

PROGRAMME
The Fourth South Asia Regional Meeting,
COMMEMORATING BEIJING
at BHUTAN, 19-21 May 2003

19th May 2003 - INAUGURAL SESSION

18:30 20:00	Inaugural Session
18:30 19:00	Inaugural Ceremony
19:00 19:10	Welcome Address by Ms. Chandni Joshi, Regional Programme Director, South Asia Regional Office, UNIFEM
19:10 19:20	Address by Dr. Orapin Singhadej, representing the UN system in Bhutan
19:20 - 19:30	Address by H.E. Q.A.M.A. Rahim, SAARC Secretary General
19:30 19:40	Address by Ms. Kunzang Chungyalpa, Chief Asia Pacific Section, UNIFEM
19:40 19:55	Inaugural address by H.E. Honourable Lyonpo Kinzang Dorji, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Bhutan
19:55 20:00	Vote of thanks by H.E. Aneesa Ahmed, Minister, Women's Affairs and Social Security, Maldives
20:00-20:15	Heads of delegations to jointly call on H.E. Honourable Lyonpo Kinzang Dorji, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Bhutan
20:15 21:30	WELCOME DINNER hosted by UNIFEM

20th MAY 2003

09:00 10:00	Session I
09:00 09:05	Modalities of the meeting
09:05 10:00	Presentation on Progress of South Asian Women 2002 by UNIFEM
10:00 11:00	Session II COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS
	Chaired by H.E. Jaskaur Meena, Minister of State, Department of Women and Child Development, India
10:00 10:30	Commitments, Action Plans & Challenges: BANGLADESH
10:00 10:10	Presentation by the Government of Bangladesh
10:10 10:20	Response from civil society
10:20 10:30	Discussion
10:30 11:00	Commitments, Action Plans & Challenges: BHUTAN

10:30 10:40	Presentation by the Government of Bhutan
10:40 10:50	Response from civil society
10:50 11:00	Discussion
11:00 11:15	Sharing from the 47 th Session of the CSW on 'The participation and access of women to media', by Ms. Bandana Rana
11:15 11:30	Refreshment Break
11:30 12:30	Session III Panel discussion on ENGENDERING THE CENSUS PROCESS IN SOUTH ASIA Chaired by H. E. Anuradha Koirala, Minister of State, Department of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Nepal
11:30 11:40	Presentation on 'Engendering the Census Process in Nepal' by Ms. Shavitri Singh
11:40 11:50	Presentation on 'The role of NGOs in engendering the Census process in Pakistan' by Ms. Rukshanda Naz
11:50 12:00	Presentation on 'Engendering the Census process in India'
12:00 12:30	Discussion
12:30 13:30	Session IV Panel discussion on REGIONAL LEARNING - GENDER ANALYSIS OF BUDGETS Chaired by Ms. Neten Zangmo, Cabinet Secretary, Bhutan
12:30 12:45	Presentation on 'Gender Analysis of Budgets in South Asia' by Dr. Meena Acharya
12:45 12:53	Presentation on 'The Sri Lanka Experience' by Ms. Lalitha Dissanayake
12:53 13:00	Presentation on 'The Indian Experience' by Dr. Amaresh Bagchi
13:00 13:30	Discussion
13:30 14:30	Lunch
14:30 15:30	Session V COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS Chaired by H.E. Begum Khurshid Jahan Huq, Minister for Women and Children's Affairs, Bangladesh
14:30 15:00	Commitments, Action Plans & Challenges: INDIA
14:30 14:40	Presentation by the Government of India
14:40 14:50	Response from civil society
14:50 15:00	Discussion

