

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3091

ANSWERED ON:11.02.2014

DOWRY DEATHS

Jeyadural Shri S. R.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the cases of dowry deaths and domestic violence against women;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of such cases reported, accused arrested, convicted and the action taken against them, separately during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to stop such cases along with the advisories issued to the State Governments in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per data provided by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the total number of Cases registered (CR), cases chargesheeted (CS), cases convicted (CV), persons arrested (PAR), persons chargesheeted (PCS) and persons convicted (PCV) in the cases of dowry deaths and domestic violence against women during 2010 – 2012 is given in Annexure I and II respectively.

(c) The President of India on 2nd April, 2013 has consented to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013, which have come to force since 3rd Feb, 2013, on crimes against women. The Government has amended various sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Indian Evidence Act to strengthen provisions of legislations for crimes against women

In Section 154 of Cr. P.C., a proviso has been inserted to provide that the information provided by a woman victim of acid attack, sexual offences against women or rape shall be recorded by a woman police officer or any woman officer. It further provides that in case the woman victim is temporarily or permanently mentally or physically disabled, such information shall be recorded by the police officer at the residence of the person or at any convenient place, in the presence of a special educator or an interpreter. The recordings of such information shall also be videographed.

The amendment in Section 160 Cr. P.C. (regarding the powers of police officer to require attendance of witness) provides that women or any male person under the age of 15 years or above the age of 65 years or a physically or mentally disabled person shall not be required to give personal attendance as witness at the place other than his or her place of residence.

The amendment of section 161 Cr. P.C. provides that statement of women victim of sexual offences including the offence of rape shall be recorded by a woman police officer or any woman officer.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has sent several advisories to all States/UTs requesting them to take all necessary steps in order to prevent all forms of crimes against women.

(i) Advisory on Crime against Women-Measures needed to curb issued on 04.09.2009; wherein they have been, inter-alia, advised to adopt appropriate measures for swift and salutary punishment to the persons found guilty of violence against women and children, improve the quality of investigations, minimize delays in investigations of crime against women and children, set up 'Crime against Women Cells' in districts, advised to undertake gender sensitization of the police personnel, special women courts and initiate steps for security of women working in night shifts at call centers. Majority of the States/UTs have established 'Women Cells' and appointed Protection Officers. Some States/UTs have also set up 'All Women Police stations' at district level and 'Mahila /children help desk' at police station level

(ii) The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an advisory on 22nd April 2013 whereby the States/ UTs were requested to raise the women representation in Police to 33%

(iii) Advisory on Registration of FIR irrespective of territorial jurisdiction and Zero FIR was issued on 10.05.2013

(iv) Advisory on Compulsory Registration of FIR u/s 154 Cr.P.C when the information makes out a cognizable offence on 05.02.2014

A daylong conference of Chief Secretaries and Director Generals of Police on crimes against Women was held in New Delhi on 4th January, 2013. The representatives deliberated on various measures of crime prevention, women safety, changes on law, organization, investigation processes and expeditious trials to improve safety and security of women.