

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2393
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2023

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

2393. SHRI MASTHAN RAO BEEDA:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of domestic violence cases still go unreported;
- (b) if so, any steps have been taken to increase awareness regarding domestic violence and to help women come forward about domestic abuse cases;
- (c) the details of the status of complaint filed through the National Domestic Violence Helpline;
- (d) whether the complainants have received the required assistance; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) 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, investigation and prosecution of crime against women and children including the cases of domestic violence, rests primarily with the respective State Governments and they are competent to deal with it. As per Section-9 of 'the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDVA)', it is duty of the Protection Officer to report the cases of domestic violence to the Magistrate upon receipt of complaints and to assist the Magistrate in the discharge of his functions. However, conviction of a person comes under purview of the Judiciary, who decides the matter after careful consideration of factual positions and all related aspects as per the provisions of the PWDVA. The PWDVA defines dowry harassment within the purview of domestic violence and provides remedies such as protection order, residence order etc. against it.

Further, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes data on crimes, including crime against women, in its publication "Crime in India". The said report is available upto the year 2021. The details of complaints registered under 'the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005' (PWDVA) are available on the website of NCRB <https://ncrb.gov.in>. As per information available with NCRB, the number of cases registered under the Act during the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 are 553, 446 and 507 respectively.

Moreover, 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. In addition, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Home Affairs have issued advisories to States/ UTs from time to time on various issues pertaining to safety and security of women and children. NCW has organized a 'Pan India Legal Awareness Programme' for the women at grass-root level in collaboration with National Legal Services Authority to impart practical knowledge about the basic legal rights and remedies provided under various women related laws, thereby making them fit to face the challenges in real life situations. The details of the programmes organized and beneficiaries are given in the **Annexure**. The Commission, in collaboration with National Legal Services Authority, has also organized a total of 2351 Taluka Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) which have been established by various State Legal Authorities in Taluka court complexes. Also, District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) have conducted the programmes at 67 places which are not Taluka headquarters. Thus Legal Awareness Programmes have been organized at 2418 stations.

Nevertheless, the Central Government gives highest priority to ensuring safety and security of women and is implementing "Mission Shakti" an umbrella scheme for safety, security and empowerment of women. The Scheme include components of 'One Stop Centers (OSCs)', under which integrated services such as Medical Aid, Psycho-social Counselling, Police Facilitation, Legal Aid and Counselling and Temporary Shelter upto 5 days are provided under one roof and Universalisation of Women Helplines (181-WHL), which provide emergency and non-emergency services to women in need by connecting them with appropriate authorities and also provide information services. Since inception till March 2023, a total of 1.26 crore calls have been handled by WHL and 64.00 lakh women have been assisted. Besides, Emergency Response Support System (ERSS), which is a pan-India single number (112) / mobile app based system for emergencies, is also available to women in distress. In addition, under Nirbhaya Fund, the Central Government has provided assistance to States/ UTs for setting up/ strengthening Women Help Desks (WHDs) in all police stations. So far, 13557 Women Help Desks have been established.

Under the 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. BPR&D has also prepared Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for 'Women Help Desk at Police Stations' to ensure smooth functioning of Women Help Desks. 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.

Under the "Samarthya" sub-scheme of umbrella Scheme Mission Shakti, a new component i.e. Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) has been included with the aim to facilitate inter-sectoral convergence of schemes and programs meant for women at the Central, State/ UT and District levels for creating an environment in which women are able to realize their full potential. The support under the HEW provides for guiding, linking and hand holding women to various institutional and schematic set ups for their empowerment and development including access to healthcare, quality education, career and vocational counseling/ training, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, backward and forward linkages, health and safety for workers, social security and digital literacy at districts/ Blocks/ Gram Panchayats level across the country.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (e) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2393 REGARDING 'DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN' FOR 09.08.2023.

The details of the programmes organized by NCW to create legal awareness at grass-root level and number of beneficiaries:

Number of				
Sl. No.	Year	Region	Campus	Beneficiaries
1.	2020-21	UP, MP, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Assam	675 at district level	34,631
2.	2021-22	28 States & 08 UTs	965 at district level	1,30,895
3.	2022-23	28 States & 08 UTs	2187 Campus at taluka level	1,09,350