15:00 15:30	Commitments, Action Plans & Challenges: MALDIVES
15:00 15:10	Presentation by the Government of Maldives
15:10 15:20	Response from civil society
15:20 15:30	Discussion
15:30 16:00	Refreshment Break
16:00 17:00	Session VI Panel discussion on KNOWLEDGE BASED ADVOCACY ON CEDAW Chaired by Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar, Adviser to the Prime Minister, Pakistan
16:00 16:10	Presentation on 'Analysis of the concluding comments received by the South Asian countries and the role of Governments in implementing the recommendations made by the CEDAW Committee' by Ms. Salma Khan
16:10 16:20	Presentation on 'Analysis of the implementation of the Concluding Comments on Nepal's Initial Report and Indicators for monitoring CEDAW in the region' by Ms. Sapna Malla Pradhan
16:20 16:30	Presentation on 'The inter-play between CEDAW, national laws and customary practices, in Pakistan' by Ms. Yasmin Zaidi
16:30 16:40	Presentation on 'The process of implementing and monitoring of the Convention in Nepal' by Mr. Pratap Pathak
16:40 17:00	Discussion

Evening

Site seeing in Paro

21st MAY 2003

09:00 09:30	Summarizing the previous day's proceedings
09:30 11:00	Session VII COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS Chaired by H.E. Aneesa Ahmed, Minister, Women's Affairs and Social Security, Maldives
09:30 10:00	Commitments, Action Plans & Challenges : NEPAL
09:30 09:40	Presentation by the Government of Nepal
09:40 09:50	Response from civil society
09:50 10:00	Discussion
10:00 10:30	Commitments, Action Plans & Challenges : PAKISTAN
10:00 10:10	Presentation by the Government of Pakistan

10:10 - 10:20	Response from civil society
10:20 - 10:30	Discussion
10:30 - 11:00	Commitments, Action Plans & Challenges : SRI LANKA
10:30 - 10:40	Presentation by the Government of Sri Lanka
10:40 - 10:50	Response from civil society
10:50 - 11:00	Discussion
11:00 - 11:30	Refreshment Break
11:30 - 12:30	SESSION VIII Panel discussion on TRAFFICKING AN OVERVIEW FROM SOUTH ASIA Chaired by H.E. Q. A. M. A. Rahim, Secretary General SAARC
11:30 - 11:40	Presentation on 'National & International laws and legal instruments addressing trafficking: Opportunities and bottlenecks' by Ms. Sapna Malla Pradhan
11:40 - 11:50	Presentation on 'Aspects of rescue and rehabilitation: the cross-border dimension' by Ms. Salma Ali
11:50 - 12:00	Presentation on 'Situational analysis of trafficking in India' by Mr. P.M. Nair
12:00 - 12:10	Presentation on the 'Impact of Community Action in Combatting Trafficking' by Ms. Neelam Gorhe
12:10 - 12:30	Discussion
12:30 - 13:30	Group Discussions on REGIONAL CONCERNS AND FUTURE PLANS OF ACTION
13:30 - 14:30	LUNCH
14:30 - 17:00	SESSION IX CONCLUDING SESSION
14:30 - 15:15	Presentations by Groups and discussion
15:15 - 16:15	Closing remarks by Delegates And simultaneously the Drafting Committee will work on "How to move forward : Bhutan Forward Moving Strategies"
16:15 - 16:45	Presentation, discussion and adoption of "How to move forward : Bhutan Forward Moving Strategies"
16:45 - 17:00	Vote of Thanks by Ms. Neten Zangmo, Cabinet Secretary, Royal Government of Bhutan & UNIFEM
17:30 - 18:00	PRESS CONFERENCE
18.30	CULTURAL SHOW AND FAREWELL DINNER hosted by the Royal Government of Bhutan

