

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Ensuring safety of women**

*263. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any survey has declared India as the fourth most dangerous country for women;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to ensure the safety of women in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) As per the information available on its website, Thomson Reuters Foundation, a private charity with headquarters in London, through its global poll of experts has declared India as the fourth most dangerous country for women. The poll conducted amongst 213 gender experts ranked countries on their overall perception of danger, as well as by six category of risks-health, sexual violence, non-sexual violence, harmful practices rooted in the culture, tradition or religion, lack of access to economic resources and human trafficking. The standard and reasonableness of data used in arriving at the ranks of the countries is not known and may vary from country to country and, therefore, it is not possible to comment on India's relative position in their Poll.

(d) The Government of India has initiated several programmes to improve the status of women in the society, including safety and eradication of social evils. These include special legislations like Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. The Government has also approved The Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2012. The Bill has so far been passed by the Lok Sabha. For safety of women in difficult circumstances including trafficking, the Government implements Swadhar, Short Stay Homes and Ujjwala Schemes. The Government has been issuing advisories to the State Governments from time to time regarding the steps that need to be taken to prevent

incidence of crime against women. National Commission for Women through seminars, workshops, consultations, nukkad Nataks etc. undertakes awareness programmes on gender biased sex selection, violence against women, child marriages, anti-dowry and other women related issues.

Funds spent on purchases through CSD

*264. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds spent on Government purchases of material every year during 2011-12 and 2012-13, so far through the Canteen Stores Department (CSD);

(b) whether CSD procurement has been found highly opaque and financial norms have been flouted to provide poor quality of products to armed forces;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether almost 300 firms supplying items to CSD do not have market credentials;

(e) if so, whether Government will enquire into the matter;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (g) Government does not purchase material for its use from Canteen Store Department (CSD). However, CSD procures materials for Unit Run Canteens (URCs) of Tri-Services. The details of funds spent by CSD on purchases of material during 2011-12 and 2012-13 are as mentioned below:-

| Financial Year | Net Purchases (Rs. in crore) |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 2011-12 | 9734.78 |
| 2012-13 | 6027.84 (up to October 2012) |

Purchases, as per rules, are to be made by CSD directly from the