

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 314
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024

HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AND TEENAGER

314. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of suicides committed by teenagers due to harassment by stalkers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard in the last three years;
- (c) whether Government has conducted security audit of public places against harassment of women particularly in metro cities; and
- (d) the measures taken by Government to prevent harassment of women in public places and on social media platforms?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a) to (d): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The responsibility to maintain law and order and protection of life and liberty and property of the citizens including investigation and prosecution of crime against women and children rests primarily with the respective State Governments and they are competent to deal with it.

Safety and security of women in the country is of utmost priority for the Government. Keeping this in view, The Government, through institutions like the National Commission for Women (NCW) and its counterparts in States has been spreading awareness through seminars, workshops, audio- visual, print and electronic media etc. to sensitize the people about the issues of safety and security of women and children and also about various provisions of the law. In addition, Ministry of Home affairs has issued various advisories to States/UTs to take measures for prevention of crimes against women, measures to be taken in cases of stalking and

voyeurism, stressing on mandatory registration of FIRs, providing on-line complaint filling system etc. Details of these advisories issued are available on website of ministry of Home Affairs at <https://mha.gov.in>

The schemes/ projects implemented by the Government under Nirbhaya Fund for safety and security of women include Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC); One Stop Centres (OSCs); Universalisation of toll free 24×7×365 Women Helpline 181 (WHL), Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) which is a pan-India 24×7×365 single number (112) and 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; setting up/ strengthening of Women Help Desks (WHDs) in all Police Stations & so on, 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 etc. It 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. The SOPs are available on BPRDs website (<https://bprd.nic.in/uploads/pdf/SOP%20for%20Women%20Help%20Desks.pdf>).

In order to provide a central repository of information and an online platform for filing of complaints under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched an online portal called **Sexual Harassment electronic Box**. This SHe-Box is an effort of Government of India to provide a single window access to every woman, irrespective of her work status, whether working in organised or unorganised, private or public sector to facilitate the registration of complaints related to sexual harassment. Any woman facing sexual harassment at workplace can register her complaint through this portal. Once a complaint is submitted, it will be automatically sent to the authority concerned having jurisdiction to take action into the matter. Employees & competent authorities under the Act are onboarding this online system.

Further, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has created a dedicated e-mail (complaint-mwcd@gov.in) to address and resolve the issues of violence and harassment on social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram etc. Further, NCW and NCPCR also have a complaint/grievance redressal system in place where complaints of harassment can be filed and NCW and NCPCR take up the matter with authorities concerned for redressal of such grievances.
