

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.114
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2017

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

114. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

- (a) the major achievements of the National Commission for Women during the last five years and the current year;
- (b) the details of powers wielded by the Commission;
- (c) whether the Government has proposed to give more powers to the Commission to address the growing atrocities on women;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government during the last five years; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

- (a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *114 FOR 22.12.2017 REGARDING NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN BY SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO

- (a) The National Commission for Women (NCW) has in accordance with its mandate, been taking a number of steps for empowering women and ensuring their effective partnership in all sphere of life. This includes creation of an environment conducive for realization of their potential in terms of safeguarding and promoting the constitutional and legal safeguards, enhanced awareness about their rights and entitlements and dissemination of information through seminars, legal awareness programmes and workshops in partnership with various stakeholders. The Commission has also undertaken special studies and research studies to examine various factors that could help in ameliorating the lot of the women and enhancing their partnership in economic activities. It has also established mechanism for redressal of the complaints of the women especially those who find it difficult to access justice for various reasons. Further, in order to ensure that the police authorities are able to handle women related issues effectively and with sensitivity, the Commission also organizes Capacity Building and Gender Sensitization Programmes for them. The Commission has also taken up the projects relating to (i) Violence Free Homes; and (ii) Empowerment of Elected Representatives of Women. Brief of quantifiable activities undertaken by the Commission is at **Annexure-I**.
- (b) The National Commission for Women (NCW) draws its powers under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. The functions entrusted to the Commission and powers vested in the Commission are detailed in Section 10 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. Relevant extracts of the Section are at **Annexure-II**.
- (c) to (e) The National Commission for Women has adequate powers to fulfill its mandate. In accordance with its mandate, the Commission is playing a constructive role in empowering women and improving their socio-economic conditions. Accordingly no changes are envisaged in the powers and authority of the Commission at this stage.

Annexure referred to in replied to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 114 for 22.12.2017 regarding National Commission for Women.

Achievements of the National Commission for Women for the last five years and current year

A. Number of complaints handled :

S. No.	Year	No. of Cases registered*	Disposed off
1.	2012-2013	20,074	9431
2.	2013-2014	22,422	10595
3.	2014-2015	32,118	17125
4.	2015-2016	24,379	11510
5.	2016-2017	17,290	7916
6.	2017-2018 (Till 18.12.2017)	10,595	7538

*Number of non-mandate cases have not been included in the data from December, 2014 onwards.

B. Educational and promotional activities:

S. No.	Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*
1.	Law Reviews	03	03	10	09	06	-
2.	Capacity Building Programme of Police officials/Gender Sensitization Programme of Police and Judicial officers	05	04	05	03	06	04
3.	Seminars/ workshops/ conferences/consultations in the Commission	149	176	62	59	58	20
4.	Interactions with State Commissions for Women	-	03	04	03	01	03
5.	Research/ Studies Undertaken	23	10	15	27	10	02
6.	Number of Legal Awareness Programmes	308	676	265	176	190	71
7.	PMLA	70	06	30	-	-	-
8.	MoUs Signed	-	01	-	02	-	-
9.	Jan Sunwai	19	16	06	16	29	20

*Till 19.12.2017.

C. Number of Suo-Motu cases handled:

S. No.	Year	No. of cases taken up	No. of ATR replies received	No. of cases Disposed
1.	2012-13	200	80	54
2.	2013-14	243	69	44
3.	2014-15	249	79	93
4.	2015-16	176	39	12
5.	2016-17	291	156	28
6.	2017- 18 (Till 19.12.20 17)	103	73	19

D. Number of Non-Resident Indian cases handled:

S. No.	Year	No. of cases registered
1.	2012-13	395
2.	2013-14	366
3.	2014-15	443
4.	2015-16	436
5.	2016-17	496
6.	2017- 18*	375

***Till 19.12.2017**

E. Inspection of Prisons:

S. No.	Year	No. of Jail visits
1.	2012-13	19
2.	2013-14	16
3.	2014-15	06
4.	2015-16	16
5.	2016-17	07
6.	2017- 18	02*

*As per the data compiled till date.

F. In addition to above, the National Commission for Women also undertakes inspection of Mental hospitals/Psychiatric Institutions, etc.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 114 for 22.12.2017 regarding National Commission for Women

CHAPTER-III

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

Section 10 in the National Commission for Women Act, 1990

10. Functions of the Commission.-

(1) The Commission shall perform all or any of the following functions, namely:-

(a) investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws;

(b) present to the Central Government, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards;

(c) make in such reports recommendations for the effective implementation of those safeguards for improving the conditions of women by the Union or any State;

(d) review, from time to time, the existing provisions of the Constitution and other laws affecting women and recommend amendments thereto so as to suggest remedial legislative measures to meet any lacunae, inadequacies or shortcomings in such legislations;

(e) take up the cases of violation of the provisions of the Constitution and of other laws relating to women with the appropriate authorities;

(f) look into complaints and take suo moto notice of matters relating to-

(i) deprivation of women's rights;

(ii) non-implementation of laws enacted to provide protection to women and also to achieve the objective of equality and development;

(iii) non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating hardships and ensuring welfare and providing relief to women,

(g) call for special studies or investigations into specific problems or situations arising out of discrimination and atrocities against women and identify the constraints so as to recommend strategies for their removal;

(h) undertake promotional and educational research so as to suggest ways of ensuring due representation of women in all spheres and identify factors responsible for impeding their advancement, such as, lack of access to housing and basic services, inadequate support services and technologies for reducing drudgery and occupational health hazards and for increasing their productivity;

(i) participate and advise on the planning process of socio-economic development of women;

- (j) evaluate the progress of the development of women under the Union and any State;
- (k) inspect or cause to be inspected a jail, remand home women's institution or other place of custody where women are kept as prisoners or otherwise, and take up with the concerned authorities for remedial action, if found necessary;
- (l) fund litigation involving issues affecting a large body of women;
- (m) make periodical reports to the Government on any matter pertaining to women and in particular various difficulties under which women toil;
- (n) any other matter which may be referred to it by the Central Government.

(2) The Central Government shall cause all the reports referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (1) to be laid before each House of Parliament along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the Union and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.

(3) Where any such report or any part thereof relate to any matter with which any State Government is concerned, the Commission shall forward a copy of such report or part to such State Government who shall cause it to be laid before the Legislature of the State along with a memorandum explaining the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the State and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations.

(4) The Commission shall, while investigating any matter referred to in clause (a) or sub-clause (f) of sub-section (1), have all the powers of a civil court trying a suit and, in particular, in respect of the following matters, namely:-

- (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath;
- (b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;
- (c) receiving evidence on affidavits;
- (d) requisitioning any public record or copy thereof from any court or office;
- (e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses and documents; and
- (f) any other matter which may be prescribed.
