

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1959
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH MARCH, 2020/PHALGUNA 21, 1941 (SAKA)**

J. S. VERMA COMMITTEE REPORT

**1959. SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the highlights of the report of the J.S. Verma Committee to suggest various measures on checking increasing crimes against women;**
- (b) the status of implementation of the J.S. Verma Committee report;**
- (c) the reasons for not implementing majority recommendations of the Committee, even after the passage of several years; and**
- (d) what measures are being taken to bring reforms in providing justice to the rape and sexual assault victims in view of increase in rape and sexual harassment incidents in the country and delay in punishing the culprits?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

(a) to (c): Justice J.S. Verma Committee was constituted by the Government to look into possible amendments in the Criminal Law to provide for quicker trial and enhanced punishment for criminals committing sexual assault of extreme nature against women. The Committee had submitted its report on 23.01.2013.

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Taking into account the recommendations of the Justice Verma Committee, Government has already made various amendments in Criminal Laws (Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Indian Evidence Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012) relating to sexual harassment; assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe; voyeurism; stalking and rape.

Further, pursuant to the recommendation made in the Justice Verma Committee Report, domestic workers were included within the ambit of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

(d): National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes information on crime in its publication "Crime in India". Published reports are available till the year 2018. As per the published information, data shows no uniform trend with regard to the crime under the crime head rape during 2016 to 2018.

'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The responsibilities to maintain law and order, protection of life and property of the citizens including women/girls are with

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the respective State Governments. The State Governments are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of law. However, Government of India gives utmost importance to the safety of women and has taken a number of initiatives in this regard, which are given below:

- i. The Criminal Law (Amendment), Act 2013 was enacted for effective deterrence against sexual offences. Further, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018 was enacted to prescribe even more stringent penal provisions including death penalty for rape of girls below the age of 12 years. The Act also inter-alia mandates completion of investigation and trials within 2 months.**
- ii. Emergency Response Support System provides a pan-India, single internationally recognized number (112) based system for all emergencies, with computer aided dispatch of field resources to the location of distress.**
- iii. The Ministry of Home (MHA) has launched a cyber-crime reporting portal on 20th September, 2018 for citizens to report obscene content.**
- iv. Using technology to aid smart policing and safety management, Safe City Projects have been sanctioned in first Phase in 8 cities (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow**

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& Mumbai). The projects have been prepared by State Governments, taking into account the need for identification of hot spots for crimes against women for development of critical assets in various areas including infrastructure, technology adoption and capacity building in community through awareness programmers.

- v. MHA has launched the “National Database on Sexual Offenders” (NDSO) on 20th September, 2018 to facilitate investigation and tracking of sexual offenders across the country.**
- vi. MHA has launched an online analytic tool “Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences” to monitor and track time-bound investigation in sexual assault cases.**
- vii. In order to improve investigation, MHA has taken steps to strengthen DNA analysis units in Central and State Forensic Science Laboratories. This includes setting up of State-of-the-Art DNA Analysis Unit in Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Chandigarh, MHA has also sanctioned setting-up and upgrading of DNA Analysis units in State Forensic Science Laboratories in 13 States/UTs.**
- viii. MHA has notified guidelines for collection of forensic evidence in sexual assault cases and the standard composition in a sexual assault**

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evidence collection kit. To facilitate adequate capacity in manpower, training and skill building programs for Investigation Officers, Prosecution Officers and Medical Officers have commenced.

- ix. Government of India has approved a scheme for setting up of a total of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) across the country for expeditious trial and disposal of pending cases pertaining to rape and POCSO Act in a time-bound manner.**
- x. In addition to the above-mentioned measures, MHA has been issuing advisories from time to time to the States/UTs to deal with crimes against women, which are available at www.mha.gov.in.**
