

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2822
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2023

SAFE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR WOMEN

2822. SHRIMATI GOMATI SAI.:

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

- a. whether women/girls are facing many challenges like not getting seats/molestation while using public transport in Chhattisgarh and if so, the steps being taken by the Government of check the said problems;
- b. whether measures have been taken by the authorities to ensure safe and smooth public transport ride for the women;
- c. if so, the details thereof and the quantum of funds allocated in this regard; and
- d. if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) : Transportation by Road is a State Subject and maintenance of law & order in the State is ensured by the law enforcement agencies of the respective State. However, Government of India attaches highest importance to the safety and security of women using the public transport system and has taken a number of initiatives in this direction over the past few years to support and supplements the efforts of the States / UTs.

The Empowered Committee (EC) of officers constituted under Nirbhaya Fund has appraised and recommended a number of projects of Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for funding under Nirbhaya Fund that are essentially meant for safety and security of women using public transport system. The details of some major projects are as under:

(i) Customization, deployment and management of State-wise AIS 140 vehicle tracking platform: The project is for customization, deployment and management of State-wise Vehicle Tracking Platform for safety & enforcement with AIS 140 specification. An amount of Rs.465.02 Crore has been appraised by EC for implementation of the project. As reported by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, a total of Rs. 192.95 crore has been released under the project including Rs. 4.192 Crs. released to State Government of Chattisgarh. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have been signed with 30 States / UTs and **Monitoring Centres have been**

commissioned in Bihar, Puducherry, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Sikkim.

(ii) Abhaya Project Proposal (Andhra Pradesh) : The project is for installation of 'IoT' (Internet of Things) device and related software in public transport vehicles in Vishakhapatnam and Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh on pilot basis. Proposal was approved with total estimated cost of Rs. 138.49 Crore and Central Share of Rs. 58.64 Crore was released. The fixation of IoT devices in 15,000 autos has been completed.

(iii) Women's safety in public transport, Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation, Government of Uttar Pradesh: The project include purchase of 50 ladies pink Buses, CCTV, Panic buttons and controllers on 12500 buses, 24 interceptors, Advocacy/ Advertisements/ Awareness Campaign'. An amount of Rs.83.50 Crore was appraised by EC for implementation of the project. As reported by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, an amount of Rs. 80.92 crore has been released. Purchase of 50 Pink Buses and 40 Interceptors have been completed.

(iv) Women's Safety Initiative by Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), Govt. of Karnataka : BMTC project include Women Lounges at important stations, Gender Sensitization and women safety protocol training for ground staff, Sarathi Squads/ Mobile Police Patrol Vehicles, Advocacy, advertisement and Awareness Campaign on Women's safety, Training women for Heavy passenger Vehicle (HPV) and Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) licenses, CCTV Surveillance cameras for 1000 buses, Mobile application to improve functionalities on women safety and Passenger information Display in Bus Stops. As reported by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, 18 women lounges have been completed in 18 bus terminals, 27,000 staff trained, web tool design and dash board work is completed and pilot run deployed at 2 depots for testing of Gender Sensitization Assessment Tool, self defence training of 2196 women employees, procurement of 25 patrol vehicles and 11 Light Motor Vehicles, installation of 2426 CCTV Cameras, 1213 Mobile Network Video Recorder (mNVR), 08 PIS display system-5, 1213 Panic Buttons and 1213 Automatic Tracking Device (ATD) have been completed. A total of Rs. 33.64 crore has been released under the project.

(v) Installation of Vehicle Tracing Devices with SOS Buttons in Buses of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) with monitoring from Central Command Control Centre (State Government of Telangana) - Based on the comments / recommendations of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, the EC appraised this proposal in its meeting held on 17.10.2022 for funding under Nirbhaya Fund with a cost of Rs. 19.21 crore.

(vi) Emergency Response Support System (ERSS): ERSS is a pan-India, single, internationally recognized number, i.e. 112 based system for various emergencies, with computer aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress. ERSS has been operationalized in all 36 States/UTs. Over 25 crore calls have been handled by ERC Centres since launch of 112 services and over 11 lakh downloads of 112 India App have been reported.

