

The Ministry of Home has requested the Law Commission to deliberate upon the subject of marital rape during the course of its comprehensive review of Criminal Justice System.

Special law to protect women from maternal family

1434. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there exists no special law to protect women from mental, physical and economic harassment from her maternal family and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the Ministry would consider to bring a comprehensive law to safeguard the interest of women from her maternal family and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA) which came into effect in October, 2006 aims to provide protection and support to women from domestic violence. The Act defines domestic violence to include all acts of omission and commission that cause injury to a woman's physical, sexual or mental health and includes specific forms of violence such as physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic abuse. This law extends its protection to women who are in domestic relationship which also includes maternal family.

(b) In view of (a) does not arise.

Failure to achieve goals of Millennium Development Plan

†1435. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that deaths due to starvation and malnutrition among children have been on the rise every year, if so, the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the policies of Government have failed to effectively control malnutrition and starvation which is causing misery to the extremely poor people; and

(c) whether it is a fact that efforts to achieve the goals of Millennium Development Plan have met with failure, if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) As per Rapid Survey on Children (RSoC) 2013-14 commissioned by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, there is a reduction in underweight among children under 5 years of age from 42.5% in NFHS-3 to 29.4%, stunting from 48% in NFHS-3 to 38.7% and wasting from 19.8% in NFHS-3 to 15.1% in RSoC.

(b) Malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem and is not a direct cause of death but contributes to mortality and morbidity by reducing resistance to infections.

(c) As per the Millennium Development Goals India Country Report, 2015, the proportion of underweight children below 3 years is estimated at 52% in 1990. In order to meet the MDG target, the proportion of under-weight children should decrease to 26% by 2015. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) shows that the proportion of under-weight children below 3 years declined from 43% in 1998-99 to 40% in 2005-06. At this rate of decline the proportion of underweight children below 3 years is expected to reduce to 33% by 2015 which indicates India is falling short of the target.

Funds allotted for Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme

†1436. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any new schemes to provide the best and direct benefit to women and children during the last two years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the achievements of Government's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme during the last one year, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the funds allotted and spent for Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme during the year 2015-16, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): (a) Though legislative framework has been in place to address issues of women and children, the Ministry has undertaken important schematic interventions to enable access to justice and attendant services. One Stop Centre (OSC) and Women Helpline Scheme have been sanctioned to provide integrated support, assistance and 24 hours immediate and emergency response to women affected by violence. Both the schemes are being implemented since 1st April, 2015.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.