

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF : We have taken action and continue to do so on each and every case wherever it might have happened and which came to my knowledge.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Please let us know about the action taken.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF : We have cancelled their agencies.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Out of 385, in how many cases you have cancelled the agency?

Two licences were terminated at Bombay in Western Railway, 11 licences were terminated at Delhi in Northern Railway and once licence was terminated at Nasik in Central Railway.

National Commission for Women

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*563. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA :

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has conducted a survey throughout the country to assess the atrocities against women and their causes;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the number of complaints from women in distress received by the Commission so far; and

(d) the number of complaints disposed of and lying pending with the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). No, Sir. The National Commission for Women has not conducted any country-wide survey to assess the atrocities against women.

(c) and (d) : the number of cases received by the Commission from the date of its inception viz. 31st January, 1992 till date is 895. Of these 895 complaints, 774 were processed and issues arising out of such complaints were taken up with the appropriate authorities for necessary action in accordance with Section 10 (1) (f) of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. The remaining 121 complaints have been received recently and are receiving the attention of the Commission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The main question is by gentlemen, the supplementaries will be by ladies.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, three years have passed since the inception of this commission but it did not deliver goods. In spite of having been reminded by Government time and again, the commission has not presented any report, so far. The commission was to present its report in 1994 but one year has passed since then. Some women Members complain that Members of Commission do not know about its functioning and purview. Even Government does not know as to what it expects from commission. It is very disappointing that the Commission does not know its power and jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, atrocities on women are not confined to Dalits alone but women belonging to middle and higher classes are too becoming their victims. Unless the commission solves the problems of women, the very object and aims of the commission will not be fulfilled.

MR. SPEAKER : When there is time to deliver speech, you ask question and when you are supposed to ask question, you start delivering speech. Please ask question.

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : I would like to know the steps taken by hon. Minister to strengthen and empower the Commission. Whether any report of the Commission about its functioning for the last three years has been received by the Government, if not why the report of the commission has not been presented so far?

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the report has already been submitted in the year 1992-93 and regarding the atrocities against women, we have not conducted any survey so far. We have got the Statewise figures of the crimes which have been committed and also the types of crimes which have been committed Statewise. I am going to give that report so that he will come to know as to what the Commission has done during the period of three years. The figures are : dowry related harassment and atrocities committed by husband and in-laws — 281, dowry murder/deaths — 42, dowry related suicides — 6, domestic violence not related to dowry demands — 87, dispute over matrimonial homes/properties — 104, rape and molestation cases — 21, harassment to widow — 18, harassment at work place — 28, harassment by neighbours and miscreants — 42, desertions — 21, bigamy/adultery — 14, gang-raping by police and others — 6, maintenance cases 18, divorce petitions — 7 and miscellaneous complaints — 200.

I will also give the Statewise figure of the crimes which have been committed.

MR. SPEAKER : No; I think you can send it to him, because it will take time. You can give the analysis of the report, whether you are satisfied and what are the weak points, what are the strong points etc.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : In the report it has been stated that the crimes are on the increasing side. Due to awareness generation programme which we have undertaken the women have come to know the exact position as to where they should approach and they have come forward to report to the agencies. The Government have taken various steps to curb these atrocities against women and it is a detailed report. If he asks a separate question I will reply to him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Scindia had stated in a conference a few days back that efforts would be made to strengthen the commission. I would like to know what efforts have been made in this direction? Secondly whether to benefit the women belonging to remote areas, who are unaware of any such activity, will be added to the powers of District Magistrate so that they may bring their problems in the notice of the Commission? Hon. Minister should clear the position in this regard.

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Sir, people at large have come to know that some commission is working to eradicate the atrocities against women. We have also taken a number of measures to control and reduce the atrocities against women. The Commission have also recommended various amendments to the existing laws, namely, Dowry Prohibition Act, Sati Prohibition Act, etc. to see that the crime is more punishable. Apart from this, they have also taken various measures, namely, alerting the police and establishment of counselling centres and Women Police Stations throughout the country. In some of the States women police are taking a lot of interest to propagate and see that the people are aware of this proposition.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are three phases for women in Five Year Plans. First phase comprises of welfare schemes, second development and third about awareness. Hon. Minister, in his report, has stated that through awareness programmes more complaints have been received. In spite of awareness there are enumerable complaints and figures presented by you are not even that of a small state. I would like to ask as to what programmes he has to make awareness programmes more effective and secondly whether complaints are there for complaint's sake or any action has been taken on them.

