

Home Min OK's ₹3K cr for women safety

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Ministry has approved allotment of ₹3,000 crore for women safety projects in eight metro cities including Delhi. The project include setting up of women police patrol teams, technological installations like panic buttons, smart-LED street lights, transit dormitories for women and children, one-stop crisis centers, forensic and cyber crime cells in the selected metros under the Women Safe City Project. It will implemented in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Lucknow from 2018-19 to 2020-21, a senior Home Ministry official said Sunday.

Safe city proposals amounting to ₹2,919.55 crore were approved under the 'Nirbhaya Fund' recently, the official said. ₹663.67 crore has been earmarked for Delhi, ₹252 crore for Mumbai, ₹425.06 crore for Chennai, ₹253 crore for Ahmedabad, ₹181.32 crore for



Kolkata, ₹667 crore for Bengaluru, ₹282.50 crore for Hyderabad and ₹195 crore for Lucknow, the official said.

The project takes a comprehensive view of women safety, with the states adopting a mix of solutions based on their requirements. It envisages deployment of all-women patrol teams such as SHE-teams and well-equipped emergency response vehicles called 'Abhayam' vans to ensure quick and effective response system.

The proposed infrastructure includes development of

safe zone clusters in hot crime zones, smart LED street lighting, CCTV cameras connected to modern command and control centres, security enablers in public transport, installation of public panic buttons, provision of toilets for women within safe eco-systems and transit dormitories for women and children.

Police stations are planned to be equipped with women help desks and other services such as counsellors. This will make police stations more accessible to women for lodging complaints and getting

other assistance. One-stop crisis centres are also planned along with forensic and cyber crime cells.

An integrated approach has been followed while designing the physical infrastructure to be added to enhance safety of women and children in public places and to instil a sense of security in them, another official said. The safe city proposals have been prepared jointly by the respective police and municipal commissioners of each city.

The project is being implemented in consultations with the ministries of women and child development, urban development and electronics and information technology and respective municipal and police commissioners. The cost of the project would be shared between the Central Government (from Nirbhaya fund) and respective states in the ratio of 60:40. In case of Delhi, the Home Ministry will allocate an additional amount of ₹240.11 crore.