

Safeguarding of women traveling by buses

4571. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry to safeguard the women traveling by buses after the recent Delhi rape case;

(b) whether the Ministry has advised the States to install CCTV Cameras in the city buses; and

(c) whether the Ministry has envisaged any other safety measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R. P. N. SINGH): (a) to (c) Delhi Police has taken several steps for making Delhi a safer place for women at night. Some of these steps are:

1. Providing security at bus shelters which are used by women.
2. Three dedicated help-lines have been set up for women and publicised.
3. There shall be an immediate crackdown on all buses/commercial vehicles having tinted glasses and curtains and all such vehicles be impounded immediately.
4. All commercial vehicles/buses shall be directed to keep their lights on during the night while plying on the roads of Delhi.
5. All off duty buses must be parked with the owner and not with the driver/staff.
6. All those commercial vehicles/buses found violating the contract carriage conditions or any other permit condition, shall be impounded and their permits be cancelled.
7. The Delhi Police shall undertake verification of all drivers/staff of all public vehicles. All such buses/autos which are being plied by unverified staff/drivers shall be impounded.
8. Driver's Licence and all details along with photo shall be compulsorily displayed in all public vehicles along with a help line No. on which complaint can be lodged.

As per Seventh Schedule, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Constitution, and as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes, including crimes against women, lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an advisory to the States on 22nd April, 2013 to increase the representation of women in Police force which would reduce incidents of crime against women.

States/ UTs have been asked by an advisory dated 18.07.2012 to start immediate crackdown on all buses/commercial vehicles having tinted glasses and curtains and all such vehicles be impounded immediately in pursuance of the order of the Supreme Court in the case of *Avishek Goenka vs. UoI*.

Ministry of Home Affairs has sent a detailed advisory on 4th September, 2009 to all States/UTs, wherein they have been, *inter-alia*, advised to adopt appropriate measures for swift and salutary punishment to the persons found guilty of violence against women, no delay in registration of FIRs, improve the quality of investigations, minimize delays in investigations of crime against women, especially in heinous crimes like rape, set up 'Crime against Women Cells' in districts, advised to undertake gender sensitization of the police personnel and special women courts. Majority of the States/ UTs have established 'Women Cells'. Some States/ UTs have also set up 'All Women Police stations' at district level and 'Mahila/ children help desk' at police station level.

Inclusion of Lepcha, Bhutia and Limbu in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution

4572. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any pending proposal/decision to include any Indian languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution;
- (b) whether any proposal to include Lepcha, Bhutia and Limbu as official languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution has been received from the State Government; and
- (c) if so, the decision taken so far on the proposal?