departments of Central as well as State Governments. NMEW sets up gender sensitive pilot projects for replication. The Mission will also monitor and review gender budgeting by Ministries/Departments and ensure effective implementation of various social laws concerning women.

15. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls – SABLA is a centrally sponsored scheme approved by the Government in August 2011 is being implemented in 200 districts across the country. It covers adolescent girls in the 11-18 years age groups and aims to empower them by improving their nutrition and health status and by upgrading various skills such as life skills, home skills and vocational training. Nearly 10 million adolescent girls are expected to be benefitted under the scheme every year.

16. MWCD is administering a pilot project titled Women's Empowerment and Livelihood Programme in the Mid-Gangetic Plains, to empower women in a holistic and sustainable manner. Vulnerable groups of women and adolescent girls are provided with improved livelihood opportunities through formation of women's SHGs. Over 100000 households will be covered under this project and 7200 SHGs will be formed during the project life ending 2016-17.

17. Different schemes implemented by National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) for women are (i) New Swarnima, for inculcating

the spirit of self-reliance among the women of backward classes living below the poverty line, (ii) Mahila Samridhi Yojana, to provide microfinance to women entrepreneurs belonging to target group. National Minorities Development Fund Cooperation (NMDFC) provides concessional finance for self-employment activities to eligible beneficiaries belonging to minority communities. NMDFC provides special focus to the credit needs of women. It operates micro financing scheme focusing on economically poor minority women. Since inception, NMDFC has helped 2,93,624 beneficiaries with micro credit of Rs. 1946.7 million up to 31 December 2010. Around 90% of the beneficiaries are women. In the light of feminisation of agriculture the National Schedule Caste Finance Development Commission (NSCFDC) has launched the Mahila Kisan Yojana (MKY) with effect from 1 May 2008 to provide term loans to women beneficiaries for taking up income generating activities ventures in agriculture and/or mixed farming related economic activities.

18. Dhanlakshmi, a conditional cash transfer (CCT) scheme, was introduced by MWCD in March 2008 as a part of the National Action Plan for Children. It is being implemented on a pilot basis with an objective to provide a set of staggered financial incentives for families to encourage them to retain the girl child and educate her. The scheme also aims at changing the attitudinal mindset of the family towards the girl child by looking upon her as an asset rather than a liability. A number of States are also implementing their own conditional cash transfer schemes to incentivise the birth of a girl child and encourage families to place a premium on her education and development.

19. Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) is a centrally sponsored scheme launched during the year 2009-10 by MWCD with a view to create a safe and secure environment in the country for the comprehensive development of children in need of care and protection, children in conflict with law and any other vulnerable child such as children of migrant families, children of prisoners, children of women in prostitution, working children, children living on the streets, trafficked or sexually exploited children. Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers from families earning up to Rs.12000 per month was introduced in January 2006. Scheme is currently being implemented through the Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) and ICCE with financial support of MWCD. Working Women's Hostel scheme is being implemented by MWCD under which 887 hostels have been sanctioned throughout the country to benefit approximately 65,000 women.

20. Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) is a conditional cash transfer scheme covering pregnant and lactating (P&L) women, keeping in view the need for giving maternity benefit to them. It envisages to compensate partly for their wage loss and at the same time for fulfilment of conditions essential for ensuring safe delivery and promotion of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices. The scheme is being implemented from 2010-11.

Article 4: Special measures

21. The initial report and the second and third combined periodic reports have dealt, in detail, with the special measures adopted by Government to eliminate the discrimination and inequalities. Continuation of such measures has already been stated in this report.

22. The Prime Minister's new 15-Point Programme provides guidelines to enhance opportunities for education; ensuring an equitable share for minorities in economic activities and employment, through existing and new schemes, enhanced credit support for self-employment and recruitment to State and Central Government jobs and also improving the conditions of living of minorities by ensuring an appropriate share for them in infrastructure development scheme, improving the conditions of living of minorities. An important aim of the new programme is to ensure that the benefits of various government

schemes for the underprivileged reach the disadvantaged sections of the minority communities.

23. The Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women was launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in January 2010. The objective of the scheme is development of leadership among minority women. It aims at empowering and instilling confidence in minority women by providing tools, techniques and knowledge for interacting with Government systems, banks and intermediaries at all levels. The scheme envisages reaching out to women through non-governmental organisations /institutions by providing them with financial support.

24. Women employees with disabilities in government sector are entitled to Rs. 1000/- per month as special allowance for child care and are paid for a period of two years from the date of birth of the child for maximum of two children. This allowance is enhanced periodically. Educational reimbursement for disabled children of government employees is double the normal rates with an annual ceiling.

Article 5: Sex roles, stereotyping and prejudice

25. The Government have undertaken various measures to address the gender stereotyping and sex roles that have been highlighted in the earlier two reports, through different modes such as the National Policy on Education, National Policy on Empowerment of Women etc. All forms of media have been utilised to communicate these special messages. Customary practices such as dowry, child marriage, sati, sex selective abortion etc. are addressed through legislations, programmes and community interactions. These actions and measures are an ongoing process which the Government continues to carry on every year to eliminate discriminatory process. A major effort of Government has been to attack the stereotypes about women's role through gender sensitive text book development across the country in different languages. MHRD plays a key role in such efforts through NCERT. Many State Boards for School Education have taken proactive steps to include messages about common responsibility of men and women in family.

