



REPORT NO.

233

**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA**

**DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON HOME AFFAIRS**

TWO HUNDRED THIRTY THIRD REPORT

ON

**ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE TWO HUNDRED
THIRTIETH REPORT ON THE ATROCITIES AND CRIMES
AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

**(Presented to Rajya Sabha on 10th August, 2021)
(Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 10th August, 2021)**



**Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi
August, 2021/ Sravana, 1943 (Saka)**

Hindi version of this publication is also available

C.S. (H.A.)-458



PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA

**DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON HOME AFFAIRS**

TWO HUNDRED THIRTY THIRD REPORT

**ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT
ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE TWO
HUNDRED THIRTIETH REPORT ON THE ATROCITIES AND CRIMES
AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

**(Presented to Rajya Sabha on 10th August, 2021)
(Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 10th August, 2021)**

**Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi
August, 2021/ Sravana, 1943 (Saka)**

CONTENTS

1.	COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE	(i)
2.	INTRODUCTION	(ii)
3.	ACRONYM	(iii) - (v)
4.	REPORT	1 - 72
	Chapter - I Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government	3 - 20
	Chapter - II Recommendations/Observations on which the Committee does not desire to pursue the matter in view of the Government's reply	21 - 41
	Chapter - III Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	42 - 61
	Chapter - IV Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final reply of the Government have not been received	62 - 72
5.	OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE- AT A GLANCE	73 - 81
6.	RELEVANT MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE	83-84
7.	ANNEXURE	86

**DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS
(re-constituted w.e.f. 13th September, 2020)**

1. **Shri Anand Sharma** - **Chairman**

RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri S. R. Balasubramoniyam
3. Shri P. Bhattacharya
4. Dr. Anil Jain
5. Shri Satish Chandra Misra
6. @ Shri Neeraj Shekhar
7. % Vacant
8. Shri Rakesh Sinha
9. #Vacant
10. \$ Vacant

LOK SABHA

11. Shri Sanjay Bhatia
12. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury
13. Dr. (Shrimati) Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar
14. Shri Dilip Ghosh
15. Shri Dulal Chandra Goswami
16. Shrimati Kirron Kher
17. Shri Gajanan Chandrakant Kirtikar
18. Shri Dayanidhi Maran
19. Shri Raja Amareshwara Naik
20. Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal
21. Shri Ranjeetsingh Naik Nimbalkar
22. Shri Lalubhai Babubhai Patel
23. Shri Gajendra Singh Patel
24. Shri R.K. Singh Patel
25. Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram
26. Shri Pothuganti Ramulu
27. Shrimati Sarmishta Sethi
28. Dr. Satya Pal Singh
29. *Shri P.P. Mohammed Faizal
30. Shri Ravneet Singh
31. Shrimati Geetha Viswanath Vanga

SECRETARIAT

Dr. P.P.K. Ramacharyulu, Secretary
Shri Vimal Kumar, Joint Secretary
Shri Dharmendra Kumar Mishra, Director
Shri Ashwani Kumar, Additional Director
Shri Pritam Kumar, Under Secretary
Shri Akshay Sharma, Assistant Committee Officer

@ Shri Neeraj Shekhar, MP, Rajya Sabha nominated w.e.f. 23rd December, 2020 to fill the vacancy caused by expiry of his previous Rajya Sabha Term
*Shri P.P. Mohammed Faizal, MP, Lok Sabha to Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports.

Consequent upon the resignation of Shri Dinesh Trivedi from the membership of Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 12th February, 2021.

% and \$ Consequent upon joining of Council of Ministers on 7th July, 2021 by Shri Bhupender Yadav and Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh both MPs, Rajya Sabha.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on its behalf, do hereby present this Two Hundred Thirty Third Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations Contained in the Two Hundred Thirtieth Report on 'Atrocities and Crimes against Women and Children'.

2. The Two Hundred Thirtieth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs was presented to the Rajya Sabha and laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on the 15th March, 2021. After presentation/laying of the Report, the copies thereof were sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs requesting them to furnish Action Taken Notes on the recommendations of the Committee contained in the Report. The Ministry furnished the Action Taken Notes on the said Report to the Committee on 2nd July, 2021.

3. The Committee has noted that the statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the said Report of the Committee has not been laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha in pursuant to the direction of Chairman, Rajya Sabha dated 24th September 2004.

4. The Committee considered the draft Two Hundred Thirty Third Report and adopted the same at its meeting held on 9th August, 2021.

5. The recommendations/observations of the Committee are printed in bold letters.

9th August, 2021
New Delhi
Sravana 1, 1943 (Saka)

Anand Sharma
Chairman
Department-related Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Home Affairs

ACRONYMS

AHTU	Anti-Human Trafficking Units
AIDMAM	All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
BPR&D	Bureau of Police Research & Development
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
CAPF	Central Armed Police Force
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CrPC	Code of Criminal Procedure
CCTNS	Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System
CBSE	Central Board of Secondary Education
CCPWC	Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children
CAWCH	Crime Against Women- Check & Halt
CMAPS	Crime Mapping Analytics and Predictive System
CMPO	Child Marriage Prohibition Officer
CNCP	Children in Need of Care and Protection
CIF	Community Investment Fund
C-DAC	Centre for Development of Advanced Computing
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DoT	Department of Telecommunications
DAY-NRLM	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission
DHI	Department of Heavy Industry
DMRC	Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
DLSA	District Legal Service Authority
DMPU	District Missing Person Unit
ERSS	Emergency Response Support System
EU	European Union
ERC	Emergency Response Centre
FTC	Fast Track Courts
FIR	First Information Report
FSLs	Forensic Science Laboratories
FICN	Fake Indian Currency Note
FTSCs	Fast Track Special Courts
FNHW	Food Nutrition Health Wash
GPDP	Gram Panchayat Development Plan
GRP	Government Railway Police
HEIs	Higher Educational Institutes
IPC	Indian Penal Code
ITSSO	Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences
ICJS	Interoperable Criminal Justice System
I4C	Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre
ISEA	Information Security Education & Awareness
ISP	Internet Service Provider
JWOs	Juvenile Welfare Officers
JCCTs	Joint Cyber Crime Coordination Teams

LEA	Law Enforcement Agencies
LMS	Learning Management System
LCs	Local Committees
MoSJ&E	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
MHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MOW&CD	Ministry of Women & Child Development
MMI	Multi Modal Integration
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MWAs	Market Welfare Associations
MPS	Missing Person Squad
MeitY	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
MSI	Master System Integrator
MOOC	Massive Open Online Courses
NCFL	National Cyber Forensic Lab
NGOs	Non- Governmental Organizations
NDSO	National Database of Sexual Offenders
NISHTHA	National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Development
NCRB	National Crime Records Bureau
NRLM	National Rural Livelihood Mission
NCTC	National Level Training Centre
NEFMS	National Electronic Fund Management System
NCW	National Commission for Women
NCERT	National Council of Educational Research and Training
NITI	National Institution for Transforming India
OSCs	One-Stop Centres
PWDVA	Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act
PCMA	Prohibition of Child Marriage Act
POCSO	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act
PMJDY	Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
PMGKY	Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana
PCI	Press Council of India
PCR	Police Control Room
PPEs	Personal Protective Equipments
PFOs	Public Facilitation Officers
RPF	Railway Protection Force
RWAs	Resident Welfare Associations
SPUWAC	Special Police Unit for Women and Children
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SRG	State Resource Group
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SHGs	Self-Help Groups
TRP	Television Rating Point
TSP	Telecom Service Providers

UTTIPEC	Unified Traffic Transportation Infrastructure (Planning and Engineering) Centre
UTs	Union Territories
UAE	United Arab Emirates
VWDC	Vulnerable Witness Deposition Complexes
VPN	Virtual Private Network

REPORT

The Action Taken Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Thirtieth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the 'Atrocities and Crimes against Women and Children'. The said Report of the Committee was presented to the Parliament on 15th March, 2021.

2. Action Taken Notes (ATNs) received from the Ministry of Home Affairs in respect of the observations/recommendations contained in the Two Hundred and Thirtieth Report have been categorized as follows:

Chapter I: The observations/recommendations, which have been accepted by the Government: Paras: 2.4.14, 2.6.4, 2.7.11, 2.9.8, 2.11.4, 2.12.3, 2.12.4, 2.12.6, 2.15.5, 2.15.8, 2.16.11, 2.17.2, 2.17.3, 3.4.5, 3.4.12, 3.4.22, 4.2.7, 4.2.8, 4.3.6, 5.6.6, 5.6.18, 5.7.4, 6.3.17, 6.3.18, 6.4.4, 6.4.5, 6.4.6, 6.4.9, 6.4.10, 6.5.10, 6.7.3 (of the Two Hundred and Thirtieth Report) Total recommendations- 31 Accepted.

The Committee is pleased to note that the Ministry has accepted 31 of its recommendations as mentioned in Chapter-I of the Report.

Chapter II: The observations/recommendations which the Committee does not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies: - Paras: 2.5.11, 2.7.13, 2.15.4, 2.15.6, 2.15.15, 2.16.10, 2.20.12, 2.22.4, 3.4.10, 3.4.18, 3.4.29, 3.4.39, 3.4.41, 5.5.7, 5.6.16, 5.6.27, 5.6.28, 5.6.33, 5.7.5, 6.3.19, 6.3.20, 6.4.8, 6.5.11, 6.7.16, 6.8.8 (*ibid*) (Total recommendations- 25. Not to be pursued further.

The Committee is convinced with the explanation furnished by the Ministry in respect of 25 recommendations and, therefore, does not want to pursue such recommendations further.

Chapter III: The observations/recommendations in respect of which the Committee is not satisfied with the replies of the Ministry: Paras: 2.3.12, 2.3.13, 2.3.14, 2.4.16, 2.5.10, 2.7.12, 2.8.9, 2.9.7, 2.14.6, 2.14.7, 2.17.4, 2.18.4, 2.19.2, 2.20.11, 3.4.7, 3.4.19, 5.5.6, 5.5.8, 5.6.17, 5.6.26, 6.2.12, 6.2.14, 6.7.8 (*ibid*) Total recommendations- 23 Not convincing replies.

The Committee expresses its concern over the non-implementation of 23 of its recommendations contained in Chapter-III and desires that the Ministry should take further necessary action and furnish convincing replies in respect of those recommendations within a time frame of three months after presentation of the Report.

Chapter-IV: The observations/recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government have not been received: Para: 2.4.15, 2.10.5, 2.11.5, 2.12.5, 2.14.4, 2.14.5, 2.15.14, 2.20.10, 3.3.2, 3.4.24, 3.4.33, 4.3.5, 6.2.13, 6.4.7, 6.6.3, 6.7.13, 6.8.3, (*ibid*) Total recommendations- 17 To be pursued further.

In respect of the 17 recommendations placed in Chapter IV, the Committee feels that the Ministry has either furnished interim replies or couched its response in vague terms. The Committee desires that the Ministry should furnish pointed and detailed Action Taken Notes in respect of the

recommendations categorized in Chapter-IV as per the intention and spirit of the recommendations of the Committee within three months.

The para-wise details of the ATNs are being discussed, as per the categorisation indicated above, in the succeeding Chapters.

Chapter- I

Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government

1.1 Conviction Rate

Recommendation

1.1.1 The Committee is constrained to note the abysmally low conviction rate in crimes against women and children which also shows a serious mismatch between the measures adopted and their implementation. The Committee further notes that an analytical tool-"On line Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO)" has been provided to law enforcement agencies to monitor and track Police investigations within two months in sexual offenses as per the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA should take up the matter with all the States/UTs for stringent implementation of the analytical tool ITSSO. Further, the MHA should also work out a mechanism for gathering information on reasons for the delay in the investigation in criminal cases on annual basis, preferably in analytical tool ITSSO itself. Based on information so gathered, the MHA can analyze and issue necessary SOPs/advisories to States/UTs for taking necessary corrective steps.

(Para 2.4.14 of 230th Repot)

Action Taken

1.1.2 ITSSO has been developed and deployed in the States/ Union Territories. It allows/enables police in the real-time monitoring of sexual offence cases for timely disposal of FIR up to the level of police station concerned. This tool facilitates every State/ Union Territory to optimally deploy its resources in investigation. The States/Union Territories have been regularly reviewing the progress of investigations. This is also reiterated to the States/ Union Territories regularly by the MHA. A user manual on how to use ITSSO by police has also been issued to States/UTs. The disposal rate of cases in States/ Union Territories has shown improvement due to this.

1.1.3 Further, conviction in such cases depends on various factors including forensic analysis reports, consistency of witnesses and victims during trials, etc. Accordingly, the BPR&D has prepared a SOP for use by law enforcement personnel in States/ Union Territories titled 'Investigation and Prosecution of Rape Against Women'. It seeks to provide a complete set of rules and guidelines related to the response of the police while dealing with rape cases and to ensure a co-ordinated and multi-disciplinary approach to sexual offences, in general.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.1.4 The Committee notes the reply.

1.2 Representation of Women in Police

Recommendation

1.2.1 The Committee notes with disappointment that women presently constitute 10.30% of the Police force. The Committee fails to understand the delay on the part of States/UTs to give adequate

representation to women in Police forces. The Committee notes that MHA has regularly advised the States to ensure that 33% of Police forces are women and has made it mandatory in UTs. But, no States/UT Police in the country has representation even close to 33%. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA may advise States/UTs to conduct special recruitment drives to recruit women at all levels in a time-bound manner. The Ministry may also coordinate with States and UTs to remove all administrative bottlenecks for the same.

(Para 2.6.4 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.2.2 Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an Advisory dated 22 June 2021, requesting all States/UTs to conduct special recruitment drives to recruit women at all levels in a time-bound manner.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.2.3 The Committee notes the reply and would like to be informed about the progress made in this regard.

1.3 Helpline Numbers

Recommendation

1.3.1 The Committee notes that multiple helpline numbers are used for different categories of complaints about crimes against women and children which also vary from State to State. The Committee strongly recommends that there should be a single three-digit helpline number that can be uniformly accessed across all States/UTs. This will be more beneficial to people who travel and commute from one State to another including the foreigners who visit different States during their stay in India. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA should advise all States/UTs to integrate their helpline numbers with 112 for creating a three-digit common Pan-India helpline number. A common national helpline number for women would provide a single platform for everyone who is in distress and can be accessed in every nook and corner of the country. The helpline number may also be linked to other State-sponsored support services like shelters, one-stop centers, counseling, emergency transport assistance and other protection measures holistically.

(Para 2.7.11 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.3.2 Pan India Single number '112' Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) is now functional in 35 States/ Union Territories. This single number enables access to police, medical and fire services in emergencies. This system provides for integration with other helplines for emergency services, including women and child helpline. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.3.3 The Committee notes the reply

1.4 Nirbhaya Fund

Recommendation

1.4.1 The Committee is disappointed to note that Nirbhaya Fund is continuously diverted towards other Schemes/Projects. The Committee takes a very serious note of this and strongly recommends that the Ministry should desist from sanctioning funds for such schemes from Nirbhaya Fund and adhere to the original purpose of Nirbhaya Fund.

(Para 2.9.8 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.4.2 This issue was consulted with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, who have stated that all the projects/schemes under Nirbhaya Fund are appraised by an Empowered Committee on the basis of the recommendation of the concerned Ministry/ Department, as per the norms/ parameters of the Nirbhaya Framework and keeping in view of the original purpose of Nirbhaya Fund. However, the Ministry has stated that it has noted the recommendations of the Committee in this regard for compliance. It is further submitted that MHA has not diverted any Nirbhaya Funds for any such scheme/ project.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.4.3 The Committee notes the reply.

1.5 Shelter Homes

Recommendation

1.5.1 The Committee notes that the number of shelter homes set up by States is insufficient to meet the desired objective of providing temporary relief and dwelling arrangements to the victimized women. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs may take up the issue with the Ministry of Women and Child Development to set up more shelter homes. The Committee also recommends providing adequate food, clothing, medicines and other basic amenities in all the shelter homes.

(Para 2.11.4 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.5.2 The issue was referred to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, who have informed that they have taken note of the recommendations of the Committee and will endeavor to open more shelter homes on need basis. The Ministry of Women and Child Development will also endeavor to see that adequate food, clothing, medicines and other basic amenities are provided in shelter homes.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.5.3 The Committee notes the reply and further recommends that adequate financial resources may be provided to open new shelter homes and provide basic amenities in shelter homes.

1.6 One-Stop Centres (OSCs)

Recommendation

1.6.1 The Committee notes that the above-mentioned States have established One-Stop Centres in all Districts nearer to or within public hospitals. But, the Committee feels that considering the increasing crimes against women, more Centres are required. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should take up with the Ministry of Women & Child Development to advise States to open at least one One-Stop Centre at every sub-divisional level

(Para 2.12.3 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.6.2 The Ministry of Women and Child Development has taken note of the recommendations of the Committee and will endeavor to open more One-Stop Centres (OSCs) on need basis, in district having higher number of crime against women; having bigger geographical area and aspirational districts, within the available resources.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.6.3 The Committee notes the reply.

Recommendation

1.6.4 The Committee also believes that it is important to have involvement of social organizations and State Women Commissions in checking the functioning and the quality of services rendered by the One-Stop Centres and, therefore, recommends that grass-root Panchayati Raj Institutions, local NGOs and State Women Commissions should be involved in conducting a periodic safety audit of the One-Stop Centres.

(Para 2.12.4 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.6.5 Ministry of Women and Child Development has taken note of the recommendation and would make endeavor to associate PRIs, State Women Commissions etc for social audit of the effectiveness of the Scheme.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.6.6 The Committee notes the reply. The Committee may be apprised about the further action taken in this regard.

Recommendation

1.6.7 The Committee appreciates the initiatives, like interlinking of departments and creation of a single-window system to help women victims of violence, taken by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Committee, therefore, recommends that other States should also establish synergy and coordination amongst various departments concerned with the safety and security of women and children.

(Para 2.12.6 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.6.8 It is stated that the MHA has issued advisories to the States/Union Territories on Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures for preventing and combating crimes against vulnerable sections of the society, including women, children. Further, in order to facilitate implementation of the guidelines/ SOPs, Rs.107.49 crore has been released to States/Union Territories for setting up/strengthening Women Help Desks in Police Stations. The Desk envisages to have enlisted panel of experts like lawyers, psychologists, NGOs who can assist in accessing support, provide shelter, rehabilitation etc., and help in registration and follow-up in the cases giving required assurance and support to the women approaching the police for assistance. In terms of the Committee's recommendations, States/ Union Territories have been requested to undertake an immediate review of the existing facilities for vulnerable groups inter-alia on the lines of the measures given in the various advisories issued by the MHA, including review of steps taken for sensitization of police personnel, coordination with agencies/ departments concerned as also communities and civil society organizations.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.6.9 The Committee notes the reply

1.7 Strengthening of Institutions

Recommendation

1.7.1 The Committee further recommends that the MHA should take up the matter with the Ministry/Department/Organization concerned to prepare a national database of destitute women/children living on the streets, religious places, railway stations, etc., as they are also highly vulnerable to crimes. The database thus gathered will help in providing food, shelter, protection from the vagaries of nature, counseling and rehabilitation, etc., to such people particularly, women and children who are in dire need of help and assistance from the Government.

(Para 2.15.5 ibid)

Action Taken

1.7.2 Ministry of Women and Child Development has taken note of the recommendation and would make endeavor for putting in place database in consultation with relevant central Ministries and States/ UTs.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.7.3 The Committee notes the reply

Recommendation

1.7.4 The Committee appreciates the work done by the National Commission for Women (NCW) in taking cognizance of atrocities and crimes against women all across the country. The Committee observes that there is still a need to delve deep into rural areas of the country where similar crimes occur frequently without getting reported. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA

should take up the matter with the Ministry of Women & Child Development and NCW to take more positive actions against crimes taking place particularly, against the poor and vulnerable women in rural areas of the country.

(Para 2.15.8 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.7.5 Realizing the issue, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has introduced the Scheme of One Stop Centre (OSC) in every district of the country to facilitate women affected by violence with 5 services i.e. police assistance, medical treatment, legal aid, psychological counseling and temporary shelter under one roof. Further, the Ministry will endeavor to open more OSCs on need basis, in districts having higher number of crime against women; having bigger geographical area and aspirational districts, within the available resources. Further, efforts will be made to engage PRIs, State Women Commissions, NCW etc., for monitoring the activities of OSCs.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.7.6 The Committee notes the reply

1.8 Advisories issued by the MHA

Recommendation

1.8.1 The Committee observes that it is important to learn from the relevant experiences of the past which would be helpful in combating the atrocities and crimes against women and children in the future. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA should also take advice from States/UTs that have been successful in curbing the issues of atrocities and crimes against women and children. The MHA should accordingly, devise a mechanism so that the best practices of all the State Governments and all police departments may be compiled in the form of compendiums and shared on one platform for the use of all senior/nodal officers at the Central/States/UTs level.

(Para 2.16.11 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.8.2 The recommendations of the Committee have been noted. NCRB has published a compendium on Good Practices in CCTNS & ICJS. This is available on the website of NCRB. MHA is publishing best practices and success stories of the States/Union Territories, especially in prevention and management of crimes against women and children, in its e-magazine She-Raksha. These have been shared with the stakeholders, including States/Union Territories.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.8.3 The Committee notes the reply

1.9 Role of NGOs in Assisting the Victimized Women and Children

Recommendation

1.9.1 The Committee deeply appreciates the efforts made by the NGOs towards extending various welfare services to women and children, particularly meant for their safety and protection. The Committee observes that the engagement and involvement of the Government with the NGOs/Civil Society/Social Organizations is very important and crucial because the NGOs are working at the grass-root level. They can feel the pulse of the community and over the period have acquired experience and learned about the difficulties of the victims of atrocities and crimes at the ground level. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should focus on building public and private partnerships by involving NGOs and other social organizations as part of their Schemes/Programmes/Projects. The NGOs and community should be directly involved in all schemes/projects/ programmes particularly, those aiming at enhancing legal awareness, strengthening reporting mechanisms including helpline numbers, expediting justice delivery systems and designing of schemes and interventions of the Government meant for rescue, rehabilitation, counseling of the victims. This will help in instilling confidence among women and children and improve their overall safety. The NGOs should also be involved in Consultative Committees in the Government, Panels of schools and colleges and other institutions to create awareness and conduct programmes on gender sensitization.

