

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1630
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2022

SAFETY OF WOMEN LIVING IN LIVE-IN-RELATIONSHIP

1630. SHRIMATI MALA RAJYA LAXMI SHAH:
SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken/ proposes to take any special steps to ensure safety of the women living in live-in-relationship before marriage and protection of their rights including against domestic violence;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has made any efforts to conduct the survey or maintain records of such couples, if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Government has enacted 'the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005' (PWDVA) to provide for more effective protection of the rights of women who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. As per sub-section (f) of Section (2) of the aforesaid Act 'domestic relationship' means relationship between two persons who live or have, at any point of time, lived together in a shared household, when they are related by consanguinity, marriage, or through a relationship in the nature of marriage, adoption or are family members living together as a joint family". The Hon'ble Supreme Court and other Hon'ble Courts in a number of judgements have held the view that 'live-in-relationship', which are in the nature of marriage are covered under the provisions of PWDVA.

Further, '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 of crime against women and children rests primarily with the respective State Governments and they are competent to deal with it.

Nevertheless, the Central Government gives highest priority to ensuring safety and security of women and has undertaken various legislative and schematic interventions in this regard. These include legislations such as 'The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act,

2018', 'The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2006', 'The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961', etc'. In addition the schemes/ projects implemented by the Government for extending necessary help and support to women facing violence and in distress include One Stop Centres (OSCs); Universalisation of Women Helplines (WHL), Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) which is a pan-India single number (112)/ mobile app based system for emergencies; capacity building in community through awareness programmes, setting up/ strengthening of Women Help Desks (WHDs) at Police Stations etc.