26. Induction of women in the Armed Forces was into certain restricted areas and on a Short Service Commission (SSC) basis. A policy decision was taken in September 2008 where under the policy offering Permanent Commission prospectively to Short Service Commission (Women) officers in the JAG (Judge Advocate General) Department and the Army Education Corps (AEC) of the Army and their corresponding Branch/Cadre in the Navy and the Air Force has been sanctioned.

27. Maternity leave for government and public sector employees has been increased from 135 days to 180 days. Women having children can avail child care leave for a maximum period of two years. Paternity leave of 15 days is also granted to government and public sector employees.

Article 6: Trafficking and exploitation of women

28. India is committed to preventing trafficking of women. As stated in earlier reports, a three-pronged strategy has been adopted to prevent trafficking and exploitation of women in prostitution. Legislative measures that focus on prevention of trafficking and penal action against those involved in trafficking, the support services to the victims of trafficking and with preventive measures in the source area including education, employment and empowerment of women.

29. India has ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its two protocols, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, in May 2011. The Constitution of

India, vide Article 23, prohibits both trafficking in human beings and forced labour. Substantive laws like the Indian Penal Code 1860, special legislations like the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976, etc. and local laws like the Goa Children's Act 2003, provide the legal regime to combat and prevent human trafficking. In addition, judgments by the Supreme Court and various High Courts have provided further legal strength to the law enforcement agencies.

30. India has made significant efforts on the issue of human trafficking. The Government has, inter alia, already set up 104 local anti-trafficking units and increased the numbers of convictions of people involved in human trafficking for forced labour. Project IND/S16 of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a joint initiative of UNODC and the Government and launched in April 2006. This project is focused on "Strengthening the law enforcement response in India against trafficking in persons, through training and capacity building". It is proposed to establish 330 Anti-Human Trafficking Units throughout the country and impart training to 10,000 police officers through a Training of Trainers (TOTs) component in three years. A comprehensive scheme for prevention of trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation, re-integration and repatriation of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation namely "Ujjawala" is being implemented since 2007 under which 86 rehabilitative homes have been sanctioned which can accommodate nearly 4000 women victims. It involves active partnership with civil society.

31. MWCD runs Short Stay Homes and Swadhar Homes (merged as Swadhar Greh in 2011) to support women in difficult circumstances. These cater to trafficked women/girl rescued or runaways from brothels or other places, to women/girls victims of sexual crimes who are disowned by their families or who do not want to go back to respective families for various reasons. 331 Swadhar Homes and more than 342 Short Stay Homes are being run in different parts of the country.

32. MWCD has formulated a protocol for pre-rescue, rescue and post-rescue operations of child victims of trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. This protocol contains guidelines for State Governments and a strategy for rescue team members. MWCD in collaboration with NIPCCD and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has developed two manuals: "Manual for Medical Officers for Dealing with Child Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation", and "Counselling services for child survivors of trafficking". The "Judicial Handbook on Combating Trafficking of Women and Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation" was developed by the MWCD in collaboration with the NHRC and the National Law School of India University, Bangalore.

33. To address the issue of cross-border trafficking between India and Bangladesh, MWCD in collaboration with MHA, MEA, UNICEF and Bangladesh counterparts are in the process of finalizing the Roadmap and Joint Plan of Action for safe and quick repatriation of trafficked victims.

Article 7: Political participation and public life

34. The participation of women in decision and policy-making processes is an important factor that determines their status in society. As already stated in this report, Government of India have, through the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution, ensured that 33% of seats for panchayats in rural areas and urban local bodies are reserved for women. Government have taken the initiative for effecting a Constitutional amendment to increase the percentage of reservation of seats for women in PRIs from the existing limit of 33% to 50% with a view to empowering women and bringing about uniformity in the matter of reservation in the States. The Government being committed to ensuring reservations of 33%

for women in the Parliament and the State Legislatures has taken several steps to enact the Constitution (108th Amendment) Bill.

35. There has been an increase in the number of women contesting and being elected to the Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha). In the 2004 Lok Sabha elections, of the 355 women who contested, 45 won, as against 59 women (10.61%) who won, of the 556 that contested in the 2009 elections. Of these 59 women candidates who were elected, 23 women belong to the Congress party and 13 to Bharatiya Janata Party. The All India Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party had four women each elected to Lok Sabha and the remaining 11 women were from other parties.

36. In the Lok Sabha elections, there has been an increase in the number of women being fielded by the national parties. This has largely been due to the success rate of women contestants being higher than that of male contestants. For example, in the May 2004 elections, 45 of 355 women contestants (12.6%) won the elections as compared to 498 of 5,050 men contestants (9.8 %). Among 78 Union Council of Ministers, there are eight (10.26%) women. In January 2011, there were 25 women members in the Rajya Sabha out of a total of 242 members (10.33%). The highest positions of that of the President of India, the Speaker of the Parliament and the leader of the opposition in the Parliament are all women. The average proportion of women elected to state legislatures is around 8.3%. There are three chief ministers in power heading the governments in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. A Dalit woman was the chief minister of the most populous State, Uttar Pradesh, till recently. The President of the Indian National Congress party is a Christian woman.

37. The women electorate has been vibrant as observed in the 2009 Lok Sabha elections. Of the total electorate of 714 million, 340.65 million are women. In states such as Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Puducherry, the number of women electors is higher than men.

