

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3243**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2022

**CRIME AGAINST WOMEN**

3243. SHRI B.B. PATIL:  
SHRI RAMSHIROMANI VERMA:  
SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN:

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 Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal;
- (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 tackle the matter related to domestic violence and dowry related harassment?

**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 for the year upto 2020. The data published by NCRB shows a declining trend in the crime against women which was 3,71,503 in the year 2020, as against 4,05,326 in the year 2019. Similarly, the said data shows declining trend of crime against women in the State of Uttar Pradesh as the total number of crime against women was 59,853 in the year 2019 as compared to 49,385 in the year 2020. However, in the State of West Bengal, the data shows increase in the crime against women in the State as the number of cases registered in the year 2019 and 2020 are 29,859 and 36,439, respectively.

As per data, there is a declining trend in crime relating to marital violence such as dowry death (S. 304B Indian Penal Code), cruelty by husband or his relatives (S. 498A Indian Penal Code), dowry harassment (the Dowry Prohibition Act), domestic violence (the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act) as indicated in the following table:

<b>Marital Offences</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Cruelty by Husband or His Relatives (S. 498A)	1,24,934	1,11,549
Dowry Harassment (under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961)	13,307	10,366
Dowry Death (S. 304B IPC)	7,141	6,966
Domestic Violence (under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005)	553	446

'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.

The 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, the Government of India has introduced various schemes and projects like One Stop Centres (OSCs) for assisting women affected by violence and in distress; Women Helplines (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 24 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, helps women in distress through a dedicated WhatsApp Number at 7827170170 to provide an online support system to women in distress. NCW 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.

These measures have resulted in positive outcomes such as reduction in the percentage of women aged 18 to 49 years who have ever experienced spousal violence from 31.2% as per National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4 (2015-16) to 29.3% in NFHS-5 (2019-20), increase in the sex ratio of total population (females per 1000 males), and extension of support to more than 75 lakh women through One Stop Centres and Women Helplines across the country till March, 2022.

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