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Sir, we have started short-stay homes for the ladies who are displaced just to keep them in our custody for some time. We have also started counselling centres which propagate the various programmes in this regard. We are giving hundred per cent grant for these programmes.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : Sir, it is difficult to ask any question about the National Women's

Commission because the term of the Members has expired and the Government is not taking any initiative for nominating a new body. Anyway my question is : Some of the most monstrous crimes against women are found to be against girl children. We have a number of cases recently like Hamida who was abducted and then raped both by her abductors and the policeman. We have the case of Jhaku — who is an Under Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs — who sexually abused his own child and invited other similar perverse colleagues of his to participate in this thing. Now, we find that in such cases, there is very little protection for the victims and also for those who try to help the victims. In the Jhaku case, we find that the mother and the other two daughters are being harassed and the legal process also is delayed for years.

So, my question is that considering the kind of psychological trauma that a child has to go through in this kind of a sordid affair whether the Government would consider some fund to be administered by the National Women's Commission both for the protection of the victims and those who are helping them and for the rehabilitation of the victims — financially, socially and psychologically.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Sir, the Commission is working. There are some vacancies which the Government is considering seriously to see that the vacancies are filled up as early as possible.

As far as the second question is concerned, she has mentioned about a particular incident. About the particular question, I think, if she can write to me.....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : I am talking of girl children.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : I am telling you about it. Regarding girls, we have drawn a national plan of action for girls indicating the action to be taken for survival, protection and development of girl children. Another thing which we have is, we have distributed legal literacy manuals throughout the country at the grassroot level translated in regional languages and have taken up media campaign in Doordarshan, AIR, etc.

About awareness programme, I have already told you that 2000 such campaigns have been held every year and the national plan of action is there to take care of girl children. We are keeping even adolescent girls also in the anganwadis to give protection for such girls.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : I had asked about the victims of atrocities who are girl children and whether the Government would consider having any fund for their rehabilitation.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : At present, we do not have such fund. You have given a suggestion and we will look into it.

THE MINISTER HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : I think every Member of the House and all of us are extremely shocked and repelled by the case that my colleague, Smt. Malini Bhattacharya has mentioned. It is particularly

abhorrent especially the Gory details that were splashed in every newspaper. I think we are totally resolved, not just as Government but as human beings, to ensure that such culprits do not escape scot-free and whatever psychological damage that has been caused to the unfortunate victims, I do not think that it can ever be healed totally, whatever we may try to do. But certainly, every effort should be made in this direction.

As far as the National commission for Women is concerned. I would like the honourable House to understand that atrocities are a part of its objectives. It has a number of objectives like looking into constitutional provisions, looking into how things could be improved as far as women are concerned, looking into many aspects of women development, protection and upliftment. so, this is one of them. Thus, it is more a recommendatory body than an adjudicating body. therefore, whatever complaints come to us, I think, the National Commission for Women have gone into most of the serious complaints — almost 80 per cent of them — and recommendations have been sent to the implementing Ministry, the Ministry of Home Affairs.

As far as madam's recommendation or suggestion about a fund being created is concerned, I think it should come under the purview of my colleague in the Welfare Ministry but it is certainly a welcome suggestion; it is something which we should take up and we will take it up.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : I would like to know from the Minister as to how many reports have been presented to the Government by this Commission. It is mandatory on the part of the Government to place the report before the Parliament every year alongwith its recommendations. The action that has been taken and other details like whether it is possible or not to take action on the report etc. should be placed before this Parliament. But that has not been done. Why was it not done?

My second question is about the growing atrocities on children. Sir, out of the three rapes committed in Delhi, two are child-rapes. Some recommendations are made by the Commission on these issues. I want to know whether the Government has gone through them or not; if so, what are their recommendations and when will all these reports be placed before Parliament?

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : We have stated in the reply itself that already 895 children cases have been received by the National Commission and out of them, 774 were processed.

Regarding the second question, our hon. Minister has already replied. We can only investigate and send the proceedings to the Government for necessary action.

It is not an adjudicating body. It is only a body to investigate and report to the Government for taking necessary action. In some cases, wherever action has not been taken

MR. SPEAKER : And who is the Government?

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : The Government is the Home Department.

MR. SPEAKER : The Government is the Home Department!

