

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 4059**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2023

**MARITAL RAPE CASES**

4059. SHRI ANUMULA REVANTH REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the marital rape cases have increased in India since 2014, if so, the details thereof, yearwise and State-wise;
- (b) whether the Ministry has conducted any study to analyse the reasons behind the marital rape cases, if so, the details and findings thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to address the marital rape issue in India?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) : The matter of marital rape is sub-judice before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, in its 146th Report had recommended that there is a need for a comprehensive review of the Criminal Justice System of the country. Earlier, the Parliamentary Standing Committee in its 111th and 128th reports had also stressed upon the need to reform and rationalize the criminal law of the country by introducing a comprehensive legislation in Parliament rather than bringing about piece-meal amendments in respective Acts. No data on marital rape is maintained.

Review of laws, policies and programmes is a continuous process and the Government takes appropriate measures, from time to time, based on the experience gathered during the implementation and feedback received from stakeholders. The Government of India is fully committed to promote gender equality in all domains, remove all forms of discrimination, barriers and violence that hinder the holistic development and empowerment of women.

'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 including the cases of domestic violence, 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 Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2006', 'The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961', etc. The schemes/projects implemented by the Government include One Stop Centers (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.

Recognizing the need for psycho-social counseling to women affected by violence and in distress, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has engaged the services of National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) for providing basic and advanced training under the project named 'Stree Manoraksha' to the staff of One Stop Centers (OSCs) across the country on handling psycho-social and mental health care needs to support to such women. Further, the Government, through institutions like the National Commission for Women (NCW), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and their counterparts in States spread awareness through seminars, workshops, audio- visual, print and electronic media etc. to sensitize the people about the safety and security of women and children and also about various provisions of the legislation etc. In addition, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Home Affairs have issued advisories to States/ UTs from time to time on various issues pertaining to safety and security of women and children.

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