

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2769
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2023

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

2769. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- a. whether the Government is on track to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which stipulate that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) must be eradicated by 2030, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- b. whether the Government intends to control and criminalise female genital mutilation as recommended by a few countries at the 41st United Nations Human Rights Council;
- c. if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- d. whether the Government has a framework to conduct a survey on female genital mutilation in the country; and
- e. if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Government of India is committed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals on 'Gender Equality' including elimination of all harmful practices against women and girls. There may be a few instances of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the country, but, there is no credible data to establish its prevalent existence.

(b) & (c): In India, the incidence of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), if reported, is a penal offence under section 320-326 of the Indian Penal Code which deals with causing harm to body by causing hurt or grievous hurt by means of any instrument for shooting, stabbing or cutting. Further, in case of any such grievous offence against girls below 18 years of age, 'the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012' can also be invoked.

(d) & (e): No such study has been conducted by the Government of India. Necessary safeguards are already available under 'the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012', 'Indian Penal Code, 1860' and 'the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973', which can be invoked for prosecution of offenders indulging in the practice of female genital mutilation.
