

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3325
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2013
SPECIAL RIGHTS TO NCW
Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Devi Aswamedh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to overhaul the functioning of National Commission for Women (NCW) to protect the women and children from various atrocities and harassment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to grant special rights to the State Commissions for Women under NCW in view of increasing number of crimes against the women in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government to save women and girls from exploitation in the country?

Answer

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

(a)& (b): No Madam.

(c) to (d): No Madam. The State Women Commissions have been constituted by the respective States and the right to those Commissions have been conferred to them by the respective State Statutes/Orders.

(e): Safety of women and children in the country is of utmost priority to the Government. Efforts have all along been made to establish mechanisms to provide safe and secure environment for women and children. On the legislation front, women specific laws like the "Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005"; "Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961"; "Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986"; and the "Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013" have been enacted. The Government has enacted 'The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012' to provide protection to all children under the age of 18 years from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography. Recently, the "Criminal Law (Amendment), Act 2013" has also been enacted making the punishment more stringent for offences like rape, besides recognizing various other activities like voyeurism, stalking etc. as offences and crime against women.