

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:383  
ANSWERED ON:11.07.2014  
WOMEN RIGHTS  
Mohammed Shri Faizal P.P.

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

- (a) whether the Government has started/proposes to start awareness programmes to educate women about their rights in order to curb atrocities against them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the other measures taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) to (c): Safety of women in the country is of utmost priority for the Government. The Ministry is endeavouring to put in place effective mechanisms to provide safe environment for women to work and live and fulfil their potential. Ministry recognize that incidence of crime against women cannot be controlled unless mindsets of people, in general, are made to change. Continuous awareness creation among men and women in the society through workshops, seminars, street plays, Nari ki Chaupals, Beti Janmotshav at the district level. In collaboration with Ministry of Panchayati Raj Special (Mahila) Gram Sabhas have also been conducted. Further, advertisements in the press and electronic media educating peoples about issues of domestic violence, Child Sex Ratio and Child Marriage etc also being taken up. Platforms such as the International Women's Day and the National Girl Child Day are used to create awareness on issues related to women and to bring to the centre stage issues such as sex selective abortions and child marriage. Through Sabla programme of this Ministry, adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years are imparted knowledge about their rights.

On the legislation front, the Ministry of Women and Child Development have enacted the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961; Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986; and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 and Prohibition of Child Marriage Act,2006 (PCMA). There is also various provision in IPC and CrPC which prescribe punishment for crime against women like rape, molestation, eve-teasing etc. Recently the Government has amended the Law and made punishment for sexual assault more stringent.