

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 630
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026

SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR ACID ATTACK SURVIVORS

630. MS. SWATI MALIWAL:

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

- (a) the number of acid attack cases reported and pending trial annually during the last five years, State-wise/UT-wise;
- (b) the steps taken to ensure timely investigation, prosecution and compensation to survivors;
- (c) whether Government proposes to introduce new legislation or amend existing laws to strengthen prevention, control and conviction in acid attack cases and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of medical, psychological, legal and rehabilitation support provided to survivors, along with the number of beneficiaries; and
- (e) the total funds allocated and utilised for NGO and rehabilitation schemes supporting acid attack survivors during the last five years, State-wise/ UT-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (e): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes data on crimes, including crime against women and children, in its publication “Crime in India”, which is available on the website of NCRB <https://ncrb.gov.in>. The said report is available upto the year 2023. The NCRB data on the number of acid attack cases (both Male and Female) reported and pending trial annually during the last five years in the country, State/ UT-wise details is at Annexure.

“Police” and “Public Order” are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Accordingly, the primary responsibility for maintaining law and order, investigation, prosecution and protection of citizens, including victims of acid attacks, rests with the respective State Governments and Union Territories. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws.

Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, which has replaced the Indian Penal Code with effect from 1 July 2024, acid attack has been recognized as a distinct and grave offence. Section 124(1) of the BNS provides that whoever causes grievous hurt by use of acid or similar corrosive substance shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not less than ten years, which may extend to imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine. The provision further mandates that such fine shall be just and reasonable to meet the medical expenses of the treatment of the victim. Section 124(2) of the BNS criminalizes the attempt to commit an acid attack and prescribes imprisonment of five to seven years along with fine, thereby ensuring strong deterrence even where the offence does not culminate in actual grievous injury.

As per Section 396 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, every State Government in coordination with the Central Government shall prepare a victim compensation scheme for providing funds for the purpose of compensation to the victim or his dependents who have suffered loss or injury as a result of the crime and who require rehabilitation. The section further provides that compensation payable shall be in addition to the payment of fine to the victim. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also issued a comprehensive Advisory on 20th April 2015 on taking steps to implement the provisions of Indian Penal Code (IPC) now BNS, expediting action in cases of acid attack, and to provide treatment and compensation to victims.

All the State/ Union Territories have notified victim compensation scheme in their respective State/ UT. Through the Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF) scheme under Nirbhaya Fund, financial assistance of 200.00 Crores as one time grant has been released by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to all the States/ UTs in Financial Year 2016-17 to support their respective State Victim Compensation Schemes.

Further, pursuant to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 11.05.2018 in the WP(C) No. 565/ 2012 - Nipun Saxena Vs. Union of India, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) formulated the revised scheme enhancing the compensation to be given to Women Victims/ Survivors of Sexual Assault/ other crimes. The scheme also covers the cases of acid attacks. The scheme was circulated by Ministry of Women & Child Development on 18.05.2018 and by Ministry of Home Affairs on 28.06.2018 to all States/UTs for compliance.

Moreover, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has framed NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016 under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The main objectives of the Scheme include enabling victims of acid attacks to get access to medical facilities and rehabilitative services, and strengthening legal aid for victims of acid attack.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has circulated the Model Poisons Rules vide an advisory dated 30.08.2013 to all States/ UTs for notifying the same to regulate the sale of acid in respective State/ UT. MHA has also issued another Advisory dated 12.08.2021 to all States/ UTs to review and ensure that retail sale of acids and chemicals are strictly regulated in terms of the Poison Rules so that these are not used in crime. These advisories are available on www.mha.gov.in.

The Central Government gives highest priority to the safety and security of women and girls and has taken various steps to support and supplement the efforts of the States / UTs in ensuring

their safety. The Government of India implements "Mission Shakti", an umbrella scheme for safety, security and empowerment of women. The Scheme includes 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 to any women under assault or distress. 24×7×365 toll-free Women Helpline (181) has been universalised. It provides emergency and non-emergency services to any women in need by connecting them with appropriate authorities. As of December 31, 2025, a total of 96,37,805 women have been assisted across the country. 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. Now, Women Help Line (WHL) is integrated with ERSS for providing 24×7 emergency and non-emergency help and support to needy women. In addition, under Nirbhaya Fund, the Central Government has provided financial assistance to States/ UTs for setting up/ strengthening Women Help Desks (WHDs) in all police stations. So far, 14658 Women Help Desks have been established in police stations. Further, the Ministry of Women and Child Development also administers sub-scheme "Samarthaya" under Mission Shakti, in which the component of Shakti Sadan is for relief and rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances, including victims of acid attack.