38. Due to the affirmative action through reservation for women in the institutions of the PRIs a silent revolution has taken place wherein more than a million vibrant women have entered politics across the country. The percentage representation of women in the three tiers of the PRIs namely the village, block and district panchayats is higher than the mandated 33%, being around 37%.

39. As stated in earlier periodic reports the Government have enacted the 74th Constitutional Amendment in 1993, which ensures reservation of not less than one-third of all seats in ULBs and posts of chairpersons in them for women. Further, there is one-third reservation of seats for SC and ST women. At present, there are about 23,000 elected women representatives in ULBs in the country, of which 670 are in decision-making positions as chairpersons. In certain states, their representation was more than the reserved strength. For example, in the 2005 municipal elections in Andhra Pradesh, women chairpersons were higher with 49 as against 38 of the reserved seats of the 98 municipalities where elections were held. Women belonging to the marginalised sections (SC, ST and Backward Castes) have also won from the general category of seats within the reserved categories.

40. Several steps have been taken by the Government to enhance the participation of women in public life. As part of the 100 days action plan in 2009, concerted efforts to increase representation of women in Central Government jobs were initiated. These included instructions issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension to all ministries and departments to make a reference in their recruitment advertisements of the government's commitment to have a gender balanced workforce and thereby encourage women to apply. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Staff Selection Commission (SSC) have confirmed their action in this regard. Further, recruitment boards need to mandatorily have a woman member for more than 10 vacancies. To monitor the trend in the recruitment of women, the

DoPT has been generating data on the total number of posts and women employed. During 2009-10, orders have been issued to exempt women from the payment of examination fees while appearing for the UPSC and the SSC examinations.

41. Due to these initiatives, it is noteworthy that there has been a progressive increase in the representation of women in the All India and Central Services. In the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), the proportion of women increased from 12.13% in 2006 to 13.93% in 2011. Women's representation in the Indian Foreign Service has increased from 13.37% in 2002 to 13.68% in 2005.

42. The role of women in defence forces has been increasing steadily. They are employed in Defence Production Units, Research and Development Laboratories, as Doctors and Nursing Officers and in various non-combatant branches of the Armed Forces like logistics and law. To attract more women in the Army, the tenure of Women Officers in Short Service Commission has been increased from 10 years to 14 years of service. Besides this, their promotional avenues have also been substantially enhanced.

Article 8: International representation and participation

43. Women have led and been part of several delegations led by the government, both at the national and international levels including annual sessions of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the annual meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Women's Forum of India - Brazil - South Africa (IBSA), India-US Women Empowerment Dialogue and Asia and Pacific Regional Consultation on Universal Access to HIV Prevention. Women diplomats hold important positions in Indian mission abroad. An eminent Indian woman is a Member of the Committee. Between 2002 and 2005, the number of women in the Indian Foreign Service increased from 78 to 85, an addition of 7 women during the period.

Article 9: Nationality

44. As reported in the initial report, the Citizenship Act, 1995 confers equal rights to women to acquire, change or retain their nationality and the discriminatory provision with regard to the nationality of the children of an Indian woman born outside India was also amended. Thus citizenship through descent can be either through the mother or the father.

Article 10: Education

45. Government have made the right to education a fundamental right. Policies and programmes have been formulated to spread literacy through schemes such as the Saakshar Bharat Mission which focuses on female literacy, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan which seeks to universalise education at the primary and secondary levels. Government have introduced and strengthened various programmes and schemes to facilitate education among girls at different levels, particularly those belonging to the disadvantaged sections such the SC, ST, minority communities and the differently abled. The allocation of resources in terms of government investment in education increased from 3.49% in 2003-2004 to 3.57% in 2006-2007. However, States such as Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur spent 10.2 %, 9.8%, 9.1%, 7.1% and 6.45 of the total State Domestic Product on education respectively.

46. The Pre-School Education (PSE) is one of the components of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme (ICDS is discussed under the section on article 12 of the present report) is being strengthened to ensure universalisation of early childhood education and preparation of children, particularly those belonging to socially

disadvantaged groups, for formal schooling. The beneficiaries under PSE have increased from 21.4 million in 2004-05 to 33 million in 2007-08 and further to 35 million by December 2010.

47. Reference has been made to the Right to Education under article 2 of this report. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a program to achieve Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE), in a time bound manner. It focuses mainly on access to education, social and gender equity and quality of education imparted to the children. The SSA norms were aligned with the provisions of the RTE Act and Government had approved an outlay of Rs. 2312330 million for the implementation of the combined RTE- SSA a programme for the five year period from 2010- 2014. Gender gap in education has been dealt in the Common Core document, SSA is expected to bridge the gap.

48. In order to address the gender gap in enrolment at the elementary level, which is more acute for Schedule Caste and Scheduled Tribe girls (for whom the gender gap is almost 30% at the primary level and 26% at upper primary stage), Government have approved a new programme called “National programme for education of girls at elementary level” (NPEGEL) as an amendment to the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme, for setting up residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minorities in difficult areas has been merged with the SSA.

Table 1

Girls in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas up to 2010-11

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1.	Scheduled Caste	85896	30.32%
2.	Scheduled Tribe	72037	25.43%
3.	OBC	74683	26.36 %
4.	Muslim	26943	9.51%

49. Women’s collectives under the Mahila Samakhya scheme, called mahila sanghas, play an active role in working towards removal of barriers to the participation of girls and women in education at the community level and play an active role in school management/running of alternate schooling facilities where needed.

