

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2405

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2015

Acid Attacks

Butta Smt. Renuka;Galla Shri Jayadev;Hansdak Shri Vijay Kumar;Kumar Shri Shanta;Shetty Shri Gopal Chinayya

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 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 separately during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the efforts made for the rehabilitation of such victims along with the financial assistance provided for medical treatment to the victims during the said period, Statewise;
- (d) whether the Supreme Court has issued any directive to the Union Government and the private hospitals to treat acid attack victims free of cost;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government and the private hospitals in this regard;
- (f) whether the Union Government has any proposal to impose ban on the sale of acid and stringent legal provisions in view of increasing incidents of acid attacks in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the details of advisories issued by the Union Government to State Governments and police departments to curb the cases of acid attacks and to set up Special Courts to ensure speedy trial of such victims?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HARIBHAI PARATHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

-2/-

-2-

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(a) & (b): As per information provided by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), State-wise details of cases reported and number of women victims (including girl children) grievously injured under acid attack and action taken against guilty persons i.e. persons arrested, persons charge sheeted and persons convicted during 2012-2014 are given at Annexure I and Annexure -II respectively, showing a rising trend. Data on acid attacks on girl children and women died are not maintained centrally.

(c), (d), (e), (f) & (g)

Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing a scheme since 1st April, 2015 named 'One Stop Centre for Women' to facilitate and provide medical aid, police assistance, legal counseling and temporary shelter & women affected by violence including victims of acid attack.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court while adjudicating in W.P.(Crl) 129 of 2006; Laxmi Vs. Union of India on 06.02.2015, directed the Government to simplify the procedural aspects of Section 357C of Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.P.C) pertaining to payment of the hospitalization, medical treatment, etc. in case of acid attack victims.

In accordance with the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Criminal) 129 of 2006;

Laxmi vs Union of India, a joint meeting by the Union Home Secretary and Union Health Secretary with all States/UTs was convened on 14th March, 2015 to discuss on the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on treatment and compensation of the acid attack victims.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has enacted Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013 which has incorporated specific provisions not only to deal with acid attack cases i.e. Section 326A and 326B of Indian Penal Code (IPC) but also providing compensation to victims of acid attack victims i.e. Sections 357A, 357B and 357C of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.P.C.).

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A new section 166B in Indian Penal (IPC) has also been inserted to provide for punishment upto one year, in case the hospitals (public or private) do not provide first aid or medical treatment, free of cost, to the victims of acid attack.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also issued an advisory on 02.05.2013 to all the States and UTs for providing free medical treatment to the acid attack victims.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued detailed advisories on "Measures to be taken to prevent acid attacks on people and for treatment and rehabilitation of survivors" on 30th August, 2013 & "on expediting cases of acid attack on women" on 20th April, 2015 to all States/UTs. The advisories are available in Ministry of Home Affairs website
www.mha.nic.in/sites/upload_files/mha/files/AdvisoryAfterSupremeCourtOrderInLaxmCase_Short.pdf &
mha.nic.in/sites/upload_files/mha/files/AdvisoryAcidAttackWomen_220415.pdf
