

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:363

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009

SECURITY TO WOMEN

Mahajan Smt. Sumitra;Singh Smt. Meena

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any advisory to the State Governments for ensuring safety and security of women and control of crimes committed against them in the country including the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has suggested specific steps through such advisories for improving the effectiveness of the administration of the criminal justice system and the machinery in tackling the various crimes and atrocities committed against women including amendments in the existing laws; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.363 FOR 15-12-2009 REGARDING "SECURITY TO WOMEN"

(a) to (d): Yes, Madam. A detailed advisory dated 04-09-2009 has been sent to all State Governments / UT Administrations wherein States/UTs have been advised to take comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the machinery for ensuring safety and security of women and control of crimes committed against them in the country including the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Advisory is also available on Ministry of Home Affairs' website, www.mha.nic.in.

Some of the specific steps suggested in the advisory are as under :-

- (i) Vigorously enforce the existing legislations and ensure proper enforcement of law and convictions in crimes related to women.
- (ii) The administration and police should play a more proactive role in detection and investigation of crime against women and ensuring that there is no under reporting.
- (iii) Increasing the overall representation of women in police forces.
- (iv) Sensitizing the law enforcement machinery towards crime against women by way of well structured training and awareness programmes, meetings and seminars etc., for police personnel at all levels as well as other functionaries administering the criminal justice system.
- (v) For improving general awareness on legislations, mechanisms in place for safety and protection of women, the concerned department of the State Government must, inter-alia, take following steps:
 - a. Create awareness through print and electronic media;
 - b. Organize legal literacy and legal awareness camps;
 - c. Develop a community monitoring system to check cases of violence, abuse and exploitation and take necessary steps to curb the same; and
 - d. Involving the Community at large in creating and spreading such awareness.
- (vi) Explore the possibility of associating NGOs working in the area of combating crime against women.
- (vii) There should be no delay whatsoever in registration of FIR in all cases of crime against women.
- (viii) All out efforts should be made to apprehend all the accused named in the FIR immediately so as to generate confidence in the victims and their family members.

(ix) Cases should be thoroughly investigated and charge sheets against the accused persons should be filed within three months from the date of occurrence, without compromising on the quality of investigation. Speedy investigation should be conducted in heinous crimes like rape. The medical examination of rape victims should be conducted without delay.

(x) Ensure proper supervisions at appropriate level of cases of crime against women from the recording of FIR to the disposal of the case by the competent court.

(xi) Help-line numbers of the crime against women cells – should be exhibited prominently in hospitals/schools/colleges premises, and in other suitable places.

(xii) Set up exclusive 'Crime Against Women and Children' desk in each police station and the Special Women police cells in the police stations and all women police thana as needed.

(xiii) Concerned departments of the State Governments could handle rape victims at all stages from filing a complaint in a police station to undergoing forensic examination.

(xiv) The specialized Sexual Assault Treatment Units could be developed in government hospitals having a large maternity section.

(xv) For improving the safety conditions on road, the concerned departments of the State Government must take suitable steps to:

- a. Increase the number of beat constables, especially on the sensitive roads;
- b. Increase the number of police help booth/kiosks, especially in remote and lonely stretches;
- c. Increase police patrolling, especially during the night;
- d. Increase the number of women police officers in the mobile police vans;
- e. Set-up telephone booths for easy access to police;
- f. Install people friendly street lights on all roads, lonely stretches and alleys; and
- g. Ensure street lights are properly and efficiently working on all roads lonely stretches and alleys.

(xvi) The local police should arrange for patrolling in the affected areas and more especially in the locality of the weaker sections of the society. Periodic visits by DM & SP will create a sense of safety and security among these sections of the people.

(xvii) Special steps to be taken for security of women working in night shifts of call centers.

(xviii) Crime prone areas should be identified and a mechanism be put in place to monitor infractions in schools/colleges for ensuring safety and security of female students. Women police officers in adequate number fully equipped with policing infrastructure may be posted in such areas.

(xix) Action should be taken at the State level to set up Fast Track Courts and Family Courts.

(xx) Dowry related cases must be adjudicated expeditiously to avoid further harassment of the women.

(xxi) Appointment Dowry Prohibition Officers and notify the Rules under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

(xxii) All police stations may be advised to display the name and other details of Protection Officers of the area appointed under the Domestic Violence Act, 2005.