

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4218
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011
COUNSELLING OF RAPE VICTIMS
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is mandatory for all the police stations in the country to have a rape counsellor;
- (b) if so, the details of police stations which do not have a rape counsellor; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Ministry of Home Affairs had circulated a detailed advisory dated 4th September, 2009 to all State Governments/UTs, wherein Points XV, XVI, XVII, XVIII and XIX of the said advisory specifically pertains to the Crime of Rape, wherein it has advised all concerned departments of the State Government should handle rape victims at all stages from filing a complaint in a police station to undergoing forensic examination and in providing all possible assistance including counseling, legal assistance and rehabilitation. Preferably these victims may be handled by women so as to provide a certain comfort level to the rape victim.

As per Seventh Schedule, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Constitution, and as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes, including crimes against SC/ST, Women and Children, lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

The above said advisory on women has inter-alia, advised to adopt appropriate measures for swift and salutary punishment to the persons found guilty of violence against women, improve the quality of investigations, minimize delays in investigations of crime against women, set up 'Crime against Women Cells' in districts, advised to undertake gender sensitization of the police personnel, special women courts and initiate steps for security of women working in night shifts at call centres. Majority of the States/ UTs have established 'Women Cells'. Some States/UTs have also set up 'All Women Police stations' at district level and 'Mahila /children help desk' at police station level.