

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1750
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2014
ABUSE OF ELDERLY PERSONS
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Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are reports that 23% of elderly citizens are abused almost daily in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the number of complaints registered in this regard have been increasing over the years; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) & (b) As per information provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs, data on crime committed against senior citizens are not maintained centrally. "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects and, as such the primary responsibility of prevention detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime including crime against citizens lies with the States/UT Administrations. However, the Union Government attaches highest priority to matters of security of its citizens and through various schemes and advisories augments the efforts of States/UTs. However, "Help Age India" a Non-Governmental Organisation on the basis of a sample survey in 24 cities with 6748 older persons reported that 23% of the respondents experienced abuse.

(c) The Government has enacted the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 which, inter-alia makes maintenance of parents/senior citizens by children/relatives obligatory and justiciable through Tribunals; provides for revocation of transfer of property by senior citizens in case negligence by children/relatives; penal provisions for abandonment of senior citizens; medical facilities for senior citizens; and protection of life and property of senior citizens. Ministry of Home Affairs has also issued two detailed advisories dated 27.3.2008 and 30.08.2013, to all the State Governments / UTs advising them to take immediate measures to ensure safety and security and for elimination of all forms of neglect, abuse and violence against old persons through initiatives such as identification of senior citizens; sensitization of police personnel regarding safety, security of older persons; regular visit of the beat staff; setting up of toll free senior citizen helpline; setting up of senior citizen security cell; verification of domestic helps, drivers etc.