

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.3312
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2020

ACID ATTACK VICTIMS

3312: SHRIMATI MALA ROY

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

- (a) the number of acid attack victims in the country;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate such victims; and
- (c) the steps taken to prevent such attacks in future?

ANSWER

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

(a): As per the data published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), in the year 2018, under section 326A of Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC), there have been total 240 victims of acid attack in the country.

(b) to (c): The Government of India is implementing "One Stop Centre (OSC)" and "Universalisation of Women Helpline (WHL)" schemes. OSCs aim to facilitate women affected by violence with a range of integrated services under one roof such as police facilitation, medical aid, legal counselling, psycho-social counselling, temporary shelter etc. "Universalisation of Women Helpline" scheme provides 24 hours emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence through the short code 181 by linking them with appropriate authorities such as Police, One Stop Centre, Hospital, Legal Services etc. WHL also supports women in distress with rescue van and counselling services in addition to providing information about women welfare schemes and programs across the country. Further, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is also administering Swadhar Greh Scheme for relief and rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances, including victims of acid attack.

Section 357A of Cr. P.C. provides that compensation under Victim Compensation Scheme is to be paid to the victims. Section 357B of Cr.P.C. further provides that compensation payable under section 357A shall be in addition to the payment of fine to victim. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also issued a comprehensive Advisory on 20th April 2015 on taking steps to implement the provisions of Indian Penal Code (IPC), expediting action in cases of acid attack, and to provide treatment and compensation to victims. This advisory is available on www.mha.gov.in. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also issued an advisory dated 02nd May 2013, to all States/UTs to provide free medical treatment to the victims of acid attack.

Further, pursuant to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 11.05.2018 in the WP(C) 565/ 2012 - Nipun Saxena Vs. Union of India, National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has formulated the revised scheme enhancing the compensation to be given to Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/ other crimes. The scheme also covers the cases of acid attacks. The scheme was circulated by Ministry of Women & Child Development on 18.05.2018 and again by Ministry of Home Affairs on 28.06.2018 to all States/UTs for compliance.

Moreover, the National Legal Services Authority has framed NALSA (Legal Services to Victims of Acid Attacks) Scheme, 2016 under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The main objectives of the Scheme include enabling victims of acid attacks to get access to medical facilities and rehabilitative services, and strengthening legal aid for victims of acid attack.

In addition, under the Prime Minister's Relief Fund Rs. One lakh as compensation is also being provided by the Prime Minister Office to the acid attacks victim since 08-10-2016.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has also circulated the Model Poisons Possession and Sales Rules, 2013 to all States/UTs for notifying the same to regulate the sale of acid in respective States/UTs. Details of this advisory is available at www.mha.gov.in. 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibilities to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens rest with the respective State Governments. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws.
