

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:335

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013

ACID ATTACKS

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram; Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre; Jeyadurai Shri S. R.; Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar; Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai; Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ; Owaisi Shri Asaduddin; Patil Shri A.T. Nana; Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma; Tagore Shri Manicka

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of acid attacks on women and girl children are on the rise in the country;
- (b) if so, the total number of such cases reported and women/girl children died/injured, accused arrested and the action taken against the guilty, rehabilitation of victims along with the financial assistance provided for medical treatment to victims separately, during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has issued any directives to the Government in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the effective steps taken by the Government including issuance of advisories to the States to curb such cases including ban on sale of acid and to ensure speedy trial in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per the information provided by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) the collection of data on acid attack cases has been started recently. The available State/UT wise cases registered, number of victims, cases charge-sheeted, persons arrested and persons charge-sheeted under acid attack during 2010-2012 are enclosed at Annexure-I.

(c): The Hon'ble Supreme Court while hearing the case Laxmi Minor vs. Union of India {WP (crl) 129 of 2006} has directed the following :

The Union Government is to circulate to all States / UTs the recently formulated "The Poisons Possession and Sale Rules, 2013` for consideration.

In the States/Union Territories, where rules to regulate sale of acid and other corrosive substances are not operational, until such rules are framed and made operational, the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States/Administrators of the Union Territories shall ensure the compliance of the following directions with immediate effect:

i) Over the counter, sale of acid is completely prohibited unless the seller maintains a log/register recording the sale of acid which will contain the details of the person(s) to whom acid(s) is/are sold and the quantity sold. The log/register shall contain the address of the person to whom it is sold.

(ii) All sellers shall sell acid only after the buyer has shown:

a) A photo ID issued by the Government which also has the address of the person:

b) Specifies the reason/purpose for procuring acid.

(iii) All stocks of acid must be declared by the seller with the concerned Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) within 15 days.

(iv) No acid shall be sold to any person who is below 18 years of age.

(v) In case of undeclared stock of acid, it will be open to the concerned SDM to confiscate the stock and suitably impose fine on such seller up to Rs. 50,000/-

(vi) The concerned SDM may impose fine up to Rs. 50,000/- on any person who commits breach of any of the above directions.

The educational institutions, research laboratories, hospitals, Government Departments and the departments of Public Sector Undertakings, who are required to keep and store acid, shall follow the following guidelines:

(i) A register of usage of acid shall be maintained and the same shall be filed with the concerned SDM.

(ii) A person shall be made accountable for possession and safe keeping of acid in their premises

(iii) The acid shall be stored under the supervision of this person and there shall be compulsory checking of the students / personnel leaving the laboratories/place of storage where acid is used.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also directed that the acid attack victims shall be paid compensation of at least Rs. 3 lakhs by the concerned State Government/Union Territory as the after care and rehabilitation cost.

(d) and (e) All the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court are being followed. No specific advisory on acid attack has been circulated; however, several meetings with all stakeholders with State Governments, have been held in this regard.