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Sir, I have asked some specific questions. How many reports were received regarding legal changes?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, what I had earlier said was that looking into the matter of atrocities is one of the functions of the National Commission for Women. And certainly, all heed is paid, all attention is paid to the atrocities especially those which are glaring and which are major atrocities. The National Commission for Women certainly has paid attention to them and has sent the recommendations and the report to the Ministry of Home Affairs. In regard to those cases which are serious, I think the National Commission for Women should keep following them up with the Ministry of Home Affairs. But the final implementation is not something over which we have a control; we can only ...

MR. SPEAKER : This is exactly what I have been saying that if one Ministry is saying that it is the responsibility of the other Ministry, there is no joint responsibility of the Government to Parliament. Let it be clearly understood that when any Minister standing up here speaks, he is not speaking only for his Ministry but for the Government.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, I very well understand that.

MR. SPEAKER : I think with your ability, you would be able to manage these things.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Sir, I have asked a very specific question regarding legal changes. I know that there are several laws regarding women. The Commission recommended several legal changes. What has the Government done on the recommendations? This Parliament is entitled to know what the recommendations are and what the Government has done on that. We would like to know whether they have taken any action on them.

MR. SPEAKER : I think he would be able to inform you in writing; probably, he may not have all the information with him.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, I have got a number of things which I could inform the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : It is better to do it in writing please.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, they are running into a number of pages. So I could not inform the hon. Member right now.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Sir, they should be placed before Parliament.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Madam, all these recommendations have been sent to the Home Department and the Legal Department; we have not yet received them.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Sir, we will have to get the yearly reports. It is our right to get the yearly reports on the functioning of the Commission, what they

have recommended and how they are functioning. All these things should be placed before Parliament; it is mandatory also.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, the recommendations of the National Commission for Women are being examined in consultation with the other Ministries and the report will be placed on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is required by the law also.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, it will be placed on the Table of the House.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Hon. Speaker, Sir, in the statement that has been given, the last sentence says "the remaining 121 complaints have been received recently and are receiving the attention of the Commission." In view of the fact that there is no National Commission for Women existing today, may I know who are the people who are looking into it and when will the next National Commission be appointed as its present term has expired?

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : We have already stated in the reply that it is under the consideration of the Government.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : When?

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Madam, as early as possible, we are going to reconstitute it. But the Commission is working with Ganga Khote as the Member and Anil Prasad as the Secretary; the Commission is working and the 121 cases are of miscellaneous nature.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Sir, we are all worried about the seriousness of the problem and also about the number of cases that are increasing day-by-day alarmingly. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether these Commissions have been fully constituted at all the State levels. The important thing is that they should be empowered by giving more legal powers. Otherwise, once they take up the cases, they are not able to initiate any legal proceedings or do any rehabilitation and things like that or take any decision legally. Finally, as the Minister has stated, it goes to the Home Department, it goes to the other Departments. The Commission should be assisted in giving proper legal aid and it should be constituted at all the State levels and the Government should seriously think over it. So, what steps are being taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Nine States have already constituted this commission for women. I think, the other States are also coming forward to establish this Commission for Women. Regarding the other part of the Question, our hon. Minister has already replied to it. It is only an investigating body; it only investigates wherever the police people have failed to investigate or failed to file the FIRs or charge-sheets. They inspect the whole thing and then they report it to the Government

for taking necessary action. Actions have been taken whereby some of them have been suspended; I think some of them have already been punished and in some cases, the processes are going on.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to state through you, that I also receive a lot of complaints that National Commission for Women is not functioning properly and the expenditure being incurred on it bears no fruit. We are discussing this point here. The report is that atrocities on women have increased ten times and National Commission for women has been constituted for this very purpose. I would like to know from hon. Minister as to what action has been taken by National Commission for Women on sudden incidents like fateful incident of Muzaffarnagar and actually happened there? If it has taken any action on its then what action has been taken by Government on it?

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : The Commission is working; it is not that the Commission is not working. I will give you the reply.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : MR. Speaker, Sir. This is very important question.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If your question bears no weight, too much speaking will not do.

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : I will give you the reply regarding the Muzaffarpur incident. The Commission is working; it is not that the Commission is not working. Only some vacancies are there which are going to fill up as early as possible.

