

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Issue regarding increasing incidents of stalking in the country.

SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER (CHANDIGARH): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. Stalking in India is still considered a problem rather than a serious crime. We focus on the supposedly bigger problems of crime, while stalkers roam around with impunity, no shame in their creed.

Delhi, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh see numerous cases of stalking crimes. Through 2014, there were 4700 complaints of stalking in Delhi. Two such recent instances in Delhi ended up in murders. The same man had stalked them for years and then stabbed them to death because they turned down his marriage proposal. Can you not penalize this stalker before he becomes a murderer? Do we only notice when the offence becomes fatal?

Female students stalked outside colleges, working women stalked after work. We need to see stalking as a precedent to assault. It needs to be regarded as violence against women.

Trivializing incidents of invasive stalking will actually make them more serious with time. It will be wiser and cognizant of us to realize the gravity of the rise in this crime and become units of assistance to every victim who is prey to this violence.

A senior prosecutor of the city police pointed out that stalking cases are complex and often do not end in conviction, resulting in the accused coming out and posing a bigger threat. Moreover, women are afraid and reluctant to register complaints about stalking. What good are laws if the ability to act on them is forever absent?

HON. CHAIRPERSON:

S/Shri George Baker,

Sharad Tripathi,

Priyanka Singh Rawat,

12/3/2018

Bhairon Prasad Mishra,

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and

Prof. Richard Hay are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Kirron Kher.