

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill-laid.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH (KAKINADA): The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly has passed the AP Disha Bill, 2019. The aforementioned bill is a landmark legislation aimed at completion of investigation within 7 days and trial within 14 days of heinous crimes of sexual offences against women and children. The bill also provides for the establishment of Special courts for speedy justice and stringent punishment in such cases.

The state of Andhra Pradesh has taken proactive action for establishment of an enabling framework in terms of 18 ISO certified Disha Women Police stations, setting up women help desks across 700 police stations, 13 One stop centres to focus on psycho-social well being of victims and 12 designated Mahila courts and 9 exclusive POCSO courts. Two IAS and IPS officers each are exclusively posted to supervise the implementation. The Disha App - emergency response system for women in distress has become widely used with 19.83 lakh downloads.

As the Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure and Administration are subjects in the Concurrent List, such substantial interventions by the state government are subject to consideration and assent of the President. The matter has been referred to the Home Ministry, which forwarded the same to the Women and Child Development Ministry for further consultation.

As the Women and Child Development Ministry has reverted with their recommendations, I would therefore urge the Minister of Home Affairs to expedite the matter for creation of a robust and conducive justice delivery system in Andhra Pradesh.