GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HOME AFFAIRS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5603 ANSWERED ON:30.04.2013 SECURITY TO WOMEN AT NIGHT

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of crime against women working in night shift have been reported in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, Statewise including the NCT of Delhi;
- (c) whether the Union Government has issued any directives/guidelines to the State Governments, Police Departments and employers to provide security to women working in night shift;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to set up a task force to give recommendations for creating a safe environment for working women and ensuring their safety and security at night?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): There has been some reports of cases of crimes against women working in night shift in the country. As per information provided by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), no separate data in this regard is maintained centrally.
- (c) & (d): Ministry of Home Affairs had issued a comprehensive advisory on crimes against women dated 04.09.2009, wherein para 5(xxii) clearly states that 'Special steps to be taken for security of women working in night shifts of call centers'. Delhi Police has also issued order u/s 144 Cr. P.C. directing the BPOs, Corporate and Media houses for taking certain steps for the safety and security of women employees working at night, like ensuring that they do not travel alone in the cab and are dropped right at their door steps and accompanied by the Security Guard.

As per Seventh Schedule, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are the State subjects under the Constitution, and as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes, lies with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Union Government attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention of crimes against women and in this regard, a detailed advisory dated 4th September, 2009 has been sent to all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations wherein all States /UTs have been advised to make a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the machinery in tackling the problem of violence against women and to take appropriate measures aimed at increasing the effectiveness of law and order machinery.

(e): Ministry of Home Affairs is not aware of any such initiative in this regard.