ABBREVIATIONS

AF	Aurat Publication and Information Service Foundation
BD	Beijing Declaration
BNWLA	Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action
BPL	Below the Poverty Line
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CC	Concluding Comments
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CAW	Committee on the Status of Women
DDC	District Development Committee
DWCD	Department of Women and Child Development
FTZ	Free Trade Zone
FWCW	Fourth World Conference on Women
FWLD	Forum for Women Law and Development
FWPR	Female Work Force Participation Rate
GDI	Gender Development Index
GMS	Gender Management System
HE	His/Her Excellency
HPSP	Health and Population Sector Programme
ITPA	Immoral Traffic Prevention Act
JMS	Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha
MWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MWCSW	The Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare
NAP	National Action Plan for the Advancement of Women
NEC	National Education Commission
NEMAP	National Environment Management Plan
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NIPFP	National Institute of Public Finance and Policy
NSS	National Sample Survey
PAP	Poverty Alleviation Programmes
PES	Post Enumeration Survey
PFA	Platform for Action
PREP COM	Preparatory Committee
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RDP	Regional Programme Director
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAK	Stree Aadhar Kendra
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programme
VAW	Violence against Women
VDC	Village Development Committee
VGD	Vulnerable Group Development
WSIS	World Summit of the Information Society
GADMIS	Gender and Development Management Information System
MCH	Maternal and Child Health

PROGRESS OF WOMEN IN SOUTH ASIA

Progress of women of South Asia

Ms. Chandani Joshi
Regional Programme Director
UNIFEM, South Asia Regional
Office
19th May 2003

12 critical areas of concern of BFPA

- Women and Poverty
- Education and Training of Women
- Women and Health
- Violence against Women
- Women and Armed Conflict
- Women and the Economy
- Women in Power and Decision-making
- Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women
- Human Rights of Women
- Women and the Media
- Women and the Environment
- The Girl-Child

Progress of South Asian women Biennial Meetings

- New Delhi, India, 1996
- Kathmandu, Nepal, 1998
- Bandos Island, Maldives, 2000

PARO, BHUTAN 2003

Historical Context

- 1975 - First World Conference on Women in Mexico
- 1975-1985 : International Decade for Women
- 1980 - Second World Conference on Women at Copenhagen
- 1985 - Third World Conference on Women in Nairobi
- 1995 - Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing (BPFA adopted by 189 Governments)

Historical context *(continued)*

2000 – Beijing Plus Five

- Outcome document identified – emerging issues
- Trafficking in Women & Children
- HIV and AIDS
- Globalisation

Some regional events towards gender equality in South Asia

- South Asia Preparatory Consultation 'Towards Yokohama', Dhaka, 2001
- SAARC 'Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution', 2002
- 'Global Conference Celebrating Mountain Women', in Bhutan, for Bishkek 2002.
- 'Accelerating the Momentum in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS': South Asia High Level Conference, Kathmandu, 2003
- Regional Workshop on Parliamentary Advocacy for the Prevention of Violence Against Women, Dhaka, 2003

Some International Commitments towards Gender Equality

- United Nations Special Session Habitat II + 5 Review, 2001.
- United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on HIV/AIDS, 2001.
- United Nations World Conference Against Racism, 2001.
- Second World Conference against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Yokohama, 2001.

Further Global commitments by World Leaders

- Millennium Summit, September 2000
- 191 nations adopt the UN Millennium Declaration - 8 Millennium Development Goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators - time bound to track progress
- Goal 3 - 'Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment', central to achieving the other seven goals

KEY DEVELOPMENTS GAPS & CHALLENGES

Some International Commitments towards Gender Equality *(Continued)*

- International Conference on Financing for Development, 2002
- United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Children, 2002
- World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 2002

GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
CENTRAL TO ALL OTHER GOALS OF THESE CONFERENCES

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empowerment of women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development

South Asia's Gender Development Index 0.535 - 99 points lower than the average for developing countries

HDI, GDI AND GEM IN SOUTH ASIA

Country	HDI Value 2000	HDI Rank 2000	GDI Value 2000	GDI Rank 2000	GEM Value	GEM Rank
Bangladesh	0.478	145	0.468	121	0.223	66
Bhutan	0.494	140	-	-	-	-
India	0.577	124	0.560	105	-	-
Maldives	0.743	84	0.739	68	0.361	62
Nepal	0.490	142	0.470	119	-	-
Pakistan	0.499	138	0.468	120	-	-
Sri Lanka	0.741	89	0.737	70	0.274	64

Women and the Economy

Pride Pointers:

- New employment / trade opportunities.
- Increased access to credit (Banks/SHG's).
- Better recording of female work participation in the Census.
- Networking mechanisms amongst female informal sector workers being evolved.
- New alternative modules to strengthen women's economic and social security developed.