(Para 2.17.2 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.9.2 "Police" and "Public order" are State subject under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Community partnership, including involvement of NGOs is an important component of prevention of crimes against women and children, and is being taken up at the level of States/UTs. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.9.3 The Committee notes the reply

Recommendation

1.9.4 NGOs can play a crucial role in reforming the delinquents and bringing the diverted children back into the mainstream by getting them enrolled in schools/vocational courses so that these children instead of again getting involved in crimes and other illegal activities at juvenile age can be involved in the betterment of the community and society. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should conduct mapping of the NGOs and identify the Schemes/Programmes/Projects for which their help can be used effectively.

(Para 2.17.3 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.9.5 "Police" and "Public order" are State subject under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. However, Community partnership, including involvement of NGOs is an important component of prevention of crimes against women and children, and are being coordinated in the projects at

States/UTs level by Ministry of WCD. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.9.6 The Committee notes the reply

1.10 Initiatives of Delhi Police for safety and security of women and children in Delhi

Recommendation

1.10.1 The Committee further recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs and Delhi Police should conduct a detailed study on the distress calls received on helpline numbers to discern a pattern so as to find out whether it increases or decreases during night time, on weekends and from which as more calls are received. The analysis of this study will help the Delhi Police in developing a clear understanding of the pattern of these distress calls and taking appropriate steps to redress the same.

(Para 3.4.5 ibid)

Action Taken

1.10.2 Delhi Police has informed that the recommendations/valuable suggestions have been noted for compliance. In this regard, the distress call data of ERSS-112 from January 2021 to March 2021 have been analyzed and call takers, dispatchers were deployed as per the volume of distress calls. The PCR vehicles have also been deployed adjacent to areas from where more calls are received. Besides this, District DCsP also access Crime Mapping Analytics and Predictive System (CMAPS), which based on data of past crimes, provides inputs for policing activities such as planning of pickets, patrolling etc. Thus, Delhi Police deploys manpower at the appropriate place to curb crime and maintain Law & Order.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.10.3 The Committee notes the effort of Delhi Police in analyzing the distress call data of ERSS-112, deployment of PCR vehicles and creation of Crime Mapping Analytics and Predictive System (CMAPS).

Recommendations

1.10.4 The Committee appreciates the substantial improvement in the year 2020 in the filing of the final report in Rape and POCSO cases as compared to previous years. However, the Committee recommends that Delhi Police should identify the reasons that hinder the filing of the final report within the stipulated period and address them in the right earnest. The Committee recommends that all cases may be tracked through Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO) and ensure certainty of conviction on filed charge sheets. This will instill confidence among women and children and also create fear of law among people and culprits. The Delhi Police should further improve upon investigation, filing of charge sheets, collection of evidence, forensic and DNA examination in order to

have a better conviction rate in cases of crimes against women and children in Delhi which will certainly help Delhi to become a role model for the rest of the country.

(Para 3.4.12 ibid)

Action Taken

1.10.5 Rape and POCSO cases are being dealt by the local Police scrupulously. Timely investigation, filing of charge sheet, collection of evidence and DNA examination is addressed holistically as a part of investigation in such cases, and the investigation authorities are required to adhere to the established procedures. Further, the Delhi Police has noted the recommendation of the Committee for compliance.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.10.6 The Committee notes the reply.

Recommendation

1.10.7 The Committee takes note of the 15 all-women Police Control Room vans in Delhi and recommends that a survey may be conducted by Delhi Police about the effectiveness of having all women PCR vans *vis-à-vis* traditional PCR vans and suitably increase its numbers if found effective.

(Para 3.4.22 ibid)

Action Taken

1.10.8 Launching All Women Police Control Room vans was a step by Delhi Police towards making the national capital safe for women. The initiative has been taken since women distress callers find it easy to communicate with women police personnel and narrate their grievances without any hesitation. Presently, 15 All Women PCR MPVs are performing duty in specifically selected areas/points. All Women PCR Vans are being deployed to ensure the safety and security of women at public places, help women in distress, work as patrol vans and perform multiple roles like other MPVs. All women PCR vans also identify vulnerable places for women and ensure safety of women, especially during evening hours. They also distribute literature about women safety near women colleges and market places. Further, the Delhi Police has noted the recommendation of the Committee for compliance.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.10.9 The Committee notes the reply.

1.11 Written submission of Indian Leadership Forum Against Trafficking (ILFAT) on the trafficking of women and children

Recommendation

1.11.1 The Committee notes that the MHA has allocated Rs.100 crore for the establishment of Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) in all States/UTs under the Nirbhaya Fund. The Committee understands the importance of these units and the requirement of office infrastructure, computers and

other logistics for its establishment and operational needs and therefore, recommends that MHA may allocate adequate funds to the States/UTs for establishment and strengthening of AHTUs in States/UTs including representation of female officers. An additional requirement of funds, if any, may be raised with the Ministry of Finance in the coming financial year (2021-22) at the RE stage so that AHTUs are established and made operational without further delay.

(Para 4.2.7 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.11.2 The recommendations of the Committee have been noted for necessary action.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.11.3 The Committee notes the reply.

Recommendation

1.11.4 The Committee also recommends that the Government should establish a National Anti-Human Trafficking Bureau to investigate trans-border trafficking across States as well as cases of human trafficking involving a foreign country. It should also cooperate and coordinate with the Anti-Human Trafficking Bureau at the State capital level and intelligence agencies for making concerted and holistic efforts in tracking, tracing and rescuing trafficked women and children. The Committee further recommends that the MHA should develop a mechanism for convergence and coordination between the different agencies, institutions, organizations, departments (Home, WCD, Labour, Railways, Transport and Health) for smooth and better accessibility of services to the victims and survivors of trafficking.

(Para 4.2.8 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.11.5 The recommendations of the Committee have been noted. The National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 was amended in 2019 and National Investigation Agency has been authorized to investigate cases of human trafficking having inter-state, national and international ramifications. An institutional mechanism to address the issue of human trafficking at State level in a comprehensive and full-bodied manner has been shared with all States and UTs on 1st December, 2020 and they have been advised to notify Anti Human Trafficking Units at State-level, District-level and Police Station-level, in the following manner:

(i) Each State shall notify a State-Headquarter level Anti Human Trafficking Bureau headed by an Additional Director General of Police level officer to oversee and coordinate all trafficking related issues within the State and for coordination with other States/UTs.

(ii) States shall notify an Anti Human Trafficking Unit in every District of the State, which shall be responsible for all human trafficking related matters in each District and will report to the State-Headquarter level Anti Human Trafficking Bureau. Each District level AHTU shall function under the supervision of a Superintendent of Police/Deputy Superintendent of Police level officer and will be responsible for monitoring and coordinating all activities in the District.

(iii) States shall notify a Women Help Desk in every Police Station of the State, the Women Help Desk shall inter-alia also be responsible to undertake matters of rescue, prevention, protection

and support investigation of human trafficking cases of women of the respective jurisdiction and will coordinate activities with other Police Stations and will also perform such duties and responsibilities as directed by the District AHTU.

1.11.6 By establishing the above arrangement, each State will have a Unit for preventing and countering human trafficking at all levels of the State/UT - Headquarters of the State/UT, District level and Police Station level to deal with the problem of human trafficking in a comprehensive manner. Besides this, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Women & Child Development and Ministry of Labour & Employment coordinate the activities relating to preventing and countering human trafficking. MHA has also been engaging with Ministry of Railways and other relevant agencies to address the issue of human trafficking in a holistic manner. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June, 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.11.7 The Committee notes the reply

1.12 Missing Children

Recommendation

1.12.1 The Committee takes note of the advisory issued by MHA to States/UTs regarding missing children and recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs may take up with States/UTs to ensure the availability of Juvenile Welfare Officer and Para-legal volunteer as per the extant provision of law in a time-bound manner in each Police Station for proper registration and investigation of cases of missing children and rehabilitation of the recovered children.

(Para 4.3.6 ibid)

Action Taken

1.12.2 In terms of the recommendation of the Committee, MHA has issued an advisory dated 19th May, 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.12.3 The Committee notes the reply

1.13 Interventions of the Ministry of Home Affairs in handling cyber crimes

Recommendation

1.13.1 The Committee observes with satisfaction that a National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO) has been created by the Ministry of Home Affairs for the use of the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) to identify repeat offenders, receive alerts on sex offenders as also in the investigation. The Committee, therefore, recommends that NDSO may include the offenders and criminals proliferating in cyber space who are repeatedly engaged in cyber pornography, cyber blackmailing, cyber-stalking/bullying, etc. This is highly essential to strengthen the investigation machinery involved

in the identification and tracking the offenders committing cybercrimes, particularly against women and children.

(Para 5.6.6 ibid)

Action Taken

1.13.2 NDSO has information on sexual offenders, who have been convicted for principal offences under Section 354, 376 and 509 of IPC, and Section 4 and 6 of POCSO. Further, Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System provides law enforcement officers access to data for specific offences, including those involved in cybercrimes against women and children at national level as a search function.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.13.3 The Committee notes the reply.

Recommendation

1.13.4 The Committee observes that it is very important to conduct a nation-wide campaign to create awareness amongst all sections of the society regarding the use and misuse of cyber space and also about the evolving technology which is being leveraged to commit different and new types of cyber crimes. It is also very important to protect minor children/juveniles from indulging in crimes like talking, online-trolling, molesting, etc. The Committee recommends that cyber safety lesson plans should be included in the educational institutions to make students aware of internet safety and its responsible use. Further, the educational institutions should be instructed to hold sessions with parents to make them identify at an early stage, any signs of their children being a victim of any of the cybercrimes. The Committee also expresses its concern regarding the growing use of online streaming sites/ apps showing sexually abusive content in movies, serials, etc., and feels that appropriate regulation thereof is required to save the society from its deleterious impact.

(Para 5.6.18 ibid)

Action Taken

1.13.5 A 'Handbook on cyber safety for Adolescents/Students' has been released. The soft copy of this booklet has been made available at www.cybercrime.gov.in and <https://mha.gov.in/documents/downloads>. This booklet has also been circulated to all Ministries/Departments and States / UTs for wide spreading it to their respective areas. Ministry is holding regular meetings with Educational Institutes to discuss the further course of action to increase awareness amongst students in prevention of cybercrimes.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.13.6 The Committee notes the reply

1.14 Efforts of the MHA to block cyber pornographic content and other obscene contents on the internet

Recommendation

1.14.1 The Committee is of the view that social media have become very popular and are being used by certain vested interests and elements to target young children by trapping them with false information. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA along with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology should have regular interaction with popular social media entities to create a system of deterrence as a preventive measure to stop this kind of trapping of children. Comprehensive guidelines can also be prepared for social media intermediaries to counter such vested interests.

(Para 5.7.4 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.14.2 Ministry has been interacting with social media entities on need basis. Points are noted for deliberations with MeitY and other stakeholders. MeitY, on 25th February 2021 notified “The Information Technology (Intermediary guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021” under the Information Technology Act, 2000. The Rules prescribe comprehensive due diligence to be followed by Intermediaries including social media platforms.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.14.3 The Committee notes the reply.

1.15 Making Gender Sensitization a Part of School Curriculum

Recommendation

1.15.1 The Committee considers operation Nirbheek as a very constructive measure for regular interaction of Police officers with the children and recommends that the MHA may take up with the Ministry of Education for implementation of the programme in every school all across the country, both Government as well as private. As part of this, a complaint box may be placed in every school and a female Police officer may be appointed as a Nirbheek Officer, who would open the complaint box regularly on an appointed day. In those complaints, the children may reveal the crimes committed during school hours by the teachers, by their colleagues and by their family members. The Police then can register an FIR on the basis of the complaint and also provide counseling and support to the victimized children.

(Para 6.3.17 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.15.2 The recommendations were shared with the Ministry of Education, who have informed that the NCERT fully supports operation 'Nirbheek'. with regard to complaint boxes, this concern has been suggested to various stakeholders like teachers/ teacher educators and principals by means of training materials and training programs by NCERT. A few examples are the NISHTHA program for Elementary stage, NISHTHA for Secondary stage, Working Paper on Education for Gender Equality

and Empowerment, Training Materials for Teacher Educators on Gender Equality and Empowerment- Vol.1: Perspectives on Gender and Society, Vol. 2: Gender and Schooling Processes, Vol.3: Gender and Women's Empowerment.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.15.3 The Committee notes the reply and desires to be informed about the implementation status of operation Nirbheek.

Recommendation

1.15.4 The Committee also recommends that in school and college curriculum, in addition to gender sensitization, there should be more content about leadership, sacrifice and the remarkable role played by women in all walks of life. This will create a feeling of respect for the women, and help in addressing the negative mindset/stereotypes that exist in society.

(Para 6.3.18 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.15.5 The recommendations were shared with the Ministry of Education. As per the recommendations/ observations of the Committee, an advisory on WOMEN SAFETY has already been issued by University Grants Commission to all the Vice-Chancellors of all Universities and Principals of all the Colleges in which the recommendation has been covered.

1.15.6 NCERT addresses these concerns through its textbooks, other teaching learning materials and through training programmes. The textbooks on Mathematics, Environmental Studies and Languages of the Primary Stage; and Social Science and science textbooks of Upper Primary and Secondary Stages have portrayed contribution of women in various aspects. Other issues like equality, understanding gender, diversity and discrimination, people as resource, gender, religion and caste etc., have also been integrated. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is following NCERT/CBSE curriculum. Gender Sensitization, awareness of leadership, sacrifices and remarkable role played by women in all walks of life are celebrated in KVS through skits, Nukkad Nataks. and morning assembly addresses.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.15.7 The Committee notes the reply.

1.16 Gender Sensitization of Society

Recommendation

1.16.1 The Committee is of the view that the litmus test of any civil society is to see how well educated, well protected and adequately respected its women are. The heinous crimes that are still taking place against women and children indicate that contemporary society is seriously lacking to qualify the test. The Committee notes that according to NCRB data of 2018, more than 90% of cases of rape were committed by someone known to the victim. This depicts that the main reasons for the crimes against women are societal. Therefore, it is important to promote gender sensitization in the educational curriculum from the schooling stage so that good values are inculcated and imbibed which

over a period of time will be reflected in society. But, there are many people who do not go to school and are committing heinous crimes against women and children, therefore, it is important not to confine gender sensitization programmes to educational institutions only and should involve the entire society in a holistic manner.

(Para 6.4.4 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.16.2 The recommendations were shared with Ministry of Education, who have informed that the NCERT has been working for gender sensitization of various stakeholders at all stages of school education. In all its capacity building programs organized by NCERT there are sessions related to socialization practices, gender related violence, laws for sexual harassment in schools of girls, self-defense techniques for girls, portrayal of gender in media, adolescence education and growing up concerns and gender issues in curriculum, textbook and pedagogy. The NCERT has developed Training Material for Teacher Educators on Gender Equality and Empowerment Vol I, II and III. An online course on gender sensitization is being developed by the Department wherein special care has been taken to include modules like- Socialization and cultural conditioning in the Indian context, Gender violence and Laws for Safety and Security of girls and women and Adolescence Education and Growing up concerns.

1.16.3 The NCERT has developed learning content to bring attitudinal change with respect to gender which addresses issues of mutual respect between genders and the behavioral aspects of boys under the National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Development (NISHTHA) Elementary NCERT developed the module Relevance of Gender Dimension in Teaching Learning process and conducted training of Key Resource Persons (KRPs) from different states of India. Under the Ayushman Bharat scheme the NCERT also contributed in the development of the module on Gender Equality for Health and wellness in School for adolescent children. KRPs from different states of India have been trained on the above module.

1.16.4 The Ministry of Women and Child Development has informed that the NCW, Ministry of Education and other institutions conduct gender sensitization programmes for different sections of society from time to time. Further, one of the major activities undertaken under BBBP scheme of the Ministry is gender sensitization and public awareness for safety and dignity of women and girls. However, suggestions of the Committee have been noted for increasing outreach.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.16.5 The Committee notes the reply.

Recommendation

1.16.6 The Committee further observes that crimes against women and children are on the rise and are happening all across the country. At times, the brutality that follows these crimes shocks the human consciousness and these images flash out of India, across the world, which brings a very bad name to the country.

(Para 6.4.5 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.16.7 Observation of the Committee has been noted and the Ministry of Women and Child Development does feel that every endeavor is to be made to see that the image of the country does not get affected globally.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.16.8 The Committee notes the reply.

Recommendation

1.16.9 The Committee is of the view that it is very important to consider the prevention of crimes as not only a law and order issue but also a social responsibility. The Committee, therefore, recommends, that a national effort is required to create social awakening with the involvement of social, religious organizations and society as a whole to awaken the conscience of people, sensitize and mobilize masses opinion on the atrocities and crimes against women and children.

(Para 6.4.6 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.16.10 The Ministry of Women and Child Development agrees with the recommendation and would make every endeavor to awaken the conscience of people by involving the communities and various stakeholders.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.16.11 The Committee notes the reply.

Recommendation

1.16.12 The Committee further recommends that the Government should make an all-out effort to stop the practice of honour killing and other social evils prevalent among many communities. Besides, efforts should also be made to ensure that evils like witch-hunting/witch branding are addressed and stigmatization of women eliminated. In this regard, States/UTs can share their initiatives and experiences with each other.

(Para 6.4.9 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.16.13 The recommendations have been shared with the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Further, advisories have been issued to the States/Union Territories in this regard from time-to-time. MHA/ BPR&D regularly organize Conferences/ Webinars allowing sharing of best practices and initiatives.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.16.14 The Committee notes the reply.

Recommendation

1.16.15 The Government strongly recommends that adequate budgetary allocation be made for community-based programmes and services to create public awareness and motivation to influence mindsets at large. It is also important to develop a public-private partnership involving all segments of society to bring behavioral changes through proper communication initiatives at the national, state and local level and to work towards large-scale social mobilization on gender-related issues.

(Para 6.4.10 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.16.16 *Ministry of Women and Child Development agrees with the recommendation and would make every endeavor to bring behavioral changes by involving the communities and various stakeholders through its schemes and programmes.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.16.17 The Committee notes the reply.

1.17 Sensitization on Legal Issues

Recommendation

1.17.1 The Committee takes note of the Mahila Police Volunteer Scheme which has been implemented as a pilot project in Haryana by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Committee also notes that a project report has been submitted to MoW&CD. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should pursue the matter with the Ministry of W&CD for an early analysis of the project report and if found useful, a feasibility study for uniform implementation of the Mahila Police Volunteer Scheme throughout the country may be undertaken. The State-wise individual schemes may also be studied and the best practices followed under these schemes may be adopted and integrated with Mahila Police Volunteer Scheme for an effective legal awareness campaign for women. For the purpose, Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers/Anganwadi workers and district-level legal volunteers may also be involved as a facilitator to spread legal awareness among women.

(Para 6.5.10 *ibid*)

Action Taken

1.17.2 *After evaluation of the Scheme by the NITI Aayog, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has decided to discontinue the Scheme of Mahila Police Volunteers as the response from States was not very encouraging. However, under other schemes of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, component for effective legal awareness campaign for women would be undertaken.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.17.3 The Committee notes the reply about the decision to discontinue the Scheme of Mahila Police Volunteer. The Committee would like to be apprised about the steps taken by Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoW&CD) for enhancing legal awareness among women.

1.18 Legal Provisions to Prevent Crimes Against Women

Recommendation

1.18.1 The Committee recommends that the MHA may advise States/UTs to ask their ground-level Police officials to also invoke the clauses of The Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act), 1989 when rape and sexual violence is committed against women belonging to SC/ST community.

(Para 6.7.3 ibid)

Action Taken

1.18.2 Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an Advisory dated 29th July, 2020 advising all States/UTs to ensure enforcement of law particularly in crimes relating to vulnerable sections. Enforcement agencies should be instructed in unambiguous terms that enforcement of the rights of the weaker and vulnerable sections including SC/ST and women should be ensured. Police should play a more proactive role in detection and investigation of crime against women. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June, 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

1.18.3 The Committee notes the reply.

Chapter-II

Recommendations/Observations on which the Committee does not desire to pursue the matter in view of the Government's reply

2.1 Fast Track Courts

Recommendation

2.1.1 The Committee strongly recommends that the law enforcing agencies should be provided with the "public prosecutors" for their assistance to ensure proper investigation, collection of evidence, timely submission of charge sheet and strong presentation of the case before the court. The Committee strongly feels that this would certainly help in increasing the number of conviction cases. Further, the officer senior to public prosecutors should remain vigilant to prevent seeking unnecessary adjournments from the courts. In this regard, the new feature i.e. Adjournment Alert Module provisioned under the e-Prosecution online application can be used optimally to prevent procedural-delays.

(Para 2.5.11 of 230th Repot)

Action Taken

2.1.2 *The Adjournment Alert module is being actively used by the States/Union Territories. NCRB has shared an user manual with the States/ Union Territories. Further, MHA has also issued advisories in this regard. A total of 6542 alerts have been generated so far.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.1.3 **The Committee notes the reply.**

2.2 Helpline Numbers

Recommendation

2.2.1 The Committee further recommends that the MHA should conduct a nation-wide study on call-drops on these helpline numbers and steps be taken to ensure follow-up of these calls. All efforts should be made to ensure that response time for a distress call is minimal and help reaches in time to the victim. Moreover, a counseling facility over the call should also be facilitated for further guidance and to calm down the victim in distress.

