

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1882

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 03<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST, 2016/SRAVANA 12, 1938 SAKA)

CASES OF RAPE, HARASSMENT AND OTHER ATROCITIES AGAINST WOMEN

1882. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of rape, harassment and other atrocities have increased against women particularly against girl children in various parts of the country during the last six months; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent such incidents in the country particularly in Maharashtra?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)

(a): As per information provided by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 58,976 cases were registered under crime against women (including girl children) during January to April 2016. The comparison cannot be made as the data is provisional.

(b): The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013, which has come into force since 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 2013 on crimes against women, has enhanced punishment for crimes like rape, sexual harassment, stalking, voyeurism, acid attacks, indecent gestures like words and inappropriate touch etc. The new law has provisions for increased sentence for rape convicts, including life term and death sentence, besides providing for stringent punishment for offences such as acid attacks, stalking and voyeurism

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, has come into effect from 14th November, 2012 as a special law to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

As per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects and, as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime lies with the States/UT Administrations.

Ministry of Home Affairs has issued advisories on 04.09.2009, 14.7.2010, 5.1.2015, 20.4.2015 and 12.05.2015 on Crime against women and crime against children to all State Governments/UTs. These advisories have advised State Governments to adopt appropriate measures for swift and salutary punishment to the persons found guilty of violence against women and children, set up Fast Track Courts, Family Courts, Crime against Women/Children desks in each Police Station, improve the quality of investigations, minimize delays in investigations of crime against women and children and to undertake gender sensitization of the police personnel. These advisories specifically direct the States/UTs that "cases should be thoroughly investigated and chargesheets 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, murder

etc. The medical examination of rape victims should be conducted without delay.

State Government of Maharashtra has taken the following steps to prevent crime against women and children:-

- PAW(Prevention of Atrocities on Women) Cell: The applications regarding ill treatment and crime against women etc. are received in the Cell . These are inquired into by the units in order to provide justice to needy women. This cell sensitize police men from various units by arranging training programs and circulating the subject material about the crime against women and child.
- Mahila Police Kaksha (Women Help Desk Police station level) :In Maharashtra prevention, detection & Investigation of crime against women is dealt with by the jurisdictional police stations. The Director General of Police, Maharashtra State, Mumbai has issued circulars to create Mahila Police Kaksha in each police Station, to handle the cases regarding crime against women. As per availability Women Police Officers& Police Constables are appointed in these cells. 1062 such cells are established till date.
- Mahila Suraksha Samittee(District level): These committees are established in all Headquarters of all 46 Police Units and all Police Stations. These committees are helping for legal assistance to the

women in crises with the help of police intervention. The cell includes women doctors, women advocates, women professor and social worker etc.

- Special Juvenile Police Unit and Child Welfare Officer: In all Districts of Maharashtra Child Welfare Committee & Juvenile Justice Boards are formed for protection and care of children in distress. Special Juvenile Police Unit is formed in all 46 Police Units and one police officer is appointed as Child Welfare Officer in 1062 Police Stations.
- Help centers at S.T. stand: To prevent crime against women and children 364 help centers are established at State Transport bus station and CCTV cameras are installed.
- Women Help Line: The dedicated Toll-free Help Line No.103 for Mumbai, Thane & Navi Mumbai & for the rest of Maharashtra Help Line No.1091 are functioning.
- Special & Fast Track Courts: Totally 27 Special Courts for the speedy disposals of cases of crimes against women are functioning 25 Fast Track Courts are established for speedy disposal of cases relating to the atrocities on women and mentally handicapped girls.

Complaint Committees at work places: As per the Vishakha Guidelines of Hon. Supreme Court, New Delhi these committees are established in all 46 Police Units head quarters and State CID office, Pune. These

committees are tackling the complaints related to sexual harassment at work places of women police officers / staff and other ministerial staff working in police officers.

- Preventive Action for Eve-Teasing: Instruction and circulars are issued by office of DGP, MS, for preventive such incidents. Foot patrolling, patrolling in college area, Nakabandietc are organized regularly by Police units. The lectures on security measures and existing laws are being delivered in school and college level.
- Sensitivity of Police Officers and Men towards the Complaints of Women : Curriculum of basic training programme of Police Officers at Maharashtra Police Academy, Nashik and all Police Training Schools and refresher courses at unit head quarters includes laws related to crime against women & children and gender issues. Regular training workshops have been held for police officers, NGOs and prosecutors to sensitize them regarding Anti Human Trafficking and its seriousness and impact on society, to develop victim friendly approach and to enhance their investigative skills.
- ManodhairyaYojana: Women & Child Welfare Dept. has implemented this scheme since 02/10/2013 for rehabilitation of victim of rape and acid attack. This scheme gives compensation.
-

Instruction Book: To investigate crime against women and children, the book about all circulars, guidelines, advisories, Criminal Law Amendment Act - 2013, has been published and circulated to all Police Units.

- As per the recommendation of Sukanu Committee the counseling centers have been sanctioned and managed by Women & Child Welfare Dept. However the Women Help Desks, at the Police Station level and Mahila Suraksha Samittee, at the Police Station and unit headquarters perform the role of counseling in regards to complaints related to women and children.
- The Maharashtra State has established Anti Human Trafficking Cell on 31/03/2008 12 Anti-Human Trafficking units are established in the state of Maharashtra. Police Inspectors working in the Social Service Branch in the Commissionerate and District Crime Branch of Maharashtra Police have been notified as 'Special Police Officer' for the purpose of Anti Human Trafficking.
- Domestic Violence Act 2005: To protect the women from domestic violence, this act has come in force. To implement this act Protection Officers are appointed by Women and Child Welfare Dept. in all districts and the detail information is consolidated by the said dept. however the review at the district level is taken by the district committee headed by Dist. Collector.

- The District Vigilance Committee was formed in each district of Maharashtra State. The District collector was the president of this cell & the Superintendent of Police, Social Welfare Officer, advocate, women medical officer, principal of local college, social worker and member of women organization were working in this cell. This Committee works for various issues related to women atrocity such as Dowry, Domestic Violence, Immoral Trafficking Devdasi etc.
- Prevention of Female Foeticide:- For the effective implementation of (1) Pre - Conception and Pre - Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act - 1994 (PCPNDT), (2) Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act - 1971 (MTP) the Police Officer of the rank of DySP/ACP has been appointed as a nodal officer.
- Social awareness programmes: The Social awareness programs are conducted by respective departments such as Home dept., WCD, Labor dept., Public Health dept., Social welfare dept., as per their subjects by using medias such as T.V., cable network, radio, advertisement boards, news media, pamphlets etc.
- Mobile Apps: Various units of Maharashtra police had developed mobile applications for the safety & security of women. These apps are web based and can be downloaded. These apps are free and are becoming very much popular in Maharashtra. Women are extensively using these apps.