

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5357
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011
ACID ATTACK ON WOMEN
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Supreme Court has recently directed the Union Government and State Governments to restrict the sale of acid to prevent the increasing incidents of acid attacks on women;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Union Government and State Governments in this regard;
- (c) whether the Union Government has already put in place/any proposal to formulate a scheme to provide compensation to the victims for their treatment and rehabilitation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to bring a more stringent law to deal with acid attackers as such attacks are not less heinous than murder; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a): Yes. Supreme Court in Laxmi versus Union of India & ors case has directed the Union and State Governments to restrict sale of acid to prevent increasing incidents of acid attacks on women.
- (b): As per the input provided by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, at present, chemical industry is deregulated and hence there is no scope of statutory control over the distribution of acids in the country as this will adversely affect the growth of chemical industry as a whole.
- (c) & (d): As regards compensation to the victims of acid attack, a new section 357A has been inserted in the Cr. P.C. through the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2008, which provides for compensation to victims of crime. State Governments have been directed to formulate a Victim Compensation Scheme.
- (e) & (f): A writ petition (Crl.) No. 129 of 2006-Laxmi (minor) through her father vs. Union of India and others has been filed in the Supreme Court of India. The prayers made in the Writ Petition, inter alia, include to make an amendment in the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code for dealing with acid attack as a special offence as according to the petition the existing provisions are not enough. During the pendency of this writ petition some amendments in Criminal Procedure Code has already been incorporated. The matter is sub-judice and final judgement is awaited.