

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1336
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2024

AWARENESS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1336. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take any initiatives to raise awareness about violence against women in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to launch an intensified door-to-door awareness campaign to inform women about the helpline for violence against women; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Domestic violence is a social issue and to curb this social evil, the Government, through institutions like the National Commission for Women (NCW), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and their counterparts in States have been spreading awareness through seminars, workshops, audio-visual, print and electronic media etc. to sensitize the citizen about the safety and security of women and children and also about various provisions of laws. 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. NCW has organized a 'Pan India Legal Awareness Programme' for the women at grass-root level in collaboration with National Legal Services Authority to impart practical knowledge about the basic legal rights and remedies provided under various women related laws, thereby making them aware to face the challenges in real life situations. 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. BPR&D has also prepared Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for 'Women Help Desk at Police Stations' to ensure smooth functioning of Women Help Desks. 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.

Nevertheless, the Central Government gives highest priority to ensuring safety and security of women and is implementing "Mission Shakti" an umbrella scheme for safety, security and empowerment of women. The Scheme include components of 'One Stop Centers (OSCs)', under which integrated services such as Medical Aid, Psycho-social Counselling, Police Facilitation, Legal Aid and Counselling and Temporary Shelter upto 5 days are provided under one roof and Universalisation of Women Helplines (181-WHL), which provide emergency and non-emergency services to women in need by connecting them with appropriate authorities and also provide information services. Besides, Emergency Response Support System (ERSS), which is a pan-India single number (112) / mobile app-based system for emergencies, is also available to women in distress. In addition, under Nirbhaya Fund, the Central Government has provided assistance to States/ UTs for setting up/ strengthening Women Help Desks (WHDs) in all police stations. Further, Women Helpline (WHL) has been integrated with Emergency Response Support System (112) in 33 States / Union Territories (UT's), and with Child Helpline (1098) in 30 States / UT's.
