

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1278
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
Bhagat Shri Sudarshan;Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of members in the National Commission for Women (NCW) including members from political and non-political parties;
- (b) the number of complaints received, disposed off and pending with the NCW during each of the last three years and the current year along with the criteria adopted by NCW to dispose off the cases expeditiously;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed the accountability of anyone in these pending cases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the NCW on the incident which took place recently in Assam involving a girl displaying lack of co-ordination between a journalist and the members of women commission?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT(SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

- (a): There are five posts of Members in the National Commission for Women (NCW) and at present all the Members are in position.
- (b) to (d): The total number of complaints received, disposed of and pending with NCW during each of the last three years and the current year is as follows:

Year Complaints Pending at
Registered various stages

2009	15566	14716
2010	15700	14349
2011	15870	10936
2012	10192	3159

as on
13 Aug,
2012

Total: 57328 43160

The complaints received at the Commission are acted upon in the following manner:-

I. The complaints of police apathy / police inaction are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for ensuring a timely & fair investigation of the matter. The Action Taken Reports (ATR) thus received from the corresponding State Governments are examined and further monitored.

II. For serious crimes, the Commission constitutes Inquiry Committees, which makes on the spot inquiries, examines various witnesses, collects evidence and submits reports with recommendations. Such investigations help in providing immediate relief and justice to the victims of violence and atrocities. The Commission monitors the implementation of the recommendation of the Inquiry Committees by taking up the matter with the concerned State Governments/Authorities.

III. Family disputes / matrimonial disputes are resolved through counseling. Both the parties are called to NCW for a personal hearing and are counseled to save their matrimonial home.

IV. In some complaints, written replies / comments on affidavits are sought from the opposite parties / respondents in response to the allegations leveled against them in the complaint.

V. Some complaints received from women are also forwarded to the various State Commissions for Women, the National Human Rights Commission, the National Commission for SC/ST and their State counterparts for initiating appropriate action at their end. These complaints are those complaints which are not directly related to the deprivation of women rights.

VI. Some complaints related to "Domestic Violence / Matrimonial Dispute" are forwarded to the concerned authorities for appropriate action in view of the provisions of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. In many complaints, the District Magistrate & Collector and the Superintendent of Police are urged upon to provide necessary legal aid and guidance to the victims of "Domestic Violence" under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

In addition to the above, the following procedure is followed for the closure of complaints:-

(i) The complaints which are non-mandated are closed.

(ii) The complaints wherein the ATRs depict that the matter has already been charge-sheeted/presented before the concerned Court, the same are ordinarily closed as being sub-judice before a court.

(iii) In complaints related to the alleged heinous crimes on women like that of rape, dowry death, etc., the ATRs received are examined in detail and if necessary, further status reports be sought from the concerned authorities (unless otherwise the matter is sub-judice). Such matters are monitored till they are presented before the concerned Court. Regardless of any fact whatsoever, the decision in such cases are communicated to the complainant for his/her view within 90 days of the receipt of ATRs. If no communication is received back from them within the prescribed period, the complaint will be closed.

(iv) The complaints wherein the ATRs depict that the allegations levelled in the complaint could not be substantiated on investigation, or that the complaint was of frivolous or like nature, vague, etc. such complaints are also closed. The Government monitors the pendency of the cases with NCW and a monthly report is called from NCW regarding the disposal of cases.

(e): The NCW has taken suo moto cognizance of the incident wherein a girl was allegedly attacked and molested after she came out the bar in Dispur, Assam, by constituting an inquiry committee in exercise of powers conferred under Sec.8(1), read with Sections 10(1) and 10(4) of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. The recommendations of the Inquiry Committee have been forwarded to the Chief Minister of Assam who has informed that action has already been initiated on some of the recommendations made by NCW. Further, NCW has stated that in view of insensitivity of one of the Members of Inquiry Committee who was not a member of NCW in handling the case, National Commission for Women disassociated her from the Inquiry Committee and removed her from the Committee.