

Area Suraksha Mitras

1799. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 'Area Suraksha Mitras' introduced as force multipliers for the police has considerably helped in reducing the crime rate;

(b) whether Government would consider introducing all women volunteers for such activities like Area Suraksha Mitras; and

(c) whether Government would consider evolving a coordinated effort for the orientation of the Area Suraksha Mitras to enable them to effectively participate and at the same time entrust the police of various States to spread the same in their areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (c) There is no policy of the Central Government regarding 'Area Suraksha Mitras'. 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The State Government are empowered to devise their own mechanism for maintaining law and order and also to raise necessary auxiliary forces to supplement the role of law enforcing agencies in order to maintain harmony in their areas and for reduction of crimes. The Union Government, however, attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention of crime. Ministry of Home Affairs has issued various Advisories from time to time for the State Governments and UT administrations to handle crime cases which include advisories on crime against women. Advisories are available on the website of Ministry of Home Affairs viz. <http://mha.nic.in>. In one of the advisories issued on 12-05-2015, State Governments/UTs, *inter-alia* were advised that General Public/NGOs maybe encouraged to participate in matters of women security and that self- defence training for women maybe encouraged by Police. Central Government attaches importance to community policing as key initiative to improving law and order and security.

Further, Government of Karnataka has informed that as part of initiatives for community policing, Jana Suraksha Samitis (JSS) have been set up under Police Stations in Bengaluru city. Area Suraksha Mitras are citizen volunteers who along with beat police constitute the JSS. While crime rate has not reduced due to this initiative, it has helped generate awareness among citizens about certain crimes such as bank frauds, chain snatching etc. Area Suraksha Mitras is a volunteer based approach which is open

to both men and women and depends upon their participation. The concept of Jana Suraksha Samitis needs to be evaluated for its effectiveness before deciding to scale it up.

Annual programme issued by Department of Official Language

†1800. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the pattern in which Government would implement the annual programme issued by the Department of Official Language and in the event of non-compliance with reference to previous year 2016, the action taken against different Departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU): The procedure for implementation of the Annual Programme issued by the Department of Official Language, within the Government is as follows: Every year the Annual Programme is printed and sent to all the Ministries and Departments of the Government and uploaded on the website of the Official Language Department. In order to monitor the fulfillment of the objectives contained in the programme, the Quarterly Reports are obtained and reviewed and the offices are informed to rectify the shortcomings found therein. In addition to this, in order to fulfill the objectives contained in the Annual Programme, the data of the implementation done during the year by all the Departments are obtained in the prescribed proforma to include in the Assessment Report and after reviewing them, an Annual Assessment Report in bilingual form is prepared and laid on the table of both houses of the Parliament.

As far as the question of taking action against the Ministries/Departments for non-compliance with reference to the year 2016 is concerned, it is a well-known fact that the promotion and propagation of the Official Language is done with motivation, incentive and goodwill under the Official Language Policy of the Union. And any kind of punitive action is not taken under the Act.

Under the Rule 12 of the Official Language Rules, 1976, it is the responsibility of the administrative head of each Central Government office to ensure that the directions issued under the Official Language Act and the Official Language Rules are properly complied with. Besides this, there is also a provision in the Annual Programme to organize meetings of the Hindi Advisory Committee twice in a year. During these meetings, instructions are also given by the Hon'ble Ministers of the Ministries/Departments to meet the target prescribed in the Annual Programme.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.