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 their smooth functioning. 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 and gender sensitization of police personnel have also been organized by BPR&D.

Moreover, 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 safety and security of women and also about various provisions of the legislation and policies 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. In respect of the registered complaints, NCW takes up the matter with stakeholders especially the Police Authorities to ensure that the complaints are redressed and brought to logical conclusion.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 630 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026 REGARDING ‘SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR ACID ATTACK SURVIVORS’.

(a) The State/ UT-wise number of acid attack cases (326A IPC) reported during the years 2019, 2020, 2021 2022 and 2023.

SL	State/UT	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	Andhra Pradesh	6	7	5	4	6
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	8	4	8	9	10
4	Bihar	15	3	1	5	5
5	Chhattisgarh	1	1	0	1	1
6	Goa	0	0	1	0	0
7	Gujarat	10	8	11	10	15
8	Haryana	5	6	11	8	10
9	Himachal Pradesh	1	0	1	0	0
10	Jharkhand	1	1	0	5	1
11	Karnataka	7	5	3	8	2
12	Kerala	8	11	10	8	10
13	Madhya Pradesh	12	13	7	9	6
14	Maharashtra	10	7	12	11	5
15	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0
16	Meghalaya	0	2	1	0	1
17	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0
18	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
19	Odisha	10	11	6	7	11
20	Punjab	11	6	5	4	9
21	Rajasthan	9	3	15	14	11

22	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	9	2	7	5	6
24	Telangana	3	4	2	6	2
25	Tripura	4	3	0	0	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	45	30	22	30	31
27	Uttarakhand	3	1	2	1	1
28	West Bengal	59	51	34	48	57
	TOTAL STATE(S)	237	179	164	193	200
29	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	0	1	0	0	0
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu+	0	0	0	0	0
32	Delhi	10	2	9	7	7
33	Jammu & Kashmir	2	0	3	2	0
34	Ladakh	-	0	0	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL UT(S)	12	3	12	9	7
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	249	182	176	202	207

(b) The State/ UT-wise number of acid attack cases(326A IPC) pending trial annually during the years 2019, 2020, 2021 2022 and 2023.

SL	State/UT	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	Andhra Pradesh	20	26	27	31	28
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	19	21	24	30	30
4	Bihar	60	67	68	71	74
5	Chhattisgarh	2	3	2	3	4

6	Goa	1	1	2	2	2
7	Gujarat	41	47	57	63	72
8	Haryana	17	19	26	26	30
9	Himachal Pradesh	5	5	5	5	5
10	Jharkhand	3	4	4	6	7
11	Karnataka	12	17	19	24	26
12	Kerala	38	48	56	63	63
13	Madhya Pradesh	24	37	42	45	45
14	Maharashtra	26	32	38	48	52
15	Manipur	1	1	1	1	1
16	Meghalaya	1	1	3	3	4
17	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0
18	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
19	Odisha	49	58	65	69	74
20	Punjab	15	18	21	15	18
21	Rajasthan	23	23	30	35	42
22	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	13	14	16	19	17
24	Telangana	8	9	10	14	14
25	Tripura	4	7	7	6	5
26	Uttar Pradesh	164	176	189	191	186
27	Uttarakhand	5	6	7	7	9
28	West Bengal	219	256	287	324	353
	TOTAL STATE(S)	770	896	1006	1101	1161
29	A&N Islands	0	0	0	0	0
30	Chandigarh	0	1	1	1	1
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu+	0	0	0	0	0
32	Delhi	47	53	64	67	71

33	Jammu & Kashmir	3	3	7	8	7
34	Ladakh	-	0	0	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL UT(S)	50	57	72	76	79
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	820	953	1078	1177	1240