GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA UN- STARRED QUESTION NO. 3541 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2025

SHe-Box PORTAL

+3541: SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL:

- Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:
- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to make women aware about SHe-Box portal in various sectors especially in the rural areas of Chhattisgarh State;
- (b) whether there are any measures available to address the situation arising out of any breach of confidentiality;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any mechanism is available to provide legal or consultation assistance to women registering complaints on the portal; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, district-wise especially of Durg parliamentary constituency of said State?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SAVITRI THAKUR)

(a): The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) launched the Sexual Harassment Electronic Box (SHe-Box) portal on 29th August, 2024, duly encompassing various provisions of 'the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (SH Act). The portal is designed as a user-friendly and easily accessible platform. The Ministry has regularly communicated with all States and Union Territories (UTs) providing updates and guidance for ensuring appropriate measures to be taken for public awareness.

To enhance understanding and utilization of the SHe-Box, the government is actively conducting training sessions for States, UTs, and stakeholders, including State Nodal

Officers (SNOs), District and Sub-district Nodal Officers (DNOs), and other field functionaries. The training includes sensitization of officials to assist in onboarding government and private sector workplaces onto the portal, and also helping women from both urban and rural areas navigate the platform effectively. Making available the SHe-Box in regional languages is part of the design of the project, so as to make it accessible to women across the country.

(b) to (c): Sections 16 and 17 of the SH Act, 2013 mandate confidentiality regarding complaints and inquiry proceedings. It prohibits the disclosure of details, including the complaint's content, identities of the aggrieved woman, respondent, witnesses, conciliation and inquiry proceedings, recommendations, or actions taken under the Act, to the public, press, or media. Any violation of this provision by individuals handling such matters results in penalties as per applicable service rules or prescribed regulations where no such rules exist. The same provisions apply in case of data and information available on SHe-Box portal.

The detail of a complaint registered on the portal by any woman facing sexual harassment at workplace or any other person on her behalf, are strictly confidential and are only visible to the chairperson of the Internal Committee (IC) or the Local Committee (LC), as the case may be, thereby providing a secure environment for women to report incidents without fear of exposure or retaliation. Once a complaint is submitted to the 'SHe-Box', it will be directly sent to the IC/LC concerned, as the case may be, having jurisdiction to take action into the matter.

(d) to (e): To facilitate easy navigation, user manuals for different sectors have been created and uploaded on the portal for guidance. Additionally, the portal provides the copy of Handbook on the SH Act, 2013, issued by the Ministry, offering practical and accessible information for widespread use. Similarly, a training module, developed in collaboration with the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM), is also available on portal to support training and gender sensitization programs for personnel. To clarify the provisions of the SH Act, 2013, and the functionalities of the SHe-Box portal, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) has been placed in the portal for reference purpose for general public. These resources aim to enhance accessibility and understanding among users.

To assist the users who encounter any technical issues or have any queries related to the portal, the contact details of the technical support team and the portal administration officer are made available on the portal.

In addition, the One Stop Centres (OSCs) set up across the country has the provision for providing legal aid and counselling, who can also be approached for seeking any assistance including the OSC in Durg Parliamentary constituency.