In regard to the Muzaffarpur incident, I think two batches from the Commission have gone there; one Secretary and one Member went there and they have investigated the whole thing and they have reported back. Again, some other people went to the spot in Uttarakhand and they also have investigated the whole thing and they have submitted their report to the Government. I think the persons who were very much in distress went to the High Court and their Writ Petition is pending before the High Court. The High Court has asked for a CBI inquiry; the CBI has not yet given its report. The moment the CBI report comes, we will tell you what action the Government will be taking.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in a reply to one of my questions, hon. Minister had stated that expenditure worth Rs. 25,000 was being incurred per month on National Commission for women. It hardly matters as every women and Members of

Parliament had expressed their willingness about the party politics to constitute National Commission for women and after a long discussion this commission was constituted. In the reply it has been stated that action had been taken on the basis of complaints received by the Commission. It has also been stated in the Act that commission for Women will also take *suo motu* action. I would like to know that in how many cases this Commission has *suo motu* managed to get information. Secondly the hon. Minister stated that the report would be laid on the table of the House but it has also been mentioned in the act that its report should be presented in the House. Why there has been delay in laying the report on the table of the House? I would like to know whether hon. Minister will review the functioning of National Commission for Women or get it reviewed by any Parliamentary Committee?

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : We are going to review it. Regarding the functioning of the National Commission for Women, it has not only to look into the matters relating to atrocities and other incidents, but its has got some other duties also to do. For example, they have to ...

MR. SPEAKER : Why is there delay in placing the report?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not my question. My question was as to how many cases have been taken suo-motu by the commission.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : The Recommendations of the National Commission for Women are being examined in consultation with various other Ministries involved and we would like to submit it along with Action Taken Reports. If you want me to submit it now, I can just lay it on the Table of the House. But I thought a more complete report my predecessor said the same thing is being formulated now at present in consultation with the ATR and that is also submitted alongwith the Commissions's report.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : I would like to know whether any committee has been set up for review?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : You have said about *suo-motu* action. If you want to get information *suo-motu* or conduct enquiry willingly, then do not keep yourself limited because its scope and canvass is very wide.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : All the ramification have not been kept in mind. Therefore, I have asked as to why a review committee in this regard has not been set up?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I am replying to that. I was saying that its canvass is very broad. National Commission for Women has taken a *suo motu* initiation in many fields such as several amendemnts to the constitution, several suggestions in regard to amendment to the Constitution have been sent to the Concerned Ministry and they are being pursued and this report will be presented and that will consist all the information regarding this.

[English]

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : My question is to the hon. Minister is quite simple and direct. In his reply, the hon. Minister stated that countrywide survey has not been made.

The women in distress are more in those States which have suffered a lot due to years of turmoil or due to some women's movement. Specially, I would put my question in a break-up of two things. There have been migrant women who have come to Delhi from Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir over the last ten years. They have left their States of Jammu and Kashmir or Punjab.

Will the hon. Minister consider making a survey of those women in distress who have migrated to Delhi? They have left their home and their husbands have been killed in the militant movements.

Secondly, in 1984, due to the massacre of one community in Delhi and other places, there are several widows who have been demanding from the Government to give them justice and what they deserve. But till today, no justice has been done to those women.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will consider making a special survey of the women who migrated to Delhi and left Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Will the hon. Minister also take special steps to look after those widows, the women who are in distress whose kith and kin were killed in 1984?

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : As far as the first question is concerned, the crimes are more in UP, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

As far as the second part of the question is concerned, in Punjab I think as per our survey, there are six cases detected.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : My question is different.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : You have given a suggestion to see that widows who are in distress are rehabilitated and asked whether any rehabilitation measures can be worked out for such women. Yes. We are already at it. When the earthquake took place in Maharashtra, I think we immediately went there and we have taken a number of rehabilitation measures. We will make a study of such women who are in Punjab and take all rehabilitation measures, whatever is possible.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, setting up of National Commission for Women was initiated at the time of Janta Dal government and it was actually set up by your Government but it could not become a powerful commission. It was not empowered to the desired level. In an era of empowerment of women, an entirely powerless Commission has been constituted. Therefore part (a) of my question is as to whether you would empower the National Commission for women by giving it the statutory rights?

The part (b) of my question is that the reasons due to which it has been given no importance and why all the posts in it are lying vacant since 1995 till date? The tenure of the earlier commission is over and it is not functioning. Would you please reconstitute it and provide it all the powers?

