

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3028
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
GORDHANBHAI JAVIA

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

- (a) the number of complaints received by the National Commission for Women pertaining to dowry harassment and atrocities against women during 2000-2001 and 2002-2003 till date;
- (b) the number of complaints on which action has been taken so far; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to protect women and redress their grievances?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA)

(a)&(b) National Commission for Women (NCW) has informed that it has received the following number of complaints since 2000:-

Year (Jan. to Dec.)	No. of complaints
2000	5267
2001	4012
2002	7000
2003 (Jan. to July, 2003)	3650
Total	19,929

Out of the complaints received from the year 2000 onwards, the NCW disposed off 5826 complaints and forwarded 11,803 complaints to the respective State Commissions for Women/Women and Child Development Department of the concerned State Government for appropriate action.

(c) The Government has already enacted a number of legislations to protect women from atrocities. The Indian Penal Code has several provisions to deal with offences against women such as the offence of dowry death, the offence of cruelty, both mental and physical, offences of molestation, rape etc. Apart from the general Criminal Laws, the Government has also enacted special laws like Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 and the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987.

The Protection from Domestic Violence Bill, 2002 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 8th March, 2002.

Since violence against women is a reflection of gender discriminatory attitude of the society towards them, the Government has taken a number of steps to raise their status. These include media campaigns, awareness generation camps, spreading legal literacy, counseling, legal aid, support to voluntary agencies and schemes for the socio-economic empowerment of women.

The National Policy for the Empowerment of Women is committed to eliminating the incidence of all forms of violence against women, including those arising from customs such as dowry.

The National Commission for Women constituted as an apex level statutory body under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 is mandated to look into complaints of deprivation of women's rights and take up issues arising out of it with the appropriate authorities.