

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1301**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH FEBRUARY, 2025/ MAGHA 22, 1946
(SAKA)**

WOMEN SAFETY

†1301. SMT. SANJNA JATAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps for the safety of women in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop widespread issues of rape and abuse that are affecting hundreds of women and girls every day; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government prevalent in the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR)**

(a) to (c): ‘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 rests with the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. The State Governments/UT Administrations are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws. Government of India supports and supplements the efforts of the State Governments and UT Administrations to effectively tackle the crime against women and girls. In this regards steps/initiatives taken by the Government of India are as follows:-

i. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 was enacted for effective deterrence against sexual offences. Further, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 was enacted to prescribe even more stringent penal provisions including death penalty for rape of girls below the age of 12 years. The Act also inter-alia mandates completion of investigation and filing of charge sheet in rape cases in 2 months and trials to also be completed in 2 months.

ii. With the introduction of three new Criminal Laws, for the first time the provisions relating to the crimes against women have been rearranged and placed under one Chapter in Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. A new offence for having sexual intercourse on false promise of marriage, employment, promotion or by concealing identity etc. has been incorporated. This provision acts as a deterrent and provides protection to women. Besides, punishment for gang rape of a woman below the age of 18 years, will be life imprisonment till remainder of the convict's natural life or death. Earlier, the age-limit for such mode of Punishment was 12 years.

iii. Emergency Response Support System provides a pan-India, single internationally recognized number (112) based system for all emergencies with a location-based service/global positioning service for identifying location of distressed caller and facilitating dispatch of field resources to the location of distress.

iv. Using technology to aid smart policing and safety management, Safe City Projects have been sanctioned in first Phase in 8 cities (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai).

v. The Government has launched the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (www.cybercrime.gov.in) to enable the public to report all types of cyber crimes, with special focus on cyber crimes against women and children. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) provides financial assistance under the 'Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC) Scheme, to the States/UTs for their capacity building.

vi. MHA has launched the “National Database on Sexual Offenders” (NDSO) on 20th September 2018 to facilitate investigation and tracking of sexual offenders across the country by law enforcement agencies.

vii. MHA has launched an online analytic tool “Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences” for Police on 19th February 2019 to facilitate them to monitor and track time-bound investigation in sexual assault cases in accordance with Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018.

viii. In order to improve investigation, MHA has taken steps to strengthen DNA analysis units in Central and State Forensic Science Laboratories. This includes setting up of State-of-the-Art DNA Analysis Unit in Central Forensic Science

Laboratory, Chandigarh. MHA has also sanctioned setting-up and upgrading of DNA Analysis units in State Forensic Science Laboratories.

ix. MHA has notified guidelines for collection of forensic evidence in sexual assault cases and the standard composition in a sexual assault evidence collection kit. To facilitate adequate capacity in manpower, training and skill building programs have been undertaken for Investigation Officers, Prosecution Officers and Medical Officers. Bureau of Police Research & Development has distributed 18,020 Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits to States/ UTs as orientation kit as part of training.

x. MHA has implemented projects for setting up and strengthening of Women Help Desks in Police Stations and Anti-Human Trafficking Units in all districts of the country.

xi. In addition to the above-mentioned measures, the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued advisories from time to time with a view to help the States/UTs to effectively deal with crimes against women, which are available at www.mha.gov.in.

xii. Ministry of Women & Child Development is implementing One Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme across the country. The objectives of the One Stop Centre Scheme are to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces under one roof and facilitate

immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services including police, medical, legal aid, temporary shelter, counselling and psychological support to fight against any form of violence against women.

xiii. The Universalisation of Women Helpline (WHL) Scheme is being implemented by Ministry of Women & Child Development since 1st April, 2015 with the aim to provide an immediate and 24-hour emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence across the country by referral service. Under the Scheme, a toll-free round the clock telecom service through short code 181 is provided to women seeking support and information. Women Helpline has been integrated with the Emergency Response Support System 112 (ERSS-112) in 34 States/UTs and Child Helpline (1098) in 32 States/UTs. Presently, Women Helpline-181 is functional in 35 States/UTs.

xiv. Further, Department of Justice has implemented a scheme since 2019 to establish Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including exclusive POCSO Courts for expeditious disposal of rape and Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act cases. As per available information, as of 31.12.2024, total 747 FTSCs including 406 exclusive POCSO Courts are functional in 30 States/UTs. Since the inception of scheme, these Courts have disposed of more than 2,99,000 cases.