50. Saakshar Bharat, the new variant of national literacy mission, was launched on 8th September, 2009 with prime focus on women of rural areas. The programme aims to cover 70 million non-literates in 15 years and above age group by the end of Eleventh FYP. Out of 70 million non-literates, 60 million will be women beneficiaries from the category of SC (10 million), ST (6 million), Minority (10 million) and Others (34 million). Women are engaged in large numbers as volunteers and instructors to encourage women learners to participate in the programme. The total number of districts in which Saakshar Bharat is to be implemented has increased from 365 to 410. Condensed Courses of Education for Women is run by the Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) to cater to the educational needs of adult girls / women above the age of 15 years, who are unable to join the formal education system or were dropouts from formal schools.

51. The population in the age group of 14-18 years was 85.5 million as per the 2001 Census which is estimated to be around 7 million in 2011. Estimates indicate that the girl population in this age group has increased from 39.6 million in 2001 to 44.9 million in 2005-06. The secondary and higher secondary enrolment were 28.22 and 15.94 million respectively during 2007-08. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the secondary and higher secondary level increased from 39.8% to 45.5% from 2004-05 to 2006-07. The GER for boys was 49.2%, which remained almost the same but for girls it increased from 35.1%

to 41.4% during the same period. The increase in the GER for girls as compared to boys indicates the narrowing of the gender disparity.

52. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in March 2009 with the objective of making good quality secondary education available, accessible and affordable to all young persons in the age group 15-16 years, irrespective of gender, socio-economic condition, disability, geographical and other barriers. The RMSA aims to improve the enrolment ratio for IX-X grades from 52.26% in 2005-06 to 75% within a period of five years. Since the inception of the scheme, 5767 new secondary schools, 28442 additional classrooms and appointment of 36831 teachers has been approved.

53. To improve quality of secondary education throughout the country, a new scheme called "Model Schools" was launched in 2008-09 to set up 6000 schools in as many blocks to serve as bench marks of excellence in the secondary stage. Stipulations have been made on pupil-teacher ratio, ICT usage, holistic educational environment, appropriate curriculum and emphasis on output and outcome.

54. National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education (NSIGSE) was launched in 2008-2009. The scheme covers all SC/ST girls who pass class VIII and girls, who pass the class VIII examination from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (irrespective of whether they are SC/ST) and enrol for class IX in State/UT Government, Government-aided or local body schools. A sum of Rs. 3000 is deposited under fixed deposit in a public sector bank or in a post office in the name of every eligible girl child. Navodaya Vidyalayas in districts having a large concentration of SC/ST population have been sanctioned.

55. The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements three exclusive scholarship schemes for students belonging to Minority communities, namely (i) Merit-cum-means based scholarship scheme, (ii) Pre-matric scholarship scheme and (iii) Post-matric scholarship scheme. While 30% of these scholarships are earmarked for girl students, the proportion of girls availing these scholarships is much higher. In the year 2010-11 up to 31st December 2010, 33.49% of the girl students were awarded merit-cum-means scholarships while 47.47% and 51% of them were awarded the Pre-Matric and Post Matric Scholarships respectively. The Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) awards scholarships to meritorious girl students. As of 31st March 2010, the MAEF has disbursed scholarships to 41977 girl students amounting to Rs. 482 million.

56. The vocationalisation of Secondary Education provides for diversification of educational opportunities so as to enhance individual employability, and provides an alternative for those pursuing higher education. This scheme at Class XII level has already created infrastructure of 21,000 sections in around 9619 schools with a capacity of 1 million students. The grants released so far are Rs. 7650 million. Under the Sub-Mission on Polytechnics, the Government provide central financial assistance to the State Governments/UTs for setting up of polytechnics in the un-served and under-served districts during the Eleventh FYP.

57. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has launched a programme to provide vocational training for women. There are 11 institutes: the National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI), now a Centre for Excellence for the garment sector and garment technology, and ten Regional Vocational Training Institutes (RVTI). Vocational training facilities are being provided by the State governments exclusively for women at craftsperson level through Women Industrial Training Institutes (WITI) and women's wings in ITIs. There are 1213 Women ITIs and women wings in general ITIs. The training capacity in these institutions has increased from 47,391 in 2005-06 to 51,804 in 2009-10. As per recommendations of the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT), reservation of seats for women in ITIs for craftsperson training has been increased from 25% in 2005 to 30%. For the economic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities (PWD) and to integrate them in the economic mainstream by providing vocational training,

Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRC) have been established across the country. The VRC at Vadodara is exclusively for disabled women.

58. There has been an increase from 20 universities and 500 colleges in 1947 to 504 universities in 2009. In addition, there are 29,951 colleges out of which 2565 are women colleges. In the academic year 2009-10, the total number of students enrolled was 13.64 million of which 6.54 million were women students, constituting 41.4% of the total enrolment. Of the total women enrolment, 14.72% women have been enrolled in professional courses. The faculty-wise distribution of women enrolled indicates that women are concentrated in the discipline of Arts with 49.08% followed by Science 19.99% and Commerce/Management 16.21%.

59. The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has introduced a Scholarship Scheme for College and University students pursuing higher studies and professional courses. Every year, 82,000 fresh scholarships are awarded, of which 50% (41000) are reserved for girls.

