

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.4480
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2020

MARITAL DISCORD

4480. SHRI RAVI KISHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of increased incidents of marital conflict across the country;
- (b) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for the rehabilitation and safety of women rendered destitute after such discord; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) :The Government has taken various legislative and schematic measures for women to prevent domestic violence including marital discord. These include:

(A) Legislative Measures:

- (i) **Enactment of The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005:** The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, which came into effect in October 2006, aims to provide protection and support to any woman who is, or has been, in a domestic relationship with the respondent and who alleges to have been subjected to any act of domestic violence by the respondent. The Act defines domestic relationship as a relationship between two persons who live or have, at any point of time, lived together in a shared household, when they are related by consanguinity, marriage, or through a relationship in the nature of marriage, adoption or are family members living together as a joint family and domestic violence as any act, omission or commission that causes injury to a woman's physical or mental health and includes specific forms of violence such as physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic abuse. It seeks to provide relief to women in the form of protection order, residence order, monetary relief, custody order and compensation orders. Breach of any protection order is a criminal offence.

- (ii) **The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961:** Recognising the need to address the social evil of dowry, the Dowry Prohibition Act was enacted on 20th May, 1961. **The Act** defines dowry and penalises giving, taking or abetting the giving and taking, demanding dowry. It also lays down a built-in implementation mechanism in the form of Dowry Prohibition Officers to ensure effective and efficacious enforcement of the law.
- (iii) **The Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC):** Under Chapter XX of IPC, Section 493-498A defines offences related to marriage.

(B) Schematic Measures:

- (i) **One Stop Centre (OSC):** One Stop Centre (OSC) scheme is being implemented across the country since 1st April 2015 which is exclusively designed to provide integrated services such as medical support, police facilitation, legal counselling, psycho-social counselling and temporary shelter to women affected by violence under one roof. So far 728 OSCs have been approved by Government of India out of which 680 OSCs are operational in the country.
- (ii) **Universalisation of Women Helpline (WHL):** This Ministry also provides 24-hours toll-free telecom service through short code 181 to women seeking support and information through its Universalisation of Women Helpline scheme. As of now, WHL is functional in 32 States/UTs.
- (iii) **Swadhar Greh:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the Swadhar Greh Scheme which targets women victims of unfortunate circumstances who are in need of institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity. The Scheme envisages providing shelter, food, clothing, and health as well as economic and social security for women in difficult circumstances which include women victims of domestic violence, family tension or discord, who are made to leave their homes without any means of subsistence and have no special protection from exploitation and/ or facing litigation on account of marital disputes.
