

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1745
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2013
PROTECTION OF WOMEN
Singh Shri Prabhunath

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

- (a) whether the women in the country continue to be the most vulnerable section of the society facing domestic violence, abuse, security/safety problems, exclusion from public life and many other forms of discrimination;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to safeguard the social, political and economic rights of the women in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has approved any policy/bill providing for share to women in their husbands' property; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Safety of women 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 to move around, work and live. 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. 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.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various schemes for ensuring safety security and empowerment of women . These are :-

- i. Swadhar and Short Stay Homes to provide accommodation to destitute women and women in distress.
- ii. Ujjawala Homes meant for rehabilitation of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.
- iii. Working Women Hostels for which funds are given for construction of Hostel for ensuring safe accommodation for working women away from their place of residence.
- iv. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) to ensure sustainable employment and income generation for marginalized and asset-less rural and urban poor women across the country.
- v. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) extends micro-finance services to bring about the socio-economic upliftment of poor women.
- vi. National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) has been set up with the aim to strengthen the overall processes that promote all-round Development of Women.

(c) & (d): The marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2010, that provides for a share to the wife in movable and immovable property of her husband has been introduced in Rajya Sabha.