60. University Grants Commission (UGC) provides assistance for construction of women hostels and other infrastructural facilities to achieve the goal of bringing about gender equity. UGC has launched a number of schemes to achieve gender equity. They are: direct credit of scholarship; Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child for pursuing higher and technical education; Day Care Centres in universities and colleges; new women study centres; post Doctoral fellowships for women etc.

61. In order to promote technical education for women, handicapped and weaker sections of the society, the AICTE has introduced Tuition Waiver Scheme for women, economically backward and physically handicapped meritorious students in technical institutions. Government have set up a Task Force on Women in Science with the mandate to evolve and recommend appropriate and proactive measures and time bound plans, to facilitate the study and practice of science by women. The report of Task Force was released in January 2010.

62. Norms have been relaxed for establishment of new technical institutions, exclusively set up for women. Land norms for setting up technical institutions for women have been relaxed up to 50% in rural, 20% in metro and State capitals and 10% in mega cities categories as against for other technical institutions. A single window system is provided for processing proposals for establishment of technical institutions that are exclusively for women.

Article 11: Employment

63. Women constitute 26% of the workforce. Gender disparities in work participation rate have been discussed in the common core document. Government of India, being committed to creating a gender friendly labour market, has broadened the definition of economic activities on the one hand and provided an enabling working environment on the other, so as to facilitate women's participation in the economy. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) enacted in September 2005, provides for participation of women in employment and mandates employment of at least 33% of women who have requested employment. It provides for nurse and childcare at work site and convergence with schemes such as ICDS. The Act now covers all the districts of the country.

64. Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 provides social security to unorganised workers. It provides for constitution of National Social Security Board for formulation of Social Security schemes, namely (i) health and maternity benefits, (ii) death and disability, (iii) old age protection. The Board was constituted on 18th August 2009 and Government have also set up National Social Security Fund for unorganised sector workers

with initial allocation of Rs. 10000 million that will benefit 433 million workers in the unorganised sector. This fund will support schemes for weavers, toddy tappers, rickshaw pullers, bidi workers etc. The funds are utilised to provide for financing of measures to promote the welfare of workers including women workers engaged in these occupations.

65. The Plantations Labour Act, 1951 has been amended to make it gender sensitive and the provisions of the Plantations Labour (Amendment) Act, 2010 have come into force with effect from 7th June 2010. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 prohibits working of a pregnant woman for a specified period before and after delivery. It also provides for maternity leave and payment of monetary benefits to working mothers. The Act was amended in 2008 and the Central Government can enhance medical bonus every three years. Enhancement of Maternity Leave and Childcare Leave for Women Government Employees has been stated paragraph 121 of this report.

66. For proper enforcement of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, vigilance committees have been set up in subdivisions of states where bonded labour has been reported. Arrangements are made to allot surplus agricultural land to SC and ST bonded labourers.

67. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Special Task Force set up by the MWCD on complete legal equality to women, Central Government have notified the Payment of Wages (Nomination) Rules, 2009. However wage disparity exists between males and females among both casual and regular workers in rural and urban areas.

68. Government have launched social security schemes such as the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) providing health insurance and Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) providing old age pension. In 2008-09, women Self Help Groups (SHGs) were also covered under the scheme. As on 31 December 2009 a total number of 5,61,642 women SHGs with 51,98,132 women were insured. Under RSBY, enrolment of spouse is mandatory. RSBY was operationalised on 1st April 2008. Government have planned to extend RSBY to different occupational groups including domestic workers.

69. Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) restructured as Ajeebika (National Rural Livelihoods Mission) provides special safeguards to vulnerable sections, by way of reserving 50% benefits for SCs and STs, 40% for women, 15% for minorities and 3% for disabled persons. 50% of the SHGs formed are exclusively by women. Between 1999 and 2011 5.2 million SHGs have been formed, of which 2.86 million (68%) are exclusively by women. Of the total of 16.85 million beneficiaries who received assistance during the period 10.15 million (60%) were women. The total expenditure incurred since its inception is Rs. 420000 million of which Rs. 197200 million has been disbursed to women.

70. Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is a scheme to address alleviation of urban poverty through gainful employment of urban unemployed or underemployed poor by encouraging them to set up self-employment ventures. Since the implementation of the modified SJSRY guidelines in 2009-10, between 2009-10 and 2010-11, a total of 1,21,962 women have been assisted for setting up group micro enterprises and 2,90,835 women through revolving fund for thrift and credit societies under Urban Women Self-help Programme (UWSP) component.

71. Under awareness generation project for rural and poor women scheme Ministry of Labour and Employment provides grant-in-aid through NGOs for the benefit of women labour, primarily in the unorganised sector. The scheme has supported 20 organisations in 2006-07 as against 40 in 2009-10, while the number of women labourers who benefitted from these campaigns increased from 22, 800 to 64, 650 respectively.

72. To facilitate access to the formal banking system and improve credit delivery to women, public sector banks (PSBs) have been directed to earmark 5% of their net bank credit (NBC) for lending to women. The banks have been making efforts to redefine their

policies as well as long-term plans by taking into account women's credit requirements. The credit to women at 2.36% of net bank credit at the end of March 2001 has increased to 6.29% at the end of March 2009. Banks have taken the initiative of establishing women cells in their Head Offices and Branches, simplifying procedural formalities, sensitising bank officers/staff on gender issues, launching awareness programmes/ publicity campaigns about schemes available for women, conducting entrepreneurship development programmes for women, strengthening existing schemes, ensuring sanction of collateral-free loans, involving NGOs/SHGs in providing credit facilities to women entrepreneurs, etc. Several public sector banks have opened specialised branches for women. Self Help Groups (SHGs) have taken the form of a movement for women's social development across the country. According to NABARD, about 24.25 million poor households have gained access to formal banking system through SHG-bank linkage programme and 90% of these groups are women only groups. The SHGs – Bank linkage programme of NABARD aims at financial inclusion by extending outreach to poor households in rural areas, making credit services available at their doorstep on a sustainable basis. Further, the Micro Enterprise Development Programme of NABARD provides capacity building of members of SHGs through skill upgradation in farm and non-farm sector.

73. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) or the National Credit Fund for Women set up in 1993 also aims to meet the credit needs of asset-less and poor women especially in the rural and unorganised sectors. Started with a principal corpus of Rs. 310 million it has increased to Rs.1000 million in 2009-10. As of 31st March 2011, 687512 women beneficiaries have been sanctioned Rs.3075.20 million and disbursed Rs.2518.2 million. Mahila Samridhhi Yojana (MSY)/ Mahila Kisan Yojana (MKY) run by the National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) provides liberal loans to SC women.

74. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the programme of Special Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP) for employment/income generation activities and infrastructure for BPL Scheduled Tribe families. These programmes have inherent provisions in the guidelines for empowering tribal women both socially and economically. 30% of the funds earmarked are to be utilised by the States for such empowerment activities.

75. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) was revised in 2009 and is implemented by MWCD through NGOs for providing training for skill upgradation to poor and asset-less women in the traditional sectors of agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, handlooms, handicrafts, khadi and village industries, sericulture, social forestry and waste land development. Since inception, around 250 projects were provided financial assistance under the scheme and 25 new projects have been sanctioned during 2010-11.

Article 12: Health

76. The common core document dealing with demographic, economic, social and cultural characteristics of India describes the country's achievements in different health indicators. Under Article 47 of the Constitution pertaining to the Directive Principles of State Policy, the State has a duty to raise the level of nutrition and improve public health. Recognising this, the Government has launched the National Rural Health Mission. The Mission adopts a synergistic approach by relating health to determinants of good health viz. segments of nutrition, sanitation, hygiene and safe drinking water. Massive investment in this sector has led to drop in IMR, MMR and TFR. India has not reported a single polio case since 12th January 2011. The number of newly detected HIV positive cases has dropped by over 50% in the last decade.

77. The Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Technique (Prohibition of Sex Selection) (PC&PNDT) Act, 1994 was amended in 2003 prohibiting use of technologies for

detection and disclosure of sex of the foetus. Amendments were proposed to make the implementation of the Act more effective and stringent by strengthening the appropriate authorities. This Act does not penalize the woman. Under the Act, up to 31st December 2011, 43961 bodies using ultrasound scanners etc. have been registered and 869 ultrasound machines have been sealed and seized for violations. So far, 1040 cases are pending in the courts/police for various violations. Following the results of the 2011 Census, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has taken many steps for effective implementation of the Act. Sensitisation and training of law enforcers, medical practitioners, judiciary etc. for effective implementation of the Act are being intensified. National Inspection Monitoring Committees have been reconstituted for regular state monitoring and surprise inspection of the clinics on the ground. Chief Secretaries in the States/ UTs have been requested to take effective measures and regularly monitor implementation of the Act. The Government have launched the "Save the Girl Child Campaign" in 2007 and women achievers from various fields have been associated with this campaign. Advertisements regarding gender testing kits over the internet is being sought to be curbed through different means. Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS) have been operationalised to track pregnant women and children for positive health outcomes.

78. The Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH), under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), focuses on the reduction of Infant Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Ratio and Total Fertility Rate through several initiatives. The key interventions under child health are Integrated Management of Neonatal & Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI), Newborn Care, Navjat Shishu Suraksha, Infant and Young Child Feeding and Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs), etc. Upgradation of health facilities for emergency obstetric care and access to skilled birth attendants has been done. 264 poor performing districts have been identified across the country and efforts are being made for differential planning and allocation of resources. Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a safe motherhood intervention launched on 12th April 2005, under the NRHM to promote institutional delivery with special focus on pregnant women belonging to the SC, ST and BPL families. The JYS had identified ASHA/AWW/ as an effective link between the government and poor pregnant women in 10 low performing states. Due to this intervention, there has been a phenomenal increase in the number of women accessing this scheme from 0.74 million in 2005-2006 to 4.729 million beneficiaries up to September 2011.

79. Ante-natal and Post-natal Care Services include supplementation with iron and folic acid tablets to pregnant and lactating women to prevent and treat anaemia. According to the (NFHS) III survey in 2005-2006, 55.3% women in the 15-49 years age group were anaemic. It was 58.7% and 63.2% among pregnant and lactating women respectively. Key maternal health indicators are presented in the Table below.