Women and Governance

Pride Pointers:

- Affirmative action led to millions of women in local governance.
- Sustained advocacy for women's representation in parliament and in key public/private bodies.
- Several indicators for survival, security and autonomy as well as gender analysis of budget being used increasingly.

Gaps and Challenges

- Glass ceiling for advancement of women to senior decision-making positions
- Limited representation of women in political bodies
- Continued invisibility of women leaders at all levels of decision making
- Resistance of mainstream political parties to make space for women

Gaps and Challenges

- Negative impact of globalization on women: income poverty; casualization of labour; unregulated conditions
- Invisibility of women's work and contribution to the national economy - Care economy not recognized/ accounted for
- Limited access to productive resources - financial, physical, technical and managerial
- Increased vulnerability of women to trafficking and the risk of HIV/AIDS due to prevailing socio-economic conditions
- Stereotypical gender biased parameters continue to restrict women's work (glass ceiling)
- Lack of economic literacy.

Women in Parliament

Country	Seats in parliament held by women (as % of total)		
	1997	2000	2002
Bangladesh	9.1	9.1	2.0
Bhutan	-	2.0	9.3
India	7.3	8.9	8.9
Maldives	6.3	6.0	6.0
Nepal	-	6.4	5.9
Pakistan	2.6	-	-
Sri Lanka	5.3	4.9	4.4

Source: Human Development Report 1998, 2000 & 2002

Women & Human Rights

Pride Pointers:

- CEDAW being used as an overarching framework for substantive equality.
- Increase in gender responsive judgments using CEDAW.
- Greater visibility and dialogue on VAW, HIV/AIDS and anti-trafficking.
- New legislations to address different forms of violence - domestic violence, trafficking, rape, acid throwing, female foeticide etc.
- Increased work on masculinities and male responsibilities

Gaps and Challenges

- Slow compliance with human rights standards.
- Inadequate human rights education and gender sensitization at all levels.
- Lack of legal awareness and legal literacy.
- Prolonged judicial process and low conviction rates.
- VAW still considered a private matter or a social problem unlike other crimes.
- Crimes against women continue to rise.

Gaps and Challenges

- Cross border collaboration.
- Setting minimum standards.
- Issues related to prevention, rescue and rehabilitation using a rights based approach needed.

Women and Peace

Pride Pointers:

- Governments, civil society and women's groups playing active role in promoting and building peace processes and peace constituencies
- Greater awareness of the impact of armed conflict on women and children

Gaps and challenges:

- Inclusion of women's perspectives in peace making, peace building, rehabilitation, resettlement and reconstruction
- Lack of information and awareness on the physical, psychological, economic and social effects of conflict

Trafficking in Women and Girls

Pride Pointers:

- Signing of SAARC Convention on Trafficking by all Governments.
- Ratification of the Convention in progress.
- National Plans of Action to combat trafficking in place in most countries.
- Situational analysis of the issue underway.
- Review of relevant laws using the 3 "P" approach - Prevention, Protection and Prosecution in progress.

Education and Health of Women

- Increase in literacy levels and narrowing of gender gap, but gaps still persist.
- Reduction in maternal and child mortality and morbidity, but still a cause for concern.
- Gender stereotypical educational curriculum and structures still a challenge.
- Life-cycle approach to women's health needed - rather than focusing only on her reproductive role.
- Resource allocations to social sectors grossly inadequate

Women and Media

Pride Pointers:

- Increased coverage of women's issues in the print and broadcast media.
- Growing interest of mainstream media, in gender.

