

One Stop Centres and Swadhar Grih

2553. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of One Stop Centres (OSCs) and Swadhar Grih established and funded from the Nirbhaya Fund, State-wise;

(b) whether the Ministry is taking steps to ensure safety and rehabilitation of women in distress and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry is taking steps to protect women in school and college campuses across the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the scheme of setting up of One Stop Centre (OSC) to support women affected by violence to be funded under Nirbhaya Fund. The scheme is being implemented since 1st April, 2015. The scheme aims to facilitate access to an integrated range of services including medical aid, police assistance, legal aid/case management, psycho-social counselling, temporary support services to women affected by violence. Under the scheme, it has been envisaged that One Stop Centres would be set up across the country in phased manner. In the first phase, one Centre was sanctioned per State/UT. Further, 150 additional Centres are taken up in second phase during 2016-17.

(b) and (c) The Government is endeavouring to put in place effective mechanisms to provide safe environment for women. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 has been enacted making the punishment more stringent for offences like rape. New offences like acid attack, sexual harassment, voyeurism and stalking, disrobing a woman have been incorporated in the Indian Penal Code. The Government has also enacted the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 to provide a safe and secure environment to women at the workplace which cover all women, irrespective of their age or employment status and protect them against sexual harassment at all workplaces both in public and private sector, whether organized or unorganized including school and college.

Apart from the above, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is also administering Swadhar Greh Scheme for relief and rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances. The scheme provides shelter, food, clothing and care to the marginalized women/girls who are in need. The beneficiaries include widows deserted by their families and relatives, women prisoners released from jail and without family support, women survivors of natural disasters, women victims of terrorist/extremist violence etc.