

**Two-Day Conference of State WCD Ministers and Secretaries:
Minister Stresses on the need for States to take Proactive steps towards Implementation of
WCD Schemes**

A two day conference of the State Ministers and Secretaries in charge of Women and Child Development concluded here today. The Conference was inaugurated on 13th September 2012, by Smt. Krishna Tirath, Minister of State (Independent Charge). During the two days in addition to deliberating on the issues concerning empowerment and development of women, the various schemes for women and children being implemented by the Ministry of WCD were discussed threadbare with the aim to understand the need for and creating better and sturdy mechanisms to enhance their implementation and effectiveness. The proceedings of the meeting were conducted by Shri Prem Narain, Secretary, MWCD.

In her inaugural speech, the WCD Minister stressed upon the empowerment of women and development of children through effective implementation of various programmes and interventions. The WCD Minister drew attention on the undervaluation of tasks performed by the home-makers which is not reflected in the national accounts and need for monetising their work so the household work is valued and the home-makers become economically empowered. The Minister also stressed upon the strengthening of ICDS and expansion of schemes like Sabla and IGMSY.

On the first day of the Conference, the State Ministers in-charge of WCD, made statements on the progress of various welfare programmes for women and children in their respective states. There were presentations from the Ministry on women issues on the first day of the conference. There was discussion on NMEW, declining child sex ratio, Domestic violence Act etc. On the second day, the Minister of State for Women and Child Development addressed the gathering emphasizing on the need of proactive efforts by the Ministry to work on various suggestions that have emerged as a result of discussions from the two day conference. Registrar General of India made a presentation on the second day on the key findings of the census 2011 concerning women and children and what were their implications, in terms of policy initiatives that need to be taken up to address them.

There was discussion on the strengthening and restructuring of the ICDS system, progress of schemes like Sabla, IGMSY and ICPS and Rajiv Gandhi Crech Scheme. At the end of the Conference, Secretary (WCD) Shri Prem Narain summed up the discussions and emphasized the need for taking preparatory actions by the States for implementing the restructured Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. He also emphasized the importance of Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Adolescent Girls (Sabla) and Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) and asked the States to give more attention to regular submission of the physical and financial progress reports. States were also urged to upload the data of children living in various Homes and the information relating to missing children from different Police Stations on the "Track child" portal which the Ministry of Women & Child Development is preparing and is about to launch. The Secretary (WCD) also asked the State Governments to send their suggestions in respect of the Rajiv Gandhi Crèche Scheme.