

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2034
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2024

PROTOCOLS FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

2034. SHRI HIBI EDEN:
SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL:
SMT. JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:
SHRI K SUDHAKARAN:
KM. SUDHA R:
SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the protocols in place to ensure that survivors of sexual violence receive timely medical aid and psychological care prior to filing a police report, and the manner in which the Government is monitoring and improving the compliance with these protocols;

(b) the details of concrete steps taken to integrate comprehensive knowledge of sexual and gender-based violence into India's medical education curriculum and police training programmes;

(c) the details of measures implemented by the government to facilitate an anonymous data reporting mechanism within the framework of Mandatory Police Reporting (MPR) of sexual violence and the extent to which these measures have been effective in encouraging survivors to come forward to report the cases;

(d) whether the implementation of MPR for sexual violence influenced the utilization and effectiveness of one-stop centre services; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken to address any challenges identified in this process?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHF&W) has formulated a document entitled "Guidelines and Protocols- Medico legal care of victims/survivors of Sexual violence" with an objective to bring about a certain degree of uniformity in approaching, treating

and documenting cases of sexual violence. These Guidelines and protocols cover various aspects, such as role of health professionals, medical examinations and reporting, psycho-social care for survivors/victims, guidelines for interface with other agencies such as police and Judiciary, etc. The Guidelines have been circulated to all States/UTs in the country.

(b) In order to implement these guidelines & protocols, various workshop were organised by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) jointly with WHO in different Regions/States of the country, with the following objectives:-

- i. Identify key challenges, constraints and gap in strengthening health sector response to sexual violence.
- ii. Develop an understanding of the national protocols and guidelines developed by the MoHFW and to expedite their implementations.
- iii. Building the State capacity in planning and implementation of such specialized services.
- iv. Documentation and sharing of best practices and experiences of responding towards the needs of the victims of sexual violence among States/UTs.
- v. To emphasize that the sexual assault victims/survivors cannot be denied free treatment in a hospital, whether it is a public or a private hospital.

The details of training courses and number of participants during last 03 years for crime against woman, and Juvenile Justice conducted by States/UTs & Outlying units of Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D) are as under:

S. No.	Years	Number of courses conducted	Number of participants
1	2021-22	10	813
2	2022-23	08	181
3	2023-24	05	540
	Total	23	1534

Further, details of Training for investigators and Prosecutors courses on Women Safety conducted by States/UTs and outlying units of the BPR&D, under Nirbhaya Fund Scheme during the last three years are as under :-

S. No.	Years	No. of Courses Conducted (for)		No. of Investigators/ Prosecutors Trained		Total No. of Courses conducted for Investigators/ Prosecutors	Total No of Investigators / Prosecutors Trained
		Investi-gators	Prose-cutors	Investi-gators	Prose-cutors		
1	2021-22	238	33	6509	902	271	7411
2	2022-23	87	15	2103	288	102	2391
3	2023-24	205	22	5461	583	227	6044
	Total	530	70	14073	1773	600	15846

(c) 'Police and Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibility of maintaining law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens including investigation and prosecution of crime against citizens including Women & Children rest with the respective State Government. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs, has issued Advisory dated 16th May, 2019 to State Government/UT Administrations regarding mandatory registration of FIR or a Zero FIR (in case the crime is committed outside the jurisdiction of police station) under sub-section(1) of section 154 of Cr.PC in cases of commission of a cognizable offence including sexual assault cases on women, and intimating that failure in this regard by any police official, is punishable offence.

(d) and (e) The One Stop Centre (OSC) scheme is being implemented by the Government since 1st April, 2015 to provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence and those in distress, both in private and public spaces and also to provide an integrated range of services including medical aid, legal aid and advice, temporary shelter, police assistance, psycho-social counselling to needy women. So far, 816 One Stop Centres have been approved in all 36 States/UTs, out of which 785 OSCs are operational. Over, 9.19 lakh women have been assisted through these OSCs since inception till 31st May 2024.