(Para 2.7.13 ibid)

Action Taken

2.2.2 *In order to ensure that there is minimum call drop, seamless connectivity to Emergency Response Centre (ERCs) and expedited delivery of telecom services necessary for effective and efficient delivery of emergency service to the distress caller, MHA has undertaken intervention of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) with the Telecom Service Providers(TSP) and the States/ Union Territories. Implementation is being regularly reviewed by the DoT.*

2.2.3 *Further, Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been customized for handling of calls in the ERCs and dispatch of emergency response as per the requirements of the respective States/UTs. The emergency responders viz. call takers, dispatchers, etc. are adequately and routinely trained to understand the nature of the distress and effectively handle distress calls towards logical resolution.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.2.4 The Committee notes the reply

2.3 Strengthening of Institutions

Recommendation

2.3.1 The Committee takes note of the data collected by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under different heads of crime on crimes against women and observes that there is no further segregation of data on the basis of different social parameters like education, income, caste, etc. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should explore the possibility of further desegregating the data pertaining to atrocities violence against women. This will help in understanding the prevailing situation of crimes against women and help in taking corrective measures by the law enforcement agencies. It is also important to create a database of other offenders like the criminals engaged in molesting, drug trafficking, etc.

(Para 2.15.4 *ibid*)

Action Taken

2.3.2 *'Police' and 'Public order' are State subject as per Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. 'Police', 'Public Order', 'Prisons' and 'persons detained therein' are 'State' subjects in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Maintaining law and order, protection of life and property of citizens, management and administration of prisons and persons detained therein is the responsibility of the respective States/ Union Territories. States/UTs are competent to deal with all matters relating to these subjects under the extant provisions of laws. The NCRB collects and publishes crime statistics of various types at national level as per defined protocols and format for reporting of crime data by States/ UTs. This is published by NCRB as reports, which include "Crime in India", "Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India", "Prison Statistics in India" etc. This data is available in public domain on the website of NCRB. Information on social parameters like education, income, caste, etc., are not collected at the police stations during the registration of the FIR.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.3.3 The Committee notes the reply

Recommendation

2.3.4 The Committee observes that the 'Principal Offence Rule' followed by NCRB for crime statistics has lacunae as in a particular case where more than one offense has been committed, only the most serious offense is considered. The Committee, therefore, recommends that NCRB may review the

“Principal Offence Rule” so as to ensure that data is collected and reflected in their statistics in such a way that no crime gets unaccounted for.

(Para 2.15.6 *ibid*)

Action Taken

2.3.5 *As per International Standards, the Bureau follows ‘Principal Offence Rule’ for counting of crime. The application of the rule prevents multiple-counting of a single case under various crime-heads. The crime statistics published by NCRB are compatible with the international practice.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.3.6 The Committee notes the reply

Recommendation

2.3.7 The Committee observes that the stringent provisions in the law have not acted as deterrence in preventing crimes against women and children and have made a very limited impact. This is a matter of grave concern for the nation and it becomes important to understand the efficacy of laws in preventing crimes against women and children. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA must advise and pursue with all States/UTs to conduct a study on the effectiveness of laws. The study may also highlight the provisions in the laws/schemes that have helped in addressing the cause of crimes against women and children.

(Para 2.15.15 *ibid*)

Action Taken

2.3.8 *The BPR&D has prepared a SOP on ‘Investigation and Prosecution of Rape Against Women’. It seeks to provide a complete set of rules and guidelines related to the response of the police while dealing with rape cases and to ensure a co-ordinated and multi-disciplinary approach to sexual offences, in general.*

2.3.9 *To facilitate efficacy of law in preventing crimes against women and children, various measures have been taken, including launch of various IT modules for assisting states/UTs in timely investigation, strengthening of forensic facilities, setting up of fast-track court etc.*

2.3.10 *A research paper on Crime Against Women: an analysis of rape cases under POCSO & IPC prepared by BPR&D has been circulated to all DGsP/ IGsP of States / UTs .MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June 2021.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.3.11 The Committee notes the reply

2.4 Advisories issued by the MHA

Recommendation

2.4.1 The Committee notes that States have been complying with the advisories issued by MHA regarding crimes against women. The Committee recommends that MHA should periodically publicize the outcome on the advisories that are being issued to the States/UTs and action taken thereon by them. This will act as a motivating factor and will also create healthy competition between States/UTs.

(Para 2.16.10 ibid)

Action Taken

2.4.2 *“Police” and “Public order” are State subject under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. States/UTs have been advised to take steps to prevent crimes against women and children. The advisories are available on MHA website and are reiterated periodically. Further, the country-data is available to States/UTs, who have been requested to review the performance regularly.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.4.3 The Committee notes the reply

2.5 Atrocities and Crimes against Women and Children of SC/ST Community

Recommendation

2.5.1 The Committee also recommends that the MHA should take up the matter with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJ&E) for providing housing, livelihood, education facility and safety including free legal support for the rehabilitation of the survivors of caste and gender-based violence. The Committee further recommends that the NGOs and individuals working for the protection and welfare of SC/ST women and children should also be involved for the same.

(Para 2.20.12 ibid)

Action Taken

2.5.2 *The matter has been examined in consultation with Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Section 21 of the PoA Act specifies duty of Government to ensure effective implementation of the Act. According to that, measures which the State Government shall take includes the provision for adequate facilities, including legal aid, to the persons subjected to atrocities to enable them to avail themselves of justice, the provision for travelling and maintenance expenses to witnesses, including the victims of atrocities, during investigation and trial of offences under this Act, the provision for the economic and social rehabilitation of the victims of atrocities, the identification of the areas where the members of the SC/ST are likely to be subjected to atrocities and adoption of such measures so as to ensure safety for such members etc.*

2.5.3 *Moreover, item No. 46 of Annexure-I under Rule 12(4) of PoA Rules specifies provisions of Additional relief to victims of murder, death, massacre, rape, gang rape, permanent incapacitation and dacoity which includes provisions of basic pension to the widow or other dependents of deceased*

persons, assistance in education and maintenance of the children of the victims, provision of utensils, rice, wheat, dals, pulses, etc. Item No. 47 of Annexure-I under Rule 12(4) of PoA Rules specifies provisions of house to be constructed or provided in case of complete destruction or burnt houses of the victims.

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.5.4 The Committee notes the reply

2.6 Response of the Government

Recommendation

2.6.1 The Committee notes that there was a sudden spurt in domestic violence and trafficking of women and children during the unprecedented COVID-19 Pandemic outbreak. This was mainly due to disruption in economic activities, work from home and family spending more time at home during lockdowns. The female migrant workers and their children were trafficked and had gone missing during lockdowns. The Committee observes that steps may be taken under both rural and urban employment guarantee schemes focusing especially on poor women so that cash transfers through DBT in their names could continue for a longer time. Currently, in many rural areas, a moratorium on interest rates for SHGs or loan repayments would also help because they are the women who are supporting their families in a big way. Some of these steps would raise women's participation in employment and also lead to a reduction in violence against them in an effective manner.

(Para 2.22.4 ibid)

Action Taken

2.6.2 *The matter has been examined in consultation with Ministry of Rural Development. Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven wage employment programme which provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members (including women) volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act 2005 requires that priority be given to women in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries are women. Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme is a gender-neutral programme which promotes participation of women by providing wage parity with men, provision of separate schedule of rates of wages for women, facilities for crèche, work-side sheds for children, and child care services. In convergence with National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), women mates have also been deployed, which again facilitate the participation of women. The Scheme also endeavors to provide works near the residence of the beneficiaries. These measures enhance participation of women, more than half, which are more than the minimum percentage of 33% as mandated by the Act.*

2.6.3 *Under Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme, the wage payment is made directly to the bank/post office accounts of the beneficiary (including women) by the Central Government through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in National Electronic Fund Management System (NEFMS) implementing States/UTs on regular basis.*

DEENDAYAL ANTYODAYA YOJANA-NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOOD MISSION (DAY-NRLM)

2.6.4 In view of Corona Virus pandemic, DAY-NRLM promoted Community Institutions and their cadres have been responding to the requirements of needy people and to ensure the supply of essential services such as production of masks, sanitisers, Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs), managing community kitchen, supply of dry rations, food items and vegetables, providing basic banking services and supporting health care front-line workers at field level etc. As part of actions taken in response to COVID-19, DAY-NRLM in addition to the following COVID protocols and sensitizing SHG members for adopting preventive behaviour, had issued guidelines to its State level Missions to carry out the following actions:

- (i) To identify the migrants and include them into the SHG fold for accessing benefits under the scheme.
- (ii) To support SHG members and migrants identified in setting up community kitchen and promoting kitchen gardens
- (iii) To prioritize the release of Revolving Fund (RF) and Community Investment Fund (CIF) to SHG Federations and utilise the available funds with CBOs to ensure the availability of funds for disbursement of loans to SHG members during lock-down and post lock-down period.
- (iv) To advise SHGs to provide an interest free loan or with low interest to the needy members equivalent to their individual members savings in the SHG, moratorium period for existing and new loans and rescheduling of the loan repayments on the basis of household cash flows.
- (v) To ensure cash liquidity at the doorstep level and far off places especially to the most vulnerable and needy, through the SHG members working as Banking Correspondents.
- (vi) To pay the honorarium to SHG members involved in relief measures under NRLM and to the community cadres at VO/CLF level from the mission funds for a period of 3 months at least. Provision for ex-gratia to any deceased among them as a result of the Covid-19 disease was also advised.
- (vii) Two Special projects have been sanctioned in FY 2020-21 for comprehensive development of Returned Migrant labourers and another 2 projects on Food Nutrition Health Wash (FNHW) in the States of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh as part of COVID-Response actions.
- (viii) The Mission also facilitated the transfer of Rs.30,944.9 crore benefiting 20.64 crore women Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) account holders under the PM Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY)

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.6.5 The Committee notes the reply

2.7 Initiatives of Delhi Police for safety and security of women and children in Delhi

Recommendation

2.7.1 The Committee takes note of the initiatives taken by the Delhi Police in terms of the creation of exclusive women helpdesks and female police officers designated as the Public Facilitation Officers

(PFOs). The Committee strongly recommends that efforts may be made on priority to ensure posting of a women police officer in “Help Desks for Women” in all the police stations so that the women complainant can unhesitatingly express her grievances at the women help desks. To ensure that there is no casual approach on the part of the police personnel in the registration of FIR, decoy operations may be carried out on regular intervals. In this regard, the recommendation of the Committee at para 2.3.12, Chapter 2 of this Report may be seen.

(Para 3.4.10 *ibid*)

Action Taken

2.7.2 Women Help Desks for women visitors/ complainants are working round the clock in all the Police Stations of Delhi. Women police officers are deployed at these help desks, so that women complainants can unhesitatingly express their grievances at the women help desk. A lady police officer is also available round the clock in Police Station to deal/investigate the case/complaint related to women expeditiously. Moreover, all necessary articles/equipment, as required, have also been provided to the women help desks, i.e. table, chair, register, computer and printer with internet connectivity. Besides this, surprise visits are often made by the supervisory officers to check complacency in dealing with the female complainants.

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.7.3 The Committee notes the reply.

Recommendation

2.7.4 The Committee notes that CCTV cameras not only act as deterrence and prevent crimes from taking place but also facilitates investigation on the commission of a crime. The Committee observes that the installation of 10,000 CCTV cameras would not be sufficient considering the large area of NCT of Delhi, population and crime hotspots as identified by Delhi Police. The Committee, therefore, recommends that Delhi Police should review and increase the proposal of installation of 10,000 CCTV cameras under the Safe City Project in Delhi.

(Para 3.4.18 *ibid*)

Action Taken

2.7.5 The Safe City Project of Delhi Police comprises following components:-

- (i) Installation of 10,000 CCTV Cameras in the jurisdiction of Delhi.*
- (ii) Setting up of Command & Control Centre having facilities of Video Analytics, Artificial intelligence, machine learning, Facial Recognition System etc., at Police Headquarters, District Headquarters and Police Station Level.*
- (iii) Integration of various Data Sets (32 data sets) and CCTV Projects under various schemes of Delhi Police, with the Safe City Projects Platform.*
- (iv) 02 Nos. Mobile Command & Control Vehicle.*
- (v) 88 Praxhar Vans equipped with Communication Device, Body Worn Camera, Vehicle Mounted Cameras, GPS etc.*

2.7.6 Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune, a scientific Society of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has been engaged as Total Service Provider for implementation of the project. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Delhi Police and

C-DAC, Pune, has been executed on 26th November, 2020 and C-DAC is in process for selection of Master System Integrator (MSI) and Internet Service Provider (ISP) for implementation of the project.

In addition to 10,000 cameras under Safe City project, based on Crime Mapping Study, vulnerable locations have been identified in the jurisdiction of 50 Police Stations and approval has been accorded to Delhi Police for installation of 6630 CCTV Cameras in the identified locations.

2.7.7 Also, Delhi Police through M/s ECIL is in the process of implementing CCTV Project at six locations in New Delhi and Central Districts of Delhi, whereby 2727 Nos. CCTV cameras are being installed. Till April, 2021, 967 cameras have been made live and work is underway for installation of remaining cameras.

2.7.8 Apart from the above, based on survey conducted in important locations and identification of sensitive areas, Delhi Police under Nigehban Scheme has motivated individuals, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and Market Welfare Associations (MWAs) to install CCTV cameras by pooling their resources. Under this Scheme, 2,66,483 CCTV Cameras have been installed so far.

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.7.9 The Committee notes the reply.

Recommendation

2.7.10 The Committee observes that last mile connectivity needs to be improved to ensure the safety of women, specially working women, who get down on metro station at odd hours and have to reach home crossing lonely stretches on the way. The Committee had examined this issue in detail while examining the subject „The Management of Worsening Traffic Situation in Delhi.“ The Committee in its 222nd Report had recommended that the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) needs to undertake multi-modal integration measures at all metro stations. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should take up this issue with concerned authorities to speed up the creation of infrastructure for last-mile connectivity.

(Para 3.4.29 ibid)

Action Taken

2.7.11 100 nos. AC E buses are being procured/ inducted under FAME-2 scheme of Department of Heavy Industry (DHI). The timelines have been extended due to unprecedented COVID-19 Pandemic. The delivery of buses has commenced in March 2021. 25 buses have been delivered till date and are under commissioning at present. The likely date of completion of induction of all the 100 buses is September, 2021. DMRC has informed that they have undertaken Multi Modal Integration (MMI) at metro stations. The implementation of MMI Scheme involves number of agencies, viz., PWD, DDA, MCDs, besides DMRC. The scheme of MMI is approved by UTTIPEC Governing Council chaired by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. The present status of implementation of MMI is as under:

(i)	The total number of stations	285
(ii)	Number of stations identified for implementation of MMI in consultation with UTTIPEC	142
(iii)	Number of stations where MMI already implemented	46
(iv)	Number of stations where MMI is under implementation at present	96
(v)	The Present Status of Implementation is as under:-	

	a. Work in progress at 37 priority stations	Target- Dec, 2021
	b. Scheme under finalization with UTTIPEC- 59 stations	Target- March, 2023

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.7.12 The Committee notes the reply and hopes that the target of procuring 100 buses by September 2021 will be achieved.

Recommendation

2.7.13 The Committee takes strong note that Delhi Police has not identified "trafficking" as a common reason for missing children. The Committee believes that trafficking of children is an alarming issue and has, therefore, discussed it in-depth in Chapter IV of this Report.

(Para 3.4.39 ibid)

Action Taken

2.7.14 *Delhi Police has informed that analysis of reasons behind missing children reveals that in most of the cases children go missing due to reasons like being scolded by parents at home, academic pressure, losing their way, elopement etc., Crime Branch made sustained effort to identify whether organized gangs were behind kidnapping of children. However, no such gangs were found active in city.*

2.7.15 *Crime Branch and District Police have continued with their efforts to trace the missing children from shelter homes, Railway Stations, Bus Stands etc., under the Operation Smile-II and Operation Muskan-II. Police teams visited various shelter homes and spoke to children to find out about their residential addresses so that they could be re-united with their families. This resulted in tracing and re-uniting total 6038 children so far.*

Incentive for tracing of missing children

2.7.16 *Special stress is laid on tracing children aged 14 or below since many of them fall prey to traffickers. Daily recovery and rescue of missing children has increased after the announcement of incentive of out of turn promotion for constables / head constables who trace at least 50 missing children aged below 14 (of whom at least 15 children must be eight years old or younger) in a year. Similarly, those who trace at least 15 missing children would be eligible for Asadharaan Karya Purashkar. 4279 children were reported missing upto 31st December, 2020, out of which, 3257 have been rescued. Delhi Police have also solved cases of children who were trafficked from places such as Assam and Agra & Noida in Uttar Pradesh.*

Tracing of Missing Children

2.7.17 *Periodical review and strengthening of Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) is being done in all Districts to improve the functioning/performance of AHTU. An audit of pending investigation cases have been carried out in each case of missing children and adequate training being imparted to the investigation officers so that they may investigate such cases properly. The scheme 'Pehchaan' was also continued this year under which children from under privileged sections were photographed in*

order to maintain a data bank which could be used to trace the child in case he/she goes missing. 1,97,087 children have been photographed under this scheme so far.

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.7.18 The Committee appreciates the efforts of Delhi Police in tracking, tracing and reuniting of missing children with their family. The Committee further recommends that biometric credentials under aadhaar may be used for quicker disposal of such cases.

Recommendation

2.7.19 The Committee is aware that the NCT of Delhi covers a large area adjoining three States of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The Committee observes the porous borders exist in the region where a large movement of people takes place on a daily basis. This necessitates strict vigilance, cooperation and coordination amongst the police forces of all the three bordering States and Delhi. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs in coordination with the three bordering States and Delhi Police should establish a permanent coordination mechanism that will help in effective tracking, monitoring and preventing crimes. The Committee is of the view that it is essential for optimal reporting of crimes and prompt investigation thereof when the crimes committed in NCR involve other bordering State/s and *vice-versa*.

(Para 3.4.41 *ibid*)

Action Taken

2.7.20 *Delhi Police organizes Inter-State Coordination meetings regularly for sharing criminal intelligence and terrorist hideouts. The meetings are attended by the representatives from UP, MP, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, J&K, Bihar and Jharkhand. The issues related to organized crime, illegal gun running, Fake Indian Currency Note (FICN), traffic, intelligence sharing, terror, online frauds etc., are discussed in the meetings and follow up actions taken accordingly. Besides coordination meetings at Police Headquarters level, District DCsP also hold regular coordination meetings with their counter parts of neighboring States.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.7.21 The Committee notes the reply

2.8 Challenges in dealing with Cyber Crimes

Recommendation

2.8.1 The Committee takes note of the fact that cybercrimes transcend geographical boundaries. The crimes are taking place in India while criminals are located in some other countries. Therefore, the Committee recommends the Ministry of Home Affairs to take up this issue with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to develop an understanding to sign pacts with different countries, especially with those countries that are linked with

maximum cases of cyber crimes. Better coordination with counter-crime agencies of foreign countries is highly required to effectively handle the cases of trans-national cybercrimes.

(Para 5.5.7 *ibid*)

Action Taken

2.8.2 Under Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) Scheme, Ministry is constantly engaged through Ministry of External Affairs at various multilateral forums like BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization), EU (European Union), bilateral forums like Germany, UAE, USA and with various agencies like Cybercrime coordination Centre of USA, Interpol (through CBI) etc. I4C with these agencies, establishing effective communication for sharing of information of incidents of cybercrime and capacity building in the area of cybercrime.

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.8.3 The Committee notes the reply and desires to be informed about the number of cybercrimes busted with such cooperation/coordination with international organizations/countries and conviction rate in such cases.

2.9 Interventions of the Ministry of Home Affairs in handling cyber crimes

Recommendation

2.9.1 The Committee appreciates the re-launch of revamped Cyber Crime Reporting Portal and operationalization of toll-free numbers which will help the citizens report cybercrimes and avail assistance in lodging online complaints.

(Para 5.6.16 *ibid*)

Action Taken

2.9.2 *Noted.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.9.3 The Committee notes the reply.

Recommendation

2.9.4 The Committee observes that so far, about 13,000 police personnel, judicial officers and prosecutors have been provided training on cybercrime awareness, investigation, forensics, etc., and still many of the States/UTs have not come onboard for the purpose. The Committee recommends that the Ministry should advise States/UTs to provide training to more personnel so that they are well trained to deal with the increasing cybercrimes.

(Para 5.6.27 *ibid*)

Action Taken

2.9.5 Ministry is continuously pursuing with the States/UTs to speed up completion of pending activities in a time bound manner so as to achieve the physical and financial targets under the CCPWC Scheme.

