

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2159
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012
ACID ATTACKS
Verma Smt. Usha

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of acid attacks on women are on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases reported and the action taken against the accused during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to stop such cases in future?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): As per information provided by National Crime records Bureau (NCRB), data regarding acid attack on women is not maintained centrally by NCRB.

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 women, lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. However, the Union Government attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention and control of crime against women. Ministry of Home Affairs has sent detailed a detailed advisory dated 4th September, 2009 to all state Governments/UTs, wherein they have been, 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.

A High-Powered Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the Home Secretary to examine the issue relating to the review of rape laws has recommended insertion of Section 326A and 326B, Hurt by acid attack in draft "Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2011.