

In order to support the people of Odisha affected by cyclone 'Fani' Central Government had released in advance an assistance of ₹ 340.875 crore from SDRF on 29th April 2019. Further, in pursuance to the visit made by Prime Minister to Odisha after the cyclone, Central Government had released an additional financial assistance of ₹ 1,000 crore to Government of Odisha on 7th May 2019. In the instant case, even before the receipt of memorandum from State Government of Odisha, IMCT visited the affected areas of the State from 12th to 15th May 2019 for rapid assessment of damages. Odisha State has submitted a memorandum seeking an assistance of ₹ 5227.68 crore from NDRF. IMCT visited the State from 20th to 22nd June 2019 again for an on-the-spot assessment of damages caused by the cyclone 'Fani'. Upon receipt of report from the IMCT, further financial assistance under NDRF will be considered as per laid down procedure.

(c) The Fourteenth Finance Commission has not made any distinction between special and general category States, and the status of special category State does not exist today.

#### **Action plan on women's safety**

1326. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient aspects of draft 'Action Plan on Women's Safety' ;
- (b) the details of steps taken to enhance safety and security of women in the country; and
- (c) the details of the proposed 'National Policy on Women's Safety' and the timeline fixed for launching of the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) and (b) The Government accords utmost priority to the safety of women in the country. For effective deterrence, the Government has enacted the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018, which *inter-alia* prescribes more stringent penal provisions including death penalty for rape of a girl below the age of 12 years. To provide for swift administration of justice in rape cases, it mandates completion of investigation and trials within 2 months each. In order to ensure that the amendments in law effectively translate at ground level, and to enhance women safety in the country, the Government has undertaken implementation of a number of measures as below:—

- (i) Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched an online analytic tool for police called "Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences" to monitor and track time-bound investigation in sexual assault cases in accordance with

Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018.

- (ii) MHA has launched the “National Database on Sexual Offenders” (NDSO) on 20th September, 2018 to facilitate investigation and tracking of sexual offenders across the country by law enforcement agencies.
- (iii) Emergency Response Support System, which provides a single emergency number (112) based computer aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress has been operationalized in 20 States/UTs in 2018-19.
- (iv) MHA has launched a cyber-crime portal on 20th September, 2018 for citizens to report obscene content. Further, Cyber Crime Forensic Labs have been set up in several States, and training of over 3,664 personnel, including 410 Public Prosecutors and Judicial Officers in identifying, detecting and resolving cyber-crimes against women and children has been imparted.
- (v) Using technology to aid smart policing and safety management, Safe City Projects have been sanctioned in phase I in 8 cities (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai).
- (vi) In order to improve investigation, MHA has taken steps to strengthen DNA analysis units in Central and State Forensic Science Laboratories. This includes setting up of a State-of-the-Art DNA Analysis Unit in Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Chandigarh. MHA has also sanctioned setting-up and upgrading of DNA Analysis units in State Forensic Science Laboratories in 13 States/UTs.
- (vii) MHA has notified guidelines for collection of forensic evidence in sexual assault cases and the standard composition in a sexual assault evidence collection kit. To facilitate adequate capacity in manpower, training and skill building programs for Investigation Officers, Prosecution Officers and Medical Officers have commenced. 3,221 Officers have already been trained by Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) and Lok Narayan Jayaprakash Narayan National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science in collection, handling and transportation of forensic evidence (as on 28 June, 2019). BPR&D has distributed 3,120 Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits to States/UTs as orientation kit as part of training.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been administering various special laws relating to women such as the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961; Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition)

Act, 1986; the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. The Ministry is also administering the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

Ministry of Women and Child Development has also introduced the scheme of One Stop Centres to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence and a Scheme for Universalisation of Women Helpline to provide 24 hours emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence. Apart from above, the Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs has envisaged engagement of Mahila Police Volunteers in States/UTs who will act as a link between police and community and facilitate women in distress.

Further, Government of India conducts awareness generation programmes and publicity campaigns on various laws relating to women and their rights through workshops, cultural programmes, seminars, training programmes, advertisements in print and electronic media etc.

(c) Women Safety Division has been set up in the MHA to coordinate various policies and initiatives for women safety in the Ministry.

#### **Steps for police and intelligence reforms**

1327. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any steps for police and intelligence reforms for improving internal security;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Central support extended and being extended to the States by the Union Government for this purpose; and

(c) the other steps taken by Union Government for improving the working conditions of the police personnel by establishing a proper grievance redressal mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): (a) to (c) Police reforms are an ongoing process and intelligence reforms are its integral part. "Police" is a State subject falling in List-II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations to implement police reforms measures. The