

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:17
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2013
MEDICO LEGAL CASE GUIDELINES
Annayagari Shri Sai Prathap;Ray Shri Saugata

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued new Medico Legal Case (MLC) guidelines for rapid response by hospitals to examine sexual assault victims; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b) Health is a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to issue guidelines for examination of sexual assault cases.

The Government of NCT of Delhi has circulated guidelines for rapid response by hospitals in case of MLC examination of victims of sexual assault, which includes identification and marking of a separate room by Director/Medical Superintendents in order to provide privacy to the victim; ensuring adequate availability of essential equipments and stock of sexual assault forensic evidence (SAFE) kit, for collection of forensic evidence; keeping HODs of the Hospital and doctors informed about the identified room; nomination of C.M.O./M.O. In-Charge of Casualty & Emergency, for oversight and supervision. The designated Nodal Officer ensures smooth collection of MLC evidence/material keeping in mind the sensitivity of the circumstances, provision of clothing to the victims in case the situation demands; arrangements of training sessions to the doctors on the protocols and guidelines on the MLC examinations/reporting in case of sexual assault victims; organization of workshop for sensitization of hospital staff, medical and para-medical, in collaboration with the Delhi Commission for women, etc.