Gaps and Challenges:

- Negative portrayal of women as sex objects, consumers, at best victims and often colluding in their own oppression
- Lack of broadcast norms to facilitate a more equitable and realistic representation of gender

Institutional Mechanisms

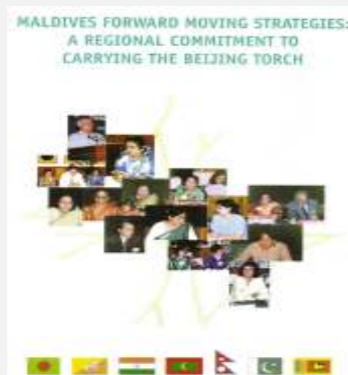
Pride Pointers:

- National Policies and Plans of Action for empowerment of women formulated.
- Innovative schemes developed for women, including women in difficult circumstances.
- Gender analysis of budgets as tools for engendering planning, monitoring and audit initiated.
- High level monitoring mechanisms set-up.
- Statutory bodies set-up.

Women and the Environment

- As men move to urban areas, women are left behind to cope with fragile environments and ecosystems that are already strained.
- The impact of environmental destruction and degradation continues to overburden women.
- Inadequate research documentation and promotion of women's indigenous technical knowledge and coping mechanisms.

Maldives Forward Moving Strategies



Gaps and Challenges

- More visibility, resources and strengthening of National women's machineries.
- Institutionalization of gender mainstreaming in sectoral and hard core ministries.
- Collection and use of improved sex-disaggregated data for planning, monitoring and tracking.

The Girl Child

Pride pointers:

- CRC ratified by all S.A. countries.
- SAARC Decade of the Girl Child observed.

Gaps and Challenges:

- Negative cultural attitudes towards girls perpetuate 'son preference'.
- Juvenile sex ratio continues to plummet.
- Exploitation of and violence against girls continues.

THE SCORE CARD OF THE MALDIVES AGENDA

The objectives:

- To continue regional sharing and learning
- Re-examine Beijing + 5 in the regional context
- Collectively and frankly analyse BPFA, CEDAW and the growing menace of trafficking and chart out strategies for the future

THE DRAFT SCORE CARD OF THE MALDIVES AGENDA (continued) Where We Are

Priority Concerns	Where We Are
A. TRAFFICKING	
• To re-examine the SAARC Convention on Trafficking to give it a rights based perspective	++
• To disseminate changes suggested in 1999 and lobby for their acceptance	++++
• Initiate bi-lateral engagements between countries on possible areas of cooperation	+
• Initiate regional dialogue and exchange between governments and other stakeholders	Yet to be achieved
• Set up inter-ministerial anti-trafficking mechanisms	++
• Train immigration and border police etc	+

THE DRAFT SCORE CARD OF THE MALDIVES AGENDA (continued) Where We Are

Priority Concerns	Where We Are
E. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION	
• Share experiences of affirmative action at the grassroots and national levels	++
• Look at electoral systems that benefit women	Yet to be achieved
• Create a 10 point manifesto for women representing a shared political agenda	Yet to be achieved
F. NATIONAL WOMEN'S MACHINERY	
• Work towards the transformation of the departments/ministries from project implementation mechanisms to catalysts that bring about policy changes and law reforms	++

Pride Pointers of South Asia

- Affirmative action by governments.
- Increase in gender sensitive judgements.
- Ratification of international conventions.
- Gender continuing to be an integral part of the political discourse.
- Collectivizing of women around economic and social issues.
- Continued vibrancy of the women's movement & visibility of women's groups.

THE DRAFT SCORE CARD OF THE MALDIVES AGENDA (continued) Where We Are

Priority Concerns	Where We Are
B. INFORMATION SHARING	
• Share best practices in the region on advances in information technology, micro-credit etc.	Yet to be achieved
• Share information on laws relating to VAW, personal laws relating to inheritance, property and marriage	++
• Share information on the challenges of globalisation and poverty eradication strategies	+
C. GENDER BUDGET AND GENDER AUDIT	
• Development of expertise in the area will be a regional priority	++
D. GLOBALISATION	
• Carry out studies to assess the impact of globalisation on women and the availability of guarantees for economic and social rights including social security	+

