

Part – IV: Various Legislative Interventions to Counter Crime against Women

- Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013: enacted to make punishment for offences like Rape more stringent and broadened the meaning of sexual assault and harassment. Sexual Assault, acid attacks, stalking, disrobing a women have been incorporated in IPC.
- The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2013: to provide safe and secure environment for women to work.
- The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.
- The Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC & PNDT), 1994.

Various Initiatives and Scheme to ensure Safety and Security to Women

- NIRBHAYA FUND: to ensure women's safety by providing them prevention, protection and rehabilitation.
- SAKHI- one stop centre scheme:
 - to support women affected by violence; offer medical aid, police assistance, legal aid, counselling and shelters; these centres to be connected with various helplines.
- Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme
- Dhanlaxmi Scheme
- Bhagya Laxmi Scheme
- Beti Anmol
- Ladli
- Nanhi Chhaan
- HIMMAT App: to raise SOS alert, where caller's/victim's location will be reported in real time at Police Control Room for instant help.

- Panic Button and GPS in Mobile handset rule, 2016: to make it easier to send out distress signal and identify current location.
- 181 Helpline: universal women helpline number, active 24x7.
- 2 Mahila Battalions in CRPF in place of 2 male Battalions.
- Ladies special trains and ladies compartment to be escorted by security squads.
- Security helpline 182 and Twitter account activated to provide assistance during train travel.
- CCTV surveillance cameras to be installed in trains.
- Middle Bay in trains reserved for women.
- Increased reservation Quota in train berths.
- 33% reservation of women in Parliament.
- 33% reservation of women in Police Force.

What else could be done:-

- A national policy and plan of action to be framed for Zero tolerance to crime against women including all forms of violences in and outside the home.
- The Government, in collaboration with multi-stakeholders, can conduct sustained, large scale, national public education campaigns through national print and audio-visual media to change mind-sets and increase awareness of rights, current laws and policies.
- Encourage and promote exercises on the lines of women friendly Gram Panchayats in Kerala that did detailed crime-mapping exercise to prevent violence against women.
- Engage with civil society and police to set up Mahilla Committees in Urban areas on the lines of what civil society and Mumbai police carried out in Mumbai soon after 1992 riots.
- As alcohol is a serious factor promoting violence against women, policies of alcohol trade, taxation, regulation, etc could be examined along with community movements against alcoholism and their success rates.
- Assessing and mapping safety risks and defective infrastructure such as hidden

- walking routes, deficient lighting and unsafe public space.
- Sensitization of the judiciary to domestic violence issues.
 - Government to provide holistic, accessible, quality sensitive, sufficient and coordinated support services for women survivors of violence including legal, police and medical support, counselling, shelter, employment and compensation.
 - Enact special measures for punishing perpetrators of acid attacks and strictly regulate the sale and distribution of acid.
 - Immediate and effective disbursement of funds/monetary relief to the victim or family of acid attack should be institutionalised.
- Marital rape should be made an offence irrespective of the age of the wife and the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim.
 - Develop schemes for proper counselling, rehabilitation and compensation for woman who has suffered.
 - Gender sensitive training to be incorporated in school, colleges, and police departments.
 - All police stations must have a woman and child protection desk, staffed as far as possible by a woman police officer.
 - Number of women in police should be increased.
 - The curriculum of the Police and Judicial Academics to be engendered.

(For Women in The Economy visit Part - V)