2.9.6 Further, in order to provide cybercrime investigation related training under I4C Scheme to a large number of stakeholders including police officers, judicial officers/prosecutors and forensic experts, NCRB has launched a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platform namely CyTrain portal (<https://cytrain.ncrb.gov.in>) on 12th March, 2020. It offers professional quality e-learning resources on cybercrime investigation. In order to access the courses available on the portal, user can simply register using an email-Id of Government domain like nic.in, gov.in. In case of unavailability of Government email-id, an offline procedure has also been provided. The training curriculum has been designed with the following 'six tracks' to address the challenges as mentioned in the recommendations:

- (i) Responder Track: Targeting First Responder Officer and Duty Officer who first responds to any crimes which may have any link with the cyber/digital aspect.
- (ii) Forensic Track: Targeting Digital Forensics A specialist at States/UTs and Central Forensics departments/Labs.
- (iii) Investigation Track: Targeting Investigating Officers at Police Station Level and CPO.
- (iv) Intelligence Track: Targeting Intelligence Officers/Analysts who work at States/UTs Intelligence Unit/Departments or Central Intelligence Agencies.
- (v) Management Track: Targeting senior level officers of States/UTs/CPO/CAPFs who heads Cybercrime Investigation / Digital Forensics Unit.
- (vi) Judiciary / Prosecution Track: Targeting Judges/Prosecutors for awareness building on latest Cybercrime MO

2.9.7 NCRB has also established a State of the Art e-Cyber Lab at NCRB Headquarters, New Delhi. The Lab is equipped with more than 25 latest Digital Forensics tools from industries and more than 50 open source cybercrime detection and forensics tools. The e-Cyber Lab is also integrated with the MOOC platform (CyTrain portal) and called as e-Cyber Lab which was launched on 13th October, 2020 for providing virtual experience on experimentation on latest modus operandi on cybercrime.

2.9.8 Ease of accessing the CyTrain & e-Cyber Lab would enable the States/UTs and other LEAs in saving huge amount of costs and efforts by avoiding arrangements of offline trainings on cybercrime for the large number of Police Officers across the country and allow officers to attend online training at their convenience. The portal also provides cybercrime awareness literature for all including the citizen. As on date, a total of more than 5400 trainees have registered on the CyTrain portal and more than 1400 online certificates have been issued to officials, who have successfully completed the courses. Regular efforts are being made to popularize the CyTrain portal among all stakeholders for enrolling on Cytrain portal.

2.9.9 An Online Capacity Building Programme on Cyber Law, Cybercrime Investigations and Digital Forensics, offering a Post Graduate Diploma of 9 months in a phased manner, to 1000 officials (2 batches of 500 each) of Police, State Cyber Cells, Law Enforcement Agencies, Prosecutors and Judicial Officers through Learning Management System (LMS) was launched on 8th November 2020. The 1st batch course started from 23rd November, 2020 and expected to be completed by Aug, 2021. A total of 493 officers have registered, and a total of 46 live classes/sessions are conducted to date (as on

23rd March, 2021) for the 1st Batch. The 2nd Batch is envisaged to start by June, 2021. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June, 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.9.10 The Committee notes the reply

Recommendation

2.9.11 The Committee further observes that the nature of crimes is evolving and changing on daily basis due to technological advancement. It is, therefore, important for the Centre to have coordination with the States/UTs for optimal utilization of existing resources. The Committee recommends that the existing National-Level Training Centre at Dwarka, New Delhi, established by the Ministry of Home Affairs should be used to provide short and long term training and refresher courses periodically to all the senior officers of the States/UTs who are involved in monitoring and handling cybercrimes in their respective States/UTs so that they can be educated properly to meet the challenges and technological advancement. The trained officers should further train their counterparts/subordinates in their States/UTs.

(Para 5.6.28 *ibid*)

Action Taken

2.9.12 *National Level Training Centre (NCTC) under NCRB headquarter at Mahipalpur is conducting short and long term training and refresher courses periodically for all the LEAs.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.9.13 The Committee notes the reply

Recommendation

2.9.14 The Committee, taking note of the reply of the MHA, observes that there is a need for optimal use of the resources and assets that are dispersed amongst various agencies. The Committee, therefore, recommends the Ministry of Home Affairs to create a National Nodal Agency for inter-State, inter-agency coordination among Centre, State/UT Ministries/Departments and intelligence agencies. This will help in combating cybercrimes effectively through a concerted centralized effort and would facilitate faster and easier redressal of cybercrime cases.

(Para 5.6.33 *ibid*)

Action Taken

2.9.15 *Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has established Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) to provide a framework and eco-system for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to deal with cybercrimes in a coordinated and comprehensive manner. The I4C will aim to strengthen the capability of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and improve coordination among various agencies and LEAs. It will work towards enhancing the nation's technical capability to tackle cybercrimes and*

develop an effective operational architecture for coordinating with various LEAs in regards to cybercrime.

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.9.16 The Committee notes the reply.

2.10 Efforts of the MHA to block cyber pornographic content and other obscene contents on the internet

Recommendation

2.10.1 The Committee observes that dependency on cyber space has been growing exponentially with the constant adoption of digital services, tools, and applications. This has also led to an increase in cybercrimes and associated challenges. To address the challenges, a targeted approach from different angles is needed which will include imparting proper training to law enforcement agencies, investing in the right cyber security solutions, evolving dynamic prevention methods and raising mass awareness on the use and misuse of the cyberspace.

(Para 5.7.5 *ibid*)

Action Taken

2.10.2 *The revamped Cybercrime reporting portal launched in 2019 provides special focus on cybercrimes against women & children. Incidents reported on this portal are routed automatically to the respective States/UTs Police based on the information provided by the public. Incidents reported on this portal are being dealt by respective Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) of States/UTs as per the legal provisions. Besides, a toll free number 155260 has also been made operational for citizens to get assistance in lodging online complaints in their own language. As the awareness and recording of cybercrimes reporting online through revamped portal has improved, there has been an increase in reporting of cybercrimes. Further, cybercrime awareness tips and advisories are being circulated to LEAs and they have also been requested to disseminate the information in their regional and local languages. MHA has requested States/ Union Territories to adequately create awareness in their State/ UT on prevention from cybercrime. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June, 2021. In addition, a Twitter Handle Cyber Dost with more than 3 lakhs followers is also active in spreading awareness on cyber crimes.*

2.10.3 *Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) through a program, namely, Information Security Education & Awareness (ISEA), has been creating awareness among users highlighting the importance of following the ethics while using internet and advising them not to share rumours/fake news. A dedicated website for information security awareness (<https://www.infosecawareness.in>) provides relevant awareness material. Under the programme, 21 awareness workshops on Information Security exclusively for women have been organized covering 2,083 participants. The topics/content covered in these workshops include cyber security, cyber stalking, online shopping, social media and privacy, password management, internet security, mobile security, browser security, online banking, instant messaging, etc. Besides this, an exclusive handbook namely 'Information Security Awareness handbook for Women', 'Cyber Security tips for Women' and*

'Online Safety tips for Women@Home during COVID-19' have been designed. The awareness content designed/developed exclusively for women have been made available for download on the website <https://www.infosecawareness.in/women>.

2.10.4 As part of this program, C-DAC, NIELIT and other noted training partners are conducting training exclusively for women and making them Industry ready by imparting the requisite technical skills in the domain of Cyber Security. The program started with 3 cities initially and is now having footprints across India including successful batch at Srinagar and Silchar (Assam). The Ministry is continuously pursuing with the States/UTs to speed up completion of pending activities in a time bound manner so as to achieve the physical and financial targets under the CCPWC Scheme. Further, in order to provide cybercrime investigation related training under I4C Scheme to a large number of stakeholders including police officers, judicial officers/prosecutors and forensic experts, NCRB has launched a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platform namely CyTrain portal (<https://cytrain.ncrb.gov.in>) on 12th March, 2020. It offers professional quality e-learning resources on cybercrime investigation. In order to access the courses available on the portal, user can simply register using an email-Id of Government domain like nic.in, gov.in In case of unavailability of Government email-id, an offline procedure has also been provided. The training curriculum has been designed with the following 'six tracks' to address the challenges as mentioned in the recommendations:

- (i) Responder Track: Targeting First Responder Officer and Duty Officer who first responds to any crimes which may have any link with the cyber/digital aspect.*
- (ii) Forensic Track: Targeting Digital Forensics A specialist at States/UTs and Central Forensics departments/Labs.*
- (iii) Investigation Track: Targeting Investigating Officers at Police Station Level and CPO.*
- (iv) Intelligence Track: Targeting Intelligence Officers/Analysts who work at States/UTs Intelligence Unit/Departments or Central Intelligence Agencies.*
- (v) Management Track: Targeting senior level officers of States/UTs/CPO/CAPFs who heads Cybercrime Investigation / Digital Forensics Unit.*
- (vi) Judiciary / Prosecution Track: Targeting Judges/Prosecutors for awareness building on latest Cybercrime MO*

2.10.5 NCRB has also established a State of the Art e-Cyber Lab at NCRB Headquarters, New Delhi. The Lab is equipped with more than 25 latest Digital Forensics tools from industries and more than 50 open source cybercrime detection and forensics tools. The e-Cyber Lab is also integrated with the MOOC platform (CyTrain portal) and called as e-Cyber Lab which was launched on 13th October, 2020 for providing virtual experience on experimentation on latest modus operandi on cybercrime.

2.10.6 Ease of accessing the CyTrain & e-Cyber Lab would enable the States/UTs and other LEAs in saving huge amount of costs and efforts by avoiding arrangements of offline trainings on cybercrime for the large number of Police Officers across the country and allow officers to attend online training at their convenience. The portal also provides cybercrime awareness literature for all including the citizen. As on date, a total of more than 5400 trainees have registered on the CyTrain portal and more than 1400 online certificates have been issued to officials, who have successfully completed the courses. Regular efforts are being made to popularize the CyTrain portal among all stakeholders for enrolling on Cytrain portal.

2.10.7 An Online Capacity Building Programme on Cyber Law, Cybercrime Investigations and Digital Forensics, offering a Post Graduate Diploma of 9 months in a phased manner, to 1000 officials (2 batches of 500 each) of Police, State Cyber Cells, Law Enforcement Agencies, Prosecutors and Judicial Officers through Learning Management System (LMS) was launched on 8th November 2020. The 1st batch course started from 23rd November, 2020 and expected to be completed by Aug, 2021. A total of 493 officers have registered, and a total of 46 live classes/sessions are conducted to date (as on 23rd March, 2021) for the 1st Batch. The 2nd Batch is envisaged to start by June, 2021. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June, 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.10.8 The Committee notes the reply.

2.11 Making Gender Sensitization a Part of School Curriculum

Recommendation

2.11.1 The Committee is of the considered view that due to lack of legal awareness particularly, amongst minor children/juveniles, they are getting involved in crimes like stalking, online-trolling, molesting, etc., in their schools/colleges, considering these as non-criminal activities. Therefore, it is necessary to impart knowledge of cyber security to them so that they do not get targeted by offenders. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs may take up with the Ministry of Education to include the basics of cyber security in the school curriculum at an early age. It may include the general information of cyberspace, threats and challenges associated with cyber security, details of online activities that are punishable under the law to make them aware of do's and don'ts while engaging in online activities. This will educate the children about the use and misuse of cyber space and also act as a deterrent to stop them from committing cybercrimes. A nationwide campaign may also be conducted in schools for creating awareness among parents to recognize early signs of child abuse, risks of online addiction, cyber-bullying, explicit content, etc., to improve the online safety of their child.

(Para 6.3.19 ibid)

2.11.2 The Committee further recommends that it should be mandatory in all educational institutions to teach 'Social Media Regulations' covering aspects on all social and legal requirements so as to ensure increased awareness and compliance. Institutions must also formulate penalties and actions corresponding to the violation of the guidelines. The MHA may take up the matter with the Ministry of Education in this regard at an appropriate level.

(Para 6.3.20 ibid)

Action Taken

2.11.3 Ministry of Education is holding regular meetings with Educational Institutes to discuss further course of action to increase awareness amongst students in prevention of cyber crimes. UGC has constituted an Expert Committee of IT Experts/ Administrators in e-Governance and digital technologies involved in policy formulations to guide UGC for developing an eco-system for cyber security in Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs). The Committee held its first meeting on 5th May, 2021. NCERT is taking up several activities mentioned below to create awareness on cyber safety and security among students as well as teachers.

ICT in Education Curriculum for Students and Teachers

2.11.4 In classes 9th to 12th safety, security and ethics in the cyber world are being introduced as separate chapters in ICT, IT and Computer Science textbooks. Topics like email safety, spam mail, malicious link, fraud mails; safe in Social Networks: identity protection, confidentiality and caution while dealing with anonymous or unknown; cyber bullying'. how to safeguard, where to report, Laws against stalking and bullying; Cyber Stalking, Cyber crime, cyber Law, Hacking, Fake websites, Phishing and other online frauds caution and how to deal in such events; copyright, Plagiarism and IPR issues; Software licensing - Proprietary software, Free and Open source software, Copyrighted vs. Free resources, Creative Commons; E-waste; Mobile security, mobile app security etc.

Orientation of State Resource Groups in States/ UTs

2.11.5 During the State Resource Group (SRG) training conducted for 31 states, cyber safety components have been integrated in the training sessions according to its relevance. Around 1350 SRGs have been trained during this programme till 2019-20. SRG training for 2020-21 will be started from 21st Feb, 2021 and expected to orient at least 20 State Resource Persons (SRPs) in each state.

Collaboration with ISEA-CDAC, Hyderabad

2.11.6 NCERT is in the process of signing a MoU with ISEA- CDAC, Hyderabad (MeitY) for working collaboratively in creating awareness and capacity building on cyber safety and security. Activities done in collaboration are as follows.

- (i) Two booklets on guidelines for parents on cyber safety & security and cyber parenting were developed and released on 9th February, 2021. These booklets can be accessed at <https://ciet.nic.in/pages.php?id=booklet-on-cyber-safety-security&In=en&ln=en>
- (ii) A Telegram channel on Cyber Safety and Security (<https://t.me/cybersafetysecurity>) is created for disseminating information on a regular basis.
- (iii) First course 'Cyber Hygiene Practices: Personal Digital Devices' as part of course series "Cyber Hygiene" was developed and launched on DIKSHA from 8th February, 2021. This course can be accessed at https://diksha.gov.in/explore-course/course/do_3132118572713902081183. Through this course several threads were introduced and oriented on the safety measures.
- (iv) Two more courses as part of the Cyber Hygiene series are in the process of development.

Collaboration with Cyber Peace Foundation

2.11.7 eRaksha Competitions - A series of competitions for students and teachers like slogan writing, CD cover designing, painting etc., were conducted on the theme Digital Citizenship and Online Safety.

Collaboration with UNESCO

2.11.8 During COVID-19, a brochure on cyber bullying was developed in collaboration with UNESCO and disseminated across the country.

Orientation of NCERT Faculty:

2.11.9 A series of online sessions on cyber safety & Security were organized for capacity building of NCERT faculties on the following topics and broadcasted live through YouTube channel:

- (i) Be safe Online
- (ii) Safety measures with respect to browser and mail
- (iii) Safety & Security :Devices during online transaction
- (iv) Adoption of OER: An innovative intervention for teaching - learning

Orientation of teachers and teacher educators through NISHTHA Programme

2.11.10 National Initiatives for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) is an in-service training programme which was implemented for Elementary (Class I to VIII) teachers and school heads during 2020-21. Cyber safety and security is a component of the three courses. A dedicated course on POCSO is part of this programme. In COVID-19 pandemic situation the course was rolled out online and about 24 Lakh teachers were covered. The same module was completed by 17.5 lakh teachers through face-to-face mode during the year 2019-20.

CIET-NCERT Guidelines

2.11.11 CIET-NCERT has developed booklets and brochures regarding cyber safety and security for schools, teachers, students and parents. All these booklets are disseminated to all state agencies as well as autonomous organizations for further dissemination to schools. These resources can be accessed at <https://ciet.nic.in/pages.php?id=booklet-on-cyber-safety-security&In=en&ln=en>. These guidelines orient children and adults related to safety measures and also the legal aspects related to cyber safety and security.

2.11.12 An Online course on Gender Issues in Education is being developed by NCERT wherein the module on "cyber Safety and Security" addresses concerns such as cybercrime against women, legal process and responses, cyber pornography, cyber ethics and cyber education'. Guidelines are issued from time to time by KVS on topics related to cyber security. The security instructions of NCPCR have been sent to all Kendriya Vidyalayas, so that cybercrimes can be avoided. At the school level, lectures are organized by calling local cyber security experts, through which this information is widely disseminated.

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.11.13 **The Committee notes the reply and further recommends that the measures taken by the Ministry of Education to increase awareness for prevention of cybercrimes may be popularized among students/teachers/parents through nation-wide campaign.**

2.12 Gender Sensitization of Society

Recommendation

2.12.1 The Committee also recommends that all political leaders should conduct a campaign to raise awareness among masses about the gender sensitization which will have a deep and lasting impact and change the pattern and attitude of society towards women. The Committee further recommends that gender sensitization training of the Police, public and officers in the bureaucracy should be conducted regularly on their roles and responsibilities. Further, SOPs and guidelines about gender sensitization should also be updated and circulated from time to time.

(Para 6.4.8 *ibid*)

Action Taken

2.12.2 *The BPR&D completed a project on ‘Gender Sensitization of Police- A need for Training Intervention’. The overarching objective of the project is to leverage HRD and training interventions to ensure a gender sensitive police. The in-built objectives are to delineate the desirable steps/tasks that can go a long way in making police in India gender sensitive. The objective at the end of the project thus subsumes certain steps at various levels:*

- (i) To take policy level steps*
- (ii) To take intra-organizational steps*
- (iii) To take special steps*

2.12.3 *The Training Division convened a multi-disciplinary webinar on 26th February, 2021, in which participants representing a microcosm of stakeholders including Police, Prison, Prosecution, Medical and Forensics were present. The Training Division commenced a new training initiative, styled the National Perspective Management Course, for senior police officers of State Police and Central Organizations and the eITEC Courses for capacity building of partner developing countries. The courses are designed to expose the participants to a wide variety of professional concerns relating to policing, including women security. Several measures for capacity building on women safety initiated, in coordination with stakeholders such as the Ministry of Women & Child Development, NCW and MHA, and included:*

- (i) A series of webinars were organized during the pandemic on issues relating to Soft Skills, Community Policing, Role of Intelligence and Safety of Women and Children, under the broad head of ‘Road to Effective Policing’.*
- (ii) Policy initiatives, such as preparation of SOPs for Investigation of Assault on Women, including POCSO cases, creating and augmenting Women Help Desk in Police Stations across India.*
- (iii) Initiating steps to draft a broad-based guideline and scheme for Women Safety in association with the National Commission for Women (NCW).*

2.12.4 *MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June, 2021.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.12.5 The Committee notes the reply.

2.13 Sensitization on Legal Issues

Recommendation

2.13.1 The Committee is of the strong view that Panchayats can play a critical role in responding to violence against women and children. The Committee, therefore, recommends that Panchayats should be sensitized to respond to violence in a priority and sensitive manner as per the provisions of the laws. Regular training and orientation programmes should be conducted with women members of local Gram Panchayat and female staff attached to the child care centres and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to counsel individuals who are found mistreating and abusing women. In order to increase legal awareness among working women, Local Committees (LCs) need to be strengthened. The awareness level of the women employed in informal sectors, who are engaged in agriculture and other farm and non-farm-related activities, should also be enhanced through appropriate advocacy and counseling.

(Para 6.5.11 *ibid*)

Action Taken

2.13.2 Ministry of Panchayati Raj has issued guidelines on Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) to Panchayats ensuring that steps for constituting committees for the protection of women and children may be taken care of.

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.13.3 The Committee notes the reply.

2.14 Legal Provisions to Prevent Crimes Against Women

Recommendation

2.14.1 The Committee notes the creation of Internal and Local Committee to provide redressal in cases of sexual harassment against women employed in both formal and informal sectors. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the district administration may conduct surveys of different workplaces and types of work in which the women in their districts are involved and constitute local committees accordingly. The Committee is of the view that the women working in informal sectors are poor and migrant workers and are uneducated, unaware of the laws and whom to approach in case atrocities and crimes are committed against them. Therefore, the Committee also recommends that MHA may advise States to ask all employers to sensitize their employees by organizing orientation and awareness programmes at regular intervals about the legal provisions, Sexual Harassment Electronic Box Portal and helpline numbers dealing with violence against women.

(Para 6.7.16 *ibid*)

Action Taken

2.14.2 The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 casts responsibility on Appropriate Government i.e. State Government and on every employer to organize workshops and awareness programmes at regular intervals for sensitizing the employees with the provisions of the Act and orientation programmes for the members of the Internal

Committee. Also, the Ministry, from time-to-time issues advisory to all States/ Central Ministries /Industry bodies etc., to sensitize their employees about the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.14.3 The Committee notes the reply.

2.15 Legal Provisions to Prevent Crimes against Children

Recommendation

2.15.1 The Committee notes that there has been a large number of cases under the POCSO Act where the age of the juveniles has been below the threshold age for applicability of the law. The Committee believes that minor sexual offenders may commit more serious and heinous crime if left untreated/uncounseled. Therefore, it is very important to relook at these provisions because more and more juveniles are getting involved in such crimes. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA may take up with MoW&CD to review the current age limit of 18 years and see if it can be reduced to 16 years for the applicability of the POCSO Act, 2012.

(Para 6.8.8 ibid)

Action Taken

2.15.2 Ministry of Women and Child Development has informed that the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, (JJ Act), 2015 which is the primary legislation for children in need of care and protection (CNCP) and children in conflict with law. Child accused of crime under POCSO Act is protected under the provisions of JJ Act, 2015 based on principal of restorative justice. The JJ Act, 2015 empowers Juvenile Justice Board to decide upon matters of children in conflict with law. Further, offences committed by the children have been categorised as petty, serious and heinous offences. The JJ Act, 2015 also include procedure to decide upon cases where children above the age of sixteen years have been alleged to commit a heinous offence.

Further Recommendation/Observation

2.15.3 The Committee notes the reply.

Chapter-III

Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee

3.1 Registration of Crimes against Women and Children

Recommendation

3.1.1 The Committee notes that cases of crimes against women and children are not getting registered at the police station and in time and are one of the main reasons for delay and denial of justice to the victim and family. The Committee appreciates the initiative taken by the Rajasthan Police for conducting decoy operations to check whether FIRs are being registered at Police Stations or not. The Committee strongly recommends that such decoy operations should be conducted at regular intervals throughout the country. This will create alertness amongst ground-level Police officials and will lead to the registration of more cases. The Committee also recommends developing and promoting online registration of FIR for different categories of complaints particularly, for the crimes committed against women and children. In this regard, the MHA should issue a detailed advisory to all the States/UTs.

