

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1192**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 30TH JULY, 2025/ SRAVANA 8, 1947 (SAKA)

NEW CRIMINAL LAWS TO PROVIDE VICTIM-CENTRIC JUSTICE

1192 # SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the new criminal laws provide victim-centric justice, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether Zero FIR has been institutionalized in these laws; and**
- (c) whether Zero FIR can be lodged under the provisions of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR)**

- (a): The details of victim-centric provisions made in the new criminal laws are given in Annexure.**
- (b) & (c): Section 173 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, inter-alia, provides that every information relating to the commission of a cognizable offence, irrespective of the area where the offence is committed, may be given orally or by electronic communication to an officer in charge of a police station.**

VICTIM CENTRIC PROVISIONS

- i. Report Incidents Online: A person may now report incidents by electronic communication, without the need to physically visit a police station. This allows for easier and quicker reporting, facilitating prompt action by the police.**
- ii. File FIR at Any Police Station: With the introduction of Zero FIR, a person can file a First Information Report (FIR) at any police station, regardless of jurisdiction. This eliminates delays in initiating legal proceedings and ensures immediate reporting of the offence.**
- iii. Free Copy of FIR: Victim is entitled to receive a free copy of the FIR, ensuring their participation in the legal process.**
- iv. Right to Inform Upon Arrest: In the event of an arrest, the individual has the right to inform a person of his choice about their situation. This will ensure immediate support and assistance to the arrested individual.**
- v. Display of Arrest Information: Every police station and district must now have a designated police officer not below the rank of ASI and the information of all arrested individuals shall now be prominently displayed in every police station. This safeguards the right of the accused persons and mitigates instances of custodial violence and illegal detention by police.**

- vi. Progress Updates to Victims: Victims are entitled to get update on the progress of their case within 90 days. This provision keeps victims informed and involved in the legal process, enhancing transparency and trust.**
- vii. Supply of police report and other documents: Both the accused and the victim are entitled to receive copies of the FIR, police report/chargesheet, statements, confessions and other documents within 14 days.**
- viii. Witness Protection Scheme: The new laws mandate all State Governments to implement Witness Protection Scheme to ensure the safety and security of witnesses, enhancing the credibility and effectiveness of legal proceedings.**
- ix. Exemption from going to police station: Women, persons below 15 years, persons above 60 years, and those with disabilities or acute illness are exempt from attending police stations.**
- x. It is mandated that victim be heard before withdrawal from prosecution in Section 360 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. The statutory recognition of the right of the victim to be heard is a significant example of a *nyaya* centric approach to criminal justice system. By mandatorily hearing the victim in proceedings regarding withdrawal of cases, the justice system becomes more responsive to the needs and concerns of those directly affected by crime.**