(vii) Safe City Projects : Safe City Projects are comprehensive and integrated projects developed by the Police and Municipal Corporations of the city, in keeping with the demands of their women citizens and to plug any gaps in existing infrastructure. The project adds many dimensions to safety of women and children, like the use of drones, installation of CCTV cameras with Facial Recognition or

Automatic Number Plate Recognition to track and alert Police about criminals and criminal activity, technology-enabled infrastructure like smart lighting systems which glow as soon as it gets dark to eliminate dark alleys and crime hot-spots from cities, toilets for women and capacity building in community through awareness programmes.

(viii) Cyber Crime Prevention against Women & Children (CCPWC): The Ministry of Home Affairs has provided financial assistance to all States/ UTs to set up cyber forensic cum training laboratories, hiring of Junior Cyber Consultant and training/capacity building to provide hands-on training to Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) investigators, prosecutors and judicial officers. Over 20000 Police personnel, Prosecutors, and Judicial Officers have been trained in handling cyber-crime related cases. A National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (www.cybercrime.gov.in) has been launched, which allowed citizens to report online content pertaining to Child Pornography/Child Sexual Abuse Material or sexually explicit content such as Rape/Gang Rape Content. A toll free number **1930** has also been made operational in all States / UTs for reporting of such incidents.

(ix) Strengthening of State FSLs (in 28 States): An amount of Rs. 235.683 Crore was approved under Nirbhaya Fund for strengthening DNA analysis cyber forensics and related facilities in 28 States. The aim and objective of the project is to strengthen the DNA analysis and Cyber Forensic Facilities in these states relating to cases of sexual assaults.

(x) Setting up and strengthening Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in all districts of States &UTs: The project aim to provide counselling and support to the victims of trafficking. As on date, **788 AHTUs are functional [768 - states/ UTs & 20 – Border Security Force (BSF) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)]**. As reported by Ministry of Home Affairs, BSF has rescued 103 victims since 2021 and SSB has rescued 396 victims and apprehended 94 traffickers since 2021. SSB has also established a dedicated helpline no. 1903. Training sessions are also organised by the States / UTs from time to time for police officials to handle trafficking cases.

(xi) Setting up/ strengthening Women Help Desks (WHDs) in Police Stations in all States & UTs: The project focuses on making the Police Stations more women friendly and approachable as the first and single point of contact for any woman walking into a police station. WHDs have been set up in **13101 Police Stations**.

(xii) Setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs): The project aims setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) to dispose off 1,66,958 cases of rape, and offences under POCSO Act pending for trial, across the country. At present, **768 FTSCs including 418 exclusive POCSO courts are operational** in 28 States which **disposed more than 1,30,000 cases** up to 30.11.2022. Total amount of Rs.621.49 crore has been released from Nirbhaya Fund as Central Share.

(xiii) One Stop Centre (OSC): The objectives of the One Stop Centres are to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces under one roof and facilitate immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services including police, medical, legal aid and counselling, psychological support to fight against any forms of violence against women. The OSC scheme has been included as a component of sub-scheme 'Sambal' under umbrella scheme 'Mission Shakti' for a period upto 2025-26. So far an amount of Rs. 728.14 crore has been released by MWCD to States/ UTs. 733 OSCs have been

operationalised in 36 States/UTs and over 6.70 lakh women have been assisted through these OSCs till date.

(xiv) Universalisation of Women Helpline (WHL) Scheme aims to provide an immediate and 24 hour emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence across the country by referral service. Under the Scheme, a toll-free 24-hours telecom service through short code 181 is provided to women seeking support and information. Women helpline is operational in 34 States/UTs. The CCEA has approved continuation of scheme as a component of sub-scheme 'Sambal' under umbrella scheme 'Mission Shakti' for a period upto 2025-26. So far an amount of Rs. 80.16 crore has been released by MWCD to States/ UTs
