

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.1257
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2021

VIOLATION OF RIGHTS AND AUTONOMY OF WOMEN

1257. SHRI BINOY VISWAM:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken note of the violations of rights and autonomy of women due to the recently proposed population control Bills in various States;
- (b) the Ministry's position on the rights and autonomy of women in light of these Bills;
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of the fact that such legislations will lead to an increase in intimate partner violence, female foeticide and various other forms of abuse; and
- (d) the steps that the Ministry has taken to protect the autonomy and rights of women in regard to these proposed legislations?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d): The Government of India implements National Family Planning Programme which provides voluntary and informed choices to all citizens regardless of their religion or sects through a target free approach with the objective of checking population growth in the country.

A National Population Policy was formulated in the year 2000 with the long term objective of attaining Population Stabilization by 2045. Various Initiatives have been taken under the National Family Planning Programme to provide broad range of services to citizens towards family planning and population control.

Further, as 'Population Control' and 'Family Planning' are subjects under the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, both the Central and State Governments are empowered to legislate on matters related to them.

The Government attaches highest importance to the safety and empowerment of women and has taken a number of legislative and programmatic interventions to protect the rights and autonomy of women including safeguarding their interests against intimate partner violence, female foeticide and any other forms of abuse.

In this direction, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has decided to implement the Umbrella Scheme for Safety, Security and Empowerment of Women as an integrated women empowerment program under the name '**Mission Shakti**', including components such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, National, State and District level Hubs for Empowerment of Women, One Stop Centres, Women Helpline, homes for destitute women, working women hostels etc., for addressing the issues of women on a life-cycle continuum basis and for making them equal partners in nation-building through convergence at different levels of governance and a participative approach.
