

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1992

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2006

CRIME AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN .SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY

Dhanaraju Dr. K.;Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh;Murmu Shri Rupchand;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Rawale Shri Mohan;Senthil Dr. Raman;Sujatha Smt. C.S.;Vijay Krishna Shri ;Yadav Shri Mitrasen

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the nature of crime being committed against women and children in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the effective measures taken by the Government to restrict such crimes;
- (c) whether the UNICEF or any Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) have conducted any study with regard to the crimes committed against women and children;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to bring comprehensive law to redress and prevent sexual harassment at workplace; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a)&(b) The State-wise and crime head-wise details of crimes committed against women and children during 2005, as furnished by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under Ministry of Home Affairs, are at Annexure-'A'.

The action being taken by Government to combat crimes against women and to support women who are victims of such crimes is mentioned in Annexure-'B.'

The Government has enacted "The Commissions for Protection of Child Right Act, 2005" for Protection of Child Rights and Children's Courts for providing speedy trial of offences against children or of violence of Child Rights and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(c)&(d) This Ministry in collaboration with UNICEF is conducting a nation wide study on child abuse in different settings.

(e)&(f) Yes, Sir. A Bill on the prevention and redress of sexual harassment of women at workplace is under consideration.

Annexure- B

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1992 dated 5.12.2006 regarding Crime Against Women and Children

Strategy for dealing with violence against women

On the one hand, the Government is strengthening the existing legislations through review and amendments, wherever required, and developing new institutional mechanisms (National and State Commissions for women, all-woman police stations, etc.) , on the other, it is running projects that provide support to vulnerable women (like short-stay homes, Hostels for Working Women etc.) and rehabilitation of victims of violence (through schemes like Swadhar). The National Commission for Women and several NGOs are also conducting sensitisation and orientation programmes for judicial and police officers on gender issues that also focus on violence against women.

Legislative measures – Legal rights of women

To uphold the Constitutional mandate, the State has enacted various legislative measures intended to ensure equal rights, to counter social discrimination and various forms of violence and atrocities and to provide support service especially to working women.

Enforcement:

The direct responsibility for dealing with enforcement of the concerned Acts is that of the State Governments and the mechanisms under them. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of the crimes against women is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/ UT Administrations. However, the Government of India has initiated a number of measures to check such crimes, such as:-

Â§ setting up of helplines for women in distress under the Swadhar Scheme

Â§ support services to victims of violence through schemes such as Short Stay Homes and Swadhar under which shelter, maintenance, counseling, capacity building, occupational training, medical aid and other services are provided

Â§ grant-in-aid schemes providing assistance for rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked victims as well as prevention through special schemes in source areas of trafficking

Â§ redressal of grievances through interventions of National and State Commissions for Women

Â§ organizing Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Camps

Â§ implementation of schemes for

(i) awareness generation and advocacy and

(ii) economic empowerment of women through the programmes of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Swashakti project, Swayamsidha Project, Swawlamban programme and Support to Training & Employment Programme (STEP)

Â§ review of laws with a view to remove provisions which may be discriminatory to women and to enhance punishments for crimes against women

Â§ sensitisation of judiciary and police and civil administration on gender issues

Â§ Follow up of reports of cases of atrocities against women received from various sources, including NCW, with concerned authorities in the Central and the State Governments.

Apart from legislative changes in the relevant Acts, instructions/guidelines have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to effectively enforce legislation relating to crimes against women and monitor the enforcement and to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and to take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crimes against women and other vulnerable sections of society. The measures suggested include:

Â§ sensitizing of police officials charged with the responsibility of protecting the women;

Â§ vigorously enforce the existing legislation relating to dowry violence

Â§ set up women police cells in police stations and exclusive women police stations and ensure wider recruitment of women Police Officers.

Â§ provide institutional support to the victims of violence

Â§ provide counseling to victims of rape

Â§ take measures to eliminate trafficking in women. States have also been advised to constitute State Advisory Committees to advise on trafficking matters

Â§ train police personnel in special laws dealing with atrocities against women.

Â§ setting up of Fast Track Courts

Â§ setting up of Family Courts

Â§ appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers and notification of Rules under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961

National Commission for Women

The Government has set up a statutory body called National Commission for Women (NCW) with a specific mandate to study and monitor all matters relating to the Constitutional and legal safeguards provided to women; review the existing legislations to suggest amendments wherever necessary; and to look into complaints involving deprivation of the rights of women. NCW is receiving complaints relating to Dowry/atrocities cases, Dowry related suicides/death/murder. These cases are duly processed in the Commission under Section 10(1) (f) and 10(1) (g) of the NCW Act, 1990 and referred to the appropriate authorities such as police, District Magistrates etc. with the Commission's recommendations for expediting action under the criminal laws and bringing the guilty persons to trial in the Court. These cases are tried in Courts having criminal jurisdiction under Sections 304-B, 498A, 302 etc. of the Indian Penal Code read with the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. Almost all the State Governments have also set up State Commissions for Women in their respective States with similar functions.

## Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

The Government has notified the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 on 14-9-2005 as a civil remedy to secure women victims from domestic violence and to provide other relief. The Act has been brought into force on 26.10.2006 and the Rules to carry out the provisions of the Act have also been notified.