

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1984**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2024

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

1984. SMT. GENIBEN NAGAJI THAKOR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any data regarding women facing domestic violence in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such incidents reported during the last five years, year-wise; and
- (c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check domestic violence in the country?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (c): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes data on crimes, including crime against women, in its publication “Crime in India” available on the website on NCRB, <https://ncrb.gov.in>. The said report is available upto the year 2022, that includes the details of complaints registered under “the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (PWDV) Act, 2005”. As per information available with NCRB, the number of cases registered under the PWDV Act during the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 are 579, 553, 446, 507 and 468 respectively.

Further, “Police” and “Public Order” are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibility to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens including investigation and prosecution of crime against women and children rests primarily with the respective State Governments and they are competent to deal with it. Section 8 of the PWDVA mandate the States/UTs to appoint such number of Protection Officers in each district as it may consider necessary and also to notify the area or areas within which a Protection Officer shall exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred. It is the duty of the Protection Officer to report the cases of domestic violence to the Magistrate upon receipt of complaints and to assist the Magistrate in the discharge of his functions. However, conviction of a person comes under purview of the Judiciary, who decides the matter after careful consideration of factual positions and all related aspects as per the provisions of the PWDVA. The PWDVA provides remedies such as protection order, residence order etc. against it.

Nevertheless, the Central Government gives highest priority to ensuring safety and security of women and has undertaken various legislative and schematic interventions in this regard. These include legislations such as “The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018” (now under Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita), “The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2006”, “The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961”, etc. The schemes/ projects implemented by the Government include One Stop Centres (OSCs); Universalisation of Women Helplines (WHL) components of “Mission Shakti”, Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) which is a pan-India single number (112)/ mobile app based system for emergencies; capacity building in community through awareness programmes, setting up/ strengthening of Women Help Desks (WHDs) at Police Stations etc.

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. 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.

Recognizing the need for psycho-social counseling to women affected by violence and in distress, the 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 to such women. The Ministry undertakes awareness exercise for safety and security of women and children from time to time. Further, the Government, through institutions like the National Commission for Women (NCW), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and their counterparts in States have been spreading awareness through seminars, workshops, audio- visual, print and electronic media etc. to sensitize the people about the safety and security of women and children and also about various provisions of the legislation etc. In addition, Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Home Affairs have issued advisories to States/ UTs from time to time on various issues pertaining to safety and security of women and children.

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