

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE: DELHI.

No. 256/PRO/PHQ, dated, Delhi the 29TH MAY /2010

To

The Editor,
The Times of India
New Delhi.

Subject:- Regarding News report "**Unsafe capital : 212 rape cases in first five months**".

Sir,

This refers to the captioned byline news report appeared in The Times of India on 26-5-2010. The headline suggests that the capital is unsafe as there have been 212 rape cases in first five months of the year. The headline and figure of rape cases are not based on any objective analysis and tend to create unwarranted sensation and a wrong impression in the minds of the citizenry.

It is clarified that during the year 2010 upto May15th only 185 cases have been registered under the head of Rape as against 195 cases in the year 2004, 232 cases in the year 2005, 197 cases in the year 2006, 216 cases in the year 2007 and 188 cases in the year 2008. Whereas in absolute figure, in the past 7 years, it is only in the year 2009, the incidence of crime was lower than this year with 170 cases but it may not be out of place to mention that worldwide incidents per lakh of population is considered to be the best method for comparison of Crime rates. The population of Delhi was 153.86 lakh in the year 2004 as per the decadal growth estimates of the population census of 2001 and the estimated population as on 1st March 2010 is 179.35 lakhs. The rate of incidents of Rape cases was 3.58 in the year 2004 which increased to 4.16 in the year 2005 it had steadily come down to 3.82 in the year 2006, 3.57 in the year 2007, 2.7 in the year 2008 and 2.65 in the year 2009. It is clear that inspite of the increase of population by 25.49 lakhs from 2004 to 2010, the incidence of rape in the period upto May 15th is 10 cases lower in 2010 as compared to 2004 and the rate of incidents of Rape cases has declined from 3.58 to 2.25. It may also be noted that the detection rate has significantly improved from 75% to 91% in comparison to the percentage of last year.

The police station-wise break-up of Rape cases reported in 2009 shows that no case of rape was reported in 32 police stations, 234 (50%) cases of rape were reported from 36 police stations. 85 (50%) police stations recorded 84% of all rape cases.

Hence it is wholly incorrect to report that the Capital is unsafe because of rape incidents. If anything, it only causes unnecessary sense of insecurity among womenfolk in the National Capital.

An extremely significant fact which has not been duly highlighted in the news report is that in almost all cases of rape, the accused were previously known to the victims, which indicates that the rape cases being reported have more to do with the socio-economic scenario prevailing in the affected pockets. The profile of accused persons arrested reveals that 52% were illiterate/school drop out and majority of them come from the low strata of society. In 2009, for instance, in 97.23% of the cases the accused were known to victims.

Crime in Delhi, or elsewhere in the world takes place due to various crimogenic factors such as unplanned urbanization, migration, heterogeneous nature of population, disparities in income, unemployment, consumerism/materialism, impact of mass media and the umpteen advertisements which sell a life style that many want but cannot afford, loosening of social control and family discipline etc.

The pro-active efforts of Delhi Police to check crime against women have also been overlooked in the news report. Prevention of offences against women has always been a priority area for the Delhi Police. It is the outcome of proactive and preventive steps taken that despite all prevailing crimogenic factors, crime against women has been well under control. A prime example of our concern regarding Crime Against Women is the Anti-Obscene Calls Cell helpline which was launched in December 2008 and has done outstanding work throughout last year and out of 14630 complaints received so far in the Cell, 13808 were redressed to the satisfaction of the caller. Recently, the Delhi Police has also started an Anti-Stalking Helpline.

In view of the above stated facts and circumstances, it is requested that the correct facts related to this issue may be published in order to put the report in proper perspective with the same prominence for your esteemed readers.

(Rajan Bhagat)
Public Relations Officer
Delhi Police