

Restructuring of ICDS

2285. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

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

(a) whether Government have finalized the restructuring of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The details of restructuring ICDS are being worked out.

Prevalence of dowry system

2286. PROF. R J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the evil of dowry system is prevailing in the country, in spite of the anti-dowry laws;

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take for total eradication of this evil practice;

(c) the details of the dowry-related deaths in the country during the last three years; and

(d) the action taken in this regard and the steps Government propose to take to make the country free from such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action is being taken for the empowerment of women and to curb crimes against them, as mentioned in the Statement (*See* below). Government has also advised all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to ensure full compliance with the directions contained in the judgement dated 2.5.2005 of the Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 499/1997 in the matter of 'Re-enforcement and Implementation of Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961'.

(c) As per the information compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs the number of cases of Dowry Death registered in the country during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 was 6208, 7026 and 6787 respectively. Similar information for the year 2006 has yet to be compiled by the Bureau.

(d) As in reply to part (b) above.

Statement

Details regarding action being taken for the empowerment of women and to curb crimes against them

Law and order and other criminal matters is a State subject under the Constitution and therefore, the direct responsibility for dealing with enforcement of the concerned Acts is that of the State Governments and the mechanisms under them. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes against women is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Government of India has initiated a number of measures to check such crimes, such as: —

- Enacted the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 which provides for more effective protection of the Constitutional rights of women, who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family including any unlawful demand for dowry.
- Setting up of help lines for women in distress under the Swadhar Scheme.
- Support services to victims of violence through schemes such as Short Stay Homes and Swadhar under which shelter, maintenance, counseling, capacity building, occupational training, medical aid and other services are provided.
- Grant-in-aid schemes providing assistance for rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked victims as well as prevention through special schemes in source areas of trafficking.
- Redressal of grievances through interventions of National and State Commissions for Women.
- Organizing legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Camps.
- Implementation of schemes for (i) awareness generation and advocacy and (ii) economic empowerment of women through the programmes of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Swayamsidha Project, and Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP).
- Review of laws with a view to remove provisions which may be discriminatory to women and to enhance punishments for crimes against women.
- Sensitisation of judiciary and police and civil administration on gender issues.
- Follow up of reports of cases of atrocities against women received from various sources, including NCW, with concerned authorities in the Central and the State Governments.

Apart from legislative changes in the relevant Acts, instructions/guidelines have been issued to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to effectively enforce legislation relating to crimes against women and monitor the enforcement and to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and to take such measures as are necessary for the

prevention of crime against women and other vulnerable sections of society. The measures suggested include:

- sensitizing of police officials charged with the responsibility of protecting the women.
- vigorously enforce the existing legislation relating to dowry volnice
- set up women police cells in police stations and exclusive women police stations.
- provide institutional support to the victims of violence.
- provide counselling to victims of rape.
- take measures to eliminate trafficking in women. States have also been advised to constitute State Advisory Committees to advise on trafficking matters.
- ensure wider recruitment of women police officers.
- train police personnel in special laws dealing with atrocities against women.
- setting up of Fast Track Courts
- setting up of Family Courts
- appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers and notification of Rules under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

Hostels for working women

2287. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is proposed to construct more hostels for the working women in the country, to address their main grievances of provision of safe and good accommodation in the cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether provision of a day care centre for children in the working women's hostels has also been introduced; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to revamp the Scheme in the Eleventh Plan (2007-12) in order to achieve a higher satisfaction rate for the demand for such hostel accommodation. 100 new hostels are proposed to be sanctioned in the Eleventh Plan (2007-12) all over the country.