Table 2
Key Maternal Health Indicators

Indicators	DLHS-2 (2002-04)			DLHS-3 (2007-08)		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Mothers who had received any ANC (%)	73.6	67.5	89.3	75.3	70.7	87.2
Mothers who had 3 or more ANC (%)	50.4	41.9	72.1	51	43.9	68.9
Mothers who had full ANC checkup (%)	16.5	12.8	25.9	19.1	14.9	29.8
Mothers who consumed 100 IFA tablet (%)	20.5	16.9	29.6	46.8	47.4	45.4
Institutional Delivery (%)	40.9	29.8	69.4	47	37.9	70.5
Safe Delivery (%)	48	37.2	75.8	52.6	43.4	75.8
Mothers who received PNC within 2 weeks of delivery (%)	NA	NA	NA	50.8	42.3	72

Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

80. In order to provide food security for citizens of the country to ensure their right to live with dignity, the government introduced the National Food Security Bill, 2011 in the Parliament in December 2011. The landmark Food Security Bill confers a legal right to cheaper food grains to 63.5 per cent of the country's population. Under this legislation, people eligible would be entitled to 7 kg of food grains comprising rice, wheat and coarse grains per person per month at very low rates. This food security law, which will be implemented by States in several phases, seeks to significantly extend the reach of India's existing public food distribution system that sells food items to low-income families much below market prices. The Bill has a unique feature on Women Empowerment with long term policy and legislative implications for achieving gender equality and gender justice. It provides that only a woman can be treated as head of household for the purpose of issue of nation cards to get benefits of cheaper food grains.

81. The Public Distribution System (PDS) is the world's largest food programme and a crucial part of Government's policy for management of food economy. Given the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments, it is a dual purpose vehicle – on the one hand, for giving farmers remunerative prices for their produce through Minimum Support Price (MSP), and on the other, to provide food security to the most vulnerable sections of the society. The Department of Food and Public Distribution also makes allocation of food grains for other welfare schemes at subsidized below-poverty-line (BPL) prices. In addition, the 11th Five Year Plan schemes also give added fillip to this sector keeping in mind the requirements of small and marginal farmers for a more inclusive growth.

82. The period from birth to six years of age, especially those below two years of age is considered the most important period for any intervention on malnutrition. The ICDS, launched in 1975, is a comprehensive programme addressing the health, nutrition and pre-school needs of children under six. It provides a package of services comprising of supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, nutrition & health education, immunization, health check-up and referral services. The Scheme, inter alia, aims to improve the nutritional and health status of pregnant and lactating mothers and children below 6 years of age. It is a centrally sponsored programme with the Government contributing towards 90% of all costs and 50% of the cost of supplementary nutrition and the remaining is to be funded by the state governments. The budgetary allocation for ICDS

has been greatly increased from Rs.103917.5 million in Tenth Plan to Rs.444000 million in the Eleventh Plan. Additionally, Rs. 90000 million has been allocated for maternity entitlements scheme. Recognising the need to cover children under two years of age, the 11th plan focused on 'restructuring' the ICDS, so that the programme is universalised, supplementary nutrition is of better quality, fund transfer is made on time and maternity and child care services are provided. Beneficiaries of the ICDS are 97.5 million, including 79.5 million children (6 months to 6 years) and 18 million pregnant and lactating mothers. The Prime Minister's National Council on Nutritional Challenges decided in November 2010 to strengthen the ICDS scheme.

Article 13: Economic and social life

83. The initial and combined second and third periodic reports have highlighted the various social and economic benefits that are available to women irrespective of their status.

84. Gender Budgeting, as a tool for achieving gender mainstreaming, is being propagated by the Ministry of Finance and MWCD since 2005. Gender Budgeting (GB) is a process that entails incorporating a gender perspective at all levels and stages of the budgetary process – planning/ policy/ programme formulation, assessment of needs of target groups, allocation of resources, implementation, impact assessment and prioritisation of resources. Gender budget serves as a reporting mechanism and provides an indication of the funds flowing to women. In March 2007, the Ministry of Finance issued a Charter for Gender Budgeting Cells (GBCs). So far 56 Ministries or Departments have set up GBCs, including non-social sector ministries such as Ministry of Power, Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Heavy Industries, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Telecommunications, Ministry of Defence etc. In 2005-06, for the first time, the budgetary allocations, under 10 Demands for Grants by 9 Ministries/ Departments estimated at Rs. 143790 million, (about 2.79%) were shown in a separate Gender Budget Statement in the Union Budget. The allocation for gender budgeting has increased progressively over the years with demands increasing to 36 demands from 29 Ministries estimated at Rs. 782510.2 million (6.22%). MWCD has been engaged in capacity building of the GBCs by conducting training programmes, workshops, one to one interactions/discussions and development of resource material.

85. Gender justice is a thrust area of the National Youth Policy 2003 adopted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Women participate in sports activities at the national and international levels. A National Championship exclusively for women is conducted annually at block, district, state and national levels by Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs. In the annual sports competitions under Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) Scheme introduced from 2008-09, there has been encouraging response from women. For preparation of Indian athletes / teams for participation in Commonwealth Games, 2010, the Ministry had identified 1286 core probables for providing comprehensive and intensive training and competition exposure, both domestically and abroad. Out of 1286 core probables, 553 were women athletes. Out of 407 sportspersons representing India at CWG 2010 held at New Delhi in October 2010, 183 were women sportspersons. Likewise, representation of women sportspersons in the 16th Asian Games 2010 held at Guangzhou (China) in November 2010, was 249 women sportspersons out of total 609. Performance of Indian sportspersons in CWG 2010 and Asian Games 2010 was impressive. In CWG 2010, Indian women sportspersons won 13 out of 38 gold medals, 12 out of 28 silver medals and 12 out of 36 bronze medals. In the Asian Games 2010, Indian women sportspersons won 5 out of 14 gold medals, 6 out of 19 silver medals and 12 out of 34 bronze medals.

