

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

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**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*255  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2023**

**DISPOSAL OF DOWRY CASES**

**\*255. SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN:**

**Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has set up any roadmap for the urgent disposal of pending court cases related to dowry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the institutional mechanism set up, if any, to deal with grievances arising out of dowry and the funds allocated therefor; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to stop the misuse of the Dowry Act?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)**

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*255 FOR 17.03.2023 ASKED BY SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING DISPOSAL OF DOWRY CASES.**

(a) to (d): The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and the Indian Penal Code, 1860 have adequate provisions to tackle the menace of Dowry. The Act prohibits and penalizes giving or taking of dowry so as to safeguard women against dowry harassment. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 defines dowry harassment within the purview of domestic violence and provides remedies such as protection order, residential order etc. against it.

Also, the subject of 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and the responsibility to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens including investigation and prosecution of crime against women rests primarily with the respective State Governments.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development undertakes awareness exercise for safety and security of women from time to time. Further, the Government through institutions like the National Commission for Women and State Women Commissions have been spreading awareness through seminars, workshops etc. to sensitize people about the evils of dowry system and various provisions of related laws etc.

Further, the Government of India has launched "Mission Shakti-integrated women empowerment programme, as umbrella scheme for safety, security and empowerment of women for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-26. The One Stop Centre (OSC) is now a component of 'Sambal' sub-scheme under umbrella scheme of 'Mission Shakti'. However, scheme for setting up of OSC is implemented by the Ministry with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015 to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence and in distress, both in private and public spaces under one roof and provide an integrated range of services including medical aid, legal aid and advice, temporary shelter, police assistance, psycho-social counselling to needy women. The OSC, at district level, has provided a dedicated platform to women affected by violence and who are in distress to get necessary help and assistance, which was not available earlier.

With effect from 01.04.2015 to till date, the Government has approved 801 OSCs throughout the country, out of which 733 OSCs have been made functional. These centres have assisted over 6.70 lakh women till December, 2022. For setting of OSCs across the country, the Central Government has released Rs. 728.14 Crore till date.