(Para 2.3.12 of 230th Report)

Action Taken

3.1.2 *'Police' and 'Public order' are State subject as per Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. It is stated that all States/Union Territories have operationalized Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and System (CCTNS). FIRs are being registered 100% on CCTNS in 15890 Police Stations. Further, all States/Union Territories have launched their State Citizen Portals providing citizen centric police services, which includes online filing of complaints, including for crimes on women and children. Police register information report in writing, in case it is a cognizable case. Citizens can also file complaints online in cases related to cyber-crimes on the National Cyber-crime Portal, including cyber-crimes against women and children.*

3.1.3 *MHA has issued advisories to all States/UTs to register FIR and take timely action in cases of crimes against women, apart from taking mitigating steps for prevention of crimes against women. A detailed advisory on protection of vulnerable groups, including women, has been issued to States/ Union Territories on 19 May 2021 and 30 June 2021.*

3.1.4 *It is further stated that as part of capacity building of the police in this regard, apart from the regular trainings, the BPR&D organized a One Day Webinar on "Woman Safety with Sensitivity" on 8th March, 2021 at BPR&D, Hqrs., New Delhi. A book titled "Women's Safety & Security - A Handbook for First Responders and Investigators in the Police" was released during the webinar. This book has been prepared for First Responders and Investigators in the police, 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. The book has been circulated to DGsP of all States/UTs and DGs of CPOs/CAPFs.*

3.1.5 A project on 'CAWCH: Crime Against Women- Check & Halt Prevention Strategies' has been completed under BPR&D. The project studies the use of technology and technological/security infrastructure for devising strategies to build confidence amongst women. It aims to identify and recognize the prevalent societal evils to analyse and solve the problems of crime against women.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.1.6 The Committee notes that all States/Union Territories have operationalized Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and System (CCTNS) along with State Citizen Portals providing citizen centric police services, which includes online filing of complaints, including for crimes on women and children. The Committee is of the view that internet connectivity and digital infrastructure are important for proper functioning of CCTNS and other online services. The Committee therefore, recommends that the MHA should take up with concerned authority to monitor the down times of CCTNS in police stations and the reasons for the same. The MHA based on the Report thus generated, should hold periodic meetings with the States/UTs concern to sort out the problem/issues hampering smooth functioning of CCTNS.

3.1.7 The Committee notes the reply about the circulation of the “Women’s Safety & Security- A Handbook for First Responders and Investigators in the Police” book to DGsP of all States/UTs and DGs of CPOs/CAPFs. The Committee further recommends that the handbook be made available online so that it is easily accessible to the police personnel particularly working at ground level during interaction with victims of crime.

Recommendation

3.1.8 The Committee believes that it is important to give due importance to a complaint by women about sexual harassment or incidences of violence through free and easy registration of FIRs in any Police Station. In cases of delay in lodging an FIR by victim/family members etc., police must seek and record the reasons for the delay in the FIR sheet. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA should introduce Zero-FIR in all the States and Union Territories. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should provide the facility of lodging Zero-FIR in Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & System (CCTNS)

(Para 2.3.13 ibid)

Action Taken

3.1.9 Where a crime is committed outside the jurisdiction of the police station concerned, the police have been advised to register a FIR as a Zero FIR in the case and transfer the same to the Police Station concerned. The Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and System (CCTNS) adequately facilitates for registration of such case and electronic transfer with record. MHA has been regularly issuing advisories to all States/Union Territories to mandatorily register FIRs, and where necessary a Zero FIR, to ensure timely recording of complaints in prevention of crimes against women. MHA has issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30 June 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.1.10 The Committee notes that the Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and System (CCTNS) adequately facilitates for registration of zero-FIR and further recommends that the MHA may advise States to seek and record the reasons by the PS concerned for the delay in

lodging an FIR by victim/family members. The Committee further recommends that MHA may advise States to issue SOPs to record the reasons for delay in registration of cases by the complainants. The Committee would like to be apprised about the number of zero-FIR lodged in States/UTs and time taken for transfer of zero FIR to the PS concerned. MHA may monitor it on regular intervals in this regard and issue advisories, wherever needed.

Recommendation

3.1.11 The Committee expresses its concern over the tendency of registration of false cases and misuse of laws. The Committee observes that after an investigation about the veracity of cases, appropriate penal action should be taken by fixing accountability of the Police personnel who have registered false cases. At the same time, those individuals who register false cases must not get off scot-free. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA should advise States to take strict actions against the Police personnel and individuals who have registered false cases. The MHA may take up the matter with the Ministry of Law and Justice and if need be, laws should be amended to add stringent provisions against false cases.

(Para 2.3.14 ibid)

Action Taken

3.1.12 *Section 182 of the Indian Penal Code provides for penal provision against false cases and misuse of laws as below:*

“False information, with intent to cause public servant to use his lawful power to the injury of another person.—Whoever gives to any public servant any information which he knows or believes to be false, intending thereby to cause, or knowing it to be likely that he will thereby cause, such public servant—

(a) to do or omit anything which such public servant ought not to do or omit if the true state of facts respecting which such information is given were known by him, or

(b) to use the lawful power of such public servant to the injury or annoyance of any person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.”

3.1.13 *Section 209 of IPC provides for penal offence for dishonestly making false claim in Court as below:*

“Whoever fraudulently or dishonestly, or with intent to injure or annoy any person, makes in a Court of Justice any claim which he knows to be false, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to fine”.

3.1.14 *Further, in terms of the recommendations of the Committee, the Ministry of Home Affairs has also referred this matter to Department of Legal Affairs. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June 2021. Amendments to Criminal laws is a continuous process.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.1.15 **The Committee notes that Section 182 of the IPC has a provision for a fine ‘which may extend to one thousand rupees’ and Section 209 does not mention the amount of fine. The amount of fine under Section 182 is very low in present time. The Committee, therefore, further**

recommends that the MHA may take up with Ministry of law & Justice to amend the section 182 and 209 of the IPC to enhance the amount of fine under Section 182 of IPC and Section 209 of IPC should also be amended by adding suitable amount of fine under this section. The Committee would also like to be apprised about the number of cases registered under Section 182 and 209 of the IPC during past three years.

3.2 Conviction Rate

Recommendation

3.2.1 The Committee is of the view that there is an urgent need for the media to show restraint and responsible behavior in reporting the cases of crimes against women and children. The Committee believes that sensationalizing these cases in media demonstrates a lack of sensitivity and leads to re-victimization of the survivors and embarrassment of their family. Further, the media should focus more on publicizing the penalty/punishment imposed on the culprits than the incidents of crime. This will certainly not only create fear of law but will also act as a deterrence. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA should take up the matter with the concerned Ministries to ensure non-disclosure of identities of victims and provide protection to the victims and families which has also been the observation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

(Para 2.4.16 ibid)

Action Taken

3.2.2 *The matter was taken up with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, who have informed that Guidelines/Regulatory framework is available for media sector i.e Print/Electronic/Digital Media for self-regulation by the media. In pursuance of its policy to uphold the freedom of the press in print media, Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country, and to inculcate the principles of self-regulatory among the press. In furtherance of its objectives, the Council, under Section 13 (2)(b) of the Press Council Act, 1978, has framed "Norms of Journalistic Conduct" which cover the principles and ethics regarding journalism viz; Accuracy and Fairness, Pre-publications, caution against defamatory writing, Trial of Media etc. Print media is required to adhere to the said Norms. Specific Guidelines for Protection of Child Rights on the caption 'Guidelines Drawn up for Reporting on Children' have been formulated. These guidelines require media to avoid any such reporting that may stigmatize or expose a child to negative reprisals including additional physical or psychological harm or lifelong discrimination by their local communities.*

3.2.3 *The Council takes cognizance, suo-motu or on complaints, of the contents in print media which are in violation of the 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' As per section 14 of the Act, the Council, after holding an inquiry, may warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalist or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalist, as the case may be.*

3.2.4 *Similarly in the electronic media, as per existing regulatory framework, all programmes and advertisements telecast on private satellite TV channels are regulated in accordance with the Programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed there under. The said Codes contain a wide range of parameters to regulate programmes and advertisements on TV channels including reporting of the cases of crimes against women and children, sensationalizing such cases and their portrayal of on TV in a positive*

manner. The Government takes action in cases where Programme/Advertising Codes are found to be violated by the private satellite TV channels, including issuance of advisory, warning, running an apology scroll and in extreme cases, directing the channel to be off air for certain time duration. In addition to this, the Government has issued common advisories from time to time to TV channels on the subject.

3.2.5 The Government has notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 under the provisions of Information Technology Act, 2000 which inter-alia provides the Code of Ethics applicable to the publishers of news and current affairs on digital media and require such publishers to follow the Norms of Journalistic Conduct of Press Council of India and the Programme Code under the Cable Television (Network Regulation) Act, 1995. Under the institutional mechanism provided for under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 the accountability of publishers of news on digital media is at par with publishers of news on print and electronic media which too follow same codes/regulations. Further, the Rules also provide for certain guidelines to OTT players to enable them to classify the content on the basis of Themes and Messages, Violence, Nudity, Sex, Languages, Discrimination etc.

3.2.6 The Apex Court of the country has also issued directions on non-disclosure of identity of victim in cases relating with sexual offences. Accordingly, MHA had issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on the same for compliance, which have also been reiterated.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.2.7 The Committee notes the reply. However, the Committee observes that the electronic media in the race to compete to be first on the TRP, have been seen to indulge in media trial and in the name of investigative journalism such crimes are reported in sensational manner. The Committee therefore further recommends that the matter may be taken up with concerned Ministry to apply existing provisions more stringently on national especially local electronic media.

3.3 Fast Track Courts

Recommendation

3.3.1 The Committee notes the initiative of the Ministry of Law & Justice for setting up 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and the POCSO Act. Further, the cases registered under POCSO Act during the last 3 years (2017-19) were 31,668,38,802 and 46,005 respectively. The Committee is perplexed to note that against the 1023 Fast Track Special Courts only 597 Courts including 325 exclusive POCSO courts have been made operational in 24 States/UTs. This shows that although there has been an increase in cases over years, the lack of such courts will further delay the course of dispensing justice which will subsequently reduce the faith of victims in the justice delivery system. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should take up the matter with the Ministry of Law & Justice to expedite the setting up of remaining Fast Track Courts (FTC) in a time-bound manner and that these courts should also adjudicate on the pending cases within a timeframe.

(Para 2.5.10 ibid)

Action Taken

3.3.2 Against the target of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO Courts, 632 FTSCs including 340 exclusive POCSO courts have been made operational in 26 States/UTs. Constant efforts are being made by the Department of Justice for operationalization of all targeted FTSCs including exclusive POCSO courts and enhancement of case disposal. In this following measures have been adopted by the Ministry of Law & Justice:

- (i) Review meetings have been held with State functionaries and representatives of concerned High Courts for enhancement of case disposal.
- (ii) Minister of Law & Justice has addressed several communications to Chief Ministers and Chief Justice of High Courts for speedy redressal of the issues to ensure safety of women and children
- (iii) Online Monitoring Framework has been devised for obtaining monthly case statistics.
- (iv) Nodal Officers have been appointed at High Court level.
- (v) Central Share has promptly been released to the States.
- (vi) Third Party Evaluation of the Scheme on Fast Track Courts has been conducted and report shared to States and High Courts including concerned Ministry/Department for adopting suggested corrective measures for strengthening the implementation of the Scheme in the following areas, including
 - (a) Appointment of Special Public Prosecutors and special team of police personnel to investigate POCSO Act cases.
 - (b) Establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Complexes (VWDC) in court rooms.
 - (c) Creation of high priority system of service of summons warrants and processes, etc.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.3.3 The Committee notes that against the target of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO Courts, 632 FTSCs including 340 exclusive POCSO courts have been made operational in 26 States/UTs which is 61.7% of the total FTSCs. The Committee further recommends that the MHA may take up with the Ministry of Law & Justice to remove bottlenecks and provide adequate financial resources for operationalization of remaining fast track courts in a time bound manner.

3.4 Helpline Numbers

Recommendation

3.4.1 The Committee believes that the reason for receiving a very low number of calls to the helpline numbers is due to low publicity of the numbers. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should advise States to publicize and promote the use of helpline numbers notified by them in their respective States in an aggressive and continuous manner. This should compulsorily be done in regional and local languages through mainstream print, electronic and digital media, public transports, advertisements, TV channels, social media, cover page of school-books, etc. The Committee feels that when a common platform will be formulated for having a unique and universal helpline number for the entire nation, the same should also be duly publicized so that all

vulnerable sections including children, women, foreign visitors, everybody would be able to remember it.

(Para 2.7.12 ibid)

Action Taken

3.4.2 The Ministry of Home Affairs has undertaken awareness campaigns to popularize the 112 emergency helpline number in print, electronic and digital media and advised all States/Union Territories to popularize its benefits. The Ministry has been sharing creative designs and content for undertaking awareness campaigns with the States/Union Territories. The States/Union Territories have been advised to translate the creatives provided to them in local language and publicize them.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.4.3 The Committee notes the steps taken by MHA to popularise the 112 emergency helpline numbers. The Committee further recommends that the MHA may advise States/UTs to analyze the distress call data of ERSS 112 for deployment of PCR vehicles adjacent to areas from where more calls are received for quick reaction. The MHA may share with all States/UTs the Crime Mapping Analytics and Predictive System (CMAPS) used by Delhi Police which is based on data of past crimes and provides inputs for policing activities such as planning of pickets, patrolling etc.

3.5 Women and Children Help Desks and All Women Police Stations

Recommendation

3.5.1 The Committee is of the considered view that it is important to instill confidence amongst women so that they can fearlessly approach Police Station to register their complaint. The Committee appreciates the steps taken towards establishing all women Police Station but feels that this will not be sufficient to cater to the need of the vast population. The Committee, therefore, recommends that MHA may ask States to conduct a comparative study on having all-women Police Stations *vis-a-vis* traditional Police Stations. A survey may also be conducted among people to check whether all women Police Stations have actually helped in the ease of reporting of crimes. Based on the outcome of the survey, the Ministry may advise the States Governments to further increase the number of all-women Police Stations.

(Para 2.8.9 ibid)

Action Taken

3.5.2 The BPR&D have prepared a SOP for 'Women Help Desk at Police Stations'. It seeks to ensure the smooth functioning of Women Help Desks by focusing on four critical components viz., infrastructure, training, HRD and response mechanism. The SOPs conceptualize to create "One Stop Support Centre" for women in all the Police Stations in the country. The BPR&D has undertaken a study on Performance Audit of Women Police Stations in India, the study has covered 22 police stations in 13 states. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.5.3 The Committee would like to be informed about the key findings of the study done by BPR&D on Performance Audit of Women Police Stations in India and the action taken/proposed to be taken on the basis of said findings.

3.5.4 The Committee notes that the study of BPR&D has covered 22 police stations in 13 States which is a very small sample size with respect to 15,890 police stations in the country as informed by the Ministry. The Committee would like to be informed about the reasons for selection of only 22 police stations and the criteria used thereof. The Committee would also like to impress upon increasing sample size suitably for proper assessment.

3.6 Nirbhaya Fund

Recommendation

3.6.1 The Committee notes that the Ministry is implementing twelve projects/schemes for which Rs. 4171.93 crore has been approved. The Committee further notes that only Rs.3,581.11 crore has been disbursed from Nirbhaya Fund out of Rs.9,288.45 crore which is around 38.55%.The Committee is, however, disappointed to note the under-utilization of the Nirbhaya Fund by States which is a dedicated fund for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security of women in the country. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA should coordinate with Ministry of Women and Child Development and undertake due to consultations with States to improve the utilization of the funds allocated to them and expeditiously implement the projects/schemes for which allocation has been made and take all necessary steps to overcome the bottlenecks. A Committee may also be formed at a central level under MoW&CD to oversee and improve the utilization of the Nirbhaya Fund across States/UTs.

(Para 2.9.7 *ibid*)

Action Taken

3.6.2 *This issue was consulted with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, who have informed that till the FY 2020-21, the total allocation of funds in the Nirbhaya Corpus is Rs.5712.85 crore and an amount of Rs.3581.11 crore (around 60.00%) has been disbursed for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security of women in the country.*

3.6.3 *An Empowered Committee under the chairpersonship of Secretary, M/o Women & Child Development, and comprising of members from MHA, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, M/o Railways, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Department of Economic Affairs, and the representatives of other Ministries/ Departments implementing respective projects/schemes, regularly review the status of implementation of ongoing projects/schemes.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.6.4 The Committee notes that till the FY 2020-21, the total allocation of funds in the Nirbhaya Corpus is Rs.5712.85 crore and 60.00% amount (Rs.3581.11) has been disbursed to all States/UTs which is still on the lower side. The Committee would like to be apprised about the State-wise allocation and utilization of the funds for the specific purpose identified by the States

and approved by the empowered committee. The Committee may also be informed about the cost initially proposed by State/UTs and steps taken to improve the utilization pattern.

3.7 Safety of women and children in trains

Recommendation

3.7.1 The Committee takes note of the mechanism available to register FIR in running trains. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Railways may be pursued to widely publicize the facility of registration of cases in the running train through print, electronic and digital media and also expedite installation of CCTV cameras in trains and railway stations all across the country.

(Para 2.14.6 ibid)

Action Taken

3.7.2 Ministry of Railways has informed that CCTV facility has been provided at 686 railway stations and in 2931 coaches. It has further stated that the Indian Railway will endeavor to gradually provide CCTV Cameras at more Railway Stations, except halt stations and in Coaches of all trains including suburban trains. Works for same have also been approved. M/o Railways has requested Principal Chief Security Commissioners/Railway Protection Force/all zonal railways to widely publicise availability of RPF/GRP staff in important Mail/ Express/Rajdhani/Shatabadi trains and availability of FIR forms with them through various social media platforms.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.7.3 The Committee notes that CCTV Cameras have been installed in 2931 coaches and observes that this is a very small number, if installation of CCTV cameras in trains and coaches are to be counted in view of the vast network of railways across the country. The Committee further recommends that the MHA may take up with the Ministry of Railways to expedite the installation of CCTV Cameras at remaining Railway Stations and trains. Also, the availability of FIR forms and RPF/GRP staff in trains may be publicized by displaying it on railway tickets, screens/ advertisement boards in the railway stations and other prominent places.

3.7.4 The Committee takes note of the reply that works for installation of CCTV cameras in all the coaches of trains has been approved. The Committee further recommends that the same may be executed in a time bound manner and the Committee may be apprised of the same.

Recommendation

3.7.5 The Committee notes that different States have devised customized Apps for registration of complaints in public transport and observes that different Apps in different States will make it difficult for a person travelling across the States to make a complaint. The Committee, therefore, in order to facilitate and ensure easy registration of complaints, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should explore and take up the matter with the concerned Ministries at the Central level in coordination and consultation with States to devise a Pan-India common App on the lines of Pan India Helpline Number '112' for registration of cases in all modes of public transport.

(Para 2.14.7 ibid)

Action Taken

3.7.6 Ministry of Road Transport & Highways is implementing the scheme, “Development, Customization, Deployment and Management of State-wise vehicle tracking platform for Safety & Enforcement as per AIS 140 Specifications”. This involves enabling a panic-button based emergency response mechanism. There is single platform for registration and resolution of rail passenger complaints including security related complaints in form of Rail Madad helpline 139 integrated with a web based portal. These and other helplines would be integrated with the Emergency Response Centres in the State for a seamless and timely assistance in case of emergencies. Further, 112 India App is available nationally for any emergency response. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.7.7 The Committee notes the steps taken for creation of a single platform for registration and resolution of rail passenger complaints. The Committee reiterates its recommendation at para 3.7.5 of the Report and would like to be apprised about the progress made in this regard.

3.8 Role of NGOs in Assisting the Victimized Women and Children

Recommendation

3.8.1 The Committee observes that in the rural, far-flung tribal areas, the people are generally very innocent and they accept the atrocities as a way of life largely due to lack of education, awareness of the existing laws and regulations, etc. In absence of any organization to assist them, they are unable to access the justice delivery system in comparison to women in urban areas who are educated, aware and have easy and faster access to legal systems. The Committee further notes that generally, the NGOs have confined their activities to the urban areas and metropolitan cities. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should take necessary measures to incentivize and encourage the NGOs to increase their presence in rural and tribal areas to reach out to the vulnerable and helpless sections of the society. Further, the NGOs should also increase their online presence so that they can extend their services to distant areas.

(Para 2.17.4 ibid)

Action Taken

3.8.2 ‘Police’ and ‘Public order’ are State subject under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. However, Community partnership, including involvement of NGOs is an important component of prevention of crimes against women and children, and is being coordinated in the projects at States/UTs. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.8.3 The Committee notes that the reply furnished by the MHA is very generic in nature and reiterates its recommendation at para 3.8.1 of the Report.

3.9 Conditions of Sex-Workers

Recommendation

3.9.1 The Committee notes the response of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoW&CD) that they do not support the legal sanctity of sex work. However, the Committee is of the considered view that sex workers are faced with hardships, very much susceptible and more often the victims of violence. They are made to suffer in oblivion due to the apathy of law, authorities and society at large. The sex workers are not even getting the basic rights and amenities under the Constitution of India. The sex workers alike any other citizen, are also entitled to their rights and social security. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government must take concrete action to ameliorate the plight of sex workers in the country. The Ministry of Home Affairs should take up with MoW&CD to arrange for legal aid, rehabilitation, adequate health care facilities, and education with hostel facilities for the children of sex workers. The efforts of the Government would bring the sex workers and their children to the mainstream of society.