MR. SPEAKER : If you ask many questions at a time they would not be replied.

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI : In part (c) of my question I have asked as to whether you would prefer working women in it or women in politics would be selected?.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Women in politics are also good and those present here in the House are also good.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Hon. Member has rightly said that everyone learns from one's experience and the very purpose of commission constituted was to create awareness among women, people may get information about the crimes committed and culprits are not set free without getting punishment. We had set some objectives for it and we will welcome the suggestions as removing the lacunae in the functioning, from time to time and we would try to implement the good suggestions, so that the commission may become a powerful one.

MR. SPEAKER : I am giving more time to this question because Geetaji has been demanding discussion on this issue for the last three years and which could not take place. ...

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the discussion on atrocities on women going to be taken up on 25th or not? I hope you will decide about it.

MR. SPEAKER : We will try. We will decide about that.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving this opportunity to me to raise a question. Since one of the hon. women Members have raised this question, I am asking this question, through you, Sir. From the reply of the hon. Minister, it has been confirmed that a large number of cases relates to the dowry deaths, the killing by the in-

laws or sometimes by the husband and like that. In spite of the Dowry Act, one of the greatest deficiencies is that as things stand today, as per the Hindu Code Law today, a woman child does not have an equal right along with the male child in her father's property. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether are National Commission for Women has examined the desirability to bring suitable changes in the Hindu Code Law to provide equal right to a girl child along with the boy child on her parents property and whether it has initiated any discussion with the Ministry of Law to bring forward suitable changes.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a good question. It is suggested? Is it being considered?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Yes, Sir. there are certain amendments to the Dowry Act which the National Commission for Women has recommended and these are being considered in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs. After some decisions are taken, then a Cabinet Note is probably sent to the Cabinet. This is being examined keeping in mind all the ramifications that are being mentioned by all the Members.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : As the National Commission for Women is an investigation and recommendatory Body, has it recommended to the Home Department to have all-women police station in each district as we are having in Tamil Nadu? It is because most of our ladies are illiterates. If there is an all-women police station, they can easily approach and tell their grievances. We are having it in Tamil Nadu. Is there a national policy to have it? Have you recommended this to the Ministry of Home Affairs?

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Yes, Sir, Tamil Nadu is having women police stations. Karnataka is also having such police stations. We have been writing to the State Governments to establish such police stations throughout the Country.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through this Question, I would like to bring it to the notice of the Hon. Minister that atrocities have always been committed on women in India. This was the result of Indian social system and the cases brought to his knowledge are very few. The main reason of this is that cases of atrocities and rapes committed in remote villages of the country rarely come to the notice because of this social order as the victim is afraid of admonition and boycott of the society.

For example, I would like to cite an example from Ramayana that in Ramayan era Indra raped Ahilya but Ahilya was afflicted. Hon. Speaker, Sir, it was Ram who, when he visited Ahilya, helped her to regain social respect.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to whether Government proposes to take any step to help such boycotted and afflicted women to regain their social respect and rehabilitate them?

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : The Commission is working. This Commission is only an enabling institution. It cannot take up matters only of atrocities and rape against women. It has detected 899 cases within a short period of one year. Because of this awareness only, people are coming forward to report to the authority. The number of crimes has been increasing day by day and it is being reported in almost all the journals. The Central Government has taken various measures to reduce the atrocities like rape and molestation against women. One of the important things is the establishment of Counselling Centres.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please state about the policy regarding rehabilitation.

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Yes, the Short Stay Homes are rehabilitating the women. The Counselling Centres are there to dispose of the cases as early as possible. We also have the Sensitisation Programme to dispose of the cases as early as possible. These are the steps we have taken to see that atrocities are reduced.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great concern that in this country abhorable and heinous acts are being committed against women and children. Hon. Minister stated in the House that she would lay report of the National Commission for Women and Action Taken Report on the table of the House very soon. I would like to ask two questions. First, when these reports would be laid on the table of the House. My second question is as to whether National Commission for women has recommended that what effective measure may be adopted to take action against the civil servant or police official, if he is found guilty of such misdeeds?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : I think, we have already replied to that. Many cases are already reported to the Government. They are under investigation. Some of the persons have been punished and some officers have been kept under suspension.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : We have made many recommendations. We have made the whole host of recommendations on the Dowry Act, the Sati Act, the Cr.P.C., the I.P.C. which the National Commission on Women have made. They are under consideration of the Ministry.

