

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4376  
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2012  
SAFETY OF WOMEN  
Pakkirappa Shri S.

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

- (a) whether any survey has declared India as the fourth most dangerous country for women;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the reason therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure the safety of women in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): As per the information available on the website [www.indiatodaygroup.com](http://www.indiatodaygroup.com), Thomson Reuters Foundation Global Poll in its report through a poll has declared the India as the fourth most dangerous country for the women. The poll conducted amongst 213 gender experts who ranked countries on their overall perception of danger, as well as by six category of risks-health, sexual violence, non-sexual violence, harmful practices rooted in the culture, tradition or religion and lack of access to economic resources and human trafficking. The standard and reasonableness of data used in arriving at the ranks of the countries may vary from country to country and, therefore, it is not possible to comment on India's relative position in their Poll.

(d): The Constitution of India bestows equal rights on both men and women and prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex etc. At the same time, the Constitution allows the State to make affirmative discrimination in favour of women. In the light of the Constitutional mandate the Government has initiated several programmes to improve the status of women in the society, including safety and eradication of social evils. These include special legislations like Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, etc. For safety of women in difficult circumstances, the Government implements Swadhar & Short Stay Homes Schemes. These initiatives have resulted in an improvement in many development indicators related to women.