

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1962**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2024

**SAFETY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN PUNJAB**

1962. DR. DHARAMVIRA GANDHI

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

- (a) the steps taken to improve the safety and security of women in Punjab in light of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data indicating a rise in crimes against women;
- b) the details of the initiatives taken to empower women and support their development in Punjab along with the funds allocated and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether any new policies or measures are being introduced to enhance women's safety and empowerment in the State, including legal and social support mechanisms, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of funds allocated for women's safety and empowerment programs in Punjab under central schemes like the Nirbhaya Fund and State initiatives?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (c): '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. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offenses under the extant provisions of laws.

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 empowerment. Keeping in mind the vision articulated in Constitutional provisions, there has been enactment of various legislations such as the Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 etc. which addresses the issue of gender based discrimination and violence faced by women.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development implements schemes and projects including components of One Stop Centres (OSCs) for women affected by any form of violence & distress including domestic violence and dowry harassment, Women Helplines (WHL) running on toll

free telephonic short code 181 under Nirbhaya Fund under Mission Shakti. The Government has provided financial support, as per scheme norms, to the State Government of Punjab for setting up of One Stop Centres and Women Helpline. Besides, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) for raising awareness about saving the girl child and improving sex ratio at birth and their holistic development, Shakti Sadan component for assisting women facing difficult circumstances or destitution etc. are implemented under Mission Shakti.

Ministry of Home Affairs has established Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) through the use of new age technology to make the justice delivery system more effective. Further a “National Database of Sexual Offenders” (NDSO) has also been launched for use by Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to identify repeat offenders, receive alerts on sex offenders etc. Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO), an online analytical tool, has been launched to monitor and track police investigations in two months in sexual offences as per Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018 (now BNSS). Under Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS), all States and UTs are providing citizen centric services for the benefit of the general public. The National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) has an objective to expedite the process of capture, quality check, matching and identification of fingerprints and to maintain a national searchable data of fingerprints.

In addition, several projects/ schemes are implemented by Central Government through various 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), 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 30 States/ UTs to strengthen Forensic Science Laboratories; setting up 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.

Further, the National Commission for Women (NCW), also handles complaints to help 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.

Under Nirbhaya Fund, Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has also undertaken several initiatives for safety and security of women. BPR&D has 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 through National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) had provided 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.

(d) The projects/ initiatives funded through Nirbhaya Fund in the State of Punjab are as under:

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Projects</b>
i.	Cyber Crime Prevention against Women & Children (CCPWC)
ii.	Strengthening of DNA Analysis and cyber forensic related facilities in State Forensic Science Labs
iii.	Women Help Desks in police Stations (WHDs)
iv.	Training of Investigating Officers (IOs)/Prosecution Officers (POs)/Medical Officers (MOs) in Forensic Evidence Collection and Procurement of forensic kits for sexual assault cases.
v.	Integrated Emergency Response Management System at 983 A1, A, B & C category stations (IERMS)
vi.	Procurement of tabs for security of women in the Railway in the country including Punjab.
vii.	Fast Track Special Courts to dispose of cases pending trial under rape and POCSO Act.
viii.	One Stop Centres (OSC) 785 OSCs are functional.
ix.	Universalisation of Women Helpline (WHL)
x.	Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)
xi.	Central Victim Compensation Fund
xii.	Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs)
xiii.	Scheme for Care & Support to Victims under Section 4 and 6 of POCSO Act,2012

For ensuring that women and girls are socially and economically empowered, the Central Government implements various schemes/ policies /programmes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna(PMAY), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission ( DAY-NRLM), National Urban Livelihoods Mission(NULM), Swachh Bharat Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission, Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), Stand-up India, Start-up India, PM Svanidhi etc., under which financial support is provided to the State/UTs including Punjab and individuals as per the respective scheme norms.

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