

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2904
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2023

PROTECTION OFFICERS UNDER MISSION SHAKTI

2904. SHRI S. VENKATESAN:

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

- a. the number of districts where Protection Officers are appointed to implement 'Mission Shakti' to provide safety and security to women, State-wise; and
- b. the number of female Protection Officers appointed out of the total, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Government of India has enacted 'the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (PWDV Act)'. As per Section 8 of the PWDV Act, the State Government shall, by notification, appoint such number of Protection Officers (POs) in each district as it may consider necessary and shall also notify the area or areas within which a Protection Officer shall exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred on him or under this Act. Further, the Protection Officer shall as far as possible be women. The State/ UT-wise data regarding number of Protection Officers is not maintained centrally.

Further, the Government implements 'Mission Shakti', an umbrella Scheme for safety, security and empowerment of women having various components under its two sub-schemes namely 'Sambal' and 'Samarthaya'. The One Stop Centre (OSC) component of 'Mission Shakti' provides for integrated support to distressed women under one roof such as medical aid, legal aid and counseling, psycho social counseling, police facilitation and temporary shelter. As on date 733 OSCs are functional throughout the country. The Women Helpline (WHL), which provides assistance to distressed women by connecting them to appropriate authorities is functional in 34 States/ UTs. The Central Government provides 100% financial assistance to States/ UTs for setting up and running of OSCs and WHLs including cost of manpower. Under 'Mission Shakti', it has been envisaged that all the functionaries at State/ District level including the OSCs, WHLs, the Women Help Desks (WHDs), Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) etc. assisted under Nirbhaya Fund and the Statutory Officers under various Acts including Protection Officers under PWDV Act, work in close coordination and convergence, for ensuring safety and security of women and girls in the country.
