GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 657

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH FEBRUARY 2024/ MAGHA 17, 1945 (SAKA)

RELUCTANCE TO REPORT CRIMES

†657. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 73 percent of people, particularly women and the deprived sections are reluctant to report crimes to the police due to bad attitude of police in the country;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has issued instructions to all the States to register all complaints without discrimination on the basis of caste, belief, religion and gender;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY KUMAR MISHRA)

(a) to (e): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibility of maintaining law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens including investigation and prosecution of crime against citizens including women & children rest with the respective State Governments. Ministry of Home Affairs has issued advisories from time to time with a view to help the States/UTs to deal with crimes against women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and children. States/UTs have been advised regarding compulsory registration of FIR without any discrimination and taking penal action against erring officials vide advisories dated 10.05.2013, 05.02.2014 and 12.10.2015, 09.10.2020 and 30.06.2021. These advisories are available at www.mha.gov.in.

Ministry of Home Affairs has taken a number of initiatives for safety of women and children across the country, which are given below:-

i. The Criminal Law (Amendment), Act 2013 was enacted for effective deterrence against sexual offences. Further, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 was enacted to prescribe even more stringent penal provisions including death penalty for rape of girls below the age of 12 years. The Act also inter-alia mandates completion of investigation and filing of chargesheet in rape cases in 2 months and trials to be completed in 2 months.

ii. Emergency Response Support System provides a pan-India, single internationally recognized number (112) based system for all emergencies, with computer aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress.

-2-

iii. Using technology to aid smart policing and safety management, Safe City Projects have been sanctioned in first Phase in 8 cities (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai).

iv. Ministry of Home Affairs has provided financial assistance under the 'Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC) Scheme, to the States/UTs for their capacity building such as setting up of cyber forensic-cum-training laboratories, hiring of junior cyber consultants and training of LEAs' personnel, public prosecutors and judicial officers.

v. MHA has launched the "National Database on Sexual Offenders" (NDSO) on 20th September 2018 to facilitate investigation and tracking of sexual offenders across the country by law enforcement agencies.

vi. MHA has launched an online analytic tool "Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences" for Police on 19th February 2019 to facilitate them to monitor and track time-bound investigation in sexual assault cases in accordance with Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018.

vii. In order to improve investigation, MHA has taken steps to strengthen DNA analysis units in Central and State Forensic Science Laboratories. This includes setting up of State-of-the-Art DNA Analysis Unit in Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Chandigarh. MHA has also sanctioned setting-up and upgrading of DNA Analysis units in State Forensic Science Laboratories after gap analysis and demand assessment.

-4-

viii. MHA has notified guidelines for collection of forensic evidence in sexual assault cases and the standard composition in a sexual assault evidence collection kit. To facilitate adequate capacity in manpower, training and skill building programs have been undertaken for Investigation Officers, Prosecution Officers and Medical Officers. Bureau of Police Research & Development has distributed 18,020 Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits to States/ UTs as orientation kit as part of training.

ix. MHA has approved project for setting up and strengthening of Women Help Desks in Police Stations in all States/UTs. With a view to make the Police Stations more women friendly and approachable, one-time financial assistance is being provided from Govt. of India to States & UTs for setting up of Women Help Desks in all police stations across all States/UTs. MHA has also approved a project regarding establishing Anti-Human Trafficking Units in all districts of the country.

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