

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3496
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2012
HARASSMENT OF WOMEN
Ramasubbu Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing incident of harassment of women in matrimonial and maintenance cases, dowry etc. and plight of women deserted by husbands in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such incidents reported during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (c) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data relating to the State/UT-wise number of cases registered under Dowry Death, Cruelty by Husband and Relatives, Dowry Prohibition Act for the years 2009, 2010 & 2011 is annexed. The NCRB does not maintain data regarding women deserted by husband.

(c): Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code seeks to penalise the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, who subjects her to cruelty. Section 304B of the Indian Penal Code deems any death which is caused by burns or bodily injury or occurs otherwise than under normal circumstances within seven years of her marriage as dowry death, provided soon before her death she was subjected to cruelty or harassment by her husband or any relative of her husband for, or in connection with, any demand for dowry. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 provides civil remedies in the form of protection order, residence order, monetary relief and custody order to women facing domestic violence. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 prohibits the giving, taking and demand for dowry. It also casts duties on the state Government to appoint dowry prohibition officers to ensure effective implementation of the law.

Swadhar and Short Stay Home Schemes provide shelter for women in difficult circumstances and are implemented through civil society organisations. Free legal aid is available to women under the Legal Services Authorities Act.