SHRI R. ANBARASU : ... (Interruptions) ... (Not Recorded)

MR. SPEAKER : Disallowed. I am removing this question from the Record. Shri Janarthanan.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : I have already asked a question for having a national policy for women.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the National Women Commission is empowered to assess the cases filed by the women regarding the atrocities over them in different police stations and in totality in the States. If so, whether according to their reports, the Government is aware where and in which State the large number of atrocities on women are taking place.

MR. SPEAKER : She has replied to that question. Shri Lokanathji.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the formation of the National Women Commission has taken three years. Within three years, as the hon. Minister has reported, they have made many recommendations. The House does not know. So, in view of all that is coming and all the recommendations that have come, how long the Government will take, we cannot say. I want to know whether the Government is now thinking of amending the Act and giving more powers to the National Women Commission.

MR. SPEAKER : Lokanathji, that question has already been replied.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : No, Sir. I want to know whether the Government is contemplating to bring an amendment to the Act so that the Women Commission will have teeth and can prevent the furthering of he atrocities and all oppression on the women.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : This Act was passed at the time of Janata rule. We also argued that some more powers should be given for this Commission. At that time, it was said that it was better to have only an investigating authority. But, as far as the amendment is concerned, I think it is only the enforcement authority which can take action against such culprits. It is not the Women and Child Department which can take action against such culprits.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : While replying to the hon. Mrs. Girija Devi, the hon. Madhavrao Scindiaji has said that the National Women Commission was constituted for creating awareness among women and public in general, regarding atrocities against women. Is it only for creating awareness? What about taking action against the culprits and punishing them?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I request the hon. Member not to put words in my mouth, Sir. I did not say that.

MR. SPEAKER : You have not said that.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : The Commission has multifarious objectives and has very wide canvas. I am looking into the complaint of just one part of the entire canvas of activity.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : The second part of my question is, as Shri Lokanath has asked, whether the Government can reply categorically that the National Women Commission would be given statutory powers?

MR. SPEAKER : No, madam. This kind of question cannot be replied to while replying to a question because it has to be considered by the Cabinet and other Ministries also. I would not expect him to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI : Mr. Speaker, sir, today in the country thousands of women are compelled to flesh trade due to poverty and disregard. There are numerous social conditions which compel them to take shelter of prostitution. I suppose they are in millions in the country. Every metropolitan city has a red light area for this purpose. Is National Commission for women preparing any perspective plan for removing this problem and the salvation of these women and whether they have recommended them to the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : He has already replied this.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, sir, through you, I would like to know whether Government would take some steps to give chairman of National Commission for women the status at par with that of chairman of Backward Class Commission, who has got the Cabinet rank, to make it powerful and effective as women constitute fifty percent of the society and their participation in every walk of life is increasing day by day.

MR. SPEAKER : He has replied this also.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Mr. Speaker, sir, whether Government has any plan to arrange for the livelihood to give priority in service to afflicted women?

MR. SPEAKER : The question of rehabilitation has also been replied.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Science Education

*561. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have introduced any special programme under the promotion of Science Education in the country with special reference to Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made during the last two years under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). There is a general Centrally-sponsored scheme for "Improvement of Science Education in Schools", which applies to the whole country. Under the Scheme, States/Union Territories are provided financial

assistance for purposes like provision of science laboratories, supply of books on science related subjects, training of science and mathematics teachers, assistance to voluntary agencies for conduct of experimental and innovative programmes etc.

There is no special programme for Madhya Pradesh.

(c) During the last two years, the physical achievement has been the creation of facilities in the various schools in the country as follows :

	1993-94	1994-95
(i) Number of schools to whom science kits supplied	5756	6852
(ii) Number of schools where Science laboratories upgraded/strengthened	3914	3163
(iii) Number of schools where library books supplied	3874	2969

Student-Teacher Ratio in Kendriya Vidyalayas

*564. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the approved student-teacher ratio in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) whether student-teacher ratio in each of the Kendriya Vidyalaya situated in Delhi is in consonance with the approved ratio;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to make the teacher-student ratio as per the norms?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has not prescribed any norm for teacher-student ratio.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan sanctions additional schools and sections with adequate staff to accommodate all the students on its rolls.

Vacancies of Teachers in Navodaya Vidyalayas

*565. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA :

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether many posts of teachers are lying vacant in Navodaya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;