

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No . 1545
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03 .2021

Udyam Sakhi Porta 1

1545. Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:

Will the Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has introduced Udyam Sakhi Portal to make women self-reliant in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has put an effective mechanism in place to create awareness among women about harassment, exploitation in work places and business platforms; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
(SHRI NITIN GADKARI)

(a) & (b): Udyam Sakhi portal(<http://udyamsakhi.msme.gov.in/>) was launched on 08.03.2018 for women entrepreneurs on the occasion of International Women's Day. Udyam Sakhi was designed to help women in getting the right information on one single portal.

(c) & (d): The Parliament has enacted 'The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013' (SH Act) with the aim to provide safe and secure work environment to women irrespective of their work status. The Act casts an obligation upon every employer of a workplace to provide a safe and secure working environment free from sexual harassment by constituting Internal Committee (IC) for receiving complaints of sexual harassment at workplace and by displaying at conspicuous places, penal consequences of sexual harassment and order constituting IC. Similarly, the State Governments are authorized to constitute Local Committees (LCs) in every district to receive complaints from organizations having less than 10 workers or if the complaint is against employer itself.

The Act also casts an obligation upon every employer to create an environment which is free from sexual harassment. For the purpose, employers are required to organize workshops, orientation and awareness programmes at regular intervals for sensitizing the employees and towards building the capacity of Internal Committee members.

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In addition, several initiatives under Nirbhaya Fund have been taken to ensure safety and security of women. These inter alia include implementation of the Emergency Response Support System(ERSS) which is a pan-India single number (112)/ mobile app based system for emergencies, a cyber-crime reporting portal to report obscene content, safe city projects in 8 cities (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai) including infrastructure, technology adoption and capacity building .

The Government issues advisories from time to time to all State /UT administrations, Ministries/Departments of Govt of India and business associations/ Chambers to ensure effective implementation of the Act. Further, an online complaint management system titled the Sexual Harassment electronic-Box(SHe-Box, www.shebox.nic.in) has been put in place for registering complaints related to sexual harassment of women at workplace. The Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India has also issued advisories to all the Central Ministries/Departments to complete the inquiry in a time bound manner and to include information related to the number of cases filed/disposed under the SH Act in their Annual Report.