(Para 2.18.4 *ibid*)

Action Taken

3.9.2 *The recommendations of the Committee were referred to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, who have informed that it administers the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act (JJ Act), 2015 which is the primary legislation for Children in need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and children in conflict with law. Section 2(14) of the JJ Act, 2015 defines children who fall under the category of CNCP. Further, the Honorable Supreme Court in case of Writ Petition No 102 (in the matter of Re: Exploitation of Children in Orphanages in the State of Tamil Nadu vs. Union of India & Ors.) has interpreted the definition of CNCP as given in section 2(14) of the JJ Act, 2015 as illustrative and that the benefits envisaged for children in need of care and protection should be extended to all such children in fact requiring State care and protection. Thus, children of sex workers may fall in the category of 'children in need of care and protection'. The decision to declare a child as CNCP is vested with the Child Welfare Committee, as per the JJ Act, 2015.*

3.9.3 *The Ministry has further informed that the JJ Act, 2015 provides rescue, rehabilitation and restoration services for CNCP. The rehabilitation measures envisaged in the JJ Act, 2015 includes institutional Care where the children are provided with various facilities including birth registration; assistance for obtaining the proof of identity, where required, education, skill development; life skill education, etc. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has noted the recommendation of the Committee.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.9.4 The Committee is deeply concerned about the plight of sex workers and their children who have not even been extended the basic rights enshrined in the Constitution of India and aims at ameliorating the suffering and hardship faced by them. The Committee further notes that despite having laws/acts like Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) that can be used for their benefit, the situation has not improved. The Committee, therefore, reiterates its recommendation at para 3.9.1 of the Report. The Committee further recommends that children of sex workers must be covered and benefit extended to them under CNCP and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 on priority basis. The Committee would like to be apprised about the

number of children of sex workers who have been extended the benefits under JJ Act, 2015 and steps taken/ proposed to ameliorate the plight of sex workers and to bring them and their children to the mainstream of the society.

3.10 Issue of Transgender

Recommendation

3.10.1 The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs must make sincere efforts to create an environment where the transgender can become an integral part of the society. The Ministry of Home Affairs should pursue with the concerned Ministries to arrange for providing food, shelter, clothing and toilet facilities in all public places. The Committee further recommends that inclusive policies should be framed for the transgender community so that they integrate themselves in the social mainstream, live a dignified life and contribute meaningfully to the society and economy. Further, any abuse/insult undermining the transgender should be made punishable under the law.

(Para 2.19.2 ibid)

Action Taken

3.10.2 Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has enacted “Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights), Act 2019”, which provides for recognition of Identity of Transgender Persons, educational, Social Security and health of Transgender Persons and formulation of a scheme for welfare of transgender persons. The said Act provides penal provisions also.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.10.3 The Committee notes the reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and would like to be informed in detail about the provisions to provide transgenders food, shelter, clothing, toilet etc. facilities in all public places and policies to bring them to the social mainstream.

3.11 Atrocities and Crimes against Women and Children of SC/ST Community

Recommendation

3.11.1 The Committee further recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should also take up with the Ministry of Education to educate the students about the cultural diversity of the country and to promote and include human rights education in the school curriculum at the Pan-India level to promote gender equality, eradication of caste system and to increase scientific temperament.

(Para 2.20.11 ibid)

Action Taken

3.11.2 The matter has been examined in consultation with Ministry of Education. Review of textbooks is an important component of activities of NCERT. The Department of Gender Studies of NCERT is in the process of reviewing its textbooks from a gender perspective. The textbooks of different subjects and stages are being reviewed in terms of content, visuals and images so as to see whether they reflect

gender equality and gender sensitivity. Guidelines will be prepared to make the future textbooks gender inclusive.

3.11.3 These issues have also been addressed in textbooks of Science and Mathematics at appropriate places. Further, these issues will also be re-looked while reforming New Curriculum Framework. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is following NCERT/CBSE Curriculum and accordingly all concerns regarding Gender Equality, eradication of caste system and to increase scientific temperament are addressed as part of teaching under above mentioned curriculum. Further, a number of co-curricular activities organized in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan address these issues along with cultural diversity. In addition, the Department of School Education and Literacy has prepared a cultural mapping of all the States and UTs of the country. NCERT also has come up with a book namely- "Unity in Cultural Diversity". Furthermore, the program focuses on the promotion of indigenous arts, folk songs, folk dance, painting, language, arts & crafts etc. of Indian States.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.11.4 The Committee notes the reply of the Ministry of Education that the Department of Gender Studies of NCERT is in the process of reviewing its textbooks from a gender perspective. The Committee would like to be apprised about the changes made during the last five years in the textbooks to promote gender equality. The Committee further recommends that the MHA may take up with the Ministry of Education to advise the SCERT/ State Boards of Education also to review their textbooks from gender perspective.

3.12 Initiatives of Delhi Police for safety and security of women and children in Delhi

Recommendation

3.12.1 The Committee observes that considering the population of Delhi, only 8,203 persons have registered on Himmat Plus App during the year 2020 (upto 31st August, 2020). This is a disappointing figure and shows that either the App is not upto the mark or the Delhi Police have not been able to adequately publicize the same. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs along with Delhi Police should explore the plausible reasons for the poor subscriber base of the App. In case of any draw backs noticed in the App, necessary updations may be carried out to make it more citizen-centric, citizen-friendly and user-friendly. Steps may also be taken to publicize the App using social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, etc.

(Para 3.4.7 *ibid*)

Action Taken

3.12.2 The Himmat Mobile application was designed and implemented to provide the Police Assistance to the women in distress. Wide Publicity was done to create awareness among general public in this regard by means of news paper, television, radio, social media etc. A total number of 1,22,964 users have been registered on Himmat Plus Application, till date.

3.12.3 Since, ERSS-112 System is quite popular in Delhi, the integration of Himmat Plus Application with ERSS-112 system has already been done to improve response time and best possible support has been provided to women distress callers/ citizens of Delhi.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.12.4 The Committee notes that even after wide publicity, a total of 1,22,964 users have been registered on Himmat Plus Application which is still very low compared to the population of Delhi. The Committee recommends that the Delhi Police may put more sincere efforts to publicize the App in continuous aggressive manner particularly on social media platforms and also conduct a survey to assess the effectiveness of the app in improving the response time and extending help at the time of distress. The Committee would like to be apprised about the progress made in increasing the number of users of Himmat App. The Committee also observes that ERSS is more popular than Himmat App. Therefore, MHA and Delhi Police should explore the plausible reasons for the poor subscriber base of the App and if need be to further upgrade and update the app.

Recommendation

3.12.5 As there are more non-governmental CCTV cameras than those installed by the Government of NCT of Delhi, the Committee recommends MHA and Delhi Police to have a coordinated approach in the collection and analysis of footages of CCTVs installed by the Government as well as private entities. A mechanism may also be worked out to keep track of these cameras to ensure that they remain functional so that Police can have easy access at the time of need. Efforts should also be taken for raising mass awareness about the CCTV cameras in Delhi. The CCTV surveillance will help in making streets, markets, transport and other public places safer, particularly, for women and children.

(Para 3.4.19 ibid)

Action Taken

3.12.6 Access to feed from the CCTV Cameras installed in Delhi is available to Delhi Police constituency wise. Besides, CCTV camera owners are being motivated to conduct meetings with RWAs/MWAs. They are also being encouraged to rectify any break downs in CCTV Cameras and to get new CCTV cameras installed in place of old/out of order CCTV cameras. Furthermore, regular meetings by the ACsP/SHOs/Division/ Beat staff are being conducted with RWA/MWA/owners of factories to encourage them to get high resolution CCTV Cameras installed and rectify/replace the defective CCTVs with new ones.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.12.7 The Committee notes the reply about the coordination of Delhi Police with RWAs/MWAs for installation, maintenance, etc., of CCTVs. The Committee further recommends that the MHA may issue directions to Delhi Police to coordinate with RWAs/MWAs to rectify/replace the **damaged**/defective CCTVs on priority and create a database of CCTVs including their location, working condition and storage, etc. so that there are no blind spots on the streets, markets and other public places. This will also help **in** easy and speedy collection of video evidence in case a crime is committed. The Committee reiterates its recommendation at para 3.12.5 of the Report to publicize the installation of CCTVs which will act as **a** deterrence and help in prevention of crimes.

3.13 Challenges in dealing with Cyber Crimes

Recommendation

3.13.1 The Committee notes that there are instances where the cybercrime is committed in one State and the offender is located in another State. The Committee understands the jurisdictional complexity involved during tracing, tracking and investigation of cybercrimes. The Committee, therefore, recommends that MHA should take necessary steps to empower all State Police and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to take appropriate action regardless of State boundaries while examining a cyber crime. The Ministry must advise the States/UTs that when investigating officers (IO) visit outside their jurisdictional State for investigation of a cybercrime, they should be provided with optimum support from the local law enforcement agencies of other States and UTs, as required.

(Para 5.5.6 *ibid*)

Action Taken

3.13.2 Multiple steps have been initiated by the Ministry by empowering LEAs to deal the menace of cybercrime. In order to overcome jurisdictional issues, an initiative has been taken under Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) Scheme to form seven Joint Cyber Crime Coordination Teams (JCCTs) in the respective regions at the hotspots of cybercrimes or places having more number of cybercrime victims for effective coordination, sharing of information at regular intervals and providing logistic support for investigating teams.

3.13.3 The Ministry has provided grants of Rs. 96.13 Crores to all the States/UTs under Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC) scheme to setup cyber forensic-cum-training laboratories, training and hiring of junior cyber consultant so as to provide hands-on training to LEAs, Public Prosecutors and Judicial Officers. Cyber forensic-cum-training laboratories have been commissioned in 18 States/UT and more than 15,500 police personnel, judicial officers and prosecutors have been provided training on cybercrime awareness, investigation, forensics, etc. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30 June 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.13.4 The Committee notes that seven Joint Cybercrime Coordination Teams (JCCTs) have been formed to prevent cyber crime in the country. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA may periodically assess the performance of JCCTs and upgrade them in view of the advancement of technology and various types of new emerging cyber crimes.

3.13.5 The Committee also notes that Cyber forensic-cum-training laboratories have been commissioned in 18 States/UT which is only 50% of the total States/UTs. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA may expedite the commissioning of the labs in remaining States/UTs and allocate necessary funds required for the set up. The Committee would like to be apprised about the progress made in this regard.

Recommendation

3.13.6 The Committee notes with anxiety the technological challenge posed by Virtual Private Network (VPN) services and Dark Web that can bypass cyber security walls and allow criminals to

remain anonymous online. As of date, VPN can easily be downloaded, as many websites are providing such facilities and advertising them. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should coordinate with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to identify and permanently block such VPNs with the help of internet service providers. The Committee also recommends that a coordination mechanism should also be developed with international agencies to ensure that these VPNs are blocked permanently. The Ministry must take initiatives to strengthen the tracking and surveillance mechanisms by further improving and developing the state-of-the-art technology to put a check on the use of VPN and the dark web.

(Para 5.5.8 *ibid*)

Action Taken

3.13.7 The recommendation has been shared with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000 empowers Government to block information from public access under specific conditions of:

- (i) interest of sovereignty and integrity of India,*
- (ii) defence of India,*
- (iii) security of the State,*
- (iv) friendly relations with foreign States or*
- (v) public order or*
- (vi) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above.*

3.13.8 Blocking is either done in compliance of a court order or in pursuance of the recommendation of an inter-ministerial committee specified under the said Rules. The detailed process for blocking of websites/URLs is notified through Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information for Public) Rules, 2009. MeitY suo moto does not block information and initiates blocking action only after it receives request from the Nodal Officer appointed for this purpose. If the request for blocking of such VPNs is received under section 69A of the IT Act, MeitY can initiate the process as specified in the Rules notified under section 69A of the IT Act.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.13.9 The Committee notes the incomplete reply of the MeitY as no information has been provided on coordination mechanisms with international agencies to block VPNs permanently and initiatives taken/proposed to strengthen the tracking and surveillance mechanisms to put a check on the use of VPN and the dark web. The MHA may put its efforts in getting such information from MeitY and furnish the same to the Committee.

3.14 Interventions of the Ministry of Home Affairs in handling cyber crimes

Recommendation

3.14.1 The Committee takes note of the measures taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs to spread awareness about cyber safety and cybercrime among the people across the country. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should take all steps in giving due publicity to the cybercrime reporting portal through regional and local languages. The publicity should also be given on television and from time to time through caller tune message as it has been done during

COVID-19. The Committee also recommends that to facilitate easier and immediate reporting of complaints, One-Stop Centers (OSCs), Central Government-run help line number 112 (ERSS) and State helpline numbers should also include cyber-related crimes against women and children under their ambit and to provide immediate psycho-social support, emotional assistance and counseling services to the victims of cybercrimes. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs may also issue advisories to States/UTs to raise awareness through print and electronic media including social media about the mechanisms available to citizens for reporting cybercrimes against women and children, particularly for sexual abuse as well as the distribution of pornographic material.

(Para 5.6.17 ibid)

Action Taken

3.14.2 The revamped Cybercrime reporting portal launched in 2019 provides special focus on cybercrimes against women & children. Incidents reported on this portal are routed automatically to the respective States/UTs Police based on the information provided by the public. Incidents reported on this portal are being dealt by respective Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) of States/UTs as per the legal provisions. Besides, a toll free number 155260 has also been made operational for citizens to get assistance in lodging online complaints in their own language. As the awareness and recording of cybercrimes reporting online through revamped portal has improved, there has been an increase in reporting of cybercrimes. Further, cybercrime awareness tips and advisories are being circulated to LEAs and they have also been requested to disseminate the information in their regional and local languages. MHA has requested States/ Union Territories to adequately create awareness in their State/ UT on prevention from cybercrime. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June, 2021. In addition, a Twitter Handle Cyber Dost with more than 3 lakhs followers is also active in spreading awareness on cyber crimes.

3.14.3 Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) through a program, namely, Information Security Education & Awareness (ISEA), has been creating awareness among users highlighting the importance of following the ethics while using internet and advising them not to share rumours/fake news. A dedicated website for information security awareness (<https://www.infosecawareness.in>) provides relevant awareness material. Under the programme, 21 awareness workshops on Information Security exclusively for women have been organized covering 2,083 participants. The topics/content covered in these workshops include cyber security, cyber stalking, online shopping, social media and privacy, password management, internet security, mobile security, browser security, online banking, instant messaging, etc. Besides this, an exclusive handbook namely 'Information Security Awareness handbook for Women', 'Cyber Security tips for Women' and 'Online Safety tips for Women@Home during COVID-19' have been designed. The awareness content designed/developed exclusively for women have been made available for download on the website <https://www.infosecawareness.in/women>.

3.14.4 As part of this program, C-DAC, NIELIT and other noted training partners are conducting training exclusively for women and making them Industry ready by imparting the requisite technical skills in the domain of Cyber Security. The program started with 3 cities initially and is now having footprints across India including successful batch at Srinagar and Silchar (Assam).

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.14.5 The Committee notes that the MHA has not furnished the information on the steps taken to include cyber-related crimes against women and children under the Central Government-run helpline number 112 (ERSS) and State helpline numbers. The Committee reiterates its recommendation at para 3.14.1 of the Report and would like to be apprised about the steps taken in this regard.

Recommendation

3.14.6 The Committee appreciates the commissioning of Cyber Forensic-Cum-Training Laboratories in 16 States namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Sikkim, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. The Committee recommends that the Ministry should closely coordinate with the remaining States/UTs for timely commissioning of cyber forensic and training laboratories by 31st March 2021. The Committee also recommends for the timely establishment of NCFL at Hyderabad. The Ministry may also review the budgetary allocation and seek appropriate funds and extend necessary support to the States/UTs towards setting up the Cyber forensic-cum-training laboratories.

(Para 5.6.26 ibid)

Action Taken

3.14.7 At present, 18 States/UT have commissioned the cyber forensic-cum-training laboratories under CCPWC Scheme. Ministry is continuously pursuing with the remaining States/UTs to speed up completion of pending activities in a time bound manner. The project for setting up of NCFL at Hyderabad is now completed, and the modern facility is ready to be dedicated to the nation.

3.14.8 A project titled "Development of Cyber Forensic Training cum Investigation Labs in NE States and Cloud based Centralised Cyber Forensic Lab Infrastructure" in 8 north-eastern states is being executed jointly by NIELIT Kohima and CDAC Kolkata. So far 11 training programmes for LEAs and Judiciary at different level, namely awareness and beginners level, have been conducted

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.14.9 The Committee notes the reply and would like to be informed about the funds allocated and progress made in establishment of forensic-cum-training laboratories in the remaining States/UTs.

3.15 Sensitization of the Police Personnel

Recommendation

3.15.1 The Committee strongly believes that women should not feel scared to go to Police Station when they require help. The Committee recommends framing of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for ensuring Police accountability and sensitivity to deal with cases of violence against women. Periodic sensitization and training of ground-level officials should also be done so that the cases can be registered under appropriate sections of the laws. The Committee recommends that a monitoring

mechanism should also be created at the district level to check the behavior and take cognizance in case of Police insensitivity/remark/comment and initiate strict action against the errant official.

(Para 6.2.12 ibid)

Action Taken

3.15.2 Needful action has been undertaken by the BPR&D, and a book titled “Women’s Safety & Security - A Handbook for First Responders and Investigators in the Police” has been published. This handbook has been prepared for First Responders and Investigators in the police, 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. The book is being circulated to DGsP of all States/UTs and DGs of CPOs/CAPFs. The BPR&D have prepared a SOP for ‘Women Help Desk at Police Stations’. The SOP seeks to ensure the smooth functioning of Women Help Desks by focusing on four critical components viz., infrastructure, training, HRD and response mechanism. The SOP conceptualise to create “One Stop Support Centre” for women in all the Police Stations in the country. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June, 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.15.3 The Committee notes the reply about the circulation of the “Women’s Safety & Security- A Handbook for First Responders and Investigators in the Police” book to DGsP of all States/UTs and DGs of CPOs/CAPFs. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the States/UTs may be advised to provide training to the ground level police personnel on said Report of BPR&D as they are the first point of contact with the victim/complainant.

Recommendation

3.15.4 The Committee notes the direction of the Supreme Court regarding the installation of CCTV cameras in Police stations and recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs may issue advisory to State/UT Governments at the earliest for installation of CCTV cameras in all Police Stations within a time frame. The Committee would like to be informed about the progress made in this regard.

(Para 6.2.14 ibid)

Action Taken

3.15.5 ‘Police’ and ‘Public order’ are State subject as per Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. MHA is assisting States in modernization of its police forces through a scheme. Under the said scheme, funds have also been allocated to the States for installation of CCTV in the police stations. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30 June 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.15.6 The Committee is not satisfied with the cryptic and evasive reply and is of the opinion that Ministry of Home Affairs which provides assistance and funds to the State governments under the scheme for installation of CCTVs in police stations has every right to know about its utilization. The Committee, therefore, would like to be apprised about the allotment of funds for

installation of CCTVs and number of States/UTs that have initiated/installed optimum number of CCTVs in police stations.

3.16 Legal Provisions to Prevent Crimes Against Women

Recommendation

3.16.1 The Committee notes that as per NCRB data, 7,466, 7,167 and 7,115 dowry deaths have taken place in 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively. The Committee believes that dowry deaths should be considered as a heinous crime. The Committee observes that the objective of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, was to eradicate dowry system and punish the offenders. Over a period of time, some cases of misuse of the provisions of the Act have come to notice. The Committee expresses its concern over the arrest of family members and relatives of the husband in the absence of any prima-facie evidence against them to justify the arrest. There are also instances when false and exaggerated allegations are made by the complainant to implicate the family members and relatives. The Committee, therefore, recommends that adequate legal provisions should be made through amendments in the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, so as to prevent its misuse for the harassment on the basis of false complaints. The Police may have the right for arrest/detention of the family members and relatives only when there is prima-facie evidence on record to justify such arrest/detention.

(Para 6.7.8 ibid)

Action Taken

3.16.2 *In accordance with the directions of the Court, including the Supreme Court of India, the MHA has issued advisories to States/ Union Territories to curb any likely misuse of section 498A of the Indian Penal Code in matrimonial disputes. The States/ Union Territories were, inter-alia, requested to instruct their police officers not to automatically arrest a person when a case under Section 498A of the IPC is registered but to satisfy themselves about the necessity for arrest as per section 41 of the Criminal Procedure Code.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

3.16.3 The Committee notes the reply of the Ministry but still expresses its serious concern over the massive misuse of section 498A of IPC which is often reported through Media. Sometimes, it is also seen that Investigating Officers (IOs) are not extending positive support to innocent family members. The Committee, therefore, feels that some suitable amendment is required in 498A of IPC and reiterates its recommendation at para 3.16.1 of the Report to prevent the harassment of the family members on the basis of false complaints.

Chapter-IV

Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final reply of the Government have not been received

4.1 Conviction Rate

Recommendation

4.1.1 The Committee is of the strong view that timely and proper medical and forensic examination in rape cases is crucial in the collection of evidence, investigation and trial. The Committee appreciates the steps undertaken by the Ministry of Home Affairs for strengthening State Forensic Sciences Laboratories and DNA analysis and setting up of forensic laboratories in the country. The Committee, however, observes that there is a strong requirement for establishing a network of forensic laboratories in the country as the forensic evidence are of crucial importance in the investigation and filing of charge sheets leading to the presentation of a higher number of cases before the Courts. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should take steps towards setting up at least one forensic laboratory in every State capital in the country, on priority.

