

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.1739
ANSWERED ON 16.03.2022

INCREASING INCIDENTS OF ATROCITIES AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

1739 SHRI NARESH BANSAL:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any initiative in view of the increasing incidents of atrocities against women and children in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes information on crimes in its publication "Crime in India" which is available on its website (<https://ncrb.gov.in>). The report also provides for State/ UT wise data of crimes against women and children. The published reports are available till the year 2020. As reported by NCRB, the number of cases registered under crime against women during the years 2019 and 2020 are 405326 and 371503 respectively, and the number of cases registered under crime against children during these years is 148090 and 128531, respectively. These data show a decline in number of registered cases of crime against women and children during the year 2020.

'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibilities to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens rest with the respective State Governments. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offenses under the extant provisions of law. The Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issues advisories from time to time on steps to be taken for effective implementation of the legislations and to curb the crimes against women and children, and for raising public awareness.

However, the Central Government gives highest priority to ensuring safety and security of women and children and has undertaken various legislative and schematic interventions in this regard. These include legislations such as 'the Indian Penal Code, 1860', 'the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961', 'the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005', 'the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006', 'the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act, 2012' and 'the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015' etc. enacted by the Indian Parliament which addresses the issue of crime against women and children. The review of legislation/ policies/ programs is a continuous process and based on the recommendations/ suggestions/ learning outcomes, the Government takes appropriate measure to amend the laws / policies / programs from time to time.

The schemes/ projects implemented by Central Government for safety and security of women and children include One Stop Centres (OSCs), Universalisation of Women Helplines (WHL), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), Swadhar Greh, 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 in community through awareness programmes, establishment of State of Art DNA Laboratory at CFSL, Chandigarh; assistance to 24 States/ UTs to strengthen Forensic Science Laboratories; setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts for speedy disposal of cases of rape and cases under POCSO Act; setting up/ strengthening of Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in all districts of the country; setting up/ strengthening of Women Help Desks (WHDs) at Police Stations, Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), 24x7 Childline - 1098 etc. The Government has also put in place Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences, an online analytic tool for tracking and monitoring of investigation. A National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO) has also been created.

Under Nirbhaya Fund, Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has also undertaken several initiatives, which, inter-alia includes training and skill development programs for Investigation Officers, Prosecution Officers and Medical Officers, distribution of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection (SAEC) Kits to States/ UTs. BPR&D has also prepared Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for 'Women Help Desk at Police Stations' to ensure smooth functioning of Women Help Desks by focusing on four critical components viz. infrastructure, training, human resource development and response mechanism. A book titled 'Women's Safety and Security- a Handbook for First Responders and Investigators in the Police' has also been prepared for the purpose of prevention and investigation of crime against women with specific reference to the crime of sexual assault, which includes investigation, victim compensation and rehabilitation. Emphasis has been laid upon appropriate behavioural and attitudinal skills of the police in course of prevention and detection of crime against women and children and interaction with victims of crime. Webinars on women safety with sensitivity, gender sensitization of police personnel etc. have also been organized by BPR&D.

Ministry of Women and Child Development has engaged the services of National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) for providing basic and advanced training under the project named 'Stree Manoraksha' to the staff of One Stop Centres (OSCs) across the country on handling psycho-social and mental health care needs to support the women facing violence and women in distress.

The Ministry undertakes awareness exercise for safety and security of women and children from time to time. Further, the Government, through institutions like the National Commission for Women (NCW), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and their counterparts in States have been spreading awareness through seminars, workshops, audio-visual, print and electronic media etc. to sensitize the people about the safety and security of women and children and also about various provisions of the legislation etc.
