

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1880  
ANSWERED ON 16.3.2023**

**Legal status of live-in relationships**

**1880. SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:**

**Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state that:**

- (a) whether Government intends to legally recognise and register live-in relationships in the light of recent incident of murder of a live-in partner in Delhi;
- (b) whether Government has any data with respect to population living in live-in relationships;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Ministry intends to extend legal protection through legislation to live-in couples beyond judicial decisions;
- (e) whether Government intends to recognize same-sex live-in relationships; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

**(a) to (f):**The sub-section (f) of section (2) of ‘The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005’ (PWDVA), enacted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, provides for more effective protection of the rights of women who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. As per the aforesaid Act ‘domestic relationship’ means relationship between two persons who live or have, at any point of time, lived together in a shared household, when they are related by consanguinity, marriage, or through a relationship in the nature of marriage, adoption or are family members living together as a joint family. The Hon’ble Supreme Court and other Hon’ble Courts in a number of judgements have held the view that ‘live-in-relationship’, which are in the nature of marriage are covered under the provisions of PWDVA.