(Para 2.4.15 of 230th Repot)

Action Taken

4.1.2 It is stated that Forensic Sciences Laboratories (FSLs) have been setup in 32 States/UTs. In remaining 4 Union Territories of Chandigarh, Daman Diu Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Ladakh, police utilize the Forensic Sciences facilities available in their neighboring States or in the Central Forensic Sciences Laboratories. Further, strengthening of capacities in the Forensic Sciences Laboratories for dealing with cases on crimes against women, though a State subject, is a high priority activity for MHA. As a multi-pronged strategy towards timely and effective investigation, MHA has initiated a series of measures and programs, including strengthening / modernization of State/ Central Forensic Sciences Laboratories.

Further Recommendation/Observation

4.1.3 The Committee notes that Forensic Sciences Laboratories (FSLs) have been setup in 32 States/UTs. The Committee further recommends that the MHA may coordinate with States/UTs to ensure timely upgradation/modernisation and availability of the state-of-art technology in these labs which is essential for effective investigation and timely collection of evidence. The Committee further recommends that the MHA may take steps towards setting up of forensic laboratory in the big cities with population of more than one million.

4.2 Safe City project

Recommendation

4.2.1 The Committee strongly recommends extending the Safe City Project to all the major cities including Capitals of all States/UTs in Phase II. The Committee also recommends that the MHA may advise States/ UTs to install CCTV cameras equitably in urban and rural areas. The MHA may take up with States to encourage NGOs, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and private individuals to

install CCTV cameras. The Committee further recommends that a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) may be released by MHA regarding the installation of CCTV cameras, storage of recordings, quick and easy retrieval of the stored data to different law enforcing agencies, etc., through appropriate advisory.

(Para 2.10.5 *ibid*)

Action Taken

4.2.2 New projects in phase II would be selected on the basis of demand assessment and project feasibility. 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, the State Governments plan and take initiative to modernize its police forces, including installation of CCTV cameras and issue of relevant guidelines. Accordingly, several States/Union Territories have issued guidelines/ legislation in this regard. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

4.2.3 The Committee notes the reply of MHA and reiterates its recommendation given in para No. 4.13.5 of the 224th Report on Demands For Grants (2020-21) of the MHA to extend the Safe City Project to all the major cities including Capitals of all States/UTs in Phase II. The Committee would also like to be informed about the implementation status of phase II of Safe City Project.

4.3 Shelter Homes

Recommendation

4.3.1 The Committee further recommends that CCTV cameras in all shelter homes should be installed on priority and in a stipulated time frame so as to prevent incidents of physical abuse of the inmates. Moreover, a central database of all shelter homes and their inmates in the country may be prepared and a comprehensive survey/audit may also be conducted through independent agencies/NGOs and State Women Commission about the living conditions, safety and satisfaction level of the inmates residing in these shelter homes.

(Para 2.11.5 *ibid*)

Action Taken

4.3.2 The Ministry of Women and Child Development has taken note of the recommendations of the Committee and will endeavor for installation of CCTV cameras in all the shelter homes. Efforts will also be made to prepare a central database of all shelter homes and their inmates and for conducting a survey/audit about living conditions, safety & satisfaction level in consultation with stakeholders.

Further Recommendation/Observation

4.3.3 The Committee notes that no concrete reply has been given on efforts made for installation of CCTV cameras in all shelter homes. The Committee would like to be apprised about the efforts made and timeframe fixed for installation of the CCTV Cameras and conduct of audit/survey in all the shelter homes.

4.4 One-Stop Centres (OSCs)

Recommendation

4.4.1 The Committee is of the view that the inadequacy of post-incident services may lead to their re-victimization and affects their rehabilitation. Therefore, adequate investments and interventions should be made focusing on both prevention of violence and post-incident service provisions to adequately meet the requirements of the survivors that are highly sensitive in nature. The Committee is of the considered view that post-trauma counseling is needed for violence against women as only framing stringent legal provisions and the administrative mechanism is not enough. Post-trauma counseling of the victims of violence should include proper medical attention, emotional assistance along with financial assistance to the victim for rehabilitation.

(Para 2.12.5 *ibid*)

Action Taken

4.4.2 Ministry of Women and Child Development has informed that every One Stop Centre (OSC) has the provisions for psycho-social counseling, legal aid to every women approaching them for assistance whether pre or post violence. Further, in the wake of Covid 19 Pandemic, the Ministry has collaborated with NIMHANS to provide specialized counseling to aggrieved women. The women approaching OSCs are provided with medical treatment and financial assistance through Victim Compensation Scheme as formulated u/s 257A CrPC.

Further Recommendation/Observation

4.4.3 The Committee notes the reply and would like to be informed about the number of women who have received medical and financial assistance whether pre or post violence during COVID-19 Pandemic.

4.5 Safety of women and children in trains

Recommendation

4.5.1 The Committee is of the considered view that public transport system can play a cardinal role in ameliorating the living conditions of women. Therefore, it is important to mainstream gender-related considerations into public transport so as to provide safe, comfortable, and convenient transport to women and reduce gender inequality. The Committee notes that multiple agencies/authorities are involved across States for managing public transport. The Committee is of the view that it is important to have coordination and cooperation between them. The Central Ministry should consult States/UTs and develop a uniform system of safety features in public transport in the country.

(Para 2.14.4 *ibid*)

4.5.2 The Committee notes that some States have proposed CCTV surveillance, panic button and controllers in public transport to make road transport safe for women. The Committee understands the importance of the safety features in public transport and, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs may take up the matter with the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways to prepare guidelines for mandatory installation and regular maintenance of CCTV cameras, GPS, panic button

and controllers in public transport across the country in a time-bound manner. The transport system should display the helpline numbers along with the name, ID, etc. of the operating staff.

(Para 2.14.5 *ibid*)

Action Taken

4.5.3 Ministry of Road Transport & Highways is implementing the scheme, “Development, Customization, Deployment and Management of State-wise vehicle tracking platform for Safety & Enforcement as per AIS 140 Specifications”. This project is being undertaken in States/Union Territories under Nirbhaya Framework with total estimated cost of Rs 463.90 crore. As per information available, this involves setting up of Monitoring Centres at States/Union Territories, which can track Public Vehicles fitted with Vehicle Location Tracking devices and emergency alerts for action as required. Proposals have been received from twenty-nine States/Union Territories, out of which projects have been sanctioned in twenty-five States/ Union Territories, and the first installment of Centre’s share has been disbursed.

Further Recommendation/Observation

4.5.4 The Committee notes the reply. The remaining states may also be advised to come on board in this regard for which advisories/meetings may be issued/held.

4.6 Strengthening of Institutions

Recommendation

4.6.1 The Committee is of the considered view that an in-depth study is required on the changing patterns of crimes under various heads to understand the reasons for different types of crime, the types of offenders, etc., so as to ascertain the reasons for the failure of the existing public policy governance mechanisms in curtailing/preventing atrocities and crimes against women and children. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA should take up with the BPR&D for conducting a scientific study in this regard. This will help in the identification of root causes of crime and in making necessary legislative and schematic interventions and also to redesign training modules to prevent atrocities and crimes against women and children.

(Para 2.15.14 *ibid*)

Action Taken

4.6.2 The BPR&D is undertaking a research on “A Study of Factors Responsible for Recidivism”. The objectives of the study are to develop a model to prevent recidivism in major crimes and formulate necessary remedial measures and strategies to minimize it. One of the category of crimes covered under the study are Crime against Women & Children (POSCO and Section 376, 354 and 509 in IPC).

Further Recommendation/Observation

4.6.3 The Committee notes the reply and would like to be informed about the key findings of the study undertaken by BPR&D on “A Study of Factors Responsible for Recidivism” and necessary actions initiated thereon.

4.7 Atrocities and Crimes against Women and Children of SC/ST Community

Recommendation

4.7.1 The Committee notes the submission of the All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM) regarding difficulties being faced by the women belonging to the SC/ST communities in getting registered the cases of atrocities and crimes committed against them. The Committee observes that this is primarily due to the poor implementation of the existing laws and the apathetic attitude of the law enforcing agencies. Moreover, the high acquittal rate motivates and boosts the confidence of dominant and powerful communities for continued perpetration. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs must make holistic efforts towards sensitizing concerned public authorities and people at large through regular training and sensitization programmes. The Committee strongly recommends that the law enforcement agencies (LEA) should include the provisions of the PoA Act while registering cases of rape, sexual harassment, etc., committed against SC/ST women.

(Para 2.20.10 *ibid*)

Action Taken

4.7.2 *The matter has been examined in consultation with Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment who have informed that in this regard, the Ministry has been addressing the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to implement the provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights(PCR) Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities){PoA} Act, 1989 in letter and spirit, with specific emphasis on, setting up of exclusive special courts for speedy trial of cases, training and sensitization of police officers and other concerned officers, awareness generation, identification of atrocity prone areas as an ongoing process and review of cases ending in acquittal.*

4.7.3 *An advisory reiterating action to be taken on protection of vulnerable groups, including Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, has been issued to States/ Union Territories on 19 May 2021. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30 June 2021.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

4.7.4 The Committee notes the reply and desires to be informed about the number of atrocity prone areas, number of review of cases ending in acquittal reported after issuing of advisories by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during the last three years.

4.8 Percentage of women personnel in Delhi Police

Recommendation

4.8.1 The Committee observes that the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued advisories in 2009, 2013 and 2015 to provide 33% reservation to women so as to ensure adequate representation of women in police forces in States and UTs with the objective of giving priority to the security of women. However, even after a decade, the representation of women in Delhi Police has not reached 14% which comes directly under MHA. As women police need to be given important assignments relating to the handling of crimes against women and children, the Committee strongly recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should take up the matter with Delhi Police to conduct special recruitment drives so as

to increase the representation of women in Delhi Police on a priority basis in a time-bound manner. The details of such special recruitment drives may also be intimated to this Committee.

(Para 3.3.2 ibid)

Action Taken

*4.8.2 To augment the representation of women in the police force of all the UTs so as to make police more gender sensitive and also to instill confidence among women folk to enable them to approach the police without hesitation, Government of India has approved on 20th March, 2015, 33% reservation for women in direct recruitment in Non-Gazetted posts from Constable to Sub-Inspector in Police Forces of all UTs including Delhi Police. This reservation will be available to women against all such vacancies existing on the date of issue of the said letter and vacancies arising thereafter. Details of recruitment of women in Delhi Police after the above decision are at **Annexure-I**.*

Further Recommendation/Observation

4.8.3 The Committee is not satisfied with the efforts of Delhi Police to increase representation of women in Delhi Police. The Committee notes the reply of Delhi Police about the details of recruitment of women in Delhi Police and desires to be apprised about the increase in percentage of women in Delhi Police after the ongoing recruitment process is complete. The Committee may also be informed about the timeline by when the target of 33 % reservation of women in Delhi Police is likely to be achieved. The Committee is also disappointed to note that no new recruitments have been made since 2018 which is more than three years. The Committee would like to be apprised about the reasons for delay in recruitment and steps taken to fast track the recruitment process.

4.9 Initiatives of Delhi Police for safety and security of women and children in Delhi

Recommendation

4.9.1 The Committee appreciates the efforts of the Special Police Unit for Women and Children (SPUWAC) in imparting self-defense skills to girls/women. The Committee, however, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should take up with the Ministry of Education to ensure that self-defense training are imparted in all educational institutions as part of the regular curriculum right from childhood. Similarly, arrangements can also be made to organize such training for workingwomen by identifying Government office clusters. Delhi Police should also encourage Residential Welfare Associations and private companies to hold self-defense training programmes and awareness campaigns for their women residents/employees at regular intervals.

(Para 3.4.24 ibid)

Action Taken

4.9.2 In terms of the recommendations of the Committee, the matter has been referred to the Ministry of Education. Delhi Police has further informed that as far as Self Defence Training to working women, RWAs and Private Companies is concerned, Self Defence Wing of SPUWAC Unit has been continuing its efforts since 2002 to impart self defense training to working women of Government and private organizations including women staff of Hotels, Airport, Call Centers, MNCs, BPOs, teaching staff of schools, Doctors, Nurses and Para-medical staff of Govt. and Private Hospitals and RWAs under the "SASHAKTI" scheme of Delhi Police. Self Defense Wing of SPUWAC Unit, because of its remarkable achievement, for imparting training in Self Defense to more than 2,08,125 and 3,25,081

girls/women participants in the years 2017 and 2018 respectively, has entered twice in prestigious LIMCA BOOK OF RECORD for this feat. Self Defence Training shall continue to be area of focus for SPUWAC.

Further Recommendation/Observation

4.9.3 The Committee notes the achievements of SPUWAC of Delhi Police and persistent effort to impart self defence training to girls/women. The Committee would like to be informed about the view of Ministry of Education in the matter.

Recommendation

4.9.4 The Committee appreciates the work done by Delhi Police in the identification and mapping of crime hotspots in Delhi. The Committee observes that by identification of such hotspots and their mapping, the Police will be in a position to control the crime and monitor the miscreants in a more efficient and effective manner. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should advise States/UTs for identification and mapping of crime hot spots in Metropolitan cities under their jurisdiction. This will help to track, monitor and control the incidents of crimes and also help in developing a uniform policing system in all Metropolitan cities of the country. In the first stage, all the Metropolitan cities may be mapped and later on the same may be extended to other major cities of the country with high crime graphs, in a phased manner, depending on the outcome from the Metropolitan cities.

(Para 3.4.33 ibid)

Action Taken

4.9.5 Delhi Police has informed that prevention of crime particularly street Crime, remained one of the top most priorities. Multi-pronged strategies were adopted to control crime. They include crime Mapping and identification of hot spots, dynamic deployment with focus on identified areas, identification of active criminals, preparation of compendium of top criminals and its regular updation, close surveillance on known criminals, arrest of notorious criminals, increased visibility of police on streets, group patrolling led by District DCsP/Addl. DCsP integrated patrolling by local police, PCR staff and Traffic Police, regular checking of two wheelers, 'Raftar' motorcycles deployed for quick police response on the spot, action against drinking at public places, action against organized crime, citizen-centric policing through Jan Sampark and other community approach programmes, breaking the supply routes of fire arms in Delhi etc. Mapping of crime hot-spots is being enabled through CCTNS platform, Crime Mapping Analytics and Predictive Systems (CMAP), deployment of Cognos BI tool, etc, which have been made available to the States/Union Territories by the NCRB. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30 June 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

4.9.6 The Committee notes the reply and appreciates the effort of Delhi Police to prevent street crimes by crime mapping and identification of hot spots, dynamic deployment, etc. The Committee would like to be informed about the implementation status of identification and mapping of crime hot spots in other Metropolitan cities.

4.10 Missing Children

Recommendation

4.10.1 The Committee is aghast to note the sorry state of affairs in the National Capital Territory of Delhi so far as missing children is concerned. The NCRB data shows 15252, 14896 and 12239 children went missing in Delhi in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively. Despite the fact that an advisory has been issued by the MHA to State Governments/ UT Administrations that in case of every missing child reported; there will be an initial presumption of either abduction or trafficking, unless, in the investigation, the same is proved otherwise. Delhi Police has not even cited “trafficking” as are as on for missing children in their submission.

(Para 4.3.5 ibid)

Action Taken

4.10.2 *Delhi Police has informed that analysis of reasons behind missing children reveals that in most of the cases children go missing due to reasons like being scolded by parents at home, academic pressure, losing their way, elopement etc. Crime Branch made sustained effort to identify whether organized gangs were behind kidnapping of children. However, no such gangs were found active in the city. Efforts taken for tracing the missing children are as under:-*

- (i) *Whenever any complaint is filed, FIR is registered immediately. All such FIRs are forwarded by E-mail and by post to District Legal Service Authority (DLSA).*
- (ii) *All traced children are produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) as per Juvenile Justice Act.*
- (iii) *Juvenile Welfare Officers (JWOs) are appointed in all Police Stations.*
- (iv) *A help line of 8 Digit Number (23241210) has been started.*
- (v) *District Missing Person Unit (DMPU) is functioning in all the Police Districts. Missing Person Squad (MPS) is also functioning in Crime Branch.*
- (vi) *If a criminal case is registered regarding missing of a child, it is kept open till the investigation into all known aspects is completed. The case is treated as a “Special Report Case”.*
- (vii) *Investigation into such a case, where child is between 3 to 8 years and not traced over 4 months, is transferred to Anti Human Trafficking Unit of the District.*
- (viii) *Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) is functioning in all Districts and Crime Branch.*
- (ix) *In case of evidence of organized crime or interstate ramifications, the case is transferred to Anti Trafficking Human Unit of Crime Branch for intensive investigation.*
- (x) *Rescue operations of children forced into labour are undertaken with the help of NGOs.*
- (xi) *In search of missing children, Police officials regularly visit the Children Homes, poor houses, rain baseras (shelters), Nari Niketan, other Night Shelters, mortuaries in hospitals, NGOs etc..*
- (xii) *Delhi Police launched a unique initiative called ‘Pehchaan’. As a part of the programme, officials visit slum and poor areas and organize family photographs of children at risk. So far, over 1086 lakh children have been photographed.*

4.10.3 *Under ‘Operation Milap’, and later ‘Operation Smile’, missing children were united with parents after interacting with them in children homes like Apna Ghar, Salaam Balak Trust, Bal Adhikar Sashktikaran Kendra, Prayas Children Home, Aashiyana and Subhikshika Open Shelter Home etc. Details of missing children during the last 04 years are as under:*

	2017	2018	2019	2020
No. of missing children	6454	6541	6355	4297
No. of traced children	5102	4549	4311	3257
No. of children untraced	1352	1992	2044	1040

Further Recommendation/Observation

4.10.4 The Committee notes the reply

4.11 Sensitization of the Police Personnel

Recommendation

4.11.1 The Committee notes that the “Key Recommendations” made by the BPR&D in its study “Trust deficit in Police” are highly relevant and recommends that those should be implemented in a time-bound manner. The Committee would like to be informed about the progress made in this regard.

(Para 6.2.13 ibid)

Action Taken

4.11.2 ‘Police’ and ‘Public order’ are State subject as per Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The BPR&D reports have been shared with the States/Union Territories.

Further Recommendation/Observation

4.11.3 The Committee notes the reply. The Committee is of the view that just forwarding the Report is not going to serve the purpose. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the feedback on the BPR&D reports shared by MHA to States/UTs may be taken/ evaluated and furnished to the Committee.

4.12 Gender Sensitization of Society

Recommendation

4.12.1 The Committee recommends that a nation-wide Women Safety Week in educational institutions, Government Ministries/Departments may be observed so as to make the general public aware of the dignity and respect of women. The awareness programs like plays, nuked natak, poster making, etc., should be organized during this week. RWAs should also be roped in to organize the same in residential areas.

(Para 6.4.7 ibid)

Action Taken

4.12.2 The recommendations were also shared with Ministry of Education. It was informed that the NCERT appreciates the recommendations of observing 'women Safety week, in educational institutions through various awareness programmes. The Adolescence Education Programme of NCERT has been regularly organizing Role play competition at the National level in which gender sensitization is an

important theme. The NCERT through its textual materials sensitizes children, teachers, teacher educators to address different forms of physical and emotional crimes and create awareness amongst all regarding valuing women's work and their contribution to society. Various programs are organized by KVS on regular basis, so that the students can be sensitized towards women's safety. In the morning meetings and co-curricular activities, related programs are included. Girl students are given training related to women safety by the local police department from time to time.

Further Recommendation/Observation

4.12.3 The Committee notes the reply of the Ministry of Education about observing 'women Safety week, in educational institutions through various awareness programmes. However, the Committee would like to be apprised about the steps taken by other Ministries/Departments in this regard.

4.13 Community Policing

Recommendation

4.13.1 The Committee is of the opinion that crimes against women and children cannot be controlled by law and enforcement agencies alone. The role of community and society by large is very important as the root causes of all atrocities and crimes lie in the society itself. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA may create a community policing and social awareness mechanism in coordination with the Ministry of Women & Child Development and advise States to promote community policing in their jurisdictions involving women organizations and authorities at the Panchayat level. This will not only help in increased reporting of crimes and enhancing legal awareness but also go a long way in building confidence among women.

(Para 6.6.3 *ibid*)

Action Taken

4.13.2 'Police' and 'Public order' are State subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. States/ Union Territories undertake various campaigns for legal and social awareness. However, Ministry of Women and Child Development has informed that it is considering a component for effective legal awareness campaign for women in its ongoing schemes.

Further Recommendation/Observation

4.13.3 The Committee notes the reply.

4.14 Legal Provisions to Prevent Crimes Against Women

Recommendation

4.14.1 The Committee notes that there is a variation in a number of cases registered under 498A of IPC and Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005. The numbers of cases under PWDVA show a decline, but cases under 498A of IPC show an increase in 2019. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should advise States/UTs to conduct

periodic sensitization and briefing particularly, to the ground-level officials concerned with PWDVA so that the women facing domestic violence can be better equipped to access justice. Due publicity should be given by the States/UTs to the “Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005” through newspapers, TV channels and other means to create awareness among the people. A nationwide study may also be conducted to monitor the progress with regard to the implementation of various laws meant for preventing crimes against women.

(Para 6.7.13 *ibid*)

Action Taken

4.14.2 It is relevant to mention that PWDVA is applicable to all women facing violence within the private sphere of home. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has taken measures through OSCs and the NCW to provide assistance to women affected by domestic violence and has propagated about these measures through audio visual media and social media platforms from time to time. As regard recommendation of the Committee, it is submitted that the Ministry has already initiated the process of review of implementation of the various women- centric laws. MHA has also issued advisory to States/ Union Territories on 30th June, 2021.

Further Recommendation/Observation

4.14.3 The Committee notes the reply and would like to be apprised of the outcome of the review of implementation of women-centric laws.

