

>

Title: Need to formulate legislation to control crimes against women in West Bengal, especially in rural areas.

DR. RATNA DE (HOOGHLY): The social security of women, especially residing in rural belts, in West Bengal is vulnerable. It is a matter of great concern that 37 per cent of women who got married in West Bengal between 1996 and 2001 were minors at the time of their wedding. As per report revealed from the National Family Health Survey -3, West Bengal ranked seventh in the country amongst States that forced girls into under-age marriage, to the extent of 53.9 per cent.

According to a report published by the National Family Health Survey, the rate of sexual abuse on women was the largest in the State. The report speaks that 21 per cent of women of West Bengal faced sexual violence which is three times greater than the national average.

Madam, successful social awareness generation has completely failed in West Bengal. So, proper legislation followed by stringent punishment should be formulated to eliminate these social crimes.