THE DRAFT SCORE CARD OF THE MALDIVES AGENDA (continued) Where We Are

Priority Concerns	Where We Are
G. MONITORING OF PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CEDAW AND BPFA	
• Pursue the development of expertise on the use of concluding comments to assist monitoring	++
H. CREATING MONITORING MECHANISMS WITHIN COUNTRIES	
• Set up a high powered monitoring committee in each country to review the progress of CEDAW and BPFA	++
I. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	
• Annual regional meetings of governments, NGOs and women's groups to monitor CEDAW and BPFA, which is to be facilitated by UNIFEM	

NOTE: + denotes level of achievement, with + being the least level of achievement and + + + + being the highest level

Pride Pointers of South Asia

- Many National Development Plans aim at achieving gender equality and gender justice.
- Governments of several countries recognizing and spearheading campaigns on VAW.
- Almost every country is reviewing discriminatory laws and introducing new legislations to combat VAW in its various forms.
- Women increasingly overcoming the culture of silence/subordination.
- Though slowly, the service delivery approach giving way to the human rights approach

However gaps and obstacles persist

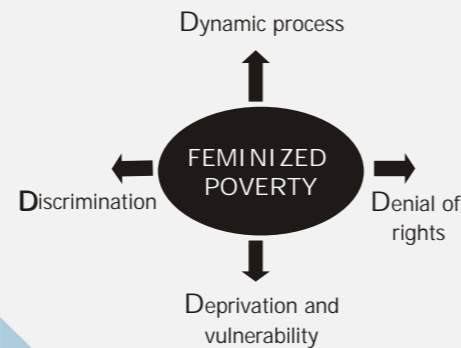
- The continuing feminization of poverty.
- Denial, deprivation, discrimination and exclusion.
- Socio-cultural impediments and socialization processes and mindsets.
- The declining sex ratio - 74 million "missing women" in South Asia.
- Growth of fundamentalism and communalism.
- Human rights violation based on gender.
- Increased militarization and insurgency.
- Shrinking state accountability in the wake of globalization.

THE 4 'D'S OF FEMINIZED POVERTY

1. Dynamic process of social exclusion and marginalisation of women, involving
2. Discrimination
 - Unequal power relations
 - Unequal participation/influence
 - Unequal entitlements

Thank
you

THE 4 'D'S OF FEMINIZED POVERTY



The Girl Child

3. Denial of rights
 - Right to appropriate work, food, housing, health, education etc.
 - Right to resources and services
 - Right to justice, social and legal protection
4. Deprivation and vulnerability
 - limited income
 - limited options/choices
 - limited opportunities to work and improve well-being
 - Vulnerability to risks like VAW, trafficking and HIV/AIDS

List of Participants

S. No.	Name
BANGLADESH	
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7	Ambassador S.T. Rabgye, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bhutan
8	Mr. Tshewang C. Dorji, Deputy Chief of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thimphu, Bhutan
9	Ms. Nima Ome, Head of Multilateral Division, Foreign Ministry, Thimphu, Bhutan

10	Ms. Dasho Dawa Dem, Secretary, Women's Association for Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan Tel: 00-975-2-322910 Fax: 00-975-2-323732
11	Ms. Tsering Pem, Under Secretary, Planning Commission, Thimphu, Bhutan
12	Dr. (Mrs) J. Norbu, c/o NWBA, Thimphu, Bhutan
13	Ms. Kunzang Lhamu, Planning Officer, Planning Commission, Thimphu
14	Mr. Thinley Dorji, Director, SAARC Division, Foreign Ministry, Thimphu, Bhutan
15	Ms. Dechen Zam, Planning Officer, Ministry of Health and Education, Thimphu, Bhutan
16	Ms. Tashi Chozom, Registrar, High Court, Thimphu, Bhutan
17	Ms. Chuki Lham Dorji, PPD, Ministry of Agriculture, Thimphu, Bhutan
18	Ms. Tshokie Choden, Multilateral Department, Foreign Ministry, Thimphu, Bhutan
	INDIA
19	H.E. Ms. Jaskaur Meena, Minister of State, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhawan New Delhi
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21	Mr. P.K. Srivastava, P.S. to Minister of State, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
22	Ms. Vasudha Gupta, Deputy Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

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