

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:445

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2013

PROTECTION OF WOMEN S RIGHTS

Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

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

- (a) whether the National Commission for Women (NCW) has adequate powers to protect the rights of women across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted a committee to examine the issue of empowerment of women and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government; and
- (e) if so, the main recommendations of the committee and the implementation status thereof, and if not, the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOKSABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 445 TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH APRIL 2013 ASKED BY SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA AND SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE REGARDING 'PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS'.

(a) & (b): The National Commission for Women (NCW), which was constituted as a statutory body in 1992 has a wide mandate to safeguard and promote the interests of women. As per Section (10) of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, the Commission shall perform any function to safeguard and promote the interest of women in the country. These include, among others, investigation and examination of the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws and making recommendation to Government on measures for their effective implementation; reviewing the existing provisions of the Constitution and other laws affecting women and recommendation of amendments and remedial legal measures to meet any lacunae, inadequacies or shortcoming in such laws; looking into complaints and taking suo-moto notice of matters relating to deprivation of women's rights, etc. and taking up the issues with appropriate authorities; calling for special studies or investigations into specific problems or situations arising out of discrimination and atrocities against women, identifying the constraints so as to recommend strategies for their removal; participation and advice in the planning process for socio-economic development of women, evaluation of the progress made thereof; inspection of jails, remand homes etc., where women are kept under custody and seeking remedial action wherever necessary.

The Commission has been given powers of a Civil Court while investigating matters relating to safeguards for women under the Constitution and other laws and deprivation of women's rights, to the extent of summoning and enforcing attendance of any person from any part of India and examining him on oath, requiring discovery and production of any document, receiving evidence on affidavits, requisitioning of any public record or copy thereof from any court or office, issuing Commissions for examination of witnesses and documents and any other matter which may be prescribed.

(b) to (e): The Government has constituted a High Level Committee for study of the Status of Women in the country since 1989, the mandate of which inter-alia , includes measures for holistic empowerment of women . The Committee has been given two years time to submit their report, from the date of its 1st meeting, which was held on 24th July, 2012.