Article 14: Rural women

86. Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development to provide houses to below the poverty line (BPL) families in the rural areas. Houses under the scheme are allotted in the name of the female member of the household. During Eleventh FYP, out of 14.70 million sanctioned houses, 8.9 million houses were allotted exclusively in the name of women beneficiaries and 3.97 million in the joint name of both husband and wife. Rural Housing Fund has been set up to enable primary lending institutions to access funds for extending housing finance to targeted groups in rural areas at competitive rates. The corpus of the fund for 2008-09 was Rs. 20000 million, which was enhanced by a further 20000 million during 2009-10. The beneficiaries include farmers, housemaids, petty traders, artisans, dairy workers and other low income segments. More than 90% of the beneficiaries are women.

87. Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM), earlier called the National Drinking Water Mission, is a part of Bharat Nirman, a programme launched in 2005 to build rural infrastructure. The focus of the RGNDWM was to adopt a community-based demand-driven approach instead of the supply driven approach. The aim is to cover all uncovered habitations to ensure that the rural population gets at least 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd) of potable water and address the problem of water quality in quality affected habitations. Availability of potable water not only reduces the burden of disease while improving public health, but also reduces drudgery of women in fetching water for the household.

88. The Government continues to give utmost importance for supplementing the efforts of the State Governments to provide sanitation facilities to the rural masses. Sanitation Campaign Projects have been launched in 593 districts covering 30 States/UTs. It is envisaged to cover all the households with access to sanitary facilities under Total Sanitation Campaign by the end of the Eleventh FYP, and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of reducing by half the number of people without access to sanitation. Access to sanitation facilities for the households may have an impact on reducing violence against women as women and girls do not have to go to unsafe places for attending the call of nature.

89. The National Agriculture Policy (NAP) has incorporated gender issues in the agriculture development agenda by recognising women's role as farmers and producers of crops and live stocks; as users of technology; as active agents in marketing, processing and storage of food and as an agricultural labourer. The policy states that high priority should be accorded to recognition and mainstreaming of women's role in agriculture. The National Policy for Farmers 2007 announced by the Government envisages measures aimed at women's empowerment.

90. The National Gender Resource Centre in Agriculture (NGRCA) has been set up in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture to promote gender concerns within the mainstream programmes of the agriculture sector. The major initiatives include minimum flow of 30% of funds for women farmers under all the beneficiary oriented schemes and generation of disaggregated data. To ensure appropriate allocation and flow of benefits to women farmers, Gender Sensitisation Modules (GSM) were developed during 2007-08. Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms was launched during 2005-06 and aims at making the extension system farmer-driven and farmer-accountable, by way of new institutional arrangements for technology dissemination in the form of an Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at the district level to operationalise extension reforms. One of the objectives of the revised scheme is to promote gender equality by addressing gender concerns through mobilisation of farm women. A minimum of 30% of resources meant for programmes and activities are required to be allocated to women farmers and women extension functionaries.

91. Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH), National Bamboo Mission, Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses, Mini Mission-II of Jute Technology and National Food Security Mission (NFSM, 2007) mandate 30% of budget allocation for women beneficiaries/ farmers. Macro Management of Agriculture is a revised scheme wherein the States have been instructed to allocate funds for at least 33% of funds to small, marginal & women farmers and also to SC/ST women farmers proportionate to their population and utilise the 10% to 20% of the funds provided under “New Initiatives” for implementing activities for gender empowerment. With the overall objective of bringing women in the cooperative fold, develop participation in group activities and to improve their socio-economic conditions in selected blocks, NCUI runs exclusive women’s development projects across the country.

92. Mass Media Support to Agricultural Extension is a central sector scheme to revamp the extension services in the country by using electronic media. To cater to the needs of women farmers, special programmes are being produced and broadcast by Door Darshan and All India Radio in areas in which women are pre-dominantly involved such as honey-bee keeping, seed treatment, mushroom cultivation, kitchen-gardening, post-harvest management of fruits and vegetables, cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plants, gender friendly tools, etc.

93. Gramin Bhandaran Yojana is a capital investment subsidy scheme for construction/renovation of rural godowns introduced in 2001-02 to create scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas. Between 2006-07 and 2009-10, 3125 godowns have been constructed by women.

94. Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization for Women aims at reducing drudgery of women farmers. Thirty gender-friendly tools/equipments have been developed for farm operations by the Research and Development Organisation and are being distributed amongst women farmers. During 2005-06 to 2010-11, 110798 gender-friendly equipments have been distributed to women farmers.

Article 15: Equality before law and in civil matters

95. This has been already dealt in previous reports and also in paragraphs 5 to 7 of this report.

Article 16: Equality in marriage and family relations

96. Registration of all marriages, Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 and the Personal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2010 are dealt in paragraph 29 of the common core document, and paragraphs 5 and 6 of the present report.

97. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA) was enacted repealing the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929 in order to prohibit child marriages rather than only restraining them. PCMA has been enforced with effect from November 2007. This Act recognises that child marriage is voidable by the minor on attaining majority at the age of 18 years by giving a choice to the children in the marriage to seek annulment. It makes child marriage an offence and prescribes punishment for those conducting/abetting/promoting/permitting/solemnising child marriages. It provides power to the State Government to appoint Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPO). It empowers the judiciary to issue a restraint order of child marriage and any marriage solemnised in contravention of this restraint order is a void marriage. So far 22 States have appointed CMPOs.