4.15 Legal Provisions to Prevent Crimes against Children

Recommendation

4.15.1 The Committee strongly believes that unless and until the social and economic reasons for children being forced into early marriages is not understood, it will not be possible to root out this problem from the society. The Committee, therefore, recommends that MHA along with MoW&CD and States should study the socio-economic reasons behind child marriages and make necessary schematic interventions to address them. The Committee recommends that those who violate the law in this regard should be punished which would act as a deterrent. The Committee would also like to be informed whether all States/UTs have appointed Child Marriage Prohibition Officers as required under PCMA, 2006.

(Para 6.8.3 *ibid*)

Action Taken

4.15.2 As per the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Child Marriage Prohibition Officer (CMPO) have been posted. The Ministry has informed that a Task Force had been constituted to examine the age of motherhood, legal age of marriage for girls and other associated issues. The Task Force had also examined various factors responsible for Child Marriages.

Further Recommendation/Observation

4.15.3 The Committee notes the reply and desires to be apprised about the outcome of the study of constituted task force to examine the age of motherhood, legal age of marriage for girls and other associated issues and factors responsible for Child Marriages.

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS — AT A GLANCE

Representation of Women in Police

The Committee notes the reply and would like to be informed about the progress made in this regard.

(Para 1.2.3)

Shelter Homes

The Committee notes the reply and further recommends that adequate financial resources may be provided to open new shelter homes and provide basic amenities in shelter homes.

(Para 1.5.3)

Initiatives of Delhi Police for safety and security of women and children in Delhi

The Committee notes the effort of Delhi Police in analyzing the distress call data of ERSS-112, deployment of PCR vehicles and creation of Crime Mapping Analytics and Predictive System (CMAPS).

(Para 1.10.3)

Making Gender Sensitization a Part of School Curriculum

The Committee notes the reply and desires to be informed about the implementation status of operation Nirbheek.

(Para 1.15.3)

Sensitization on Legal Issues

The Committee notes the reply about the decision to discontinue the Scheme of Mahila Police Volunteer. The Committee would like to be apprised about the steps taken by Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoW&CD) for enhancing legal awareness among women.

(Para 1.17.3)

Initiatives of Delhi Police for safety and security of women and children in Delhi

The Committee notes the reply and hopes that the target of procuring 100 buses by September 2021 will be achieved.

(Para 2.7.12)

The Committee appreciates the efforts of Delhi Police in tracking, tracing and reuniting of missing children with their family. The Committee further recommends that biometric credentials under aadhaar may be used for quicker disposal of such cases.

(Para 2.7.18)

Challenges in dealing with Cyber Crimes

The Committee notes the reply and desires to be informed about the number of cybercrimes busted with such cooperation/coordination with international organizations/countries and conviction rate in such cases.

(Para 2.8.3)

Making Gender Sensitization a Part of School Curriculum

The Committee notes the reply and further recommends that the measures taken by the Ministry of Education to increase awareness for prevention of cybercrimes may be popularized among students/teachers/parents through nation-wide campaign.

(Para 2.11.13)

Registration of Crimes against Women and Children

The Committee notes that all States/Union Territories have operationalized Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and System (CCTNS) along with State Citizen Portals providing citizen centric police services, which includes online filing of complaints, including for crimes on women and children. The Committee is of the view that internet connectivity and digital infrastructure are important for proper functioning of CCTNS and other online services. The Committee therefore, recommends that the MHA should take up with concerned authority to monitor the down times of CCTNS in police stations and the reasons for the same. The MHA based on the Report thus generated, should hold periodic meetings with the States/UTs concern to sort out the problem/issues hampering smooth functioning of CCTNS.

(Para 3.1.6)

The Committee notes the reply about the circulation of the “Women’s Safety & Security- A Handbook for First Responders and Investigators in the Police” book to DGsP of all States/UTs and DGs of CPOs/CAPFs. The Committee further recommends that the handbook be made available online so that it is easily accessible to the police personnel particularly working at ground level during interaction with victims of crime.

(Para 3.1.7)

The Committee notes that the Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and System (CCTNS) adequately facilitates for registration of zero-FIR and further recommends that the MHA may advise States to seek and record the reasons by the PS concerned for the delay in lodging an FIR by victim/family members. The Committee further recommends that MHA may advise States to issue SOPs to record the reasons for delay in registration of cases by the complainants. The Committee would like to be apprised about the number of zero-FIR lodged in States/UTs and time taken for transfer of zero FIR to the PS concerned. MHA may monitor it on regular intervals in this regard and issue advisories, wherever needed.

(Para 3.1.10)

The Committee notes that Section 182 of the IPC has a provision for a fine ‘which may extend to one thousand rupees’ and Section 209 does not mention the amount of fine. The amount of fine under Section 182 is very low in present time. The Committee, therefore, further recommends that the MHA may take up with Ministry of law & Justice to amend the Section 182 and 209 of the IPC to enhance the amount of fine under Section 182 of IPC and Section 209 of

IPC should also be amended by adding suitable amount of fine under this Section. The Committee would also like to be apprised about the number of cases registered under Section 182 and 209 of the IPC during past three years.

(Para 3.1.15)

Conviction Rate

The Committee notes the reply. However, the Committee observes that the electronic media in the race to compete to be first on the TRP, have been seen to indulge in media trial and in the name of investigative journalism such crimes are reported in sensational manner. The Committee therefore further recommends that the matter may be taken up with concerned Ministry to apply existing provisions more stringently on national especially local electronic media.

(Para 3.2.7)

Fast Track Courts

The Committee notes that against the target of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCSO Courts, 632 FTSCs including 340 exclusive POCSO courts have been made operational in 26 States/UTs which is 61.7% of the total FTSCs. The Committee further recommends that the MHA may take up with the Ministry of Law & Justice to remove bottlenecks and provide adequate financial resources for operationalization of remaining fast track courts in a time bound manner.

(Para 3.3.3)

Helpline Numbers

The Committee notes the steps taken by MHA to popularise the 112 emergency helpline numbers. The Committee further recommends that the MHA may advise States/UTs to analyze the distress call data of ERSS 112 for deployment of PCR vehicles adjacent to areas from where more calls are received for quick reaction. The MHA may share with all States/UTs the Crime Mapping Analytics and Predictive System (CMAPS) used by Delhi Police which is based on data of past crimes and provides inputs for policing activities such as planning of pickets, patrolling etc.

(Para 3.4.3)

Women and Children Help Desks and All Women Police Stations

The Committee would like to be informed about the key findings of the study done by BPR&D on Performance Audit of Women Police Stations in India and the action taken/proposed to be taken on the basis of said findings.

(Para 3.5.3)

The Committee notes that the study of BPR&D has covered 22 police stations in 13 States which is a very small sample size with respect to 15,890 police stations in the country as informed by the Ministry. The Committee would like to be informed about the reasons for selection of only 22 police stations and the criteria used thereof. The Committee would also like to impress upon increasing sample size suitably for proper assessment.

(Para 3.5.4)

Nirbhaya Fund

The Committee notes that till the FY 2020-21, the total allocation of funds in the Nirbhaya Corpus is Rs.5712.85 crore and 60.00% amount (Rs.3581.11) has been disbursed to all States/UTs which is still on the lower side. The Committee would like to be apprised about the State-wise allocation and utilization of the funds for the specific purpose identified by the States and approved by the empowered committee. The Committee may also be informed about the cost initially proposed by State/UTs and steps taken to improve the utilization pattern.

(Para 3.6.4)

Safety of women and children in trains

The Committee notes that CCTV Cameras have been installed in 2931 coaches and observes that this is a very small number, if installation of CCTV cameras in trains and coaches are to be counted in view of the vast network of railways across the country. The Committee further recommends that the MHA may take up with the Ministry of Railways to expedite the installation of CCTV Cameras at remaining railway stations and trains. Also, the availability of FIR forms and RPF/GRP staff in trains may be publicized by displaying it on railway tickets, screens/ advertisement boards in the railway stations and other prominent places.

(Para 3.7.3)

The Committee takes note of the reply that works for installation of CCTV cameras in all the coaches of trains has been approved. The Committee further recommends that the same may be executed in a time bound manner and the Committee may be apprised of the same.

(Para 3.7.4)

The Committee notes the steps taken for creation of a single platform for registration and resolution of rail passenger complaints. The Committee reiterates its recommendation at para 3.7.5 of the Report and would like to be apprised about the progress made in this regard.

(Para 3.7.7)

Role of NGOs in Assisting the Victimized Women and Children

The Committee notes that the reply furnished by the MHA is very generic in nature and reiterates its recommendation at para 3.8.1 of the Report.

(Para 3.8.3)

Conditions of Sex-Workers

The Committee is deeply concerned about the plight of sex workers and their children who have not even been extended the basic rights enshrined in the Constitution of India and aims at ameliorating the suffering and hardship faced by them. The Committee further notes that despite having laws/acts like Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) that can be used for their benefit, the situation has not improved. The Committee, therefore, reiterates its recommendation at para 3.9.1 of the Report. The Committee further recommends that children of sex workers must be covered and benefit extended to them under CNCP and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 on priority basis. The Committee would like to be apprised about the number of children of sex workers who have been extended the benefits under JJ Act, 2015 and

steps taken/ proposed to ameliorate the plight of sex workers and to bring them and their children to the mainstream of the society.

(Para 3.9.4)

Issue of Transgender

The Committee notes the reply of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and would like to be informed in detail about the provisions to provide transgenders food, shelter, clothing, toilet etc. facilities in all public places and policies to bring them to the social mainstream.

(Para 3.10.3)

Atrocities and Crimes against Women and Children of SC/ST Community

The Committee notes the reply of the Ministry of Education that the Department of Gender Studies of NCERT is in the process of reviewing its textbooks from a gender perspective. The Committee would like to be apprised about the changes made during the last five years in the textbooks to promote gender equality. The Committee further recommends that the MHA may take up with the Ministry of Education to advise the SCERT/ State Boards of Education also to review their textbooks from gender perspective.

(Para 3.11.4)

Initiatives of Delhi Police for safety and security of women and children in Delhi

The Committee notes that even after wide publicity, a total of 1,22,964 users have been registered on Himmat Plus Application which is still very low compared to the population of Delhi. The Committee recommends that the Delhi Police may put more sincere efforts to publicize the App in continuous aggressive manner particularly on social media platforms and also conduct a survey to assess the effectiveness of the app in improving the response time and extending help at the time of distress. The Committee would like to be apprised about the progress made in increasing the number of users of Himmat App. The Committee also observes that ERSS is more popular than Himmat App. Therefore, MHA and Delhi Police should explore the plausible reasons for the poor subscriber base of the App and if need be to further upgrade and update the app.

(Para 3.12.4)

The Committee notes the reply about the coordination of Delhi Police with RWAs/MWAs for installation, maintenance, etc., of CCTVs. The Committee further recommends that the MHA may issue directions to Delhi Police to coordinate with RWAs/MWAs to rectify/replace the damaged/defective CCTVs on priority and create a database of CCTVs including their location, working condition and storage, etc. so that there are no blind spots on the streets, markets and other public places. This will also help in easy and speedy collection of video evidence in case a crime is committed. The Committee reiterates its recommendation at para 3.12.5 of the Report to publicize the installation of CCTVs which will act as a deterrence and help in prevention of crimes.

(Para 3.12.7)

Challenges in dealing with Cyber Crimes

The Committee notes that seven Joint Cybercrime Coordination Teams (JCCTs) have been formed to prevent cyber crime in the country. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA may periodically assess the performance of JCCTs and upgrade them in view of the advancement of technology and various types of new emerging cyber crimes.

(Para 3.13.4)

The Committee also notes that Cyber forensic-cum-training laboratories have been commissioned in 18 States/UT which is only 50% of the total States/UTs. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MHA may expedite the commissioning of the labs in remaining States/UTs and allocate necessary funds required for the set up. The Committee would like to be apprised about the progress made in this regard.

(Para 3.13.5)

The Committee notes the incomplete reply of the MeitY as no information has been provided on coordination mechanisms with international agencies to block VPNs permanently and initiatives taken/proposed to strengthen the tracking and surveillance mechanisms to put a check on the use of VPN and the dark web. The MHA may put its efforts in getting such information from MeitY and furnish the same to the Committee.

(Para 3.13.9)

Interventions of the Ministry of Home Affairs in handling cyber crimes

The Committee notes that the MHA has not furnished the information on the steps taken to include cyber-related crimes against women and children under the Central Government-run helpline number 112 (ERSS) and State helpline numbers. The Committee reiterates its recommendation at para 3.14.1 of the Report and would like to be apprised about the steps taken in this regard.

(Para 3.14.5)

The Committee notes the reply and would like to be informed about the funds allocated and progress made in establishment of forensic-cum-training laboratories in the remaining States/UTs.

(Para 3.14.9)

Sensitization of the Police Personnel

The Committee notes the reply about the circulation of the “Women’s Safety & Security- A Handbook for First Responders and Investigators in the Police” book to DGsP of all States/UTs and DGs of CPOs/CAPFs. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the States/UTs may be advised to provide training to the ground level police personnel on said Report of BPR&D as they are the first point of contact with the victim/complainant.

(Para 3.15.3)

The Committee is not satisfied with the cryptic and evasive reply and is of the opinion that Ministry of Home Affairs which provides assistance and funds to the State governments under the scheme for installation of CCTVs in police stations has every right to know about its utilization. The Committee, therefore, would like to be apprised about the allotment of funds for installation of CCTVs and number of States/UTs that have initiated/installed optimum number of CCTVs in police stations.

(Para 3.15.6)

Legal Provisions to Prevent Crimes Against Women

The Committee notes the reply of the Ministry but still expresses its serious concern over the massive misuse of section 498A of IPC which is often reported through Media. Sometimes, it is also seen that Investigating Officers (IOs) are not extending positive support to innocent family members. The Committee, therefore, feels that some suitable amendment is required in 498A of IPC and reiterates its recommendation at para 3.16.1 of the Report to prevent the harassment of the family members on the basis of false complaints.

(Para 3.16.3)

Conviction Rate

The Committee notes that Forensic Sciences Laboratories (FSLs) have been setup in 32 States/UTs. The Committee further recommends that the MHA may coordinate with States/UTs to ensure timely upgradation/modernisation and availability of the state-of-art technology in these labs which is essential for effective investigation and timely collection of evidence. The Committee further recommends that the MHA may take steps towards setting up of forensic laboratory in the big cities with population of more than one million.

(Para 4.1.3)

Safe City project

The Committee notes the reply of MHA and reiterates its recommendation given in para No. 4.13.5 of the 224th Report on Demands For Grants (2020-21) of the MHA to extend the Safe City Project to all the major cities including Capitals of all States/UTs in Phase II. The Committee would also like to be informed about the implementation status of phase II of Safe City Project.

(Para 4.2.3)

Shelter Homes

The Committee notes that no concrete reply has been given on efforts made for installation of CCTV cameras in all shelter homes. The Committee would like to be apprised about the efforts made and timeframe fixed for installation of the CCTV Cameras and conduct of audit/survey in all the shelter homes.

(Para 4.3.3)

One-Stop Centres (OSCs)

The Committee notes the reply and would like to be informed about the number of women who have received medical and financial assistance whether pre or post violence during COVID-19 Pandemic.

(Para 4.4.3)

Safety of women and children in trains

The Committee notes the reply. The remaining states may also be advised to come on board in this regard for which advisories/meetings may be issued/held.

(Para 4.5.4)

Strengthening of Institutions

The Committee notes the reply and would like to be informed about the key findings of the study undertaken by BPR&D on “A Study of Factors Responsible for Recidivism” and necessary actions initiated thereon.

(Para 4.6.3)

Atrocities and Crimes against Women and Children of SC/ST Community

The Committee notes the reply and desires to be informed about the number of atrocity prone areas, number of review of cases ending in acquittal reported after issuing of advisories by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment during the last three years.

(Para 4.7.4)

Percentage of women personnel in Delhi Police

The Committee is not satisfied with the efforts of Delhi Police to increase representation of women in Delhi Police. The Committee notes the reply of Delhi Police about the details of recruitment of women in Delhi Police and desires to be apprised about the increase in percentage of women in Delhi Police after the ongoing recruitment process is complete. The Committee may also be informed about the timeline by when the target of 33 % reservation of women in Delhi Police is likely to be achieved. The Committee is also disappointed to note that no new recruitments have been made since 2018 which is more than three years. The Committee would like to be apprised about the reasons for delay in recruitment and steps taken to fast track the recruitment process.

(Para 4.8.3)

Initiatives of Delhi Police for safety and security of women and children in Delhi

The Committee notes the achievements of Special Police Unit for Women and Children (SPUWAC) of Delhi Police and persistent effort to impart self defence training to girls/women. The Committee would like to be informed about the view of Ministry of Education in the matter.

(Para 4.9.3)

The Committee notes the reply and appreciates the effort of Delhi Police to prevent street crimes by crime mapping and identification of hot spots, dynamic deployment, etc. The Committee would like to be informed about the implementation status of identification and mapping of crime hot spots in other Metropolitan cities.

(Para 4.9.6)

Sensitization of the Police Personnel

The Committee notes the reply. The Committee is of the view that just forwarding the Report is not going to serve the purpose. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the feedback on the BPR&D reports shared by MHA to States/UTs may be taken/ evaluated and furnished to the Committee.

(Para 4.11.3)

Gender Sensitization of Society

The Committee notes the reply of the Ministry of Education about observing 'women Safety week, in educational institutions through various awareness programmes. However, the Committee would like to be apprised about the steps taken by other Ministries/Departments in this regard.

(Para 4.12.3)

Legal Provisions to Prevent Crimes Against Women

The Committee notes the reply and would like to be apprised of the outcome of the review of implementation of women-centric laws.

(Para 4.14.3)

Legal Provisions to Prevent Crimes against Children

The Committee notes the reply and desires to be apprised about the outcome of the study of constituted task force to examine the age of motherhood, legal age of marriage for girls and other associated issues and factors responsible for Child Marriages.

(Para 4.15.3)

MINUTES

XIX

NINETEENTH MEETING

The Committee met at 10:15 AM on Monday, the 9th August, 2021 in Room No.63, Parliament House, New Delhi.

MEMBERS PRESENT

RAJYA SABHA

1. **Shri Anand Sharma** - **Chairman**
2. Dr. Anil Jain
3. Shri Satish Chandra Misra
4. Shri Neeraj Shekhar
5. Shri Rakesh Sinha

LOK SABHA

6. Shri Sanjay Bhatia
7. Shri Dilip Ghosh
8. Shri Dulal Chandra Goswami
9. Shri Gajanan Chandrakant Kirtikar
10. Shri Dayanidhi Maran
11. Shri Lalubhai Babubhai Patel
12. Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram
13. Shrimati Sharmishta Sethi
14. Dr. Satya Pal Singh
15. Shrimati Geetha Viswanath Vanga

SECRETARIAT

Shri Vimal Kumar, Joint Secretary
Shri Dharmendra Kumar Mishra, Director
Shri Ashwani Kumar, Additional Director
Shri Pritam Kumar, Under Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and informed them about the agenda of the meeting, i.e., to consider and adopt the following two draft Reports of the Committee:-

- (i) 233rd Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/ Observations contained in the Two Hundred Thirtieth Report on 'Atrocities and Crimes against Women and Children'; and

ANNEXURE

Annexure-I

Recruitment of women after the decision of 33% reservation to the women candidates in Delhi Police as on 1st April, 2021

S. No.	Name of Post	No. of vacancies	Selected	Status
1.	Women Constable (Exe) Spl. Recruitment Drive 2015 Nomination from Miroram & Nagaland (2015-16) & Assam 2018	148 Spl. Rectt. Drive	121 + Nomination from Mizoram 10 Nagaland 8 Assam 20 Total 159	157 candidates joined
2.	Women Sub- Inspector (Exe.) Exam.-20 16	88	88	84 candidates joined
3.	Women Constable (Exe) Exam-2016	2424	2424	2415 candidates joined
4.	Women Sub-Inspector (Exe) Exam-2017	256	256	229 candidates joined
5.	Women Constable (Exe) Spl. Recruitment Drive 2018	190	190	182 candidates joined
6.	Women Sub-Inspector (Exe) Exam-2018	123	Recruitment is underway through SSC	
7.	Women Sub-Inspector (Exe) Exam-2019	79	Recruitment is underway through SSC	
8.	Women Sub-Inspector (Exe) Exam-2020	78	Recruitment is underway through SSC	
9.	Women Constable (Exe) Exam-2020	1944	Recruitment will be conducted through SSC	

Apart from above, the following vacancies are to be advertised as per reservation policy i.e. 33% for women:-

S. No.	Name of Post	Vacancy	Status
1.	Head Constable (Min.) Exam-2021	749 (Male-503 Female-246)	Recruitment will be conducted through SSC.
2.	Head Constable (AWO/TPO) Exam-2021	766 (Male-513 Female-253)	
3.	ASI(Steno)	26 (Male-18 Female-8)	
4.	ASI (Radio Technician)	52 (Male-35 Female-17)	
5.	HC (Store Clerk)	29 (Male-20 Female-9)	
6.	HC (Fitter Electrician Commn.)	29 (Male-19 Female-10)	
7.	HC (Fitter Battery)	05 (Male-3 Female-2)	
8.	HC (Telephone Exchange Operator)	6 (Male-4 Female-2)	
9.	Const. (Workshop Hand)	43 (Male-29 Female-14)	
10.	HC (Mast Lasker)	6 (Male-4 Female-2)	
11.	SI (Short Hand Reporter)	3 (Male-2 Female-1)	
12.	ASI (Short Hand Reporter)	3 (Male-2 Female-1)	
13.	SI (Computer)	4 (Male-3 Female-1)	
14.	ASI (Finger Print Bureau)	25 (Male-17 Female-8)	
15.	Constable (Exe) 2021	2785 (Male-1866 Female-919)	
