

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 790
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023

STEPS TO PROTECT WOMEN IN THE COUNTRY

790. SHRI P. WILSON:

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

- (a) whether it is fact that 357 complaints of dowry were received in 2022, 341 in 2021, and 330 in 2020, if so, the steps taken by Government to control this;
- (b) whether the National Commission for Women received 1,710 complaints for rape and attempt to rape in 2022, 1,681 in 2021, and 1,236 in 2020;
- (c) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Ministry to protect the women of the country in view of the increasing number of cases; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes information on crimes in its publication "Crime in India", which is available on the website of NCRB (<https://ncrb.gov.in>). The published reports are available till the year 2021. As per information available with NCRB, the number of cases registered under 'the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961', during the years 2020 and 2021 in the country are 10366 and 13568 respectively.

(b): As per information received from National Commission for Women (NCW), number of complaints for rape and attempt to rape during the year 2020, 2021 and 2022 are 1236, 1681 and 1711 respectively.

(c) & (d): "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 investigation and prosecution in cases of crime against women and children rests primarily with the respective State Governments. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws. However, the central government attaches highest importance to safety and security of women in the country and provides assistance to the State Governments / UT Administrations to supplement their efforts.

In terms of legal protection, 'the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018' was enacted to prescribe even more stringent penal provisions including death penalty for rape of girls below the age of 12 years. The Act also inter-alia mandates completion of investigation and filing of charge-sheet in rape cases in 2 months and trials to be

completed in 2 months. The Government has launched the “National Database on Sexual Offenders” (NDSO) on 20th September 2018 to facilitate investigation and tracking of sexual offenders across the country by law enforcement agencies. The Government has launched an online analytic tool “Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences” for Police on 19th February 2019 to facilitate them to monitor and track time-bound investigation in sexual assault cases in accordance with Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018.

The schemes/ projects implemented by the Government under Nirbhaya Fund include One Stop Centres (733 OSCs are functional); Universalisation of Women Helplines (functional in 34 States/ UTs), Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) which is a pan-India single number (112)/ mobile app based system for emergencies (functional in all States/ UTs) ; 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 the art DNA Laboratory at CFSL, Chandigarh; assistance to 28 States/ UTs to strengthen Forensic Science Laboratories; setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for speedy disposal of cases of rape and cases under POCSO Act (758 FTSCs have been made functional having disposed of more than 1.50 lakh cases); setting up/ strengthening of Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in all districts of the country (788 AHTUs are functional including 30 in Border Guarding Forces such as Border Security Force and Sashastra Seema Bal) ; setting up/ strengthening of Women Help Desks (WHDs) at Police Stations (13557 WHDs are functional across the country) etc.

Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has also undertaken several initiatives, which, inter-alia include 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. Webinars on women safety with sensitivity, gender sensitization of police personnel etc. have also been organized by BPR&D.

Recognizing the need for psycho-social counselling to women affected by violence and in distress, the 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 of women facing violence and distress.

Moreover, National Commission for Women (NCW), generates awareness through seminars, workshops, audio- visual, print and electronic media etc. to sensitize the people about the safety and security of women. 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. In respect of the registered complaints, NCW takes up the matter with all stakeholders especially the Police Authorities to ensure that the complaints are redressed and brought to logical conclusion. The action taken reports received from the Police/ Respondents are also shared with the complainants. When the complainants are not satisfied with the action taken, the Commission further takes up the matter with the concerned authorities.

In addition, every year, the Commission collaborates with Government, Semi Government organizations, Universities, Academic and Research Organisations, etc. to undertake Seminars/ Webinars/ Conferences / Workshops and Research Studies to implement the mandate on gender specific themes relating to the current issues regarding safety, security and empowerment of women. Further, the Commission has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) on 15th July, 2021 for conducting gender sensitization programmes for Police Officers/ Officials across the country as a step forward to prevent crime against women and so far 677 trainees have been trained.
