GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.115
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2021

RISE IN CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

115*. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that over the last few years, crimes against women have been consistently rising in the country including Uttar Pradesh, including the horrific Hathras case;
(b) if so, the reasons for huge rise in crimes against women in the country including UP;
(c) whether the Central Government has sought an explanation as to why the State administration has failed to create a safe environment for women;
(d) whether any specific measure has been taken to address the issue of women safety across the country; and
(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 115 for 11.02.2021 BY SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE REGARDING 'RISE IN CRIME AGAINST WOMEN'

(a) & (b) : National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes statistical data on crimes in its publication "Crime in India". Published reports are available till the year 2019. Analysis of this data for cases registered under various heads of crimes against women do not show any uniform trend.

(c) to (e): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibility to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens including women are with the respective State Governments. The State governments are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provision of law.

The Government has taken a number of initiatives to address the issue of women safety across the country. These include legislations such as 'The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018', 'The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013', 'The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013', 'The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2006', 'The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961', etc. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 was enacted to prescribe even more stringent penal provisions including death penalty for rape of a girl below the age of 12 years. The Act also inter-alia mandates completion of investigation and trials in two months respectively.

The major schemes/ projects pertaining to safety and security of women and girls include implementation of One Stop Centres (OSCs), Universalisation of Women Helplines (WHL), Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) which is a pan-India single number (112)/ mobile app based system for emergencies like police, ambulance and fire, a cyber-crime reporting portal to report obscene content, safe city projects in 8 cities, training and skill development programs for Investigation Officers, Prosecution Officers and Medical Officers, distribution of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection (SAEC) Kits to States/ UTs, establishment of state of the art DNA Laboratory at CFSL, Chandigarh, assistance to 20 States/ UTs to strengthen Forensic Science Laboratories, 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 etc. The government also assists the States/ UTs for setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for speedy disposal of cases of rape and cases under POCSO Act. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched the 'National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO)' on 20.09.2018 to facilitate investigation and tracking of sexual offenders across the country by law enforcement agencies. MHA has also launched an online analytic tool 'Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences' on 19.02.2019 to facilitate them to monitor and track time bound investigation in sexual assault cases in accordance with Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018.

In addition, Ministry of Women and Child Development, from time to time, has issued advisories to all State Governments/ UT Administrations to ensure effective implementation of the Acts and schemes administered/ implemented by the Ministry. Meetings/ Video conferences have also been held with all State Governments/ UT administrations in this regard.

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