

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4327

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014

AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ON ATROCITIES AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Kataria Shri Rattan Lal

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched awareness programmes/ schemes about sexual offences to curb growing atrocities on women, dalits and children in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government to further intensify such programmes/schemes;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of the growing atrocities on women, dalits and children in some of the States/UTs of the country including Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi in the recent years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) to (e): Safety of women in the country is of utmost priority for the Government. The Ministry is endeavouring to put in place effective mechanism to provide safe environment for women to work and live and fulfil their potential. Ministry recognize that incidence of crime against women cannot be controlled unless mindset of people, in general, are made to change. Continuous awareness creation among men and women in the society through workshops, seminars, street plays, Nari ki Chaupals, Beti Janmotsav are being undertaken at the district level. In collaboration with Ministry of Panchayati Raj Special (Mahila) Gram Sabhas have also been conducted. Further, advertisements in the press and electronic media educating peoples about issues of domestic violence, Child Sex Ratio and Child Marriage etc also being taken up. Platforms such as the International Women's Day and the National Girl Child Day are used to create awareness on issues related to women and to bring to the centre stage issues such as sex selective abortions and child marriage. Through Sabla programme of this Ministry, adolescent girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years are imparted training with regard to legal rights of women.

On the legislation front, the Ministry of Women and Child Development have enacted 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 and Prohibition of Child Marriage Act,2006 (PCMA). There are provisions under IPC and CrPC which prescribe punishment for crime against women like rape, molestation, eve-teasing etc. Recently the Government has amended the Law and made punishment for sexual assault more stringent.