

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:300
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013
UN OBSERVATION ON CRIME
Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the United Nations (UN) has recently termed rape and molestation as a national problem of India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R. P. N. SINGH)

(a) to (c): The Government has no official communication in this regard.

The President of India on 4th February, 2013 has consented to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance 2013 on crimes against women which proposes to replace the word `rape` with `sexual assault` to expand the definition of all types sexual crimes against women. It also propose enhanced punishment for other crimes against women like stalkinr voyeurism, acid attacks, indecent gestures like words and inappropriat,Â¬touch and brings into its ambit `marital rape`.

A day long conference of Chief Secretaries and Director Generals of Police on crimes against Women and atrocities against SCs/STs held in New Delhi on 4th January, 2013. The meeting was presided by the Hon`ble Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Women and Child Development, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment and Hon`ble Ministers of State for Home Affairs.

The representatives deliberated on various measures of crime prevention, women safety, changes on law, organization, investigation processes and expeditious trials to improve safety and security of women and children.

As per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India `Police` and `Public Order` are State subjects and, as such, the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime, lies with the State Governments I Union Territory Administrations. However, Government of India is deeply concerned with the welfare of women and through various schemes and advisories to the State Governments I Union Territory Administrations, augments the efforts of the States /UTs.

Ministry of Home Affairs has sent 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 and children, improve the quality of investigations, minimize delays in investigations of crime against women and children, set up `Crime against Women Cells` in districts, undertake gender sensitization of the police personnel, set up special women courts and initiate steps for security of women working in night shifts at call centers. 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 help desk` at police station level.