



Men to talk at domestic violence table

Chetan Chauhan
New Delhi, October 30

RENUKA CHOWDHURY has decided to consult men over domestic violence, which, she feels, will help get their side of the story and understand why it takes place.

The Women and Child Development minister took the decision after male rights organisations termed the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act as the worst law.

"Men cannot be treated like a problem. They have to be part of the solution. And, we would consult them on how they can be part of the solution," Renuka said.

The ministry would interact with organisations early next year to bring men on board and

resolve their issues. "We would consult them on all women's issues and try to make them part of the measures to end domestic violence."

She, however, claimed that no case of misuse of the law has been reported from any state. In all, 7,913 cases have been registered in a year since the law came into force with Rajasthan registering the highest at 3,440.

Male rights groups like Save the Family Foundation had launched a campaign against the law citing examples of West Bengal and Orissa, where such cases have been reported.

The minister also said they are considering inclusion of children in the purview of the law after a recommendation by Lawyer's Collective.

"Children who face direct impact of domestic violence should be protected under this

civil law," said Indira Jaisingh of Lawyer's Collective.

Law for surrogate business

The minister said the Centre was preparing a law to regulate the business of surrogate mothers. India, in the absence of regulation, has witnessed a boom in the business of renting the womb with large number of NRIs and foreigners coming here.

She said most developed nations have a law for sperm donation and renting a womb but in India, no one knows who all are in this business. "We are studying laws of different countries to prepare a regulation for the Indian market. Our aim is to ensure that women are not cheated."

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Women and Child Development
Minister

