GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4868
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.03.2023

CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

4868. DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:

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

(a)   whether cases of crime against women have increased rapidly across the country, especially in Jharkhand;

(b)   if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent such crimes against women;

(c)   the details of assistance/facilities being provided by the Government to women who are victims of dowry related harassment and domestic violence; and

(d)   the measures being taken by the Government to ensure fair investigation by the officers and impart special training to such officers to sensitize them?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes the data on crime against women which is available upto the year 2021 at its website https://ncrb.gov.in/en/crime-india. As per the data reported by NCRB, the number of crimes against women were 371503 and 428278 in 2020 and 2021 respectively. Similarly, the number of crimes against women in the State of Jharkhand were7630 and 8110 in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

'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 and they are competent to deal with such crimes.

Constitution of India guarantees the right to equality and also provides for positive interventions by the State to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and to ensure their holistic development and empowerment. Keeping in mind the vision articulated in Constitutional provisions, there has been enactment of various legislations such as the Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Law Amendments of 2013 and 2018, the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 which addresses the issue of gender inequality, discrimination and violence faced by women.

Further, Government of India has introduced various schemes and projects like One Stop Centres (OSCs) for assisting women affected by violence and in distress; Women Helpline (WHL) running on toll free telephonic short code 181; Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP); and Shakti Sadan for women facing difficult circumstances or destitution under umbrella scheme of Mission Shakti.

In addition, several projects/ schemes are implemented by Central Government through other Ministries /Departments /Implementing Agencies under Nirbhaya Fund which include Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) which is a pan-India single number (112)/ mobile app based system for emergencies; a cyber-crime reporting portal to report obscene content; Safe City Projects in 8 cities (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai) including infrastructure, technology adoption and capacity building in community through awareness programmes; training and skill development programs for Investigation Officers, Prosecution Officers and Medical Officers; distribution of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection (SAEC) Kits to States/ UTs; establishment of State of Art DNA Laboratory at CFSL, Chandigarh; assistance to 28 States/ UTs to strengthen Forensic Science Laboratories; setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) Courts for speedy disposal of cases of rape and cases under POCSO Act; setting up/ strengthening of Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in all districts of the country; setting up/ strengthening of Women Help Desks (WHDs) at Police Stations etc. The Government has also put in place Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences, an online analytic tool for tracking and monitoring of investigation. A National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO) has also been created.

Under Nirbhaya Fund, Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has also undertaken several initiatives, which, inter-alia includes training and skill development programs for Investigation Officers, Prosecution Officers and Medical Officers, distribution of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection (SAEC) Kits to States/ UTs. BPR&D has also prepared Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for 'Women Help Desk at Police Stations' to ensure smooth functioning of Women Help Desks by focusing on four critical components viz. infrastructure, training, human resource development and response mechanism. A book titled 'Women's Safety and Security-a Handbook for First Responders and Investigators in the Police' has also been prepared for the purpose of prevention and investigation of crime against women with specific reference to the crime of sexual assault, which includes investigation, victim compensation and rehabilitation. Emphasis has been laid upon appropriate behavioural and attitudinal skills of the police in course of prevention and detection of crime against women and children and interaction with victims of crime. Webinars on women safety with sensitivity, gender sensitization of police personnel etc. have also been organized by BPR&D.

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 Centres (OSCs) across the country on handling psycho-social and mental health care needs to support the women facing violence and women in distress.

Further, the National Commission for Women (NCW), in addition to handling complaints through regular mode, also takes cognizance of the grievances relating to domestic violence reported in social media. The complaints received by NCW are acted upon by coordinating with victims, police and other authorities to provide immediate assistance.

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